

SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER

for

St Giles' Church. Badger

St Milburga's Church. Beckbury

St Andrew's Church. Ryton

Rector: Rev'd Keith Hodson tel 01952 750774

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Happy
Mothering
Sunday

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Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes - March 2015

Sunday	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
2015 March 1 st		11 am Communion KH (trad)		11 am Morning Worship TD		
March 8 th	9.30 am Communion KH (trad)					11 am Communion KH (trad)
March 15 th Mothering		10 am Family LT	9.30 am Communion KH (trad)	11am Communion KH (new)		11 am Family TD LT
March 22 nd	9.30 am Matins KH				11 am Communion KH (new)	
March 29 th PALM		9.30 am Matins KH	9.30 am Morning Worship LT	11 am Morning Worship TD		11 am Communion KH (new)

KH - Revd Keith Hodson;

TD - Tina Dalton;

LT - Local Team;

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

(for Mothering Sunday from 'For the beauty of the earth')

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on earth and friends above; pleasures pure and undefiled,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our grateful hymn of praise.

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,

The Church of England's 'House of Bishops' has stuck its nose into politics again with its Pastoral Letter *Who is my Neighbour?* urging people to engage with politics and political issues ahead of the general election. I quote one article:

The letter expresses dismay at “retail policies” and anxiety about accumulations of power wherever they are found – whether in the state or the market. It contrasts the individualism of a “society of strangers” with a richer vision of society where the bonds of neighbourliness are strengthened, “welcoming our opponents as well as our supporters into a messy, noisy, yet rich and creative community of communities”.

The letter contrasts the visions on offer in 2015 with the agendas of 1945 and 1979 – the two post-War elections which “changed the political weather” – but argues that neither is discussed today with the subtlety they deserve. Beveridge saw that, without strong voluntary and community action, the state could never bear the whole burden of securing the people's welfare. And Margaret Thatcher couched her market reforms within a rhetoric of Victorian Values, similarly stressing responsibility and duty to neighbour.

That is the heart of the bishops' agenda – restoring a politics of community to redress the damage to mutuality which the politics of state vs market have bequeathed. It is a cross party agenda which is not yet mainstream in any party. An agenda explicitly rooted in scripture and Christian belief.

As is to be expected politicians and newspapers have responded in their usual ways. The Telegraph for instance said that the C of E has no authority to tell politicians what to do because it only just accepted women as equals (I'm not quite sure about the logic here). Yet the Letter's commendation of the Big Society (a Conservative policy) as a fine example of the politics it wants to see is barely remarked upon by the press.

The BBC's recent showing of Wolf Hall reminded us that religion and politics have gone together for centuries. Before Henry VIII, Roman Emperors were made gods, and Emperor Constantine made Christianity a state religion.

Much of Jesus' teaching is about loving our neighbour and how we live together in society. Whether we want to narrow such issues down to 'politics' or 'religion' is more than a semantic issue. It's a power issue about who is in control (as we saw in Tudor times in Wolf Hall). The Church's comments have been felt in some quarters as “sticking its nose in”. Of course the Church's founder did that two thousand years ago, so there is good precedent for his followers to continue his example.

With good wishes

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR March

Every Monday to Friday		Oasis Christian Shop in Shifnal open 11am – 3pm
Every Saturday		Oasis Christian Shop in Shifnal open 11am – 1pm
Sunday 1 st	11am	Special Service to celebrate Rock Battye's 25 years as organist
Wednesday 4 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wednesday 4 th	7pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Tuesday 10 th	2pm	Friendship Club meeting in Beckbury Village Hall
Sunday 15 th		Mothering Sunday
Tuesday 17 th	10am	Prayers on Tuesday – to be confirmed



CHURCH NEWS

We were very sad to hear the news that **David Nixon** had died suddenly at home on 9th February. He was our church warden at St Giles Badger for 15 years. The service at Badger Church on 20th February was attended by over 250 people and tributes were made about his professional career, his hobbies, his family and his contribution to the community and the church.

Lent Lunches continue at Trinity Methodist Church Shifnal on Wednesdays at 12.15pm. Money raised is for Christian Aid.

The 2015 **Lent Groups** 'Hope Actually' are at St Andrew's Church Shifnal on Thursdays 11.15am and 7.30pm

Our Beckbury organist Mr Rock Battye has played for services since 1990, and to celebrate his 25 years' service there is a **special service** at 11am 1st March at Beckbury Church.

Mothering Sunday is on 15th March when there are two family services; At Beckbury 10am and Sutton Maddock 11am.

Easter Sunday is on 5th April and it is hoped that there will be communion services in all the six churches as in 2014.

The two Six Parishes **Memorial Services** for families whose loved ones have passed away will take place on Sunday 12th April. Details in next month's newsletter.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Douglas Spickernell, son of Tom and Catriona, who was baptized on 8th February 2015 at Beckbury Church.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Stephen France and Lucy Haytree who were married on 21st February 2015 at Sutton Maddock Church.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Stanley Nolan, aged 58, of Kemberton whose service was held on 4th February 2015 at Telford Crematorium.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Ken Royans, aged 78, of Bradeney House whose service was held on 9th February 2015 at Telford Crematorium.

We also extend our sympathies to the family of the late David Nixon, aged 68, of Badger whose service was held on 20th February 2015 at Badger Church.

We extend our sympathies also to the family of the late Jean Unitt, aged 79, of Beckbury whose service was held on 24th February 2015 at Beckbury Church.

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our February meeting started with singing happy birthday to Janet Berry, Jean Preece, Vera George and David Tooth with veiled comments preceding about hot summers. We then settled down to a game of Bingo, during the half time interval we had another surprise when Alison Speke produced a lovely array of cupcakes for all our members and small glasses of port were raised to the birthday people.

Then to another session of Bingo, but this time each player marking three games at once, to much hilarity.

For our next meeting on Tuesday 10th March we are having a visit from Peter Iredale who will be demonstrating the art of paper sculptures, making and also bringing several models to display. We would emphasis here that paper sculpture is nothing like origami, but is a highly skilled art form.

We warmly invite any readers interested in this unusual work of art to come along and join with us on the 10th March.

FORMER BECKBURY RESIDENT DIES AGED 106

Donald Needham, who with his wife Gwen, lived at Whirlow Cottage Beckbury from 1966 to 1974, has died peacefully in a care home in Sudbury, Suffolk.

Donald came to Beckbury to work for Wellman Engineering in Willenhall, which was subsequently taken over by Clarke Chapman. He retired in 1970 and in 1974 he and Gwen moved to Axminster in Devon. Following Gwen's death, Donald moved to Sudbury to be near his daughter Joy, her husband Robyn and their daughter Katie. Joy and Robyn were married in Beckbury Church by Revd Roger Baggeley on 18th July 1970.

During his time in Beckbury Donald was a staunch supporter and committee member of the Beckbury Branch of the Conservative Party and his family report that his political views never changed. When his son-in-law took him to vote at the last election, aged 101, he announced to all and sundry at the polling station that he first voted in 1931 to get rid of a useless socialist prime minister - a scot called Ramsay McDonald – and now he had every intention of doing the same to another useless socialist prime minister – also a scot. Gerard and Zoe Paris, who lived at The Old Rectory from 1965 to 2002, have always kept in touch with the family and went to Donald's 100th birthday party at the Care Home in Sudbury, which was attended by the Mayor of Sudbury and, as well as family and friends, every member of staff at the home, whether on duty or not, as Donald was much loved and respected by them all. His daughter, Joy, reports to Gerard that Donald remained in good health until quite recently, his only visits to the doctor being for his annual flu jab.

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on Wednesday 4th February.

The meeting commenced with a presentation from Ben Walker from Shropshire Council on the “Connecting Shropshire” project, extending the coverage of fibre based broadband to Beckbury Parish. The objective is to supply at least 87% of the UK with a minimum broadband speed of 24 Mbps, about 4 times faster than what we currently achieve. You can easily check your current broadband speed in seconds via www.broadbandchoices.co.uk. The plan is to extend the fibre from the parent exchange at Wellington, Telford to the green cabinet adjacent to the Church and then the faster speed will need to be activated by contacting your Internet Service provider (ISP). Ben expected this to be sometime in 2016. In the interim there are other options e.g. via “Userve” or “Sat band Satellite Service” which provide up to 10 Mbps, but the home owner must pay for installation costs.

The actions arising from the Parish Plan were reviewed again. Heather Thomas reported that a small group of parishioners had volunteered to explore the feasibility and viability of setting up a community shop in Beckbury. The council agreed to support this initiative.

The Chairman reported that little progress had been made on the discussions about the future of the village hall. The latest proposal was to hold an AGM of the Village Hall Committee during March.

The council had submitted an objection to the potential loss of the village phone box and this has now been formally supported by Shropshire Council.

The Clerk reported that he had sent a letter of complaint to a local resident for allowing their dog to roam free around the village.

The Chairman reported that during February representatives from Shropshire Council Maintenance Department were to be involved in a review of the increasing problem of potholes on local roads.

SEVEN STARS, BECKBURY

With the change of licensee at the Seven Stars, Beckbury now welcomes Emily and Chris to the community. They would like to take the chance to thank everyone for their support and for the warm welcome.

Some of the changes the couple have made include bringing the food prices in line with the other local dining facilities whilst keeping quality high and produce local. With the bar menu starting from £2, main menu starting from £6.45 and children’s menu at £4.95. Sunday lunch will be served between 12 – 4pm, a choice of roast meats is available and kids under 10 eat half price.

Another alteration is that once a month they plan to have live music as the tester night went so well!

Emily and Chris say they hope to make the pub a central part of the community and want to make everyone who uses it welcome. We wish them the best in this venture and hope they will be with us for the long term.

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ALBRIGHTON PATIENTS' GROUP

Groups. It should provide a useful service to all those **Eligible patients** who have transport difficulties. It is important to understand the term Eligible Patient. This means any patient registered with the Medical Practice and who has been referred by an NHS GP for an appointment with an NHS consultant or other NHS service. It will not take private patients for non NHS services. The service is provided by a company called Medical Services. For further details call 01743 762650.

New way to book non-emergency patient transport

News from our partners Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Saturday 1st November 2014 saw a new telephone number become available to book non-emergency patient transport for eligible patients in Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin.

The number can be used by clinics, hospitals, and eligible patients themselves. As well as a new telephone booking number – **01743 762650** – people can also expect to see the new-look non-emergency ambulances appearing on our roads within the next few months. These ambulances will take eligible patients attending appointments at the main hospitals and other NHS healthcare providers across Shropshire, Telford and surrounding areas. The service will also use a range of other vehicles, as well as ambulances.

The non-emergency transport service currently involves around 140,000 patient journeys per year. Transport and staff will be provided to match the needs of individual patients – ranging from those who are fully mobile and do not need support, to those who need intensive help and support to get to their healthcare provider. Dr Julie Davies, Director of Strategy and Service Redesign at Shropshire CCG, said: “Medical Services are a long-established provider of non-emergency patient transport services nationally, and have an excellent record. Patients should notice very little difference in the service they receive, apart from a slight change to the livery of the ambulances”.

As well as the main hospitals in the area, the service will also transport patients to and from appointments at community locations including primary care centres, community clinics, GP practices, dental practices, optometrist practices, private and independent providers, as well as nursing and residential homes.

Kevin Shire, Managing Director for Medical Services, said “We are looking forward to working in partnership with CCGs to provide patients with a high quality non-emergency patient transport service. We pride ourselves on putting patients first by delivering an outstanding service with the highest standards of care, cleanliness, safety and training”.

The non-emergency patient transport service has absolutely no impact on 999 emergency ambulances, which will continue to be run by West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by

David, Mary and Jacqui Johnson