

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

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DRAFT PROVISIONAL CHURCH SERVICES ROTA

Government post lock-down regulations may not allow
these services to take place

DECEMBER 2020

| | Badger | Beckbury | Ryton | Kemberton | Stockton | Sutton Maddock |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Sunday Dec 6th</i> | | | <i>9.30am Communion</i> | <i>11am Communion</i> | | <i>11am Morning Worship</i> |
| <i>Sunday Dec 13th</i> | <i>9.30am Matins</i> | <i>5pm Carols In the church yard if dry</i> | | | <i>11am Communion</i> | |
| <i>Sunday Dec 20th</i> | | <i>9.30am Communion</i> <i>5pm Carols If wet 13 Dec</i> | | | | <i>11am Communion</i> |
| <i>Christmas Day</i> | <i>9.30am Communion</i> | | <i>10.45am Carols in the church yard if dry</i> | | | |

Sunday 27th December - NO CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES

NOTE Covid 19 restrictions may change, (and the weather might be bad),
so there may be fewer services than these listed above
Please check before each Sunday with Revd Keith Hodson

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Almighty God, give us, we pray, in these dark winter days the light of Christ
and on those cold winter days, give us, we pray, the warmth of your love

JANUARY 2021
DRAFT PROVISIONAL CHURCH SERVICES ROTA
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| | Badger | Beckbury | Ryton | Kemberton | Stockton | Sutton Maddock |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>2021 3rd Jan</i> | | <i>10am Family Service</i> | <i>9.30am Communion</i> | <i>11am Communion</i> | | |
| <i>Jan 10th</i> | <i>9.30am Communion</i> | | | | | <i>11am Communion</i> |
| <i>Jan 17th</i> | | <i>9.30am Communion</i> | | <i>11am Morning Worship</i> | | |
| <i>Jan 24th</i> | | | <i>9.30am Morning Worship</i> | | <i>11am PLOUGH Service</i> | |
| <i>Candlemas Jan 31st</i> | | <i>9.30am Morning Worship</i> | | | | <i>11am Morning Worship</i> |

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Your monthly newsletter will be missing next month (January), when we and our home delivery teams will be taking a short break. David and Beryl would like to thank all our volunteers in Badger, Beckbury, Ryton and Burnhill Green for their hard work during the year. The PCC would also like to put on record their appreciation for the work Doug Hughes of Sutton Maddock has put in keeping the area surrounding the church in a neat and tidy condition.

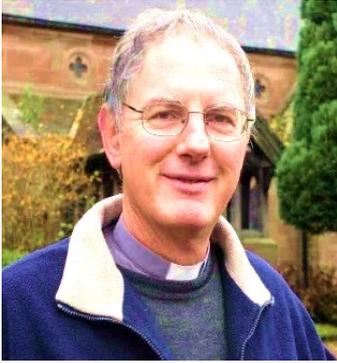
We look forward to seeing you all again in late January.

At the end of this newsletter are a number of drawings by pupils from Beckbury Primary School on the theme of making you smile. Please enjoy them and know that you are in their thoughts.

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

Strange times part 2

Dear friends

Having had our churches closed in the first Spring lock down, they were closed again in the November national lock down. This caused some confusion about Remembrance Sunday services which the government did not permit, so the BBC was recommending watching their London Cenotaph coverage on TV and observing the two minutes silence at home.

But the government did at short notice allow “*Acts of Remembrance*” outside at war memorials so we did in fact have such an “Act” at both Beckbury and Stockton, with one short hymn, the Last Post and Reveille and the National Anthem. At Stockton Sid Speke our local 98 year old WW2 Royal Navy veteran laid the wreath. At Beckbury wreathes from Badger, Beckbury and Ryton were laid as well as one from the Rotary Club of London and The Rotary Club of The City of Wolverhampton.

As I write this in mid-November we do not know what Covid 19 restrictions the government will impose after the lock down review date in December. We think that churches will open, but if social distancing is still required, this will reduce seating capacity and adversely affect lots of churches holding their usual popular Christmas services. And if the pre-lockdown rules are applied again, we have to wear masks and not be allowed to sing carols. So it may be “Silent Night” at many churches in the UK, including our local churches.

I smiled at a comment from the Bishop of Hereford on Radio Shropshire, who said that he was disappointed that churches and all places of worship had been treated by the government’s lockdown rules in the same way as “leisure centres” which were all closed in November. The Bishop suggested that churches were more like venues providing essential goods and services. There’s a good topic for debate!

Religious leaders petitioned the government for a change of policy allowing places of worship to open, but as I write the response to this has been “no”. So we are back to the situation in the spring, although this time a number of churches are better prepared and equipped to stream their Sunday church services on line. This has been helpful for some, but not everyone finds them to their liking. As one church member commented “*at least you can sit in comfort at home with a cup of coffee – and turn the vicar off when you’ve had enough*”

As we do not know exactly what churches can do for Christmas services, note that the Sunday Services Rota in this newsletter is only **provisional**. Please check your church’s Notice Board before each Sunday for services at your local church or contact me, phone 01952 750774 , or email keithhodson@talk21.com

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and New Year

Keith Hodson

CHURCH NEWS

Acts of Remembrance were held at Beckbury War Memorial and Stockton War Memorial at 10.50am on Remembrance Sunday. There was some confusion about the arrangements because the media news simply said that churches were closed in the November lock down and there could be no Sunday services. In fact 'Acts of Remembrance' were allowed outside, but this was only announced at short notice. Thanks to those who took part in the ceremonies. And to those who attended from across the Six Parishes.

With uncertainties about what will be allowed after the government lockdown review, **Christmas Services** cannot definitely be announced. Please ask Revd Keith Hodson before each Sunday (phone 01952 750774; email keithhodson@talk21.com) or check church notice boards for details. At present we hope to hold an outdoor carol service at Beckbury at 5pm December 13th. If it is wet, we may transfer it to 5pm December 20th.

Ryton may also be able to have carols in the church yard on Christmas morning at 10.45am. At other churches the anticipated numbers cannot safely be seated at the required distance .

Online Christmas Services at St Andrew's Church Shifnal

Join us online for our streamed celebration services this Christmas.

www.standrewschurchshifnal.org.uk/

Christingle Service – Sunday 13th December 5pm

Have your candle, orange, sweets, and red tape ready to make a Christingle at home!

Christmas Carols Service – Sunday 20th December 6pm – streamed on YouTube

Midnight Mass – Christmas Eve 11.30pm – streamed on YouTube

Christmas Day 10.30am – streamed on YouTube

Or enjoy them after these times on YouTube when it suits you

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Peter Barnard, formerly of Beckbury, whose ashes were interred at Beckbury Church on 12th November 2020 (he died on 4th January and his funeral service was in February).

BUMPER CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday 13th December starting at 5pm (weather permitting) St Milburga's Church Beckbury are holding an outdoor carol service on the lawns in front of the church, complete with Christmas Tree and fairy lights and, maybe, even a mince pie to take home with you.

This could be a magical night when we forget about Covid and think about Christmas, please come along and join in.

If the
be put back



weather is
to Sunday



wet, the
20th



carol service will
December

REMEMBRANCE DAY

We had one of the largest turnouts in recent years for our traditional service of remembrance this year, held on the green in front of the church and on the pavement outside, everyone standing in their own bubbles or at the correct distancing from each other. It was a very moving service, with representations from Badger, Beckbury and Ryton and this year representations from The Rotary Club of London and the Rotary Club of the City of Wolverhampton.



Following the wreath laying ceremony and prior to the National Anthem John Whitham tolled the Church Bell 75 times to signify the number of years since WW2 ended. The general consensus was what a deeply moving service it had been.

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

Let's light up Beckbury!

We can't get together for a sing song this year but we'd love it if you could join us by butting your Christmas lights up on Sunday 28th November.

We would also like to invite the children and grown-ups if you'd like to make a Christmas decoration to put on our tree. If you don't feel comfortable putting it on yourself, please give it to one of our volunteers who will be more than happy to help.

We'd like to thank all our customers for your support over what has been a difficult year.

Our little elves snuck in at night to dress the shop in all its Christmas finery

The crafters have been busy making lots of wonderful Christmas gifts for you to give to your loved ones.

And our shoppers have been busy selecting produce to help you have a very Merry Christmas.

We are also eagerly awaiting The Beckbury Calendar 2021 due in any time now. Sam has been very busy collecting and arranging this year's photos, to produce something we can all treasure.

We have a truly wonderful team of volunteers who work serving behind the counter, shopping and produce ordering, cake making, craft making, card selecting, washing, maintenance, rota organising, money counting and many other jobs required to run a shop. I would just like to take this opportunity on behalf of all our customers to say a huge thank you to them all.

If you would like to join our team and be a part of our family please ask any one of our volunteers and they will take your details and pass them onto our training team.

Merry Christmas and a Hopeful New Year, to all, from Beckbury Community Shop.

Lara Wilkes

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

With the festive season soon upon us we hardly have time to think about our frost covered plots. But if weather permits a few hours on your plot can be very rewarding, both physically and mentally. Call it kind of therapy, and in these unsettling times I find it really helps to get out in the fresh air either gardening or walking.

Here's some jobs to be getting on with:

- ! Net brassicas to protect from hungry pigeons, remove any yellow leaves so fungal diseases don't take hold
- ! Bonfire rubbish
- ! Order seeds
- ! Plan veg beds
- ! Winter prune fruit bushes (not stone fruit)
- ! Plant bare-root fruit trees
- ! It's not too late to lift and divide lumps of rhubarb, alternatively select a large clump to 'force' for an early crop next year
- ! 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!

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.

So from all of the allotment holders we would like to wish you a very happy safe Christmas, and most of all let the New Year be something that will give us hope.

If anyone is interested in having an allotment please contact Gina Somerville (allotment chairwoman) on 07795625316.

Heide Pringle-Scott

OUR FLY TIPPER STRIKES AGAIN!

Do you recognise this pile of household rubbish, left on the edge of Badger Road at the end of October? It includes bags of household rubbish and paper, an empty dog food bag and a child's small slide.

I like to think that residents of Beckbury aren't so antisocial to dump this just to avoid the short drive to the

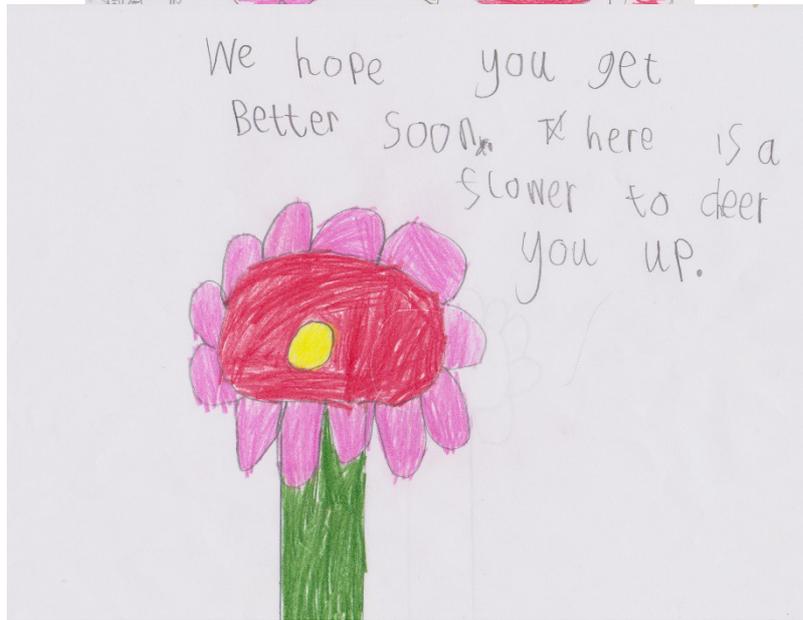
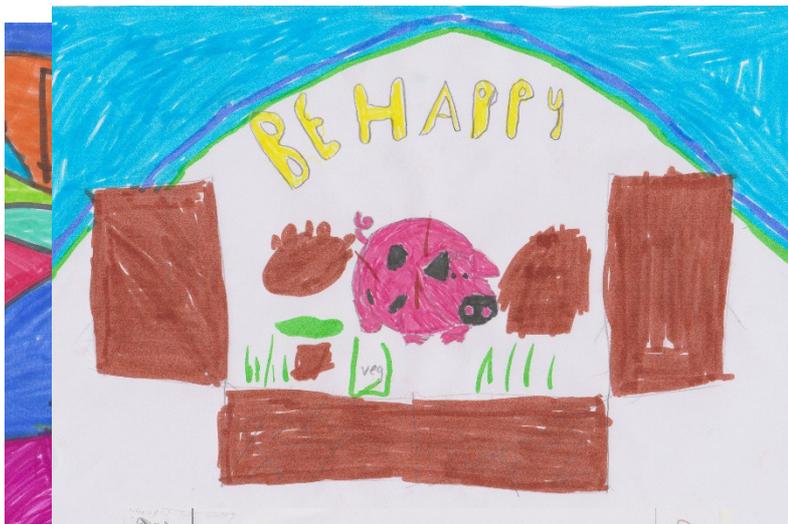


recycle centre at Halesfield or Bridgnorth. But perhaps one of us has employed a tradesman to do some work and assumed that they would safely dispose of our rubbish?

If this is the case or you recognise this, then the Parish Council would like to know.

Whoever is responsible should realise that fly tipping is a criminal offence, local Councils can impose on the spot fines up to £400 and in serious cases, Courts can prosecute, resulting in unlimited fines and possibly imprisonment.

During these bleak covid days we asked the children from Beckbury C of E Primary School if they could think of some pictures to lighten our spirits and here is a small sample to make you smile.





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