

# SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER

for

St Giles' Church. Badger

St Milburga's Church. Beckbury

St Andrew's Church, Ryton

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## JULY 2020



### PRAYER OF THE MONTH

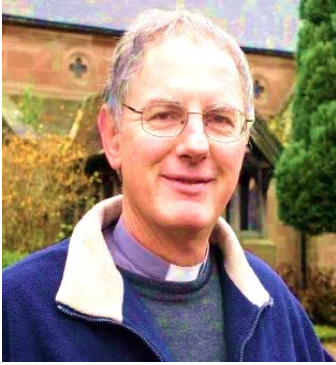
God of hope, in these times of change,  
unite our nation and guide our leaders with your wisdom.  
Give us courage to overcome our fears, and help us to build a future  
in which all may prosper and share; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Contributions for next month's newsletter to either:

David Tooth at Havenside, Beckbury – 01952 750324. Email – [davidtooth.salop@gmail.com](mailto:davidtooth.salop@gmail.com)

Or Ruth Ferguson at Tarltons, Beckbury – 01952 750267 not later than 14<sup>th</sup> of this month, please.



## FROM THE RECTORY

### Blue Domers

Dear friends,

During the warm sunny days of April and May in the lockdown with churches closed I chatted on the phone with a clergy friend. As well as what we were actually doing with no services and sermons to prepare, no committee meetings to prepare, and no visiting allowed, we also talked about the amazing weather (we are British!) and walks in the countryside, and he asked me whether I was a “blue-domer”, I had to admit that this was a new expression to me, but since then I have looked it up on line and see that the Oxford English Dictionary defines it as

*“A person who does not go to church  
preferring to worship outdoors beneath the ‘blue dome’ of heaven”*

Clearly for these last three months the choice has been either being at home with a form of personal prayer maybe with a ‘streamed service’, or outside in the countryside and our gardens. With all the sunshine and blue skies that we had in the spring, I think several people may have converted to being ‘blue-domers’. I certainly enjoy being outside and take the opportunity to sing hymns (quietly – you won’t hear me!) and to pray.

But it will not surprise you to learn that in the USA there is a “church” for blue-domers, understandably not meeting in buildings but providing a network for like-minded people. It seems to be more in the New Age tradition than the Christian tradition, so I am not a fully paid up member of this strand of spirituality which lacks most of the gospel.

While Jesus did use synagogues occasionally to teach congregations, we are all aware that Jesus spent much of his ministry outside as he taught the crowds and his disciples. There are those well-known words of the Sermon on the Mount preached outside

*“Behold the birds of the air ..... Look at the flowers of the field .....*

As I write this in mid-June, churches are still closed for Sunday services, but eventually we will be able to join together to worship. And I hope those who have had to learn to pray and worship in different ways during the long lockdown will continue those new ways as well as the traditional ways at church.

The challenge for blue-domers in the UK is the weather! It’s one thing to “worship outdoors beneath the ‘blue dome’ of heaven” when the sun is shining, but a very different experience to worship under grey skies and in the rain. Perhaps there is a parable lurking there? Because it is hard to worship God anywhere – indoors or outdoors – when we feel that we are under a cloud of difficulties and problems when God seems to be absent. Maybe those are the opportunities to grow in faith and trust, and make us more than “fair weather Christians” when we only believe in God while the sun shines in “*the blue dome of heaven*”.

With best wishes whatever the weather

*Keith Hodson*

## CHURCH NEWS

The Church of England is allowing churches to re-open for **private prayer only**, but not for general visitors and “sight seers”, nor for Sunday services, weddings and baptisms. Some of our churches in the Six Parishes are open where suitable arrangements can be made, but some cannot meet the strict cleaning requirements to guarantee health and safety from CoViD 19 for those who come into church.

At the time of printing these are the arrangements – though they may be changed as new guidance is issued and present restrictions eased or if restrictions are re-introduced

Beckbury Church	Open for private prayer daily from 9am – 1pm
Badger Church	Closed till further notice
Ryton Church	Arrangements for safe access still being made
Stockton Church	Closed till further notice
Sutton Maddock Church	Resources for private prayer are available in the porch
Kemberton Church	Open for private prayer daily from 10am – 4pm

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Susan Ashcroft of Stockton, aged 81, whose service was at Telford crematorium on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Robert Geoffrey Farman “Bob” of Sutton Maddock, aged 78, whose service was at Telford crematorium on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

## BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP NEWS

Volunteer’s week was celebrated in the first week of June, and gave us an opportunity once again to say a huge thank you to our volunteers. There has been a core group of volunteers, without whom the shop wouldn’t have remained open, so **THANK YOU** to them.

I would also like to thank you, our customers. The support you have shown us throughout this pandemic has been amazing, and I personally have enjoyed getting to know so many more of you. I did have to remind one customer who commented “I’ll miss this when it’s all over” to which I simply replied “we’ll still be here”.

Many of you have asked if we will be returning to longer shop hours. We are getting more and more volunteers offering to come back each day and we hope soon to have enough volunteers to consider adding the 12-3pm shift back in. We are continuing to put measures in place to keep our volunteers and customers safe and will keep these measures in place until this virus is banished from our shores.

We are also continuing to update our stock and last week saw the introduction of new beers from Hodson Brewery alongside our usual Hop and Stagger range. We’ve also recently added a Cider and a Lager.

As I write this most non-essential shops have re-opened and many other changes may have happened by the time you get to read this, but whatever is happening in these crazy times, please stay safe.

# **BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP**

It is great that our community shop has had exceptional community support since its opening in March '18. This has not only brought our community together, and provided a great place to shop, but also it has produced a profit which can support local causes. The shop has now completed two whole financial years and we are therefore delighted to announce details of our Grant Scheme.

## **What we will fund**

The grants panel will consider applications for projects whose beneficiaries live within 2 miles of the shop and the aim of which is to in some way benefit the community.

## **Who can apply**

Community organisations or individuals are eligible to apply for funding for beneficiaries within the qualifying area.

The total grant fund available this year is £4,000. You can apply for any amount up to this maximum.

If you are interested in applying please collect an application form and full details of the application process and eligibility from Beckbury Community Shop or go online to <http://beckburyshop.co.uk/> or email Heather Thomas at [heathert806@gmail.com](mailto:heathert806@gmail.com)

## **Who cannot apply**

- ! Government agencies or departments of local or state government
- ! Educational, religious or medical organisations, where the application is for the organisation's core business
- ! Businesses.

The Grants Panel will consist of at least: 2 members of the shop management committee, 2 other shop volunteers and 2 other shareholders. Details of how the panel will assess applications are available with the application form.

**The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

We will announce grant recipients at our Annual Members Meeting in September.

## **Thank You**

Heather Thomas.      BCS Management Cttee

# **BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

## **July on the allotment**

On the whole the weather had been pretty good for our newly planted vegetables, let's hope July continues to be warm and sunny too. I know us gardeners are never happy with the British weather!

Weeds are going to be a big problem though, so hoe regularly to break up the soil and remove them. However if it's warm and damp watch out for potato blight.

It's now getting late in the year for sowing and planting but there is still time for lettuces, chicory, endives and other salad leaves, as well as fast growing varieties of peas, beetroot and carrots. If you've been harvesting your broad beans, garlic, onions and shallots there may be room to transplant Brussel sprouts, cabbages and cauliflower that you've raised from seed in pots. If you fancy growing potatoes for Christmas now is the time to plant them.

Many vegetables will be ready to harvest now, including beetroot, carrots, potatoes, onions, garlic, peas and broad beans.....if you have a glut then freezing, chutney and jam making can be a great idea as well as drying onions and garlic for storing.

There are always far too many runner beans, they grow quicker than you can eat them so keep an eye on the Beckbury shop as we will be donating some of the glut.

I would just like to say I think the shop and all who volunteer are doing a great job. I'm particularly fond of the homemade cakes and flapjacks! Everyone is so cheerful and friendly and I'm sure it's played a very important role for the village these last few months.

We still have one allotment left so if anyone is interested please ring Gina Somerville-Clark (chairwoman) and she will be able to advise on 07795625316.

*Heidi Pringle-Scott*

## **LOCAL FLY TIPPING PROBLEMS**

Do you recognise this rubbish? Have you had a contractor or builder doing work on your premises who has used Travis Perkins? You have trusted them to dispose of the rubbish properly and look what they have done!

These 2 piles appeared within a few days of each other in May. Most likely the same culprit  
**At the edge of Beckbury on Badger Road**



**At the edge of Badger, near the Dingle**



If you have any information please speak to a member of the Parish Council or Email [peter@pcgassociates.plus.com](mailto:peter@pcgassociates.plus.com)

## **BEWARE OF THE SCAMMERS**

The following is what the scammers are doing and how they work.

### **Courier Fraud/telephone scam**

“Good morning, I’m calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test.”

*“OK. Can you tell me who that person was?”*

“I’m not able to tell you that. That is confidential information”

*“Right. UM....so....”*

But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?”

*“OK” (gives address)*

Thank you – and I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalise this and send the kit to you”

*“Sorry – a payment card? I thought this was all free?”*

“No – I’m afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you’re ready.”

*“No – that’s not right. This is part of the NHS and there’s no charge”*

“I’m afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please – this is very important and there are penalties for not complying”.

### ***Puts phone down***

**Don’t fall for it and become a victim of a scam. Tell your friends and family before it’s too late.**

**NHS TEST AND TRACE SCAMS:** The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it’s vital the public have confidence and trust in the service. However, we understand the concerns people have about the opportunity for criminals to commit scams.

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**This month’s Newsletter is kindly sponsored by**

**Dr E Cooke from Burnhill Green**