

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 – April 2019

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
April 7 th	9.30am Matins KH			11am Communion KH New		
April 14 th Palm Sunday			9.30am Morning Worship KH			11am Morning Worship KH
Good Friday	1pm Devotional Service KH			6pm Devotional Service KH		
April 21 st EASTER SUNDAY		9am Communion KH	10am Communion KH	11am Communion KH		11.30am Communion KH/LT
April 28 th	9.30am Communion KH trad					11am Memorial KH

KH – Revd Keith Hodson

LT – Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (from an Easter hymn)

Christian people, raise your song, chase away all grieving;
Sing your joy and be made strong, our Lord's life receiving.
Greet him, Christ our risen King gladly recognising,
as with joy we greet the spring out of winter rising.

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

A late date

Dear friends

Easter is ‘late’ this year on 21st April: not as late as it can be, which is 25th April. It’s all to do with the full moon and the spring equinox fixed as March 21st. The actual “formula” is *the first Sunday after the date of the full moon after the vernal equinox*. So if there is a full moon on Saturday March 21st (the spring equinox) then Easter is Sunday 22^d March. But if there is a full moon on March 20th, we have to wait 28 days till the next full moon – and if that is a Sunday we have to wait another week (“till the first Sunday after the full moon”).

Easter on March 22nd is very rare, occurring most recently in 1818 and next in 2285. The next earliest date is March 23rd will not happen again until 2160. Easter on April 25th, which last occurred in 1943, will next occur in 2038.

It is a messy system, and I am surprised that governments and the churches do not try to ‘fix’ Easter Sunday to, for instance, the first Sunday in April. But this is an international issue, and I cannot imagine the UK wanting to negotiate this after Brexit. And the Church is traditional, so many want to keep things as they are.

Some schools have opted to take their Easter holidays as the two weeks before Easter. Beckbury has the week before and the bank holiday week after.

The ‘problem’ goes all the way to 325AD when a council of bishops agreed this way of determining the date of Easter, because they wanted to keep the link to the Jewish festival of the Passover when Jesus was arrested and executed in Jerusalem on Good Friday. But because the Jewish calendar is based on the 28 day cycle of the moon, the European calendar date changed every year – and has continued to do so into this 21st Century.

In Britain there were different traditions in the 7th Century, and one part of the English Church would be celebrating Easter while another part was still keeping Lent. The Synod of Whitby agreed in 664AD to follow the Roman way of calculating the date for Easter used in Europe rather than the method of the Irish Celtic Church.

So 7th Century religious “Brexit” issues have left us a legacy of a moveable feast in a society in which for most people Easter is now a holiday not a holy-day. The old Whit Monday bank holiday (which also changed every year because Whitsunday is 50 days after Easter) was fixed in 1971 and became the “spring bank holiday”, divorced from the Church’s Whitsunday.

I wonder if any government dare suggest something similar for Easter?

Wishing you a happy Easter
Hodson

Keith

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL 2019

Wednesday 3 rd	7.30pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet In Beckbury Village Hall
Tuesday 9 th	2pm	Six Parishes Friendship Club meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Wednesday 10 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday



CHURCH NEWS

The **Easter Communion** services rota has had to change this year because only the rector is available to take services. Please look carefully at the times stated in the rota.

The **Lent Groups** at Kemberton continue meeting on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm.
Full details from local church members.

Lent Lunches for Christian Aid continue at Shifnal Methodist Church at 12 noon
Wednesdays until the last one on April 10th. All donations go to Christian Aid.

Apologies for the rector's February letter about rain and mud, when the month was very dry and warm.
It was written in mid-January in anticipation of a normal month for weather.

Members of our six churches contributed £130 to the **Children's Society**.

Children's Society Relationship Manager Jemma Kinch wrote: "The money raised helps provide direct support to vulnerable children and young people who may be living in poverty, experiencing mental health issues, living in care or just about to leave the care system or at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation. If you have been involved with Christingle, whether that's organising a service, promoting it, attending or donating, we want to say a huge 'thank you'. We are so grateful for all the time and effort that has gone into celebrating 50 years since Christingle was introduced to the Church of England. Your support will help us to make sure that no child feels alone".

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Alice Elizabeth Weir, daughter of Tom and Rachelle, who was baptised at Stockton Church on 3rd March 2019.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Len McKain of Telford, aged 68, whose service was held at Stockton Church on 18th March 2019.

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On behalf of the Six Parishes Friendship Club we would like to thank the Beckbury Community Shop for their kind donation to our club towards our outing to Alrewas in May. We are most grateful to the committee for supporting our club, and wish the Community Shop continued success in the coming years.

For our March meeting we switched our venue so instead of heading to Newport we set off for an enjoyable afternoon at the Percy Thrower Garden Centre at Shrewsbury. Indeed some of us on a wet and windy afternoon spent more money than expected but after a cream and jam scone and a pot of tea none of us left with any regrets.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 9th April will be back in Beckbury Village Hall ready for a 2pm start for what John Whitham describes as a nice and easy quiz – but then he has the answers in front of him. So come along for an afternoon of baffled amusement.

On Tuesday 14th May we are going to visit the **National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas**, near Lichfield. This promises to be a very interesting day for all of us. The Arboretum itself covers 150 acres and holds over 300 memorials to our armed services fallen since the early 1900's. We have reserved places for members on the land train which takes us around the site so that even those of us who cannot walk far should be able to see most memorials. The site includes a museum, various displays, a coffee shop, restaurant and gift shop. We have booked a 30 seat coach and leave Beckbury from the Church at 9.30am, returning to Beckbury around 5.45pm.

The cost for the day is £10 each for members and £15 for non-members, which includes the land train, but does not include refreshments. There is a lot of interest in this trip, so please contact either David or Beryl as soon as possible to reserve your place on 01952 750324.

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held its meeting at 7.30pm Wednesday 6th March 2019 in Beckbury Village Hall.

On the 24th March we celebrate the 1st anniversary of Beckbury Shop. Councillor Gibbins informed us that there will be a celebration that day in the Village Hall. This will happen between 3pm and 5pm and there will be tea, coffee and cakes available, so if you can make it please do and help celebrate the success of Beckbury Shop.

The Beckbury Parish Plan will be updated soon, every household will have the opportunity to have their say by filling in a short questionnaire. Once the questionnaire is finalised we will let all parishioners know how they can access one and submit their views.

The Council still have access to smart water kits, if you would like one for your premises please contact any member of the Parish Council.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm Wednesday 3rd April 2019 in Beckbury Village Hall. Public participation is between 7.30pm and 7.40pm.

Carl Steventon

IAN FIELD AND HELP FOR HEROES

I've agreed again (sorry) – **third time** – to face cycling another 400 miles for Help for Heroes across a hilly route in Northern France.

We've resurrected the old team name – **MAMIL Tour de France** – and to the team of James Selka, Jim Hancock and Sean McCarry have added a new team member in Paul Phillips. So our motley crew of middle aged, unfit and overweight (some more than others) men will once again try and complete the challenge to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause – Help for Heroes. Before you ask – yes it does hurt and yes it's all very sore!

I said I wouldn't do it again after 2017 but did, completing the 2018 ride from the Glade of the Armistice in the Forest of Compiègne, France through the battlefields of the Somme and on into Belgium. I said "never again", thinking instead I would retire a promising cycling career and hang up my pedals. And then I've ignored that and signed up for 2019! The Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2019 takes place across 5 days in June and heads from Cherbourg, through Normandy and the famous beaches to finish in Paris – around 400 gruelling miles.

We have a big target this year to hit - £2,750 per person or £13,750 between the five of us – so all donations, however big or small, are very welcome.

If you would like to support me with this challenge and donate, you can here:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-field3>

Help for Heroes is a great charity, supporting wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women, who have given so much to our country, to live independent and fulfilling lives.

As ever, I promise to post our progress here and on my social media sites – as well as bore anybody willing to listen, over a pint. Thanks again for taking the time to have a look.

Kind regards, *Ian*

COMMUNITY CARS

I recently had recourse to use the Community Cars Scheme for transport to Princess Royal Hospital Telford and from chatting to our driver found to my surprise this is a somewhat under-used scheme. From my experience the car turned up on time, the driver was courteous and polite, the journey very enjoyable and economical. I would thoroughly recommend this Scheme to anyone in our three villages who needs a car for medical appointments or hospital visiting. To book a car, contact Sue Mace on 01902 441319

To request access to this subsidised transport you must:

1. Pay your Council Tax to Shropshire County Council
2. Have an appointment to attend any medical appointments
3. Hospital Visiting (close friend or relatives)

If you are unsure if you will be entitled please contact the co-ordinator
Albrighton Community Cars; Mrs Sue Mace – 01902 441319

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

What to do on the allotment in April.

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 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 favourite. 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

Heidi Pringle-Scott

COMPUTER TRAINING. ALBRIGHTON BROADPLACE

Have you just had a new laptop, tablet or I-Pad? Perhaps you simply want to improve the knowledge/skills you already have. Why not give us a call on the numbers below and see if we can help.

We are a voluntary group operating from The Red House in Albrighton every Thursday between 2.30 and 4.30pm. There are no "set" lessons, we sit with you individually and teach you what **you** want to learn, on your machine. If you cannot bring yours, we have laptops and an I-Pad available for use. We charge £2 per hour to cover the room hire.

We are also a "drop-in centre", so if you wish to use our computers or bring yours in for up to 2 hours as above you are welcome.

If you are interested or want to know more, please ring **Geoff Page on 01902 372821** or Mike Pitchford on 01902 597701 for more information.

Please note: we cannot do repairs or fault finding.

Dr E.T.M. Cooke

Dear Editor and friends,

My wife says that I am “for ever making donations to all sorts of cr—py folk and needy far and wide and it is about time you made one for something local”.

I am sure that she meant no offense with the double meaning of what she said, and hence I hereby enclose a cheque for £30 for the Six Parishes Newsletter.

Although Burnhill Green lies outside of the Six Parishes I should like to add that we are delighted to receive the newsletter here. It is so informative as to what our neighbours are doing and what is going on locally, and long may this continue.

At present we in Burnhill Green are included in the parish of Pattingham, but technically we all belong to that of the now closed St Mary’s Church, within the grounds of Patshull Hall, to which (my solicitor tells me, by some ancient act) all residents of Burnhill Green have “Right of Access” despite the various “No Entry” signs across the estate. The grade 11 listed sandstone building was built in 1742 by James Gibbs for Sir John Astley and is extremely pretty both inside and out, and contains both tombs of the Astley family and outside graves of local residents including World War 1 soldiers and my previous house owner.

Keys to the building are available at the Estate Office and/or Patshull Park Hotel, but if contemplating a visit I would suggest getting advice as how to active the electricity, and to go on a bright day if possible to appreciate the interior (and the damp!) It is all very interesting.

I am, yours sincerely,

Dr. Edward Cooke

HAVENHILLS HIKE – SATURDAY 8TH JUNE

Join us for the Havenhills Hike, two walking challenges through glorious countryside within the Six Parishes on Saturday 8th June.

15K and 25K walks starting at Havenhills Farm.

Both routes are easily manageable but with some steep uneven steps and across rough pastures, not suitable for buggies or wheels of any kind. Dogs are welcome on the 15K route if kept on a lead.

Funds raised are to be shared between St Andrew’s Church Ryton and Shifnal First Scout group.

See www.havenhillshike.co.uk for more information and to book your tickets

Or call Karen on 07971 480365.



**This month’s Newsletter is kindly sponsored by
Robin Young of CTGFT Limited**

ENAMELLING TASTER COURSE

Would you be interested in attending a 3 hour taster course for enamelling on Saturday 1st June (10am to 1pm) in Beckbury Village Hall? The cost is £35 per person (includes tea/coffee and cake and one piece of enamelling). Payment in advance is needed to secure a place please.



Extra pieces of copper are just a few pounds. It would be run by Lynette (<https://lcnamels.com/>) and Ann (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Art/RAJ-enamels-114678312530424/>).



Enamelling is the art of applying richly coloured powdered glass to the surface of metal (in this case to copper shapes). Firing in a kiln produces a glorious permanently coloured surface glaze. You would make a pendant, earrings or keyring plus another piece or two, which could be, e.g. more jewellery, or a 'picture' that can be framed or mounted on a wooden base.

These two items were made at a taster course, the pendant came as part of the course cost. The copper for the additional picture was £2.50 and the wooden base (plus a fitting to attach to the back of the wood in order to hang it) was 50p.

If you are interested or have further questions, please email deidreholes@gmail.com or ring 01952 750756.



Beckbury Shop's First Birthday

We celebrated the shop's first birthday last month with a walking festival, and a party in the village hall.

The success of our first year has surpassed all our expectations. Thank you to our customers, volunteers and shareholders, without you it wouldn't be possible - what a brilliant community.



A huge thank you to Lara Wilkes, who organised a very successful walking festival to coincide with our birthday celebrations. Walkers enjoyed a four-day programme of events including; some Nordic walking, a community history walk, Geocaching, and a family walk.



A heron, a swallow and a pair of boxing hares were spotted on the Field, Flora and Fauna walk



The sun even shined!



A crowd of fifty joined David Tooth for the community history walk.



Pam Jenks kindly allowed walkers to visit her house, which was once the village post office.



Thank you to the Champion family for giving walkers access to the cock pit.



Children enjoyed nature spotting and crafts on the the family walk.

Treasure was found, history dicovered, nature was spotted; most importantly, friends were made.

We're looking forward to doing it all again next year!