

# Kemberton News

“Kemberton WI” in the Village Hall, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 pm

**Cecil and Ruth Hayward –**

**“Brass tubes and Pipes - Music, History and Carols”**

Come and join us for what will be a lovely evening with a possible

glass of wine and a mince pie

**Craft, Coffee and Chat** will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 10.30am to 12.30 pm. Come along with your christmas projects and enjoy a couple of hours with some like minded people. The usual charge of £2.50 per person will apply.

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## “KEMBERTON CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL”

**Saturday 16th to Tuesday 19th December**

There will be displays on lots of things for the Festive Season, including a full sized Nativity scene, memory tree, St Nicholas and much more.

Adults £3.50 Children £1.50 Seasonal refreshments will be served and small gifts for children

**If anyone is willing to help during the above dates with refreshments or stewarding please contact Alison Greenwood Tel: 680163**

W.I Lyn Lathe 01952 680011 Church Cleaning: Mo & Denise  
Village Hall: Pam Smith 01952 581737

Pilates: Beryl Feely 01952462896

## Parish Church of St Andrews

### "Kemberton Newsletter"

**December 2017**

**Rector: The Reverend Keith Hodson**

The Rectory, Beckbury 01952 750774

Web site: [www.lichfield.anglican.org/salop/shifnal/beckbury](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/salop/shifnal/beckbury)

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### “Church Services “

3 <sup>rd</sup>		No Service
10th	11.00 am	Morning Worship
17th		No Service
Christmas Eve	5.00 pm	Communion
Christmas Day		No Service
31 <sup>st</sup>		No Service
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Communion

### “Sidesman

3rd	No Service
10th	Mrs M. Wright
17th	Christmas Celebration
Christmas Eve	Mr & Mrs P. Jones

### “Flowers for the Lord’s Table”

1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Mrs Russell 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Greenwood

**“Garden Clear Up changed from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December”**

## **Kemberton Parish Council News**

The last meeting of the Parish Council was held on 8th November 2017.

**AED defibrillator** – The system for operating the village defibrillator (located at the entrance to the village hall) has been under review. The current system of having a team of volunteers to operate the equipment will be phased out. After consultation with national organisations we have been advised that it is better to have access to all as the equipment can be operated easily. A training/ familiarisation evening will be held in January when the old operating system will be phased out. A **BIG** thank you to the volunteers for the last 2 years of their commitment!!

**NOTE** the access code is 2468

**Superfast Broadband** – Work has commenced on the upgrading to equipment. Currently it is anticipated that the will be complete February/ March.

**Grindle** – Lorries have again been trying to negotiate the lanes through the village to access RenNew. Obviously this is very annoying but as of March the operations at Grindle Farm must cease as per the Planning Directorate ruling.

. **Parish Council Clerk** – unfortunately Jo Fellows will be leaving us in the New Year. We wish her the very best in her new job and thank her for her help and especially for the setting up the website. Obviously this has left a vacancy which is now being advertised.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

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

## 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**

## **BAPTISMS**

Congratulations to Gus Allan Amey Sheppard son of Nicholas and Claire who was baptised at Ryton Church on 21<sup>st</sup> October

Congratulations to Freya Georgina Irene Porter daughter of Alastair and Gemma who was baptised at Beckbury Church on 29<sup>th</sup> October

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

## **WEDDINGS   NONE**

## **CONDOLENCES**

Our condolences to the family of the late Norma Walker of Sutton Maddock age 68 whose service was held at Telford Crematorium on 15<sup>th</sup> November

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Ryton with readings and hymns for Advent.  
Elsewhere in this newsletter Christmas Services are listed in the Six Parishes Services Rota.  
The Christmas Eve "midnight communions" begin at 11pm, but Stockton Church has an 11am communion  
Albrighton and Shifnal Churches have services on 31<sup>st</sup> December.  
The Christingle family service will be at 10am Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Beckbury Church.

Kemberton Church has a Festive Celebration 10am – 5pm 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December plus 2.00 pm - 5pm 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Admission £3.50 to enjoy a full sized Nativity scene and much more !

