

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

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Rota of Services for the 6 Parishes – February 2020

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Feb 2 nd Candlemas		9.30am Communion KH new				11am Morning Worship KH
Feb 9 th			9.30am Communion KH new	11am Communion KH new		
Feb 16 th	9.30am Communion KH trad	9.30am Morning Worship TD				11am Communion KH trad
Feb 23 rd			9.30am Morning Worship KH	11am Morning Worship KH		
March 1 st		9.30am Communion KH trad				11am Morning Worship KH

KH – Revd Keith Hodson

TD – Tina Dalton

LT – Local Team

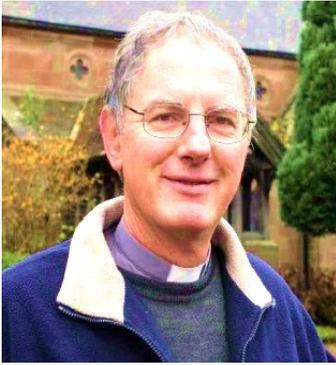
PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Almighty God, teach us to be faithful to you in change and uncertainty that with firm faith and sure hope we may enter your eternal Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Contributions for March'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

Poor Oswald ?

Dear friends,

This year 2020 (divisible by 4) is a leap year so we have that extra day in the year on 29th February. It was introduced in the time of Julius Caesar in 46 BC to help synchronise seasons and dates, which had been getting out of step because the old calendar was a quarter day shorter than the solar calendar. The name *leap year* refers to the fact that special days leap two days ahead eg Christmas 2018 was on Tuesday; then Wednesday in 2019, but will leap forward to Friday this year with the extra day on 29th February.

I don't know anyone who has a birthday on 29th February. Do we have people in our local communities who have to celebrate either on 28th February or 1st March? There was not a lot their mothers could do about it.

But spare a thought for St Oswald who was given his memorial day in the church calendar on 29th February. Surely the Church authorities had a choice about this? Whereas others have an annual memorial day poor Oswald only gets one every four years. What did he do wrong?

He was the nephew of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and became the Bishop of Worcester in 961 AD, and was active in reforms of the Church and establishing monasteries. He became Archbishop of York in 972, but also continued as Bishop of Worcester where he is buried. It was during Lent while he was washing the feet of the poor (a Christian act of charity he did every day of Lent) that he died in 992 AD on 29th February.

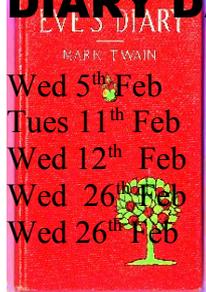
So there was not a choice for the Church authorities other than to remember St Oswald on the date of his death (though as with people born on a leap year day, Oswald is now officially remembered on 28th February). Nor indeed was there a choice for Oswald. I think he would have liked to have celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Jesus before he died.

We live in a society now which makes a big thing of choices and options, which has brought benefit to many but sometimes this fosters a belief that we are in control of everything in our lives. That myth can lead to discontent for some at the very least. There's an old Jewish proverb *Man plans; God laughs*. Not that I attribute thwarting of our plans to God, but it's a neat wry comment on life, in line with an archdeacon I know who often added "DV to his discussions (*Deo volente* meaning "God willing"). That is perhaps a more realistic attitude to have in the face of change and uncertainty in our personal situations.

Happy St Oswald's Day (as well as St Valentine's Day).

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES for February 2020



Wed 5 th Feb	7.30pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Tues 11 th Feb	2pm	Six Parishes Friendship Club meet at Beckbury Village Hall
Wed 12 th Feb	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wed 26 th Feb	10am	Ash Wednesday Communion in Beckbury Church
Wed 26 th Feb	10am	Prayers on Wednesday

CHURCH NEWS

Thanks to families who have been able to take away **Christmas wreathes and flowers from church yard graves**. If you have not been able to do this, we will do it in February.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** which this year falls on 26th February and there will be a communion service at Beckbury Church at 10am.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late John Brunt of Oswestry, aged 94, who was interred at Sutton Maddock Church on 12th December 2019.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Florence Dodd of Cornwell, aged 91, whose service was held at Sutton Maddock Church on 17th January 2020.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Margaret Downward of Beckbury, aged 88, whose service was held at Beckbury Church on 28th January 2020.

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

It is with great sadness that just after the New Year we learned of the death of our former colleague and friend David Marsh, aged 66, who died on the 2nd January in Shrewsbury Hospital after surgery for a liver complaint. David was a local farmer who lived at Bigwood Farm until around 2007 when he retired and moved to Bomere Heath, near Shrewsbury. David was a member of the Parish Council for many years until he left the village and was Chairman from 1987 until 1995. He was always a regular attendee and was keen to ensure that the village roads and particularly the gulleys were kept clear.

I was fortunate to bump into David just before Christmas when he was delivering cards. We had a chat (a lone one which was normal for David!) and he did not seem too concerned about his forthcoming surgery. His death was not expected and comes as a bit of a shock. A very nice chap who will be badly missed by all who knew him.

We extend our condolences to his wife Heather and his boys Alex and Richard.

David Cummings

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Due to illnesses of some of our members it was decided that it would be better to move our annual Christmas party to Havenside which would be more comfortable for fewer members. This worked very well with copious food followed by memories and songs from some of our members. We then had carols which everyone joined in, with music provided by Revd Hodson on a disc player. A couple of lovely moments then occurred – the first when a solo was sung and spontaneously everyone joined in the second verse. The second unusual moment occurred when a large butterfly appeared in the room, flew around the room seemingly pausing over each person and then disappeared, but what a lovely way to finish our Christmas party.

For our January meeting 17 members visited the newly renovated Smokey Cow Pub in Beckbury, having been known as the Seven Stars for 200 years it's going to take some time to get used to the change, but the interior changes are mind blowing and we now have a very modern feel to the pub, but what of the food? All plates were picked clean with many highly satisfied diners, the haddock choice was chosen by several and declared a huge success.

As we head into February our thoughts go to event planning for the year and may we ask that if any of our reader friends have suggestions for trips out or things to do please let David or Beryl know. On Tuesday 11th February our meeting will be in Beckbury Village Hall for one of John Whitham's easy!!! Quizzes starting at 2pm. New members or just visitors for the afternoon are most welcome, come along and enjoy the fun.

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 4th December 2019, the last meeting of the decade.

The Village Shop had their Christmas light switch on Saturday 30th November. It was well attended with many children in attendance. It was an enjoyable and festive event.

I have also been asked if anyone could spare a few hours a month and help out at the Village Shop. They are actively seeking volunteers. If you can help please pop into the shop for further details.

The Parish Council were approached by the Church for a grant to help replace the leaking roof. The Parish Council agreed to give a grant of £2,000 in total.

The results of the Parish Plan questionnaire are now being finalised and an updated version will be delivered to all residential properties within the village.

The next meeting will take on Wednesday 5th February 2020.

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Carl Steventon

RYTON & GRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

The last Parish meeting of the year was held on 11th December 2019. This was also the final meeting for our outgoing Parish Clerk, Penny Brasenell, and for Mark Dady, who has stood down as a Councillor. We thank both for their contribution to the Parish Council.

The meeting was attended by Shropshire Councillor Michael Wood, Apley Estate Manager Graeme Manton, and several members of the public. Questions were posed about the condition of the roads and the contract that Shropshire Council has in place with Kier. The Parish Council were urged to press for action in regards to the muddy and damaged roads in the parish.

Apley Estates Manager Graeme Manton gave an update on the Grindle Farm House site and said there would be no new deliveries to it. The Parish Council will be visiting the site in the New Year, having expressed an interest in being kept informed on any plans to develop it in the future.

A precept was agreed upon for the next financial year. The request put to Shropshire Council will be for £3,620. This will work out at £45.17 per year for a Band D household and will be a small decrease by percentage on last year's charge.

The December meeting also included a co-option, with the Parish Council formally welcoming Anne Banks as its new member. There remains a place vacant on the Parish Council following Cllr Dady's departure. This casual vacancy has been announced and if no election is called by the Parish, then we will be looking to co-opt a fifth member.

From January the new clerk will be Vanessa Voysey. She can be contacted on clerk.rgpc@gmail.com or 07968 859990.

Next Meeting Date: **Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 19.30.** St Andrews Church, Ryton.

Everyone is invited to attend, at the start of each meeting there will be a public open forum of 15 minutes where questions, queries and ideas can be discussed, please contact the Clerk if you require an answer to any particular question or if you would like an item added to the Council's Agenda.

Ryton & Grindle are adding to the content of their website, we welcome contributions from local organisations, but unfortunately cannot accept advertising. Please contact the Clerk on clerk.rgpc@gmail.com and please visit our Website www.rytonandgrindle.org.uk

My name is Mollie Venables, I am 18 years old and I live in Beckbury. Having recently finished college after completing level 2 and level 3 courses in equine studies, I am now looking for work with horses and all other animals especially dogs.

If you are looking for a reliable person to assist/look after your horses and/or dogs (including dog walking) please contact me via email at mollievenables01@gmail.com

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

Happy New Year from all at Beckbury Community Shop.

What a wonderful year we've had, we'd like to thank all our volunteers and customers for supporting us.

In January we focused on Eco products, we swapped to compostable coffee cups, brought in a reusable option and also showcased other reusable and environmentally friendly alternatives. We have also decided to offer a discount on our take away coffee, if you bring in your own reusable cup you will get a 20p discount. We installed a crisp packet recycling box, it's big and yellow, you can't miss it. So start collecting all your crisp packets and pop them in and we will send them off for recycling.

Hewitts in Albrighton have been very successfully supplying our sausage rolls, pasties and pies for some time now and have now agreed to supply us with sausages, bacon and other meat products, these will arrive in the shop on Thursdays, so get in quick if you don't want to miss out.

The shop is proving itself to be a real community benefit bringing old and young together. To celebrate the volunteers got together at the Smokey Cow in January, unfortunately I wasn't there but I hear the food was excellent and a jolly good time was had by all those who attended. If any of you would like to join our family there are many ways you can help even if you don't want to do a shift in the shop. Please feel welcome to leave a message for me at the shop with any offers of help or suggestions and I will be in contact.

Lara Wilkes, Chairperson Beckbury Community Shop

FRIENDLY LOCAL SERVICE AMANDA'S CLEANING SERVICE

Don't have time to clean up then I'll do it for you

Weekly Clean

Fortnightly Clean

Monthly Clean

Competitive Rates: Starting from £12 per hour
(depending on location)

Areas covered: Beckbury, Albrighton, Pattingham (and surrounding areas), Shifnal and Telford

To book or for a free quote please don't hesitate to contact
AMANDA ON 07543574264

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2020 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 tromboncinos and fennel for me 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 Crimée' 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 overshadow other crops when they reach full height.

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

Heidi Pringle-Scott

AMANDA'S PET SERVICE

- ! Dog Walking
- ! Drop In (for cats and dogs)
- ! Company and Cuddles
- ! Home-Stays (fee on quotation)

Competitive Prices: from £15 (depending on location)
(Extra Fees for additional dogs)

Reduced rate for long-term bookings.

To book or for a free quote please contact Amanda on 07543574264

Challenge Accepted!

Local running club raises almost £4,000 for Stockton Church with fund raising races.

Back in autumn over 350 runners descended on the stunning Apley Estate for a series of running races known as the Apley Estate Autumn Challenge. The event is managed by local club the Wrekin Road



Runners on behalf of the Apley Estate.

Runners chose from a 5K, 10K or 21K distance which took them on a scenic and undulating multi-terrain course through the parklands of the private Apley Estate. Not normally open to the public this was a unique opportunity for athletes of all abilities to take in this magnificent part of Shropshire.

The event was sponsored by several local businesses and together with surplus from the athlete entry fees, the event raised £3,907.42 for the Church of St Chad in Stockton. The church sits within the grounds of the Apley Estate and runners pass the building on one of the routes.

Lord Gavin Hamilton of The Apley Estate said, "On behalf of everyone at Stockton Church I would like to thank the event sponsors, the athletes and their supporters and the great efforts of the Wrekin Road Runners without whom this event could not go ahead".

This month's Newsletter is kindly sponsored by Jack Evans.

Thought for the month

"There's no traffic on the extra mile".