



**Welcome to the December 2022 edition of the  
Badger, Beckbury & Ryton Newsletter**

If you would like to receive this monthly newsletter online please email Heather on [heathert806@gmail.com](mailto:heathert806@gmail.com). Or if you cannot access it online please request a paper version which will be delivered to you.

Either email Heather or phone on 07938544804. **But please only request a paper copy if you really can't access it any other way as we wish to minimise the amount of paper we use.**

**BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council met on the 2nd November. We have received two nominations for the vacancy on the council. Hopefully we shall make a choice after our January meeting when we shall meet the applicants. Anyone else interested in becoming a parish councilor please get in touch.

The equipment for the new playground has now been delivered and is in the course of being put together and will be installed very soon, hopefully by Christmas.

We heard that the Village Hall committee are looking at providing sound insulation in the Hall in order to make it more comfortable.

We are still awaiting quotations for street light pole to replace a damaged one and a complete new light near to the Village Hall where it is quite dark.

It was reported that the bench by the Church was in a state of decay and disrepair. Steps are now underway to refurbish the bench and should be completed by about the end of November.

We were pleased to be able to report that the illegal occupation of the paddock opposite Denton Pool on the Ryton Road has finally come to an end with the removal of the mobile Home.

Christmas is fast approaching and the Village shop is having a Christmas Tree event on Sunday 4th December at 5.30pm with mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies etc. Should be a fun event.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday the 11th January 2023, 7.30pm and the first 5 minutes are reserved for any Parishioner who would like to raise an issue.

It's a little early but the Parish Council wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

David Cummings,  
Chair.



**We will be holding our annual switching on of our Christmas Tree lights on Sunday 4th Dec, followed by carols around the tree at 5pm (lights switch on at 5:30pm). Please come for this short event and enjoy a mince pie, hot chocolate or mulled wine and the children are very welcome to bring a decoration for the tree.**

**We invite all villagers to switch on their lights at this same time to make a spectacular show throughout the village.**

## **Badger Parish Council Meeting**

A meeting of Badger Parish Council was held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022. No parishioners were present for the Open Forum.

It was with regret that the Council accepted the resignation of Gary Bond from the Council after 25 years of service. The Council formally thanked him for his work. As no nominations had been received to fill this casual vacancy, the Council agreed to co-opt Chris Thompson to the Council.

A proposed road closure in Badger for up to four hours on 4 January 2023 to replace a manhole cover was discussed and it was decided it would be helpful to put this on the Badger PC website and also to display the information on the Parish Council's noticeboard, so all villagers would be aware of the proposed closure..

Other matters discussed in the brief meeting again included verge and hedge cutting and the Treasurer's Report.

The date for the next Parish Council Meeting was moved to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm. This will be held in St Giles' Parish Church, Badger, and all parishioners are again invited to attend the Open Forum at the beginning of the meeting.

# From The Rectory

## CHRISTMAS - fact and fiction

Dear Friends

With 1<sup>st</sup> December we are well into the Christmas season - not at church yet as we try to maintain the Advent season which runs up to Christmas Eve. But with Christmas adverts on tv. and carols in the shops it's hard to avoid Xmas. Even in church we have Christmas Carol services in mid-December - you can check dates and times in the Services Rota below.

I suspect that by Boxing Day we have heard enough carols, and tv adverts have moved on from Christmas to summer holidays.

I remember a school nursery Nativity Play in a previous parish before moving here, where baby Jesus arrived in Santa's sleigh ! I was so surprised at this blending of fantasy fact and fiction, that it was only afterwards that I realised the other boys and girls in the scene were angels together with Santa's little helpers.

I think it was an kind attempt to include all the Christmas traditions in one play, but while the parents should have been able to separate the stories (I hoped so) I am not sure whether children are able to do this. The risk is that baby Jesus becomes a cartoon character, or a fictional character like Santa, and so the Nativity story becomes something like a fairy story worthy of Disney or Netflix. There certainly are some good characters and scenes in the story – the journey to Bethlehem on a donkey ; the grumpy innkeeper ; the angels ; the excited shepherds; the exotic Kings ; wicked King Herod who killed the under two year old baby boys in Bethlehem. It makes a great pantomime story

The only sources we have for the Nativity are Matthew's and Luke's accounts in their gospels. Luke wrote that *"Mary treasured all these things in her heart"* and as she was a member of the first church group after the Easter resurrection of Jesus we assume that Luke managed to meet her and hear her story. He wrote in his introduction that *"others also wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning.... and I have carefully studied all these matters ...."*

We will hear that story and sing those carols again this Christmas in our local churches - details in the Services Rota

Wishing you a happy Christmas

***Keith Hodson***

## THANKSGIVING

Congratulations to Harrison, son of Martin and Tammy whose safe arrival was celebrated with a short service at Beckbury Church on 30<sup>th</sup> October

## CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the family of the late Beryl Davis of Caynton age 83 whose funeral service was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Beckbury Church

## CHURCH NEWS

Churches are having to check the times of *Strictly Come Dancing* and the football *World Cup* to avoid unfortunate clashes between their semi-finals & finals and our carol services. The times and dates of **Christmas Services** can be found in the Services Rota.

**Kemberton** 's congregation will be joined by choir members of Shifnal Church for some special Christmas carols in the 6pm service on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Beckbury**'s carols at 6pm on 18<sup>th</sup> December will be outdoors unless it is wet, in which case the carol service will be inside the church

There will be a New Year **family service** at Beckbury at 10am 8<sup>th</sup> January  
The annual **Plough Sunday Service** at Stockton will be at 11am 22<sup>nd</sup> January

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Almighty God grant that as your Son Jesus Christ came at Christmas to share in our humanity so may we share the life of his divinity Amen

	<b>Badger</b>	<b>Beckbury</b>	<b>Ryton</b>	<b>Kemberton</b>	<b>Stockton</b>	<b>Sutton Maddock</b>
<b>DEC</b> 4			9.30am Morning Worship			11am Matins
11		9.30am communion		6pm carols		4pm carols

18		6pm Carols Outside if dry	9.30am communion		11am communi on	
24 <b>Christm as Eve</b>				5pm Communio n		7pm Communion
25 <b>Christm as Day</b>	9.30am Communio n		10.30am Carols			
<b>JAN 1</b>		N O	SE	R V I	C E	S
8		10am Family Service		11am Morning Worship		
15			9.30am communion			11am Morning Worship
22		9.30am communio n			11am Plough Service	
29			9.30am Morning Worship	11am Communio n		

**Please send items for the January 2023 newsletter  
to Heather at [heahert806@gmail.com](mailto:heahert806@gmail.com) or deliver  
them to 64, Beckbury TF11 9DJ, by Monday 19th  
December  
Thank you**

*We wish you all a very happy and healthy festive period and a good New Year.*

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