5th October

**Norton Newsletter**

*FEBRUARY 2015*

*ISSUE No. 329*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2014

At the beginning of December, 8,866 shoe boxes full of toys, sweets, pencils and pens, cuddly toys, etc., etc., were carefully loaded into a container in Telford, bound for boys and girls in Zambia. They were being driven to the freight train in Birmingham to then head for Felixstowe, sailing to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and then by road to reach boys and girls in Zambia.

Thank you to everyone connected to the Six Parishes who donated gifts, money, time and effort for the benefit of the world’s needy children; an amazing response to the Shoebox Appeal. Just think of 8,866 smiling children!

 ***Shiona Ferriday***

 01952 730313 ferridaysp@aol.com

**FINISHING ON A HIGH!**

July 2014 was the last time for the 'St Mary's Angels' checkpoint in the National Rally but once again the riders voted us the best control in the country. The Chief Marshall wrote:

*I am sure the whole Rally Organising Committee will join with me in thanking you for firstly filling the void ten years ago and secondly providing a Control loved by so many competitors in such beautiful surroundings - and also expanding their waistlines a little. Your plethora of Best Control awards is testimony to this.*

We have had a good run over the last 10 years, and had a fantastic association with the National Rally. My thanks go to everyone who has supported me in co-ordinating this, especially all who have provided such lovely refreshments. It’s thanks to you that we received donations from the bikers totalling £1,200 for Sutton Maddock church funds. Receiving the best control award is the icing on the cake! Thank you!  ***Shiona Ferriday***

**Norton Over 60’s**

I hope everyone had an enjoyable time over Christmas and New Year look forward to seeing you at our next meeting .We will resume on the 5th of February if the Village Hall is still unavailable Gwen has kindly said we can hold the meeting at her house the dates for the next meetings are 19th February and 5th of March, Rene

*Community Recycling Centre*

Complaints have **again** been made about improper dumping of rubbish at the recycling centre behind the village hall. The recycling taken from this area is similar to that collected from domestic properties; cans, glass and paper. Please note **CARDBOARD AND PLASTICS ARE NOT COLLECTED** and any dumping will be reported as fly tipping and may lead to prosecution.

**Stockton Parish Council**

A meeting of Stockton Parish Council took place on Wednesday 7 January 2015 in the Conference Room at Apley Farm Shop, due to the floor at Norton Village Hall being repaired. Items discussed included recent planning applications, the Jubilee Play Park and the road closure of B4176 (Rabbit Run) from Astol crossroad, for 9 days beginning on 23 March 2015. A financial statement was made by the Clerk and the proposed budget for 2015-16 discussed.

Stockton Parish Council wishes to thank Mr M Savage for installing the lights on the Christmas tree in Norton Village and also the kind person who has treated the benches in the Jubilee Play Park, with wood preserve.

**Norton Ladies Group**

Due to ongoing repairs in the Village Hall, there will be no Ladies Group meeting for the month of February. Our regular meetings will resume in March after the repairs have been completed.
We look forward to seeing you again in March.

Chris, Sheila, Paula.

Note to Contributors

Please have any articles or notices in to me in writing or e-mail only by the 20th of the preceding month. *Contact me at:*

*13 Bridgnorth Road, Norton, TF11 9EE,*

*Tel: 730823 (Queries only)*

**e-mail: kathryn.ward17@gmail.com**

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 CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathiesto the family of the late Dennis Lawton age 89 of Beckbury whose service was held at Beckbury Church on 21st December

DIARY DATES for FEBRUARY 2015 OUT & ABOUT

**Every Monday to Friday** Oasis Christian Shop in Shifnal open 11am - 3.00 pm.

**Every Saturday** Oasis Christian Shop open in Shifnal open 11 am to 1 pm

**\*\*Every Thursday** **Credit Union** at Oasis, 1 Shopping Centre, Shifnal 2.30-4.30pm\*\*

Thurs. 5th 2.30pm Norton Over 60’s Club, venue TBA

Fri 6th10.30am Informal Prayers, Oasis, Shifnal Shopping Centre

Tues 101h  2.00pm Six Parishes Friendship Club, Beckbury Village Hall meet for a game of Bingo

Thurs. 19th 2.30pm Norton Over 60’s Club, Venue TBA

Wed 25th 12.15pm Lent Lunch, Trinity Methodist Church, Shifnal

CHURCH NEWS

**…..Christmas wreathes** should be removed from church yards by Candlemas 2nd February

**…..Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday 18th February with a 7.30pm communion service at Beckbury**

**…..Lent lunches** will be held at Trinity Methodist Church Shifnal on Wednesdays at 12.15pm. Money raised is for Christian Aid.

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

..................................................................………………………………………………………………………………**FROM the RECTORY**

**Dear Friends**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been in the news a number of times recently. There has been the appointment of the first woman bishop (Revd Libby Lane is to be the new Bishop of Stockport). Over Christmas the Archbishop was out of action with pneumonia so was not able to deliver his Christmas address at the cathedral. More recently he and the Archbishop of York were both in the spotlight for a book of essays (*On Rock or Sand ?*) being published about poverty and low income in Britain.

 He has also said in his New Year Message

*So what do we hope for in 2015?*

*My hope and prayer is that we are the kind of country that goes on looking outwards; that is full of a generous spirit. Because when we’re generous we find joy, and others find comfort and hope.*

With Lent starting this month on Ash Wednesday 18th February, it is another opportunity to think about generosity, giving and charity. One tradition in the Church has been to 'give up something' and to give any money saved towards a charity : in other words whatever we save on not buying chocolate, cakes, wine etc. we donate that money to a charity. That may not be a huge amount of money at the end of the seven weeks of Lent, so we may also choose to add to that sum at Easter.

The Six Parishes are not supporting a particular LENT APPEAL this year, as in previous years the appeals that have been put forward have not attracted very much support. So instead for 2015 it is GIVE to YOUR OWN CHARITY. Whatever you usually give to and support, make a special effort to do something extra for your charity in Lent. There will be no envelopes or literature in the six churches for a Lent Appeal (though we will continue to support Christian Aid at the Lent Lunches in Trinity Methodist Church on Wednesdays).

I hope in this way, allowing personal preference, choice, and loyalty to people's particular favourite charities, we can meet the Archbishop's prayer that we

*are full of a generous spirit.*

With best wishes for Lent ***Keith Hodson***

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Grant to us all, O Lord, both the spirit of gratitude and the spirit of generosity that while we count our blessings, we may also in this season of Lent share them with others through Jesus Christ our Lord

 **Amen**

** IN SHIFNAL DISTRICT - Date for your Diary**

Lent Lunches

Everyone is warmly invited to a Lent Lunch every Wednesday 12.15pm

at Trinity Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Shifnal

**Monthly informal prayers will be on Friday 6th at 10.30am in Oasis**.

Contacts: Chairman - Shirley 01952433213, Treasurer – **Zena 01952460943,**

Rota – Jacky 01952730500, Stock – Angela 01952730216,

Created stock– Katharine 01952463637, Knitting – Maureen 01952210655

 CREDIT UNION - FAIRSHARE – Thursday 2.30pm-4.30pm in OASIS

 Visit [www.fairshare.uk.com](http://www.fairshare.uk.com) to find out more or call 01952 282528

Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes – January 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Badger** | **Beckbury** | **Ryton** | **Kemberton** | **Stockton** | **Sutton Maddock** |
| **Feb 1st** **Candlemas**  | 9.30amCommunion trad (KH) | 9.30amMorning Worship(TD) |  | 11.00amMorning Worship(LT) |  | 11.00amCommunionNew (KH) |
| **8th**  |  |  | 9.30am CommunionNew (KH) |  |  | 11.00amCommunionTrad (KH) |
| **15th**  | 9.30amMatins(TD) | 9.30am CommunionNew (KH) |  | 11.00amCommunionNew (KH) |  |  |
| **22nd****LENT** |  |  | 9.30amMatins(KH) |  | 11.00amCommunionNew (KH) | 11.00amMorning Worship(LT) |
| **March 1st**  |  | 11.00amCommunion trad (KH) |  | 11.00amMorning Worship(TD) |  |  |

**Abbreviations:** KH=Revd Keith Hodson; TD=Tina Dalton; LT=Local Team

 **Rector – Six Parishes, The Rev’d Keith Hodson: 01952750774 Email:** **keithhodson@talk21.com** **Church wardens:** Tina Dalton 01952730656, Hilary Blakeley 01952730205 in Stockton