

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 – January 2019

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Jan 6 th	9.30am Communion KH trad	10am Family LT				11am Communion KH new
Jan 13 th			9.30am Communion KH new	11am Communion KH new		
Jan 20 th		9.30am Communion KH new				11am Matins KH
Jan 27 th	9.30am Matins KH			11am Morning Worship LT	11am Plough KH	

KH – Revd Keith Hodson

LT – Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (from the Epiphany service)

Creator of the heavens, who led the wise men by a star
 Guide and sustain us that we may find our journey's end
 In Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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

2019 Another year.....

Dear friends

Some of us may have given up the tradition of making New Year's resolutions. January the First is a good time to make them as we put up our 2019 calendars, but whether the change of the year provides us with any extra motivation than at any other time of the year is debatable.

One change that I have made for 2019 is to have my post as rector of the Six Parishes reduced from full time to half time. This is for three main reasons: first to help our six churches with their budgets as one of the big financial outgoings is what is called "the parish share" – a church's contribution for having a vicar. Our six churches together make a combined contribution of about £31,000 towards the total costs estimated at over £50,000 which includes pension/housing/salary/diocesan resources/training the next generation of clergy etc. For most of the ten years I have been here some churches have annually had to use reserves to cover all the church expenses which include electricity, oil, insurance, minor repairs etc. To ease this I will be half time from 1st January.

A second reason is that this gives me some more time to see friends and family, especially grandchildren, and to do other things while I can still get out and do them. So reducing to half time is a benefit to me as well as the church budgets and our church fund raisers.

Thirdly, it is not clear what kind of appointment will be made when I fully retire which I have to do no later than 2023 when I will be 70 – and may be before then.....Some small parishes in the Church of England are combined with others and there are groups of 10 churches and more in some counties; some have a part time vicar or a retired vicar appointed to cover them. Assuming that one of these options is more likely to happen than a full time vicar being appointed as I was back in 2008, my going part time now is a small way of preparing the six churches for that future situation.

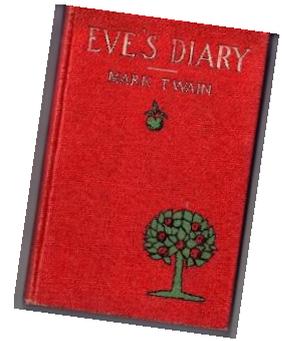
I don't think that most of you are going to notice the difference. I shall still be taking Sunday services, and be available for the diminishing number of baptisms, weddings and funerals at church and crematorium. My phone number and email address will remain the same if you need to contact me about other issues. And I shall still be living in The Rectory, Beckbury TF11 9DG.

In some ways then 2019 is just another year.....

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR January 2019

Tuesday 8 th	12.15pm	Six Parishes Friendship Club Visit to The Bell at Tong
Wednesday 9 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Thursday 17 th	7.30pm	Beckbury Village Hall Meeting
Monday 21 st to 24 th		Snowdon Lane closed
Wednesday 23 rd	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Sunday 27 th	11am	Plough service at Stockton Church



CHURCH NEWS

Thanks to all those who contributed to our Christmas services with music, bell ringing, decorations, refreshments and readings. We move on to Epiphany 6th January and the Visit of the Wise Men which this year falls on a Sunday.

The first of our four farming services is **Plough Sunday** which we celebrate at Stockton Church, 11am, 27th January.

Roof repairs and re-tiling has been done at Ryton Church and is soon to be done at Beckbury Church. Thanks to FOSACRAG (Ryton church's fund raisers) who covered all the costs of the work at Ryton, and to the Beckbury Show committee who made a generous donation of £5,000 to Beckbury Church for the roof repair project.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Ezra James Weir, son of Rob and Debbie, who was baptised at Stockton Church on 25th November 2018.

Congratulations of Aurora Elizabeth Thomas, daughter of Matthew and Valerie, who was baptised at Beckbury Church on 25th November 2018.

Congratulations to Theodore Edward Solari, son of Edward and Rebecca, who was baptised at Beckbury Church on 8th December 2018.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late John Nicklin, aged 77, of Grindleforge, whose service was held at Ryton Church on 28th November 2018.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Keith Nightingale, aged 84, of Stableford whose service was held at Badger Church on 17th December 2018.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Mary Solari, aged 101, of Beckbury whose service was held at Telford Crematorium on 27th December 2018.

BECKBURY CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE

If you have visited Beckbury Church during the festive season you will have noticed the wonderful Beckbury grown, 5 metre tall Christmas tree. The tree was generously donated to the Church by Jacqui York and Robin Richley of Beckbury. Thank you to them for their kind consideration.

The tree was collected by Richard Solari and John Wood from their field on the morning of 2nd December. John Whitham and John Wood installed the tree, which was then decorated by Jean Wood in time for the school event which took place on 6th December.

John Wood

BECKBURY SHOW

The Beckbury Show presentation night took place on Friday 30th November when the profits generated at the 2017 and 2018 shows were distributed.

Local good causes and charities benefiting from the proceeds included Beckbury Friendship Club, Kaleidoscope Theatre, Riding for the Disabled, Midlands Air Ambulance, Beckbury Church, Beckbury School and Beckbury Village Hall.



For Beckbury Church, the Show presented a cheque for £5,000 to Rev Keith Hodson to fund 50% of the cost of the Church's roof repair. Beckbury School Executive Head, Claire Gaskin was presented a cheque for £5,000 to complete their security improvements, while Heather Thomas, Secretary of Beckbury Village Hall received pledges totalling £10,000 towards the cost of the planned refurbishments.

In total, over £30,000 was distributed and pledged on the night, bringing the total monies generated and distributed by the show to over £100,000.

Ian Field

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on 5th December 2018.

Councillor Gibbins updated the council on the Community Shop. He informed us that the shop was receiving customers on a regular basis. They are still after volunteers to work at the shop. If you can spare a few hours a week or month then please pop into the shop or contact Councillor Gibbins.

Councillor Gibbins also informed the council that the Community Shop had been nominated for an award via the Plunkett Foundation. We await the result and wish everyone luck.

Councillor Paice updated the council on the Parish Plan, due to the change in the demographics the plan is being reviewed and updated. If anyone would like to be involved please contact Councillor Paice or anyone on the Parish Council.

Councillor Steventon updated the council on the recent Beckbury Show presentation night. The Playing Fields Association had been awarded £1,250 towards its upkeep and Beckbury Village Hall had been pledged up to £10,000 depending upon other funding being secured.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th February 2019

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB



Children and teachers are to be congratulated on their singing and demeanour.

Our Christmas Party was most enjoyable with the village hall now fitted out with new circular tables, seating 6/8 people per table, encouraging more talk and laughter during and after the meal provided by members, which as usual was extremely good and plentiful. This was followed by a short festive quiz arranged and presented by John Whitham. Next on the agenda was a visit by pupils from Beckbury C.E Primary School who entertained us with carols in which members were encouraged to join in, *which was done with great gusto*. Children and

Thank you to everyone who helped with preparing the room, providing food and putting everything away at the end of the afternoon, especially to our two helpers, Rebecca and Abigail, who worked tirelessly all afternoon so that members could relax and enjoy the day.

It was announced during the afternoon that our club had been given £200 from the Beckbury Show and our thanks go to them for this donation which will enable us to try to be more varied in our programme for the year.



For our meeting on Tuesday 8th January we are visiting the Bell at Tong for lunch, cars leaving Beckbury at 12.15pm. To avoid delays on arrival we are asking members to select their meal 7 days in advance, letting David or Beryl know your choice so that the meals can be partly prepared in advance of our arrival. The cost per member is £5.00 each, and the choice is:

1. 10oz Gammon Steak with egg or pineapple.
 2. Chicken and Bacon Salad
 3. Whitby Scampi with chips and peas.
 4. Beer battered fish and chips with mushy peas
 5. Steak & Ale Pie with chips and gravy
 6. Vegetarian Lasagne with Garlic Bread and Salad
- Followed by tea or coffee.

BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL January 2019 update

We have had excellent news since our update last month.

In November, National Lottery 'Awards for All' granted us £10,000 towards our Village Hall refurbishment project. Later in the month Beckbury Show made two donations; £4,000 towards phase 1 work and £6,000 towards phase 2. Both of these latter donations are reliant on us sourcing match funding, which we have already done for the phase 1 donation. We are now in the process of applying to other funding sources to secure the match funding to release the rest of the donation. We would like to record our sincere thanks to Beckbury Show and National Lottery.

At our next meeting which is at 7.30pm on 17th January, we will be confirming our Business Plan, completing Safeguarding training for Trustees and reviewing the Fire Policy.

We would be extremely grateful for:

- People to fund a day (FAD), it costs £14, choose your date and be entered in an annual draw
- Individuals to make a monthly or annual subscription – or increase the one you are already making
- People to organise, or help organise, a fundraiser
- Your support at our meetings – just turn up, all are welcome, you don't have to be a trustee.

Lastly, is there anyone out there who would be willing to help us with IT and social media? If so, we would be most grateful if you could get in touch.

Many thanks for all your support.

Heather Thomas heathert806@gmail.com 01952 750334

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

I think we can say that 2018 has been a good year. Since our Community Shop opened at Easter it has been a tremendous success and has made a valuable contribution to Beckbury and surrounding villages. It's not just been about somewhere to buy the bread and milk but community life has improved and we have all got to know each other better.

Thanks to all our shareholders, volunteers who keep the shop stocked and manned and, of course, all of our customers – everyone has made this possible.

The Christmas tree lights were switched on by Doug and Peter Spickernell on 1st December whilst the adults were enjoying the mulled wine and mince pies. We have had a busy month with plenty of local products and gifts for sale. We are well stocked with wines, Halfpenny Green's "champagne" and, of course, Beckbury Bitter for your New Year Parties.



Please continue to support us and on behalf of all the team can we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2019.

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

I hope you all had an amazing Christmas and with the festive season behind us I hope you have more time to think about your bare winter plots. If weather permits and you feel like working off a few mince pies then here are a few jobs to be getting on with.

- Bonfire rubbish
- Order seeds
- Plan veg beds
- Winter prune fruit bushes (not stone fruit)
- Force rhubarb
- Wash down greenhouses and polytunnels with Citrox (a natural disinfectant made from citrus fruits)
- Also containers, seed trays and potting bench (prevents pests and disease at the propagation stage)
- Prune grapes. This job was traditionally carried out on New Year's Day.
- Ensure that the wheelbarrow doesn't have a flat tyre!

So, although the allotment may look a little bare there is plenty to be getting on with if you can drag yourself away from the warmth of your fire. If anyone is interested in taking on a plot there are a few available. Please contact Gina Somerville (allotment chairwoman) on 07795625316.

Finally, on behalf of the allotment association I would like to thank Nigel Bridgwater (one of our allotment holders) for kindly donating his huge pumpkin to the Rotary Club. It was displayed in Telford Town Centre Asda in a "guess the weight" fund raising event and made a whopping £738!! Rotary International is fortunate in having the support of philanthropist Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft who adds twice the value of any Rotary raised funds for the polio eradication scheme, so the effective value of their efforts is £2,214. This money buys inoculations for approximately 6,650 children, each inoculation costing 30p. All thanks again to Nigel's green fingers for making this at all possible.

Happy New Year from all at Beckbury Allotments.

Heidi Pringle-Scott

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.

ROAD CLOSURE

Details of a temporary road closure:

Road Closure: Snowdon Lane, Beckbury
Start Date: Monday 21st January 2019
End Date: Thursday 24th January 2019
Purpose: New Sewer Connection

RURAL WATCH

We have reports from the Stableford/Ackleton areas where we had three reported cases involving around 20 plus sheep. A husky type dog has been identified as a possible dog involved.

THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE IN ENGLAND AND WALES

The Countryside Code offers advice on walking your dog near livestock, as well as other information on how to enjoy a safe and responsible trip to a rural area in England and Wales. Excerpts from the Countryside Code say "When you take your dog into the outdoors always ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under effective control.....it is always good practice to keep your dog on a lead around farm animals.....keep your dog in sight at all times, be aware of what it is doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command. Ensure it does not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access". The Code also reminds walkers that a farmer 'may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner'.

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by

Clive and Tanya Punter from Beckbury