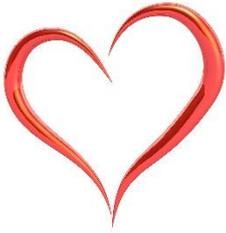


SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER



for
 St Giles' Church. Badger
 St Milburga's Church. Beckbury
 St Andrew's Church. Ryton

Rector: Rev'd Keith Hodson tel 01952 750774

Email: keithhodson@talk21.com

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

Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes – February 2016

Sunday	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Feb 7 th		9.30am Communion KH (trad)				11am Communion KH (trad)
Feb 14 th	9.30am Communion KH (trad)		9.30am Morning Worship TD	11am Communion KH (new)		
Feb 21 st		9.30am Morning Worship KH				11am Morning Worship KH
Feb 28 th	9.30am Matins TD		9.30am Communion KH (new)	11am Morning Worship KH		

KH - Revd Keith Hodson;

TD - Tina Dalton;

LT – Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (Epiphany 6th January)

Lord of the years, help us to number our days
 that we may live each day for your glory and for the benefit of others
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Next Newsletter

Contributions for next month's newsletter to either –
 David Tooth at Havenside, Beckbury – 01952 750324. Email - david.tooth2@btinternet.com

Or Ruth Ferguson at Tarltons, Beckbury – 01952 750267 not later than 14th of this month, please.



FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

It is a leap year this year 2016 (a number divisible by 4 but not 100 is the old rule). Leap years were introduced to the calendar way back in Julius Caesar's day (46 BC) because the seasons and traditional dates were not synchronised (it might seem like that this winter with such mild spring-like weather in December). The previous calendar lost 24 days every hundred years without a leap year. In fact Julius Caesar added an extra 10 days to the old calendar spreading them across the months.

There was a popular tradition associated with leap year's 29th February, that women could make a proposal of marriage to men. One suggestion for this dates back to the Irish Saint Brigid who negotiated with St Patrick that rather than be kept waiting women could take the initiative on 29th February – only one day in four years! Another suggestion is that for a time the leap year day was not recognised by English law, so there was a legal loophole for women to propose to men on that day.

We should say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those born on 29th February who can only celebrate their birthday every four years. They are called 'leapers' or 'leapings' or simply 'twentyniners'. One difficulty for them is that on some on-line forms asking for their date of birth the 'drop down box' does not include 29th February!

Will Lent be longer this year? "41 days and 41 nights"? Those of you planning to give up whatever you have in mind will be pleased to hear that Lent remains as 40 days, made up of six weeks of six days Monday to Saturday plus the first 'half week' of Ash Wednesday ($6 \times 6 + 4 = 40$) but always excluding Sundays which are regarded as "feast days" for the Church celebrating '*the Day of Resurrection*'. The fact that one of those days of the week happens to be 29th February makes no difference.

So what are you thinking of giving up for Lent this year? Or taking up something new and different? I have heard one request that we don't give up things we do in our local groups, charities, and communities. Where people are having to 'retire' from responsibilities, then others may think about taking them up. Shifnal Church has an annual occasion of '*laying down*' jobs and roles which some people have done for a number of years. The challenge for them is finding volunteers to replace them. Sometimes the faithful few end up swapping one responsibility for another, which at least covers the work to be done, but does not gain new volunteers.

Our thanks to those who do continue to contribute to our communities in so many different ways. Local village life would be much poorer without them.

With best wishes for February

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR February

Wednesday 3 rd	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wednesday 3 rd	7.30pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Tuesday 9 th	2pm	Friendship Club meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Wednesday 10 th	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service in Beckbury Church
Wednesday 17 th		Lent Lunches commence at Trinity Methodist Church, Shifnal
Wednesday 24 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wednesday 9 th March	7.30pm	Ryton & Grindle Parish Council meeting In St Andrew's Church, Ryton



CHURCH NEWS

Christmas Wreaths and graveside decorations should be removed by Candlemas at the beginning of February. If you are unable to get to the churchyards, then we can do it for you. Thank you for helping us keep our churchyards neat and tidy.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 10th February. The service at Beckbury begins at 7pm.

Lent Lunches will be served at Trinity Methodist Church on Wednesdays starting on 17th February. The Six Parishes are responsible for making and serving soup on 9th March.

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

24 members thoroughly enjoyed their January visit to the Seven Stars at Beckbury for a special lunchtime meal. Kevin and Julianna made us all welcome and everyone enjoyed their selection from a special 4 choice menu. Whether it was the vegetarian choice of Butternut Squash to the traditional Roast Pork with crackling, each dish was excellent, and having purloined a piece of crackling from an unwary diner I can vouch for the taste.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 9th February will be in Beckbury Village Hall starting at 2 pm. We will begin with a game of Bingo, then after a tea break we have set aside some time to give us a chance for us all to get together and have a chat about anything and everything we fancy, as some of our members have remarked that it is nice to talk.

KNIT, STITCH AND CHAT

At our last meeting at the end of November we had lots of fun making Christmas stars and Christmas cones and baubles.



The next meeting will be on **Monday 22nd February** starting at 7.30pm at 'Collisway', Beckbury. Please ring Diane on 01952 750208 if you would like to come along and join us.

Make 2016 to learn new crafting techniques and make new friends.

RYTON AND GRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

For your diary: Wednesday 9th March, Ryton and Grindle Parish Council Meeting
St Andrew's Church. Ryton starting at 7.30pm

Correction

The telephone number for Shropshire Council is **0345 678 9000** and not 0348 678 9000 as incorrectly written in last month's newsletter.

R J Holt, Clerk Ryton and Grindle Parish Council

PROPOSED BECKBURY AIRGUN CLUB

We are looking for a small corner of unused land to use as a rifle range.

Having run the air rifle range at the Beckbury Show successfully for the last two years myself, Peter Johnson, and two of my friends Barry Simmons and Barry Toop who are all now retired were impressed with the potential and interest shown by many local youngsters. We would be delighted to offer basic instruction in safety and the correct procedure to these youngsters, and also introduce them to field sports whilst honing their skills at target shooting. All children attending to be accompanied by a parent.

As this would be a non-profit making project and being pensioners on a fixed budget, we would be looking for a small piece of unused land to use for a reasonable rent/fee. We would also need to erect a shed for wet weather protection.

Anyone interested who would like to get involved with the running of the range, or at the next Beckbury show, your help would be much appreciated.

For further details please contact Peter on 01952 750450.

ALBRIGHTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

It has been announced that Dr David MacDonald will be leaving the Practice at the end of February. May we wish him every success in his future career.

ROAD CLOSURE

Please note that Snowdon Road, Beckbury will be closed from Tuesday 1st March to Thursday 3rd March, 9.30am – 3pm (there is a map on the back page giving closure points).

ROAD CLOSURE

OPEN DAY

at the
"A Brush with Africa"

STUDIO
Beckbury House
Beckbury
Shifnal
TF11 9DJ



an
Exhibition of wildlife Art
by artist
Simon Stevenson
on

27th February 2016

10am - 4pm

ROAD CLOSURE

Snowdon Road closure - 1st March to 3rd March 9.30am to 3pm.

