



Welcome to the February 2023 edition of the Badger, Beckbury & Ryton Newsletter

If you would like to receive this monthly newsletter online please email Heather on 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.

Badger Parish Council Meeting

A meeting of Badger Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18th January 2023. Richard Marshall (Shropshire County Council) was also in attendance. No parishioners were present for the Open Forum.

It was noted that Badger village had raised £124.00 for the Poppy Appeal in November. Matters discussed included the village maintenance contract, a planning application at The Mill and the footpath which goes from Badger Farm, through Riddens Coppice to Big Wood. Further information can be found on the Badger Parish Council website.

The date for the next Parish Council Meeting was moved to Wednesday 22nd March 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.

Beckbury Playground Opens

The Beckbury playground was officially declared open by Heidi Wild cutting the tape, at a small ceremony on 1st January 2023. Heidi was supported by an excited group of children who immediately made the most of their new playground.

The project has taken over 2 years to complete from its original conception, with thanks to a massive community effort to generate over £24k of funding and with the help of the team who have given their time to build the equipment over the last 2 months.

We are now planning to install some low-level fencing and provide picnic tables. We also will have a little funding left over so later in the year will be looking to install some more play equipment.

Now it's over to the children to look after it all and enjoy. Please report any problems or issues with the playground to a member of the Parish Council.



BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

Hello Again,

Happy new year to you all,

Things are plodding along as usual at Beckbury shop. I believe there must be a few people trying Veganuary as our Fruit and Veg from Rowlands is becoming very popular at the moment so we are trying to keep a nice selection in. Don't forget our café is open again so if you want somewhere warm to sit with a cup of tea, Coffee and a piece of homemade treats please come along.



CHURCH NEWS

Though **Candlemas** is 2nd February we will celebrate it on Sunday January 29th February 1st was the first day of spring for the Celts, when bonfires outside and candles indoors were lit to encourage the sun to rise earlier and higher and warm the earth. Already snowdrops known as 'candlemas bells' are in flower, and catkins are lengthening. The Church absorbed these Celtic celebrations, into Candlemas, which is 40 days after Christmas, when Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to Jerusalem, and old Simeon declared Jesus to be "a light to lighten the gentiles". Parishioners were encouraged to bring candles to church.

Ash Wednesday is 22nd February, and we mark the beginning of Lent with a 10am communion service at Beckbury Church. The day is named after the tradition of being marked with ashes to show a turning away from wrong things. Some churches burn the previous year's palm crosses to create the ash.

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
FEB 5		9.30am Morning Worship				11am Communion

12			9.30am communion	11am Morning Worship		
19		9.30am communion				11am Morning Worship
22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>		10am <i>Communion</i>				
26 LENT			9.30am Morning Worship	11am Communion		

FROM THE RECTORY

It's Lent again

Dear friends,

"Dry January" has been recommended since 2013 -not by the meteorologists, but by Alcohol Change UK. It is a campaign promoted after the Christmas excess to help those who feel they need better control, and a healthier lifestyle. Last year 8 million people took part and abstained from drinking alcohol during January, and this year it is even being taken up in France (not to the approval of all French people !)

Now ten years later there are some opposing voices calling for a 'wet January' with the appeal to "booze it or lose it". Pubs and bars are often quiet after Christmas, and the prospect of even some of their regulars not calling in to their local is worrying some landlords, especially those who only just survived the Covid lockdowns.

There was a call several years ago to reverse the call of Lent to "give things up". But it was a positive appeal to "do something more". If people had decided to give up cakes, alcohol or biscuits etc., they could also think about donating to charity what they saved on the costs of buying those items. If they were giving up watching some (or all) tv programmes, they could give that extra time gained in a positive way- writing (more) letters, visiting (other) neighbours, getting out and exercising, praying and reflecting.

In recent months I have been using the phrase, *'let's do what we can,*

not what we cannot'. It serves to remind us that there are limitations on our energies and resources. Occasionally people are surprised by what they can achieve with a little bit of extra effort, or by joining up with others to get things done. But at other times the challenge is a little too big and we need to be realistic about what we can and cannot manage.

Lent can be a time for such reflection. As 2023 moves into the spring (for the Celts the first day of Spring is 1st February) the weeks of Lent from February into April can be a good time to look back and review any New Year resolutions we made, or make some new resolutions which will make a positive change to our lives and to the lives of others.

With best spring wishes

Keith Hodson

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (hymn verses for Lent)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives
confess
the beauty of thy peace. AMEN



Beckbury Village Hall AGM has been arranged for 7:30pm on Thursday 30th March at the Village Hall.

We are inviting nominations from Beckbury and the surrounding areas, to stand for election to the board of trustees of the hall. If you would like

to nominate yourself or someone else, (with their permission), either let the secretary, Heather Thomas know beforehand (heathert806@gmail.com) or nominate at the meeting.

We do hope you will come along to hear about all has been achieved in 2022 and all that we are hoping to achieve in 2023, including plans to become an 'Arts Alive' venue. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

We would love to see you there.

Please send items for the March 2023 newsletter to Heather at heathert806@gmail.com or deliver them to 64, Beckbury TF11 9DJ by Monday 20th February.

The paper version of this newsletter is generously printed free of charge by Adfield to whom we are extremely grateful. Thank you.

