VE Day Commemorations and Prayers

PRAYER OF THE MONTH
Lord, Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love and your love

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.
Lockdown

Dear friends,

I am not sure that things will be very different in the UK by the time you read this in June compared with my writing this now on 11th May. The present lockdown has been eased a little, and the government will be watching the situation here and in those countries where restrictions are being lifted to see whether there is a second wave of infections with Covid 19.

Our parishes are adapting to the circumstances with the village networks working well to do practical tasks for neighbours and residents. At least the good weather allows us all to go outside into our gardens and local countryside, and have conversations with neighbours and passers-by at a safe distance.

Modern technology and innovation has proved very helpful for many with social media linking families and friends with virtual face to face video conversations. I hadn’t heard of Zoom till very recently but it seems to have overtaken Skype in its popularity though I note the security questions being raised about Zoom (and with apologies for not mentioning other videoconferencing alternatives).

Radio and TV continue to be helpful to my “mental health and well-being” which is being talked about frequently in this lockdown. There are so many channels playing old programmes for all tastes, both documentaries and dramas, (including Radio 4 Extra if you have not yet discovered that) as well as the catch up facilities on the main channels.

I suspect that the suspension of sports events is affecting us all, whether you are suffering without regular football and F1, or whether you were simply looking forward to the Olympics. I confess that I am using You Tube to deal with my withdrawal symptoms, and recently enjoyed England’s world cup victory in 2003 (that was rugger, not soccer!).

Hats off to those who have decided to learn new skills – including arts and crafts, foreign languages, baking, exercise and yoga – and those who have re-discovered old pastimes like reading. I heard recently of one person who wanted to be a horticulturalist, and now with the enforced time off work was enjoying being able to get a lot of time in his garden. We also think of those whose time and energy is taken with educating and entertaining their children with our schools closed.

I hope you are making the most of these “strange times”, which I am sure we will look back on in years to come with mixed emotions. And as for the future………

With best wishes to you all

Keith Hodson
NO DIARY DATES for June 2020
Due to the present uncertain times.

CHURCH NEWS

Some of you will remember Revd Richard Dorrington, who died on 10th May, aged 71. He was the rector of Badger, Ryton and Beckbury from 1984 -1988 before he moved to Geddington in Northamptonshire, then to five villages in northwest Devon until he retired in 2013. He was the last rector of the three parishes before they were joined with Sutton Maddock, Kemerton and Stockton. Some will remember him as a keen bell ringer and he came back in 1996 to ring a two hour peal at Ryton.

We remember his wife Briony and children Rebecca, Nathan and Paul at this sad time.

Congratulations to Pam Jenks, a stalwart of Beckbury Church whose 90th birthday is on 24th May.

For many years Pam has organised the delivery of our newsletter and at the moment she is being pampered by her daughter Susie. We look forward to wishing Pam a happy birthday and perhaps sharing some of her birthday cake!

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Sue Whitham of Beckbury, aged 71, whose service was at Telford Crematorium on 30th March 2020.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Harold Pullinger of Beckbury, aged 85, whose service was at Telford Crematorium on 4th April 2020.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Graham Simpson of Sutton Heights, aged 79, whose service was at Telford Crematorium on 8th April 2020.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Simon Bullock of Brockton, aged 78, whose service was at Telford Crematorium on 14th May 2020.
VE DAY SERVICE OUTSIDE BECKBURY CHURCH

The first week in May saw bunting and flags go up in Beckbury and surrounding villages in memory of those heroes of 75 years ago who fought and helped win the second world war, with Revd Keith Hodson leading a special service of remembrance on Friday 7th May on the lawns outside Beckbury Church this being the actual 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe.

With only a simple notice placed by the war memorial, some bunting flying high in the breeze and a beautiful floral display on the Church steps, together with chairs placed to indicate social spacing, Revd Hodson and helpers waited with trepidation to see how many people would join this – at very short notice – service. As the time for the 11am service approached, suddenly the road in front of the Church was full of people, pedestrians and cyclists all stopped to take part in the thanksgiving, the service started and we joined with the rest of the country for two minutes silence and reflection. We then heard the words of King George 6th on V.E. day 1945

Let us turn our thoughts on this day of just triumph and proud sorrow;
And take up our work again, resolved as a people to do nothing
unworthy of those who died for us and to make the world such a
world as they would have desired, for their children and for ours.

This is the task to which now honour binds us.
In the hour of danger we humbly committed our cause into the
hand of God, and He has been our strength and shield.

We thank him for his mercies, and in this hour of victory commit ourselves and our new task
to the guidance of that same strong hand.

This was followed by a short service of prayers, after which the 40/50 strong gathering gradually dispersed, a lovely ending to a very touching memorial service.

SWARMING BEES

With this beautiful warm weather we are currently experiencing, we will be seeing a number of BEE SWARMS.
If you come across a Swarm hanging from a bush or tree, please contact SIMON or KATE on 07956110260 and we will come and remove it for you as we have a number of hives that can be used.

Many thanks
**BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE MAY 2020**

The Refurbishment
You may remember that we were planning a phased approach to the refurbishment of the hall and were about to commence phase 1; the reroofing. However, after consultation with architects and builders we were advised that the most efficient, least disruptive approach would be to complete the whole job in one go. The management team decided to do this but this has meant that we had to further delay until all the funding was raised. Most funders will not grant money for work that has started.

We have now raised 73% of the approximately £120,000 we need for the complete refurbishment.

After submitting a Stage 1 proposal to National Lottery for the remaining 27% we were pleased to be invited to complete a Stage 2 application. We were about to do this when National Lottery got in touch to say all applications are on hold for 6 months so that they can focus on needs created by COVID-19. The earliest our application would be considered is October 2020, and by the time we hear it will be Winter. However, this threatened the European funding we had secured and which must be spent before we BREXIT, i.e. we must spend it all before December 2020.

We have decided to go ahead as soon as possible, but, with a slightly reduced project. Mostly this means putting the kitchen refurbishment on hold. But most other work will go ahead. We will then apply to National Lottery to fund our kitchen refurbishment in the new year. We are currently in the middle of renegotiating the amended project with some funders, but are confident that the work will start as soon as the current situation allows. We will keep you up to date.

Other news

We are about to launch the Beckbury Village Hall website where all the information you need to book and use the hall can be found. Please do take a look when it goes live and give us your feedback.
Find us at: http://beckburyvillagehall.co.uk

It still costs about £14 a day to run the hall and that is why we run the Fund A Day (FAD) scheme where you choose a date and pay £14 to sponsor that day – all this can be done at Beckbury Community Shop or by contacting me – see details below. Thank you to all of you who have sponsored a day already. At the AGM sponsored dates are put into a prize draw.

We do appreciate that the Hall is not in the best of condition at the moment and the low hiring fee reflects that, but we have made great progress with the project and hopefully by this time next year the community should begin to see the fruits of all the labour and will finally have the quality community venue that it deserves

Thank you for your support.

Heather Thomas Sec/Trustee [heathert806@gmail.com](mailto:heathert806@gmail.com)
m: 07938544804. t. 01952 750334
June on the Allotment
May has been a surprisingly warm, dry month but there’s been some rather unexpected cold nights recently that have caught us all by surprise. The poor old potatoes have taken a bit of a bashing as also has my grapevine in the poly tunnel. I’ve been reliably informed that they will recover now the risk of any more frost has passed. We could do with a few good days of rain though for our newly planted vegetables. Us gardeners are never happy with the weather! June is one of the busiest and most exciting months in the allotment year….sowing, planting, harvesting, weeding and watering can soon get on top of you, so allowing yourself an hour or so a day certainly can help.

Harvest: broad beans (over wintering variety), spinach beet and chard, peas, asparagus, globe artichokes, over wintered onions, garlic, early potatoes, lettuce, radishes, mix salad leaves and spring onions.

Plant: brassicas, aubergines, peppers, chillies, outdoor cucumbers, courgettes, marrows, pattypan, French and runner beans, asparagus, peas, celery, summer squashes, sweetcorn, Florence fennel and sweet potatoes

Keep weeding and mulch with compost. Mulching will suppress weeds and keep the soil moist.
Earth up potatoes.
Water if dry. A good soak once a week is better than a daily sprinkle. This will help the roots grow deeper to find water.
Feed tomatoes when you see their first little tomatoes forming. Use high potash feed. A comfrey feed is perfect for this.
Protect your brassicas from pigeons, keeping them netted.
Pinch out side shoots of your tomatoes and keep an eye out for pests.

With 21st June being the Summer Solstice there’s plenty of daylight to let us get on with all our allotment jobs. The rewards…….well, there’s nothing quite like the excitement of harvesting your first new potatoes, popping open a pea pod and the taste of your first juicy strawberry.

We still have a few allotments available, so if any of you fancy having a try at growing your own veg please ring Gina Somerville on 07795625316, she will be able to give your more information.

Heidi Pringle-Scott

ROGATION

I got to thinking of words the other day and came to the word ROGATION on the calendar so with not much to do during the current Corona Virus crisis I decided to find out its origins. Apparently the word Rogation is from the Latin rogare or “to ask” and specifically the food of the earth, and thinking of the frost of recent weeks and the deteriorating effect on our plants in the garden you can see why our ancestors used to pray for decent harvests.

Another tradition of Rogation is the beating of the village boundaries when a procession led by priests and choir boys had to go round the parish boundaries, stopping at prime points to say a prayer and at the same time telling villagers that is yours, as field shapes were altered but the boundaries remained the same, you can imagine in bygone days young lads having to follow a boundary through the front door of a pub and out the back with the adult choir having a crafty half on the way through and perhaps even up the balance when maybe going through an orchard with even better pickings for a young lad.

Perhaps it would be a nice idea if the staff of our local school could investigate our parish boundaries and maybe see Beckbury in a different light
We would like to say a big thank you to the volunteers who have helped to keep the shop running throughout these challenging times. The shop has been busy; without our volunteers serving behind the counter, collecting stock, stacking shelves, and making deliveries; opening would have been impossible. We’re certainly clapping for our volunteers on a Thursday night when we thank all the other wonderful people keeping our communities going.

Thank you to our customers too, for being careful to observe social distancing at the shop, both outside when queuing, and inside whilst shopping. We have installed a Perspex screen at the till, for the protection of our volunteers and customers too. This situation will continue for the foreseeable future, or until we receive further official guidance.

In other news, we now have wholemeal and plain flour in stock, thanks to Daniels Mill in Bridgnorth. We also have a wider selection of fresh fruit and veg available from our new supplier, Rowlands, along with delicious fresh asparagus from Cosford Grange. Bedding plants from local nursery, G.T Pritchard & Son, have been very popular, as have plant donations from local growers. We’re doing our best to keep up with demand, plant donations are always very welcome! One of our regular volunteers, Dee, has been making knitted doctors for the shop, as well as making scrubs for the NHS. Eva, Sophia and Cecily’s ‘key rings for key workers’, made from pressed local wildflowers, to raise money for the NHS, have been a big hit and sold out in a day. The girls have restocked their flower presses and will put more in the shop soon. Now that the weather is warmer, we’ll be stocking the ice cream freezer with plenty of treats for sunny days too!

Well done to Manon and Eva for cheering everyone up with a weekly dose of ‘Happy News’. The girls, and the team of local reporters, are doing a great job bringing happy news stories from all over the world to Beckbury. Copies are available to collect from the table in the shop.

The community came together, (from a safe social distance!) to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on the 8th of May. Thank you to everyone who helped to make commemorative bunting for the shop, it looked great and received lots of compliments. The sun shone and people throughout the village decorated their homes and gardens with bunting. Richard Tate-Harris played “We’ll Meet Again” by Dame Vera Lynn, through a speaker in the street during the 8pm clap for keyworkers on Thursday. Sonia Harris created a beautiful VE Day display at the church, and the Rowley’s had their Austin Seven car called ‘Genieve’, on display in their drive -she was made in 1934 and has celebrated many VE Days. It was lovely to see villagers having tea parties in their front gardens and waving at their neighbours, as songs from the 1940s were played into the street on a speaker. Beckbury seemed to travel back in time for the day.

Here are some of the highlights:
Villagers enjoy VE Day in Beckbury
WHEN JUST THE TIDE WENT OUT

Last night as I lay sleeping, when dreams came fast to me
I dreamt I saw JERUSALEM, beside a tideless sea
And one dream I’ll remember, as the stars began to fall
was Banksy painting Alun Wyn on my neighbour’s garage wall?
And dreams like that sustain me, till these darkest times have past,
and chase away the shadows, no caring night should cast.
But times like this can shine a light, as hardship often can
to see the best in people, and the good there is in man

And I remember Swansea with nobody about, when the shops were closed like Sunday
And just the tide went out.

And I remember Mumbles with the harbour in its keep,
and the fishing boats at anchor that trawl the waters deep,
And I heard the seabirds calling, as the gulls all wheeled about,
but all the town was sleeping now,
And just the tide went out

And when these days are over, and memories remain,
of children painting Rainbows, when the sun shone through the rain.
And I thought of all the nurses who stretchered all the pain
and I hope they never get to see a time like this again
And I prayed last week for Boris, who knocked on Heaven’s door
and I thought of voting Tory, which I’ve never done before.
And though the sun is shining now, I’ve no immediate plans,
so I’ll write a book on ‘Staying In’ and ‘Ways to wash Your Hands’
and I’ll remember mornings with nobody about, when the shops were closed like Sunday
And just the tide went out.

A Poem by “Max Boyce”

FINALLY WE AGAIN REMEMBER THE WORDS OF
KING GEORGE 6TH ON V.E. DAY 8TH MAY 1945

Let us turn our thoughts on this day of just triumph and proud sorrow;
and take up our work again, resolved as a people to do nothing
unworthy of those who died for us and to make the world such a world
as they would have desired, for their children and for ours.

This is the task to which now honour binds us.
In the hour of danger we humbly committed our cause
into the hand of God, and He has been our strength and shield.

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