

Parish Church of St. Andrew

Kemberton Newsletter February 2023

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“Church Services”

February 12 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
February 26 th	11.00am	Holy Communion

“Sidesman”

February 12 th	11.00am	Philip & Chris Jones
February 26 th	11.00am	Mary Wright

Church Cleaning	Chris & Gill
Churchyard	Philip Jones

“IF anyone wants to put something in the “Newsletter”, it would be much appreciated if they send it before the last week of the month. It would also help if this could be emailed rather than a hand delivered note” Thanks

Kemberton News

The Parish Council

The Parish Council met in January. There has still not been any notification of when the proposed solar farm is going on the agenda at Shropshire Council.

The Parish Council was advised about the state of the roads in Field Lane and on the road to Grindle, it again reported the condition of these to Shropshire Council.

Woodland Planting Day

Here at Green Acres Farm we have decided to plant a new small woodland, and we would be very grateful for volunteers to help plant the trees. We are planning to get as much of the planting done as we can on Sunday 19th February and would provide lunch and refreshments. We would appreciate any offers of help even if it's just for a short time, but would need to know numbers for catering purposes.

The woodland will be 1.3 acres and have 800 native trees which have been chosen to maximise its wildlife benefit. It is close to a footpath so everyone will be able to enjoy it as it matures in the years to come.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Mark and Liz at greenacres-farm@btconnect.com and we will give you more information.

Kemberton WI

Our guest speaker will be Beryl Feeley, Pilates instructor.

Beryl will talk about her background, how she came to teach Pilates, where it is today and its benefits.

There will be an opportunity to join Beryl whilst she demonstrates a few of the key mat based exercises, for those interested please bring along an exercise mat if you have one, or, if not, a towel or blanket to lie on. Loose clothing would be a good option. For those who would prefer not to be on the floor Beryl will give some other options they can do whilst remaining seated.

We look forward to seeing you then, new members are always welcome.

WI Committee

President: Ishbel McConnachie (01952) 462366

VILLAGE HALL

The winning number in the Village Hall 50 Club draw for January was number 32.

Mike Duce

Committee Chairman

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

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.

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

BAPTISMS

None

WEDDINGS

None

CONDOLENCES

None

SIX PARISHES SERVICES TABLE

FEBRUARY SERVICES

	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 Ash Wednesday		10am Communion				
26 LENT			9.30am Morning Worship	11am Communion		