

SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER

for

St Giles' Church. Badger

St Milburga's Church. Beckbury

St Andrew's Church. Ryton

Rector: Rev'd Keith Hodson tel 01952 750774

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



Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes – December 2017

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Dec 3 rd			10am ADVENT KH Choir			
Dec 10 th	5pm Carol Service KH Choir			11am Morning Worship TD		11am Communion KH (trad)
Dec 17 th		9.30am Morning Worship TD	9.30am Communion KH (new)	<i>Sat-Tues</i> <i>Christmas</i> <i>Celebration</i> <i>10am-5pm</i>		4pm Carol Service KH Choir
Christmas Eve		11pm Communion		5pm Communion	11am Communion	11pm Communion
Christmas Day	9am Communion		10.15am Communion			
Dec 31 st			NO	SERVICES		
Jan 7 th 2018	9.30am Communion KH (trad)	10am Christingle LT		11am Communion KH (new)		11am Morning Worship TD

KH – Revd Keith Hodson:

TD – Tina Dalton

LT – Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (The Christmas Day collect)

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth;
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you
Our Saviour and our Lord.

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

Merry Christmas?

Dear friends,

I was talking with someone the other day who said they never wished anyone a ‘*Merry Christmas*’ (and it wasn’t a descendant of Ebenezer Scrooge!). Rather they wished people a ‘*Happy Christmas*’ which they preferred, as for them ‘merry’ was associated with too much alcohol! (and while on this word, let me comment on the carol *God rest you merry, gentlemen* not *God rest you, merry gentlemen*, which 500 years ago meant “God keep you strong, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay”. It’s the same word as Robin Hood and his ‘merry’ men, who were strong, not drunk).

Sometimes we read in Christmas cards A peaceful Christmas or a Joyful Christmas. It may depend on to whom we are sending the cards!

One thing I prefer is the word Christmas written in full rather than xmas, though xmas is useful shorthand. I associate xmas with the commercial, advertising world, which in our present day is the style and focus for many.

X is actually the first letter of the name Christ in the Greek alphabet in which the gospels and New Testament were written, so it does have a legitimate place. For me it also nicely represents the element of the unknown in this day and age about what happened at Christmas. Increasingly the ‘reason for the season’ is becoming less well known as the Christmas story itself is less frequently heard. Even those who do know the Bethlehem story are hard pressed to make the connection between the baby born in a stable and the Easter story.

St John bridges those two Christian festivals nicely with his words
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son

This verse expresses both the identity of the baby born at Bethlehem and hints at his destiny, with the undercurrent of his being given over to death on the cross. There is a mystery here, which X expresses, both in xmas and also as the shape of the cross.

Thankfully the carol “*O come let us adore him*” invites us to come and adore him rather than ‘come and understand’. While there is an ‘X factor’ about Jesus the charismatic messiah, teacher and healer, our Christmas services are about worship and thanksgiving rather than analysis and explanation. Come and join in.

The local Christmas services are listed in the Services Rota.

Merry Xmas and a Joyful Christmas to you all.

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR December

Wednesday 6 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wednesday 6 th	7.30pm	Beckbury Community Shop – mulled wine and mince pie evening
Friday 8 th	4pm-7pm	Beckbury Parish Council Smartwater distribution
Saturday 9 th	10am-1pm	Beckbury Parish Council Smartwater distribution
Sunday 10 th	11am-1pm	Breakfast with Santa- The Seven Stars, Beckbury
Tuesday 12 th	12noon	Friendship Club Christmas Party In Beckbury Village Hall
Wednesday 13 th	7pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Saturday 16 th -19 th	10am -5pm	Kemberton Christmas Festival



CHURCH NEWS

Several people made appreciative comments about the **poppy sign** at Beckbury's war memorial in the week before Remembrance Sunday, and also about the Major Selby Lloyd 1915 memorial **window** lit during the evening.

Thanks to all those who took part in the Remembrance Sunday services.

We will be **lighting** what we call the **Christmas Window** in December. That is easier to see than the memorial window, and is enjoyed by those who go past in these dark evenings.

There is a united service 10am 3rd December at **Ryton** with readings and hymns for **Advent**. Elsewhere in this newsletter **Christmas Services** are listed in the Six Parishes Service Rota.

The Christmas Eve "midnight communions" begin at 11pm,

But Stockton Church has an **11am** communion.

Albrighton and Shifnal Churches have services on 31st December.

The **Christingle** family service will be at 10am Sunday 7th January 2018 at Beckbury Church.

Kemberton Church has a **Festive Celebration** 10am-5pm, 16-19th December.

Admission £3.50 to enjoy a full sized Nativity scene and much more !

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Gus Allan Amey Sheppard, son of Nicholas and Claire, who was baptised at Ryton Church on 21st October 2017.

Congratulations to Freya Georgina Irene Porter, daughter of Alastair and Gemma, who was baptised at Beckbury Church on 29th October 2017.

Congratulations to William Oliver Churm, son of Gary and Lorren, who was baptised at Sutton Maddock Church on 18th November 2017.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Norma Walker of Sutton Maddock, aged 68, whose service was held at Telford Crematorium on 15th November 2017.

KEMBERTON CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
KEMBERTON CHURCH

Saturday 16th – Tuesday 19th December

Come and join us for a celebration of Christmas
Traditions including a full size Christmas Nativity

Adults £3.50, Children £1.50

Saturday – Sunday
10am – 5pm

Monday – Tuesday
2.30 – 5pm

Seasonal Refreshments will be served
and there are gifts for the children

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Hollybush Garden Centre, Shareshill – what a place to find – and what a place once you have arrived. Two cars took a wrong turning on the way there and on the way home another car became lost and had to turn around one of the many traffic islands, but as already stated what a place! This is easily the largest garden centre we have visited and far too big to take in what diversity of goods were available, and being quite reasonably priced, with most members taking goods to the tills to be paid for. Soon it was time for tea/coffee and snacks to sustain us on our way home – a choice of snacks ranging from toasted tea cakes to poached egg on toast. This is one garden centre that we would like to visit again, if we can all find it without getting lost.

Our meeting on Tuesday 12th December is our annual Christmas Party, when the food is supplied by members for everyone to share. There will be some seasonal singing and hopefully, the children from Beckbury School will join us as they have in recent years.

We would warmly invite anyone of mature age to join us for our party, there is no obligation to be a member of our club, just come along and join the Christmas festivities – **TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER**, starting at 12 noon, don't be shy, just come along.

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

A Community Benefit Company
Registered Company number RS007440

Your community shop is on its way

We've been busy preparing the site next to the village hall for the arrival of the shop building which is due to be lowered into place by crane on Friday 1st December.

Over the next few months we'll be focusing on fitting out the shop, stocking it and holding volunteer training sessions in preparation for opening next year. It's never too late to get involved so if you're interested in becoming a volunteer please get in touch with one of the committee members listed below and join us at our festive social evening on 6th December to hear more shop news and tell us what you'd like to see in your community shop.

Thank you for your support so far!

Peter Gibbins	Thornicombe, Badger Road	01952 750293
Cat Spickernell	12a Caynton Road	01952 750428
Heather Thomas	64 Beckbury	01952 750334

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP INVITES YOU TO A MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIE EVENING

Join us in celebrating the start of the festive season and toasting the arrival of the shop building with a social evening of mulled wine and mince pies at the village hall.

Hear the latest shop news, see what the building will look like and have your say on what you'd like from your community shop.

Wednesday 6th December from 7.30pm in the village hall

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on Wednesday 1st November 2017.

Councillor Gibbins updated the council in relation to the progress of Beckbury Community Shop. The groundworks for the shop have now been started and are due to be completed by the end of November. The Community Shop has been built and should be erected by the end of November.

From previous updates the Parish Council have purchased a quantity of Smart Water, which is a crime prevention liquid that you use to mark your valuables. Smart water is unique and no two are the same, it is the same as DNA, everyone is different. The liquid when applied to your valuables is invisible to the naked eye and can only be seen under ultra violet light. Every resident of Beckbury will be given a Smart Water kit at no cost to you.

We have arranged a couple of dates for you to collect your Smart Water. The local Crime Prevention Officer, Mick Simpson, will also be in attendance to guide you through the process on how to mark your equipment and how to fill in the paperwork. Members of the Parish Council will also be in attendance to help and support you.

The dates and times are as follows: Friday 8th December 1600 – 1900 hrs, Village Hall
 Saturday 9th December 1000 – 1300 hrs, Village Hall

For those who can't make the dates there is no need to worry as members of the Parish Council will make arrangements to ensure that your Smartwater kit is delivered to you.

We currently have an Under 9's Football Team playing out of Beckbury. They play their home games on the Playing Fields behind Beckbury School. It has been raised that parents parking their vehicles on the car park are driving across the football pitch to leave instead to using their reverse gear. This is causing unnecessary damage to the football pitch. We ask that when you leave the car park that you do not drive across the playing fields.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 13th December commencing at 7pm.

Carl Steventon, Chairperson.

VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR RYTON AND GRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Expression of interest are invited to fill a councillor vacancy which has arisen due to the resignation of Ann Dukes.

Parish councillors are required to attend meetings of the Parish Council (at present the Council meets just four times a year on the 2nd Wednesday of March, May, September and December).

This interesting and rewarding role will allow you to represent local residents and play a part in deciding the future of your parish. Parish Councillors will usually be an elector within the parish of Ryton and Grindle (though others can be eligible – the Parish Clerk can supply full details).

If you are interested in the role please contact the Clerk, Stephen de Launey (phone 07977 182967 or email clerk@rgpc@gmail.com) who will also be happy to provide any further information.

Expressions of interest to reach the Clerk by Friday 8th December 2017.

BECKBURY TRAIL 2017

From Richard Handley, Race Director, Lawley Running Club

First things first, thank you! We could not have asked for more from this year's race, the support we received from local residents was fantastic, the sun was shining and we witnessed some great performances on the course.



With the race selling out with a month and a half to go before the race the 300 entrants descended into the village, out of those there was some stand out performances from local residents. We now know that the fastest villager is Tom McAllister (pictured on the left) with a time of 40.42 for the 5.6 mile, and he is now the recipient of the first villager's trophy kindly provided by Beckbury Council.



This year the Course record was smashed by Christian Evans who managed to take 1.34 off his previously held record to come in a time of 33.37. The fastest female was won by Lucie Tait-Harris (on the right) who also managed to take 4 seconds off her previously held course record with a time of 41.38.

The feedback that we received off everyone on the day was fantastic; from locals to runners, everyone really enjoyed it; to which we are extremely grateful that you lend us your village each year.

On to next year – we would like to be able to present a trophy to the fastest villager under the age of 21 on the day, as a special offer to encourage this we are going to offer a free place to the first two people eligible who contact me at racedirector@lawleyrunningclub.co.uk so get training.

Slow Unreliable Broadband?

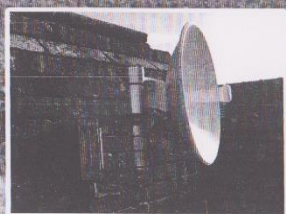
With uConnect you could be getting upto 30Mbps!

All that is required is a clear view of The Wrekin or one of our other local transmitters.

With no need for a phone line uConnect has no line rental charges.

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ALBRIGHTON PATIENTS' GROUP

Waste Medicines – What the Eye doesn't see

Everybody in Albrighton and district will have visited our local chemists, Rhodes, on the High Street at some time or other. It always seems busy with repeat prescriptions and general purchases. The assistants are helpful even with little time to spare and through the window behind the counter appears a hive of activity, putting together our repeats. I discovered recently that we don't see half of what actually goes on.

As a member of your local Patients' Group I was talking with the Pharmacist, Harry, about changes to prescribing regulations which will double the number of repeat prescriptions to be processed. From Christmas we will only be able to request four weeks at a time instead of the current eight weeks. It is expected that this will reduce waste but I was concerned that it would naturally double the prescription workload. Would the pharmacy cope?

Fortunately, Harry had no qualms about this side of things and welcomed anything that would help reduce the wastage that they see every day. "Come with me" he said!

Not knowing what to expect I followed into unknown territory. If you think the shop is big what followed was an eye opener. Room followed room where medications of all types were being dispensed but at one point access was restricted by a series of yellow plastic tubs the size of large kitchen waste bins two feet high. Not being the most slender person it was a slight squeeze for me. These bins were the reason for my guided tour. They were full of returned unused medication. Prescribed, requested but no longer taken or needed. There are many valid reasons why medicines are no longer required and must be returned for disposal, most obviously following a death, but continuing to request an item when it is not going to be used or taken is not one of them. This appears to constitute the main reason for much of the returned material. A rough estimate puts the value at hundreds of pounds a week, thousands of pounds a year. Recently an NHS England survey of 7600 practices put Albrighton Medical Practice in the top 10% of practices in the country. If all 7600 practices have the same wastage as ourselves, the cost comes to millions of pounds a year.

If you feel you don't need an item or it is not right for you tell the GP or Harry but don't continue to request it on each repeat. The doctors won't strike you off for not taking it, they will be pleased that the change can be discussed.

I was amazed at the volume of material which has to be destroyed. It can't be reissued. Each of us should be aware of the cost of our medication and ensure that nothing is being requested that we know is not going to be used and that we are just going to put it in our own private stock.

The next time I get invited into the back rooms at the pharmacy I hope that I will be able to gain access without a squeeze.

Richard Shaw

ROAD CLOSURE: Ryton Road

Start Date: 9th January 2018
End Date: 11th January 2018
Purpose: Road closure for new water service connection

THE SEVEN STARS

Madeley Road, Beckbury. 01952 750330

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT AND LICENSEE OLIVIA GEARY

Olivia's Welcome Party and Lucianna's Leaving Party will be held on **Friday 8th December** from 7pm. There will be a complimentary cold festive buffet and a glass of bubbly to toast the pub transition.

Forthcoming Events

Breakfast with Santa – Sunday 10th December 11am-2pm

Please pre-book - £10 per ticket.

Bar and food available for adults, no need for pre-orders for adults.

Fundraising for Beckbury C of E Primary School.

Donations of Raffle Prizes for this event would be much appreciated.

Christmas opening times are as follows:

Christmas Eve: 12noon-midnight

Please join us throughout the day and before midnight mass for mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Day: 12noon-4pm

Come along and enjoy family, festive, fun. Serving drinks only.

Boxing Day: 12noon-6pm. Sunday menu.

Homemade soup and hot baguettes for walkers, cyclists etc available.

Drinks only 6pm-midnight

New Year's Eve: 12noon-late

New Year's Eve menu: 3 courses, glass of prosecco and evening entertainment £32.00 per person

Light bites available until 5pm

New Year's Day: 12noon-11pm

Sunday menu served

Hot baguettes and soup available for walkers, cyclists etc 12noon-6pm

Drinks only 6-11pm

Throughout December a free bottle of prosecco for tables of 6 or more on production of this page.

New opening times will be confirmed during December, when we will be including a lunch-time menu.

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by

The Seven Stars, Beckbury