

# SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER

For

St Giles' Church. Badger

St Milburga's Church. Beckbury

St Andrew's Church, Ryton

Rector: Revd. Keith

Hodson tell 01952 750774

Email: [keithhodson@talk21.com](mailto:keithhodson@talk21.com)

Web Site: <http://www.beckburygroupministry.org.uk>



## March 2021 SERVICES

MARCH	7th	14 <sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
Beckbury	9.30am Communion	10am Family Service	9.30am Communion	9.30am Morning Worship
Sutton Maddock		11am Communion		11am Morning Worship

Sunday services at Badger, Ryton, Kemberton and Stockton have been suspended under the Bishop's Dispensation in the current Covid situation.

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Father God, help us to walk a straight path in life  
that with faith and hope in you,  
we may reach our journey's end in heaven.

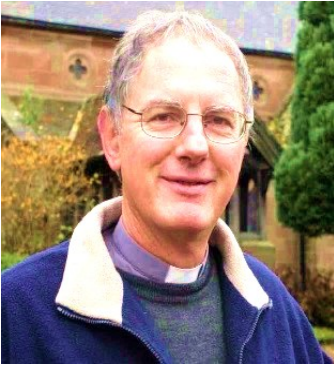
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our guide and companion.

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

### The rolling English Road

Dear friends,

During the lockdown restrictions of the past 12 months many people have taken the opportunity to take their exercise by walking. In our six parishes there are plenty of public and permissive footpaths to enjoy. Last spring was unbelievably sunny and dry, and some footpaths were very busy.

In these recent winter months with snow and rain some of the footpaths were challenging, to put it mildly. I was recently on a bridleway which was also a tractor route with deep mud ruts. At the track's lowest point it crossed a stream which formed an impassable lake with no way across or through it (but thankfully a detour around it via the fields).

I decided that the lanes were a safer route for walking and there are enough quiet lanes with little traffic in the area to make for pleasant walking. On foot as well as in the car we notice the unexpected bends and curves in our English country lanes instead of straight lines.

G K Chesterton explains in his poem "The Rolling English Road"

*Before the Roman came to Rye or out to Severn strode,  
The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road.  
A reeling road, a rolling road, that rambles round the shire,  
And after him the parson ran, the sexton and the squire;  
A merry road, a mazy road, and such as we did tread  
The night we went to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head.*

Other more serious writers have made suggestions about the bends and tight turns e.g. ponds and woods now vanished; land ownership; farmers pushing out their field boundaries.

People sometimes quote Jesus telling us to stay on the 'straight and narrow'. In fact the first word is "strait" (linked to "strict") meaning tight and difficult to get through, as in Jesus' image of camels not getting through the eye of a needle. (Some of you may have heard of Wainwright's naming of a narrow section on Lingmoor in the Lake District as 'fat man's agony')

Life is rarely easy and straightforward. This present Church season of Lent invite us to reflect on the twists and turns which we have had to negotiate, and to consider making amendments and corrections where they have been of our own making. It's something to think about as we enjoy walking on the twists and turns of our lanes and footpaths.

Wishing you a good Lent

*Keith Hodson*

## **CHURCH NEWS**

Because of Covid restrictions the normal Wednesday Lent Lunches at Shifnal are being replaced by **ZOOM Lent Lunches** with a short Act of Worship and Pause for Thought. Details of the link can be obtained from Revd Chris Thorpe at Shifnal – 01952 463694 and at [chris@christhorpe.org](mailto:chris@christhorpe.org)

The **Mothering Sunday Family Service** at Beckbury on 14<sup>th</sup> March starts at 10am.

**CLOCKS go forward** one hour on the weekend of March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONDOLENCES**

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Frances Vaughan (nee Potts) aged 83, whose service was held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at Sutton Maddock Church.

## **WALKING IN SHROPSHIRE**

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Shropshire [www.walkinginshropshire.co.uk](http://www.walkinginshropshire.co.uk) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Shropshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris. [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

## **HIGFORD LANE**

Beckbury Parish Council held an emergency meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This was in relation to a planning application for a large structure and outbuildings to be erected on the field at the top of Higford Lane, Beckbury by David Austin Roses.

The Council met to discuss the application and the impact that it would have on green belt land and the local area. It was agreed by all Councillors that the impact of the application would have a huge impact on the villages of Beckbury and Badger. The main structure itself was the size of two football pitches side by side or the size of Sainsbury's at Telford Retail Park. The entrance to the site would be a dirt road along Badger Lane, which would have resulted in an increase of vehicular traffic and potentially HGV's going in and out of the site. It was agreed that the local road network would not be able to sustain the increased traffic on the already pothole ridden roads.

The Parish Council submitted a series of objections against the proposal. The details were passed to Beckbury residents with a vast majority angry and upset at the planning proposals. This resulted in a petition being started and comments against the proposal being made against the proposal on the planning website.

In all 86 comments were made in objection to the proposal showing the thoughts of Beckbury residents and the local community. I am pleased to say that on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the application was **WITHDRAWN** by the applicants.

If you wish to view the proposal and comments made it can be found by typing the below into your web browser

<https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QMMQ7PTDJSY00>

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took time out to make their thoughts known about the planning application.

Beckbury Parish Council

## **CHURCH POOL, BADGER**

An explosion of carp in the Badger Church pond,  
A hot humid day, as they splash around  
Olive green waters and gathering flies  
Sitting under the yew tree and blue summer skies.

Circles of water repeat in the sun.  
A mane of white water – a carp's on the run.  
There's a small brilliant sun, a reflection that's bright.  
All is movement and fishes, and games with the light.

It's a cauldron of life by the ancient Church wall.  
Watched by a silver pigeon, where the deep shadows fall.

*Elizabeth Anderson*

## BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

It's been a long few months and trying to find anything new and interesting is getting hard. But things are improving and I know many of you have already had your Covid jabs. February was mostly about keeping warm, Jerusalem artichokes and seeds with a few love hearts thrown in for good measure.

Thank you to the kind gentleman who has kept us supplied with Jerusalem artichokes, they made the most delicious soup which certainly helped keep me warm.

And thank you to Julie for organising the seed swap. The seeds have been sorted and split into usable amounts so next time you're in the shop please have a look through to see if there are any you can use.

March 14<sup>th</sup> will bring us the opportunity to celebrate our Mothers, we will have lots of treats in the shop to spoil your Mums with.

I will be very glad to see a return of British Summer Time at the end of March and the end of winter's darkness. As the fab four once said "*here comes the sun, and I say, it's alright*".

Our current opening hours are 9am until 12noon 7 days a week. Once again, I would like to thank our volunteers for all their hard work. And I'd also like to thank our customers for their continued support.

One last thing, whilst you are out and about, please take some seasonal photos for next year's Beckbury Calendar. Images need to be landscape in orientation and high resolution, please send to [beckburysshopcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:beckburysshopcalendar@gmail.com).

## LAWN MOWER FOR SALE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION - £40.00 only



**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION**

**Austin MiniMower 410**  
**MODEL: AUSTIN MINIMOWER 410**

ENGINE: WOLF 98cc 4-STROKE OHV  
CUTTING WIDTH: 16" (410mm)  
WHEEL Dia.: FRONT 7" / REAR 8"  
SINGLE LEVER HEIGHT ADJUSTER  
7 HEIGHT SETTINGS (25-75mm)  
45L GRASS COLLECTION BAG  
ENGINE SPEED CONTROL  
SELF PROPELLED  
STANDARD BLADE

**Austin MiniMower 410 Turbo**  
**MODEL: AUSTIN MINIMOWER 410 TURBO**

ENGINE: WOLF 98cc 4-STROKE OHV  
FITTED WITH THE BMC TURBO VAC GIVING 30 X THE SUCTION  
EFFECT OF A TRADITIONAL MOWER AND SIGNIFICANTLY  
IMPROVE GRASS COMPACTION IN THE GRASS CATCHER.  
CUTTING WIDTH: 16" (410mm) WHEEL Dia.: FRONT 7" / REAR 8"  
SINGLE LEVER HEIGHT ADJUSTER  
7 HEIGHT SETTINGS (25-75mm)  
45L GRASS COLLECTION BAG  
ENGINE SPEED CONTROL  
SELF PROPELLED  
STANDARD BLADE

The Mower is 2 years old and the owner has changed to a Mulcher mower

For further details please ring 01952 750324

## **BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

The good news is that British summertime is nearly upon us and we can put February's weather behind us. The clocks go forward on 28<sup>th</sup> March which means lighter nights and with a bit of luck some much needed sunshine and a chance to get started on our plots.

It's this time of the year when we gardeners come out of winter hibernation. I've been busy the last few weeks planning and writing lists, I always get excited about what the allotment holds for the year ahead and what new vegetables I'm going to grow. Tomatillo, Thai round green aubergines and Romano peppers.....things that are rare and quite expensive to buy in the supermarkets.....and I thought some flowers this year too.

Jobs to be getting on with:

- ! Last chance to prune fruit bushes and trees whilst they are still dormant. Not soft fruit though, their time is in the hot summer weather
- ! Garlic grows best when exposed to a period of cold weather, so last chance to plant up a few bulbs
- ! Plant out onion sets/shallots before they start to produce shoots. Reject any that have already started as they will only bolt during the summer.
- ! Sow celery, celeriac, French beans (they are hardy enough to be planted out before runners) and cauliflower
- ! March is the right time to establish an asparagus bed. It is going to be there for many years so get the right position. Prepare the bed with plenty of drainage and keep weed free. Lawn cuttings are a good mulch
- ! Mid March you can plant out your chitted potatoes. If you want some really early spuds you can start some in a black polythene sack in the polytunnel or greenhouse. Punch drainage holes and use multi-purpose compost
- ! Jerusalem Artichokes tubers can be planted now. They are pretty invasive so make sure you dig them all up at harvest time. Any tubers left will grow again, making it a permanent bed
- ! Tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and cucumbers can be started off on a windowsill or propagator
- ! Parsnips need to come up now before they start to regrow
- ! Cover beds with cloches or black plastic to warm up the soil
- ! Sow early celery, peas, broad beans and spinach
- ! Some flowering seeds.....Larkspur, Antirrhinums, Ammi Majus, Strawflowers, Sunflowers
- ! Finally my least favourite job.....weeding. Dig out problem weeds especially perennials and hoe regularly to prevent annual weeds.

Roll on the sunshine. Our seed packets are desperate to be opened!

There are some allotments available. If anyone is interested in taking on a half or full plot please contact our chairwoman Gina Somerville on 07795625316

\*\*\*\*\*

**THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS KINDLY SPONSORED BY**

**BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP**

