

SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER



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

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Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes – January 2016

Sunday	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Jan 3rd		9.30am EPIPHANY Hymns and Readings KH				11am Communion KH (new)
Jan 10 th			9.30am Matins KH	11am Communion KH (new)		
Jan 17 th	9.30am Communion KH (trad)	9.30am Matins TD				11am Matins KH
Jan 24 th			9.30am Communion KH (trad)		11am PLOUGH Service KH	
Jan 31 st	9.30am Matins KH			11am Morning Worship KH		

KH - Revd Keith Hodson;

TD - Tina Dalton;

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (Epiphany 6th January)

Creator of the heavens

you led the Wise Men by a star to worship the Christ-child;

Guide and sustain us, we pray, that we may find our journey's end
 in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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,

Another New Year, and we look back over 2015 with its joys and sorrows, its successes and disappointments. A number of families have had their share of each. On the wider scene, nationally and internationally, there were several tragedies and atrocities which stayed in the news for days. Those affected continue to live with the aftermath of them. Hanging up a new calendar, starting a new diary or switching into 2016 with our smart phones does not mean bringing to a close those situations which linger on from 2015. Just because the calendar has changed does not mean that situations in the world and in our lives have changed.

Yet we always hope and pray that January 1st will usher in something new and better.....
The hymn writer Sidney Carter wrote the popular modern hymn “*One more step along the world I go*”. It has a jaunty up-beat melody and it also expresses the hopeful belief that, as we go ‘one more step’, so God will keep travelling along with us.

I often use lines from a hymn as the Prayer of the Month. This time I am offering a longer ‘prayer’ with more verses from a hymn than I usually provide. They make a lovely prayer for the New Year, not least because they give a realistic view that there will be difficult, sad and disappointing times ahead – such is life! Yet in those times we can still find God with us and in faith ask God to go with us ‘one more step’ into that unknown future.

Wishing you all that sense of God’s presence with you in the New Year ahead.

Keith Hodson

Prayer for the New Year

*As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go. You’ll be telling me the way, I know.*

*Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough.
Leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with You;*

*You are older than the world can be, You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you.*

And it’s from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.

AMEN

DIARY DATES FOR January

Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Epiphany Service at Beckbury
Wednesday 6 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Tuesday 12 th	12.30pm	Friendship Club meet at Seven Stars, Beckbury
Friday 15 th	7.30pm	FOSACRAG Quiz Night in Beckbury Village Hall
Wednesday 20 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Sunday 24 th	11am	Plough Service at Stockton Church



CHURCH NEWS

Thanks to all who contributed to and helped with **Christmas Services** in our six churches – decorating, dressing trees, providing refreshments, reading lessons and poems, ringing the bells, singing in the choir, playing the organ.

The next festival services are on 3rd January when we celebrate the visit of the Three Kings (**Epiphany**) and at 11am January 24th at Stockton Church we have our annual country festival for **Plough Sunday**.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18th – 25th with lunch time 12pm noon meetings at churches in Shifnal and on Friday 22nd at Sutton Maddock.

Our Six Parishes harvest appeal for **Farm Africa** raised £450.00.
The Christmas **Shoebox** appeal was again well supported.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Mia and Noah Porter, children of Alastair and Gemma, who were baptised on 6th December 2015 at Beckbury Church.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Robert Nixon, aged 83, c/o Badger whose service was held on 24th November 2015 at Telford Crematorium.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Bill Hughes, aged 81, of Sutton Maddock whose service was held on 4th December 2015 at Telford Crematorium.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Peter Pitchford, aged 83, of Higford whose service was held on 8th December 2015 at Telford Crematorium.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Arthur Truss, aged 92, of Beckbury whose service was held on 19th December 2015 at Beckbury Church.

FOSACRAG QUIZ NIGHT

The friends of St Andrews Church, Ryton, (FOSACRAG) are holding another of their popular Quiz Nights at Beckbury Village Hall on

Friday 15th January 2016, 7.30pm prompt.

Teams of six people are invited, but individuals can easily be accommodated.

Tickets are £10.00 per person to include an excellent Fish and Chip Supper, and are available from Kate Amey on 01952 750884 or kateamey88@gmail.com.

Proceeds go to preservation of the Church building.

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

As members gathered for our annual Christmas party it was noticed that some members were absent through illness and they were in our thoughts during the afternoon. The food provided by our members as usual was excellent, with plenty for all. The puddings were something else, with everyone suitably replete.

John Whitham produced one of his Christmas quizzes to stimulate the brain, whilst a group of members adjourned to the kitchen to wash up and put everything away neat and tidy.

At this point around 40 pupils from Beckbury Primary School joined us and entertained us with a selection of carols, followed by two young ladies playing recorders and then we had a violinist to round off the afternoon's entertainment. This was a truly delightful interlude by some very talented youngsters who were a credit to their school.

We then finished off the quiz and checked the answers, the eventual winners being Alan and Jean Jones and Sarah Nemes-Lawton. We finished up with a Christmas raffle and then it was time for home after a pleasant and busy afternoon.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th January and will be lunch at The Seven Stars, Beckbury, starting at 12.30, and members are reminded that we need their choice of main course a week prior to this date.

BECKBURY SHOW COMMITTEE invited Beckbury residents over the age of 65 to a special Christmas Lunch on 8th December and with host Peter Glaze in fine form we were served with drinks on arrival and then to a superb turkey lunch, throughout which we were treated with kindness and courtesy by members of Beckbury Show Committee.

After lunch we were introduced to Dougie Parker (the clean comedian) and, yes he was, and yes he was brilliant. He took our memories back to our childhood and had us laughing all the way.

So thank you Beckbury Show Committee and thank you Seven Stars for such a lovely afternoon.

A well satisfied resident

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on Wednesday 2nd December 2015.

The Chairman reported on progress with the Community Shop project. Draft plans are now available for a small shop building adjacent to the village hall and a meeting has been set up with the village hall committee on 15th December to review them. The Plunkett Foundation have awarded us a £2,000 grant to help fund the preliminary work to set the organisation up.

Progress has been made with the village oil buying group with 10 households now on board with the project.

The problem of car parking on Badger Road outside the school was discussed again, a letter having been sent to the school since the last meeting and a meeting is planned with Miss Docherty, the Lead Teacher.

Complaints of dog fouling on Caynton Road were received – parishioners are reminded that this is an offence and fines up to £1,000 can be imposed for persistent offenders.

The Council have been told that to comply with the Government's new "transparency code" we must establish a village web site on which we can publish meeting minutes etc. This will be coordinated with the plans for the village hall web site.

A new planning application for an orangery at The Old Rectory was reviewed by the Council, with no objections recorded.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2015

On 1st December, 9,598 shoe boxes full of all kinds of goodies like toys, sweets and cuddly toys, were carefully loaded into a container in Telford, the result of a very generous response from Shropshire folks to this year's appeal. They were to be driven to Felixstowe, to travel by sea to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and then overland to reach boys and girl in Zambia.

Thank you to individuals and groups such as the Friendship Group, connected to the Six Parishes, who donated gifts and money, time and effort, for the benefit of the world's needy children. This amazing response to the Shoebox Appeal was even better than last year. Just think of 9,598 smiling children all opening their boxes and finding those treasures inside! Wonderful.

Shiona Ferriday

NORTON ART GROUP

We are a friendly, enthusiastic group (tutored),
working in all media.

We meet at Norton Village Hall on Mondays 7 – 9pm.
usually during term time.

Our spring term starts on 11th January and runs for six weeks.

All levels welcome. To book a place or for further
information call Malcolm on 07773150308 or

Email malcolmhague@btinternet.com

RYTON AND GRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on Wednesday 9th December. 5 parishioners attended. PCSO Steven Breese from the Shifnal and Albrighton Safer Neighbourhood Team gave an overview on his role and area of responsibility and answered questions. His key message was; 'If it's not reported...it didn't happen'. So please use 101 to report anything suspicious, no matter how insignificant it may appear at the time – you are not wasting the Police or your own time. The Police use the 101 telephone log in the follow up to a crime, to see if anything suspicious was reported beforehand. Use 999 only in an emergency.

The Council once again discussed the condition of the roads across the Parish. The message was; if a member of the public spots a road problem (e.g. pothole, overgrown hedge, signpost missing) the most effective way to get the problem fixed quickly is to contact Shropshire Council directly, via their website <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/>. Or by telephone 0348 678 9000. This is because the roads are a Shropshire Council Highways Department responsibility, and not a Parish responsibility. Every call to Shropshire Council is logged, has a reference number and there are set times for the Council to respond. Of course, the Parish Council is very keen to hear of parishioners' concerns, but we are all volunteers and have limited time to spend on Council business.

The Council has struggled for some time to find a Responsible Finance Officer to run the Parish Council's account. Furthermore, the legal responsibilities of the Clerk are increasingly time consuming, and following the recent introduction of the Government's Transparency Code there is now the requirement for the Council to have a website and publish a number of key documents on an on-going basis. The Council therefore decided to investigate employing a part-time professional clerk to take on these roles. In the expectation that this will go ahead, and in order to reduce administration costs, the Council agreed to reduce Parish Council meetings to 4 times a year in 2016.

The revised Apley Estate planning application for the commercial development of Grindle House Farm was considered. Shropshire Council had recently suspended the Enforcement Notice on the original application as this application was materially the same, but contained a revised transport statement. Once again the Council agreed to object to this (revised) application as it could not see any improvement in the revised transport statement, and it remained the view of the Council that the site was totally unsuitable for the type of commercial activity currently undertaken. The Council would encourage members of the public to submit their views on the (revised) application via the Shropshire Council Planning Portal. Previous submissions relating to the original planning application are not transferred across.

Following on from the decisions to investigate employing a part-time professional clerk and the requirement to comply with the Transparency Code, the Council agreed that it might have to increase the precept significantly in 2016 to cover these costs.

The Council agreed to support a petition calling for the Government to debate the right of parish councils to appeal county council planning decisions. Under current rules, if Shropshire Council refuses a planning application, the applicant is allowed to appeal to the Planning inspectorate. However, if Shropshire Council approves an application, no one has the right to appeal. The Council felt that the current position was unfair and would encourage members of the public to sign the petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489> by 19 April 2016.

The Council will meet on Wednesday 9th March, 15th June, 14th September and 14th December in 2016. Please put these dates in your diary now and make a New Year's resolution to attend a Parish Council meeting in 2016.

Merry Christmas

ROAD CLOSURE

Harrington Road, Shifnal: 11th – 29th January 2016 24hrs/day for drainage works.

Contractor is Ringway Infrastructure Services Ltd.

For more information contact: streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk.

For more information on all current and future road works: www.roadworks.org.

COMPUTER TRAINING ALBRIGHTON BROADPLACE

The Red House Community Centre, Albrighton

We are a friendly group of local volunteers who offer you the chance of learning or improving your computer skills. Many of our 'learners' are absolute beginners. We run from 2.30pm until 4.30pm each Thursday afternoon (2 x 1 hour sessions).

The training is given on a one to one basis so you learn at your speed not that of a class, we work with you on whatever you want to learn, it may be learning how to send emails or accessing the internet to open up a whole new world out there. You may wish to look at holiday destinations or visitor attractions, do 'on-line' shopping or just look at what a shop may have of offer before you visit. There is so much one can do on the internet, even just going onto the BBC website is a whole new experience. You decide what you want to do and we will help you achieve it. Age is no barrier, our current oldest learner is 84 years young!

You may have some experience but just require more help, possibly with photographs or 'attachments'. Our rules do not allow us to do repairs or fault finding on your computer however. Quite often we can help with little tips on using your computer. You can either use our laptops or bring your own.

The first session (1 hour) is free and if you wish to continue it will only cost you £2.00 per session, this charge is simply to cover the hire of the room. If you are undecided about a computer and whether it is worth buying one, you can try out ours and see if you enjoy it before buying. Be warned, it can become addictive.

If you are interested please contact either Geoff Page on 01902 372821 or Mike Pitchford on 01902 597701 before coming in, and we would be happy to discuss it further with you.

**In loving memory of John Shorthouse
who would have been 65 on 1st January 2016**