

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>



AUGUST 2021 SERVICES

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
August 1 st		9.30am Communion			11am Lammas	
August 8 th	9.30am Matins					11am Morning Worship
August 15 th			9.30am Morning Worship	11am Communion		
August 22 nd		9.30am Morning Worship				11am Communion
August 29 th			9.30am Communion	11am Morning Worship		

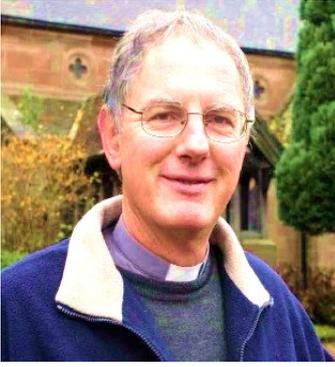
PRAYER OF THE MONTH (from the Lammas service 1st August)

**We thank you, good Lord, for seed sown and corn grown;
for fields harvested and flour milled; for dough mixed and bread baked;
for bread to eat and bread to share.
But feed us also, good Lord, with your living bread,
Jesus Christ, the bread which came down from heaven to give life to the world;
for his name's sake. 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

Curious things

Dear friends

I was reading a library book recently with a passage where a family were discussing a relative's funeral arrangements. One of the family asked what things might they put into the coffin?

This made me think back to the very few times where people have confided in me what they put into their family member's coffin.

Family photographs are I suspect quite a popular item. One family told me they put in a bottle of whisky – “cos he liked a drop before he went to bed”. Another put in some golf clubs and balls, as she was a very good player.

The most curious thing was a family who had put in “a packet of fags” cos he liked a smoke”. I'm glad I did not know about this item – because the funeral was at the crematorium..... Thankfully I was told some time after the funeral, or else I may not have managed to keep a straight face in the service.

Such customs go back a very long way. The ancient Greeks always had to put in a penny to pay the ferryman who rowed the deceased across the River Styx to the netherworld. Archaeologists have found in the tombs of rich Egyptians items such as clothing, beds, chairs, sandals, jewellery, and musical instruments.

In some civilisations weapons were put in the graves of their men, maybe as a sign of their status, but an interesting view on the kind of place they believed they were going to where weapons were needed.

So my question is, which I never ask families making their plans and arrangements, what would you want in your coffin alongside you?

And you might be wondering what I would want in my coffin? Until I wrote this piece I had not given the matter any thought. I am happy to leave it up to my family to decide what is appropriate. It may be that some clergy have a bible with them in their coffins? But given that Christians believe, like St Paul

*“now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.
Now I know in part; then I shall fully understand”*

bibles may well be redundant in heaven (unless we wish to join the long queue to question St Paul on what exactly he meant in this and that verse!

Of course, it's no good putting a bible in my coffin if I am to be cremated!

Looking forward to better times

Keith Hodson

CHURCH NEWS

Kemberton Church has received permission from the Diocese of Lichfield to replace the old wooden bell frame with a new steel frame, retune the existing 4 bells and also add 2 extra bells to make a ring of six. We hope work can start in the autumn, though adding two new bells may be a 'phase 2' later project.

The annual lammas service ('loafmas') will be held at **Stockton Church** at 11am Sunday 1st August when we give thanks for our 'daily bread'.

Until we hear further announcements from the government, we are now able to **attend church** after 19th July without being required to wear masks and keep social distancing. We can have refreshments after the service, and stand to sing hymns. For those who are vulnerable and need to stay safe, masks can still be worn and there is space in all our churches to sit well away from others.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Heidie Capewell, daughter of Tony and Katie who was baptised at Sutton Maddock Church on 11th July 2021.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Sean Haydon and Jayne Hope who were married at Badger Church on 23rd June 2021.

Congratulations to Keiran Chumber and Philippa Blanchette who were married at Beckbury Church on 3rd July 2021.

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

Congratulations to Henry Thorpe and Suzanna Layton-Busch who were married at Stockton Church on 8th July 2021.

CONDOLENCES

Please note that entries here are services taken by the rector, who has no details of any other services

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Roger Wilson, aged 86, of Beckbury whose service was held on 19th July 2021 at Beckbury Church.

UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA

From Allan Davis, living with dementia: "Please make eye contact with me before you start talking. A nice smile always ready will get my attention. Did I mention that before?"

If you would like to understand more about dementia by listening to people with dementia,

go to www.dementiadiaries.org
ordinator

John Webb, Six Parishes Dementia Friendly Church Co-

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

For the past year or so we have been restricted to meeting on Zoom so it was a refreshing change to meet in the village hall again, and what a nice meeting place it now is following the refurbishment.

There have been some changes to the elected officers. David Cummings is now chairman and Peter Gibbins is vice chairman. Sadly Max Breeze has stood down from the Council. Max has, so far as we can ascertain, been a Beckbury Parish Councillor for around 40 years. His knowledge on numerous topics over the years has been invaluable and Max will be badly missed. We thank him for all of these years' service to the Village and wish him well.

The presented elected Parish Councillors are David Cummings, Peter Gibbins, David Tooth, David De Courcy, James Paice and Carl Steventon.

At our meeting on the 14th July we heard that Peter Gibbins is heading a group who are investigating the feasibility of setting up a children's play area on the playing field. The cost is expected to be in the region of £35,000. So far grant aid of £10,000 has been received from the lottery community fund. We hope more funds can be raised and if anyone can help or has any ideas for sources of funding please contact Peter Gibbins.

The Parish Council will now meet every other month, usually on the first Wednesday of the month starting promptly at 7.30pm. The first 10 minutes is allocated for public participation. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st September 2021.

VACANCY

We are now looking to co-opt a new councillor on to the council to replace Max Breeze (big boots to fill). If anyone would like to become a member of Beckbury Parish Council will they please contact one of the Councillors, or leave a letter addressed to the Council in the Village Shop. It will be passed on and we will be in touch.

RIDE+STRIDE

Once again we will be taking part in Shropshire Historic Churches Trust Ride+Stride scheme on Saturday 11th 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 11th September. "Simple". **Please have a go this year.**

LOCAL HISTORY

Following on from the recent football tournament we would like to remind you of a local sporting hero.

William Kenyon-Slaney was educated at Eton and briefly at Christ Church, Oxford.

Kenyon-Slaney was a noted sportsman and played first-class cricket for the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), as well as playing at county level for Shropshire between 1865 and 1879. He was also a keen association football player, playing for Wanderers and was selected to play for England against Scotland in the second ever football international on 8th March 1873, where he scored two goals. **Kenyon-Slaney became the first player to score in an international football match** as the first international between the two nations in November the previous year had been a goalless draw.

He also took part for the Wanderers on the winning side in the 1873 FA Cup Final and on the losing side for the Old Etonians, in the drawn first match of the 1875 Final and both matches of the 1876 Final.

He fully retired from the military in 1892.

In 1886 Kenyon-Slaney was elected to Parliament to represent the Newport division of Shropshire for the Conservative Party which he represented until his death in 1908. He was buried at St Andrew's Parish Churchyard, Ryton, Shropshire.

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

Hello again

Many volunteers and customers have asked how things will change at the shop following the government's lifting of restrictions on 19th July. The management Committee feel that for the time being we will encourage the continued use of masks, however we respect the decision of anyone who chooses not to wear one. If our volunteer is wearing a mask, we ask you to please wear a mask as a courtesy to them. If our volunteer is not wearing a mask but you are, please ask them to put a mask on.

We will not be making any other changes at this time:

Only 1 customer, 1 volunteer in the shop. The café to remain as take away only.

The committee continues to assess the ongoing restrictions and will make changes when we feel it is safe for our volunteers and customers.

We are lucky to have some very productive growers around, and are very grateful that they have been sending their surplus produce to the shop to be sold. As I write this we have Monkey Puzzle Tree seedlings, a variety of plants, cucumbers, courgettes and gooseberries. By the time you read this who knows what we'll have in.

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

BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE AUGUST 2021

First of all our sincere apologies that the informal opening we had planned for Saturday 10th July could not go ahead because of the extension of the COVID restrictions. We do hope that the cancellation message got around to you all in time. A big thank you to the newsletter delivery people who took time to delete it from the already printed newsletter last month.

We will be holding the **formal opening from 2pm – 4pm on Saturday 25th 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, a chance to meet some of the funders, 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 numbers for catering purpose, **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.**

Because we were unable to hold our informal opening we have decided to open up the hall from 5pm on Saturday 25th Sept 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@pgassociates.plus.com, 01952 750293

Our AGM is at 8pm on Thursday 9th 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 are put into a prize draw.

Heather Thomas Sec/Trustee, Village Hall.

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

BECKBURY WI MEETING held on 10th July

Thank you so much for attending the meeting (or showing interest) about a potential WI in Beckbury. I thought we covered a lot of ground and many interesting points were raised and should be considered.

We have planned another meeting on Wednesday 22nd September at 7.30pm in Beckbury Village Hall, and I have advertised it on leaflets left in the shop. You will all have had time to think about the pros and cons by then and whether or not you would be happy to serve on the committee. There are many roles – firstly the three that are needed to enable the setting up of a WI – President, Secretary and Treasurer, but also 2 or 3 folk willing to plan and arrange the monthly meetings, i.e. the speaker, activity, etc., someone to be the MCS (Membership Communication System that stores data about members safely and securely, enables members to have access to MyWI website, ensures you receive your copies of WI Life magazine 8 time a year, and enables contact with you from within your own WI) rep, and perhaps someone to set up and manage either a facebook page or a website (or both) for the WI to enable easy contact with other members and to encourage new members to join. The three main roles should be undertaken by three people, but other roles can be combined. A Vice President, an Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer can also be appointed (who can also have another role), but that isn't immediately necessary. None of these roles are difficult and a lot of support is available and trainings or meetings between several ladies in the same role for sharing ideas and experiences are arranged by the Federation. It would be helpful to know before the meeting if you are thinking of offering to be on the committee (that doesn't commit you!!), but it is not vital.

At this meeting it would be great to have a short activity that would give a flavour of a regular WI meeting so please if anyone has any suggestions for this do let me know as soon as possible. It would also be wonderful to be able to offer a hot drink and a biscuit or a piece of cake to everyone to chat over towards the end of the session. If someone would be willing to organise this (perhaps with a friend?) I would be very grateful. Please let me know as I will be at the theatre in Wolverhampton that Wednesday afternoon, so will not have time to prepare refreshments. Expenses would be covered obviously. For regular meetings we would have a rota of ladies (2 working together) willing to sort and serve the refreshments for that evening (this can't be the main officers as they will be involved with their roles during the meeting).

If you have any questions in the meantime, please ask and I'll do my best to answer or to find out the answer if I don't know.

Thank you also for the donations (£25 in total) towards the cost of the hall – that was very helpful. In the meantime have a wonderful summer and we'll meet again in early autumn!! Hopefully we will then be able to set up a WI for us all to join in the fun.

Best Wishes, Dee

Dr Deidre Holes. 07766 652719. 01952 750756 deidreholes@gmail.com

CALLING ALL RUNNERS

THE 2021 APLEY RUN is on again this year on **Sunday 26th September** and is being organised by Wrekin Road Runners with proceeds going to Stockton Church.

Running starts at 10.30am and will be over three distances – 5k, 10k or 21k subject to competitors' fitness levels.

Full details and entry forms at www.wrekinroadrunners.net

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

July and August are my two favourite months on the allotment. All that previous hard work pays off with the abundance of amazing vegetables. Too much sometimes and we are faced with a glut of particular crops.....courgettes for one have the ability to transform into the size of a marrow overnight!!!!!!So keep harvesting, freezing, pickling and jam making. I'm trying raspberry and gooseberry gin this year. I made damson last year and it went down very well. Easy to make, just fruit, sugar and cheap gin – shake every few days until the sugars have dissolved. Strain into bottles and keep as long as you can.

This year with the exceptional hot weather, watering is a priority. Aim to water your plants in the cooler hours to avoid evaporation. Lettuce, chard, coriander and spinach are all prone to bolting if they dry out, so always give them plenty too.

Jobs to be getting on with as well as harvesting:

- ! Prune tomatoes 'topping'. This causes the plant to stop flowering and setting new fruit, and directs all the sugars to the remaining fruit. To improve air flow also remove bottom leaves.
- ! Cut back strawberries to the ground
- ! Dry onions and garlic for storing
- ! Harvest main crop potatoes
- ! Prune stone fruited fruit trees
- ! Keep up regular watering
- ! Sow winter spinach, turnips, kohlrabi, chard, radish, winter salad and spring onions. Lettuce is surprisingly hardy and under a cloche or greenhouse it can easily be available for a Boxing Day salad-----far more tasty than any imported variety
- ! Plant out spring cabbage, cauliflower and hardy kale.

Loving the sunshine but let's have some rain.....

Heidi Pringle-Scott

HELP WANTED AT GEMINI, CAYNTON ROAD, BECKBURY

7th August

From 11.30am for about 3 hours

Payment as mutually agreed

**To help serve, clear and wash up at a family buffet lunch
(following interment of ashes)**

**If you are interested please ring for a chat or leave a message
Mary Johnson – 01952 750762 or email: mary@linington.com.**

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Councillor Steve Charmley – Cabinet member with responsibility for highways

Many of our roads are in poor condition and in need of improvement. You know that, I know that, and so does the council's highways team and our contractors. We all use the county's roads and we've all seen the large number of potholes and other defects. That is why I'm determined to improve the county's roads and make them safer for all road users.

Over the next four years we plan to put at least an additional £40m into our highways maintenance budget, and we are using new technology and new ways of working to help us tackle the problem. We've also made changes to the management of our highways service, as have our contractors Kier. And every day we have crews out across the county carrying out preventative work to prolong the life of our roads – through surface dressing and resurfacing – along with repairs to roads that are already in a poor state. Our aim is to prevent problems occurring in the first place, and to make repairs that will last. I recognise that, in recent times, some of the repair work hasn't been to a high enough standard. This too is changing.

Why are the roads in poor condition?

I am determined to improve Shropshire's roads, but it's important to note that this isn't just a Shropshire problem. Roads right across the country are in poor condition too. I've seen many of them, and we have also been told this by many other councils. Latest Government figures show that 21% of roads in England are considered to be poor – and Shropshire is actually doing better than many other areas.

In recent winters, and especially last winter, severe flooding and snow/ice have had a major impact on the road network across the country. Water gets into cracks in the road, then freezes and expands, and that's why we've all seen a big increase in the number and severity of potholes and other defects in recent months. And that is why we are working hard to repair the roads – but also to prevent problems occurring in the first place.

Of course, we can only carry out the work that our resources allow. As well as a succession of bad winters, since 2008 councils in England have seen year-on-year reductions in Government funding – with highways funding cut by over 50% on average. This has led to a significant deterioration in the condition of roads across the country, especially in Shropshire where we have one of the biggest road networks to maintain in England but receive lower funding per mile than many other councils.

That's why we're planning to put millions of pounds more into highways maintenance and will continue to lobby the Government for more, and fairer, funding for Shropshire.

So, how are we improving your roads?

I know it's all well and good saying that we're improving your roads, but I also know that we need to show you the evidence. Last year we fixed 29,000 potholes and resurfaced 226km of roads across the county. This year we're planning to resurface many more roads. To give you just a few examples, in recent weeks we have resurfaced the A4117 between Ludlow and Clee Hill, carried out extensive maintenance and repair work on the A41 at Prees Heath, and carriageway patching on Huffley Lane near Bomere Heath.

We are currently carrying out our annual programme of surface dressing, with more than 50 stretches of road – covering over 800,000 square metres – being treated to help prevent problems arising in the future. And this year we have been trialling and utilising cutting edge technology to tackle the pothole problem and deliver high-quality road repairs.

In short, I am determined to improve the county's roads and to make them safer for all who use them. I know this will be a challenge but it's a challenge that all councils are facing and one that I'm determined to meet here in Shropshire. This won't happen overnight but I believe that we will start to see and notice this change, as our extra investment in our roads starts to catch up on a long backlog built up over a number of years. It's also a challenge that you can help us with. If you know a road or stretch of road that you think is in need of repair please let us know.

POOCHES 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

A VILLAGE WEDDING

We could not resist this photo which we print instead of the recent pictures of days gone by. The star is Becky Northwood who decided to walk with her mother, Davina, and her bridesmaids from her home in Caynton Road to Beckbury Church for her wedding to Chris Henderson. Just as she reached the corner it started to rain, hence the bouquets being used as umbrellas and the wide smiles and general laughter.

We wish Becky and Chris a long and happy life together and our thanks for a lovely picture

