

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

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



Rota of Services for the 6 Parishes – February 2019

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Feb 3 rd		9.30am Morning Worship TD	9.30am Communion KH trad			11am Communion KH trad
Feb 10 th	9.30am Communion KH trad			11am Communion KH new		
Feb 17 th		9.30am Communion KH trad				11am Morning Worship KH
Feb 24 th	9.30am Matins KH		9.30am Morning Worship TD	11am Morning Worship KH		

KH – Revd Keith Hodson

TD – Tina Dalton

LT – Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (from the hymn All creatures)

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in the heaven along

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice

O praise him, O praise him. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Dear friends

I guess many of you learned in the past that *January* is named after the Roman god of doors Janus who was traditionally portrayed as having two faces and so was able to look back into the old year and ahead into the new. *March* is named after Mars the Roman god of war. There were several festivals in his honour in ancient Rome, presumably because it was the start of many military campaigns in the spring. And the closing months of the year are numbers (sept, oct, nov, dec) from the time when there were only 10 months in a calendar year before July and August were added in honour of the Roman Emperors, but mainly to get the months and seasons synchronised.

But I did not know why *February* was so called. I have now learnt that it is named after *februa*, the festivals of purification celebrated in Rome during this month. But its old Anglo-Saxon name was *Sol-monath* and there is some debate about what this means. St Bede records it as meaning “cakes” which were offered to the gods in religious festivals. But the Anglo-Saxon word *sol* also means “mud”, and given the traditional weather in February, calling it *mud month* is appropriate.

Sara Coleridge’s poem *The Garden Year* starts with the lines

*January brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow.
February brings the rain, thaws the frozen lake again.*

There’s a weather rhyme some of you may know

*February fill ditch, black or white (i.e. rain or snow), I don’t care which
But if it’s the white, it’s better to like*

With the February rain and thaw though comes the mud, hence the possible Anglo Saxon translation of *Sol-monath* as *Mud-month*. At least there are only 28 days in the month!

1st February was the old Anglo Saxon first day of Spring. Certainly this year we already have out in flower snowdrops and crocuses, and catkins on trees. Nowadays we have two “first days of spring”: March 1st is used by the met. office for its recording of trends and statistics over the years. March 21st (or 20th) is the vernal equinox based on the earth’s orbit of the sun, and is used by many as “the first day of spring”.

All this is relatively artificial. The weather has no regard for our man made dates, and the seasons begin and end beyond our human control, as farmers will readily remind us.

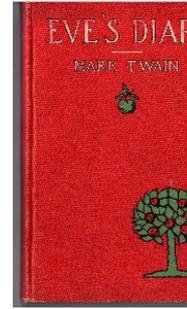
Thomas Fuller, a 17th Cent Churchman, wrote *In fair weather prepare for foul* but I don’t think he was just talking about the weather, but about life, and being “firm in faith and sure in hope” ready for those bad things that can knock us sideways.

Happy February!

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR February 2019

Wednesday 6 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wednesday 6 th	7.30pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet In Beckbury Village Hall
Tuesday 12 th	2pm	Six Parishes Friendship Club meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Wednesday 20 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday



CHURCH NEWS

Christmas wreathes and flowers should be removed from graves this month. Our church yard maintenance volunteers will assist where families are unable to do this.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to George Plaice and Sian Rogers who were married on 5th January 2019 at Sutton Maddock Church.

Congratulations to Jack Briggs and Katie Haden who were married on 19th January 2019 at Sutton Maddock Church.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Austin Lowe, aged 95, of Wolverhampton whose service was held at Telford Crematorium on 16th January 2019.

SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER – HELP WANTED

We are currently running low on funding for the Six Parishes Newsletter and would like to invite any of our readers to help by contributing the £30 per month it costs to edit, print and distribute each month's issue.

We are more than happy to acknowledge each sponsor on the back page subject to your permission.

Our thanks go to those of you who already help with sponsorship, and look forward to hearing from more of our readers willing to help us.

BECKBURY CHURCH – Altar Flowers Rota 2019

April 14 th	Palm Sunday	Sonia Handley
April 21 st	Easter	Team
April 28 th	“	
May 5 th		Freda Breeze
May 12 th	Mothering Sunday	Freda Breeze
May 19 th		Jean Wood
May 26 th		Jean Wood
June 2 nd		Georgina Porter
June 9 th	Whit Sunday	Georgina Porter
June 16 th		Rachel Pitt
June 23 rd		Rachel Pitt
June 30 th		Frances Hodson

If anyone is interested in joining our altar flowers rota - you don't have to be an expert, please contact Sonia Handley for further details on 01952 750415

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our January venue was switched at late notice to The Bell as Trysull, with a similar menu but slightly varied. Members were slightly down due to winter colds and for some hospital visits, but we all enjoyed our lunch out. Prior to the meal Revd Keith Hodson was welcomed as a new official member now that he is officially semi-retired, and then everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday to Beryl whose birthday was actually on that Tuesday.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th February, starting at 2pm in Beckbury Village Hall for a game of Bingo followed by an **After Christmas Bring and Buy**. So please bring along your unused or unwanted Christmas gifts, which someone else will, no doubt, love - all proceeds going to Club Funds. Why not bring along a friend to join in the fun and help boost our funds.

BECKBURY BITTER NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

**Ideal for a Gift
In Party Packs of 3**

**Or try a Mixed Pack
“Beckbury Bitter”
“Bridgnorth Gold”
“Shropshire Pale Ale”**

Available at the Beckbury Shop

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

We'll be stocking the shop with cards and small gifts for Valentine's Day on Thursday 14th February, so pop in and treat the one you love!

In March we'll be marking the shop's first birthday with a celebration event on Saturday 23rd March. Keep an eye on the newsletter and in the shop for more details.

Cold weather deliveries: if you are concerned about getting to the shop in icy weather conditions, call us and we can help get your groceries to you. Tel: 01952 750481

Be part of the Beckbury Calendar 2020: We'll be collecting seasonal photographs of Beckbury throughout this year to create a village calendar. Send your photos to us at info@beckburyshop.co.uk or bring copies into the shop for us to scan for a chance of your photo being featured.

We would love to hear from you. If there's something you'd like us to stock, a service you'd like us to provide; or if you have a great idea and would like to get involved in the shop, please get in touch.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2018

Once again, we have had another successful Shoebox Appeal with 5,716 shoeboxes full of lovely things collected and dispatched to children in Ukraine. The container lorry arrived on 4th December and was soon loaded up by an army of volunteers. Thanks to your generosity, we know that 5,716 children will have had a shoebox gift of their very own at Christmas time. On behalf of the Telford Team, thank you to everyone who joined in the appeal and all being well, we'll be calling on your support again in a few months' time ready for the 2019 appeal.

Shiona Ferriday, 01952 730313, ferridaysp@aol.com

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2019 through the door there are plenty of things to look forward to as a vegetable grower. Maybe try your hand at growing something more unusual! Last year it was Melons, Tromboncos and Mooli for me and with great success. This year I will be having a go with Samphire (a salty marine vegetable delicious when cooked in butter and added to seafood and pasta)...and a crimson-skinned Russian tomato 'Noire de Crimeè' which has incredible flavour and firm and juicy texture. Very dark in colour and as good for your brain as blueberries. Also there are some unusual pumpkins and squash I'm going to try 'Black Futsu' and 'Marina Di Chioggia'.

January/February is renowned for being a mixed bag of weather. From grey miserable days with persistent rain and sleet to bright and sunny ones that lure us into thinking winter is over. But there is light at the end of the 'poly' tunnel. You can start sowing a few crops such as certain varieties of chillies, aubergines, broad beans and tomatoes, and if you desire very early potatoes you can begin to grow these in containers under cover. Other jobs to be getting on with:

- ! Provided the ground is not frozen or water-logged you can complete your winter digging and incorporate as much organic matter as you can
- ! You can dig up and divide rhubarb
- ! Plant out soft fruit bushes
- ! If you have outdoor peaches make a polythene shelter to protect from peach leaf curl
- ! Harvest leeks, parsnips, cabbage and Brussel sprouts
- ! Chit seed potatoes
- ! Plant shallots and garlic
- ! Broad beans can be sown directly outside
- ! Jerusalem Artichokes. Remember they grow mighty tall and can over-shadow other crops when they reach full height

So although the plot may look a little bare there is still plenty to get on with.

There are still a few allotments up for grabs so if anyone is interested please get in touch with Gina Summerville (chairwoman) 07795625316.

Heidi Pringle-Scot

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by

Louise Nixon from Badger