5th October

**Norton Newsletter**

**Newsletter**

*APRIL 2016*

*ISSUE No. 343*

***Dates for your diary:***

April 13th – Village Hall meeting

April 23rd – St Georges Day Social

May 1st - Car Boot Sale

May 4th – Parish Council AGM

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**Norton Over 60’s**

We have had two good meetings; discussed our outings for later in the year - we decided to go for a trip on the canal. I will give the details next month

Rene

***Stockton Parish Council***

A meeting of Stockton Parish Council took place on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at Norton Village Hall, Norton. Items discussed included the recently successful grant application to support the setting up costs with the Village Hall Committee of Wi-Fi in the Village Hall, a new look web site and the purchase of IT equipment under the transparency fund for Smaller Authorities. These actions will be progressed over the coming year. The Annual Parish meeting is called for 7pm and the Parish Council’s AGM will start at 7.30pm on the 4th May 2016 at Norton Village Hall with a guest speaker from the Smart Water Company who will develop the idea of ‘Smart Water Villages’ within the Parish. In order to achieve this status 80% of property owners would need to sign up and the Parish Council will report progress on this potential project as the information unfolds. Works by the Parish Council’s maintenance contractorSam Gurr-Gearing will soon start on the Jubilee Play Park and the Parish Council asks park users to be vigilant whilst these improvements are underway that were highlighted in our last article. The Parish Council at its last meeting co-opted Barry Spittle from Cheswardine Lane as a Parish Councillor and agreed to the purchase of commemorative medals for the Queens 90th Birthday for households across the Parish. The issue of footpaths around the village of Norton have been raised for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting, if you have any concerns please contact  one of your Parish Councillors or email the Clerk Graham Bould at [gbouldparish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gbouldparish@yahoo.co.uk),

*Village Social Evening*

St Georges Day

Skittles evening Sat 23rd April, starting 7.30pm,

Norton Village Hall, bar open

All welcome, bring your own nibbles

Norton Village Hall Committee

The AGM was held last month when thanks were given to the Committee for all the hard work in the last year, thanks also to the Village for its support and to Ladies Group for all their donations to the Hall. The new Committee were elected; Chair – Dave Powell, Vice-Chair – Steve Bagnall, Treasurer – Carol James, Secretary – Kathryn Ward,

Booking Officer – Chris Lewis, Publicity – Helen Morris & Charlie Hubbard, Social Secretary – Sam Ravenscroft, Bar Manager – Steve Bagnall, Committee members – John Pigg, Rachel Gaylor, Jim Morgan, Jayne Vogan, Steve Vogan

**NORTON VILLAGE HALL CAR BOOT SALE**



The Bank Holiday Boot –

Sunday 1st May 2016

The Queen’s Birthday Boot –

Sunday 12th June 2016

Gates open at 7am

Come and join us for our next Car Boot on Sunday 1st May.  Whether you need to declutter or just want to make a bit of extra cash, or come for just for a mooch come along and enjoy the atmosphere. No need to book a pitch with homemade refreshments available.

If anyone has a free hour or two to come along and help or donate a cake for the refreshments please contact Helen on 730489.

All donations of time or cake will be gratefully received.

***NEW* SHROPDOC *NUMBER***

***0333 222 6655***

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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BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Eva Ryder daughter of Andrew and Abbi who was baptised at Sutton Maddock Church on 6th March

Please pray for her that with help and encouragement she may grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Mick Roberts aged 70 of Dorrington whose service was held at Stockton Church on 3rd March

DIARY DATES for APRIL 2016 OUT & ABOUT

Thur 7th 7.30pm Kemberton WI Kemberton Village Hall

Tues 12th1.30pmSix Parishes Friendship Club, meet by Beckbury Church

Thur 14th 2.30pm Norton Over 60’s, Norton Village Hall

Thur 28th 2.30pm Norton Over 60’s Norton Village Hall

Thur 28th 7.00pm St. Mary’s, Sutton Maddock Church Annual Meetings, Sutton Maddock Church

CHURCH NEWS

**….Lent Lunches** organised by the Churches Together in the Shifnal District raised £941 or Christian Aid. Our special thanks to those from the Six Parishes who were responsible for the lunch on 9th March

**….**On Sunday 3rd April we have our Six Parishes **Memorial Services** at Sutton Maddock 11am and Beckbury 4pm, when we remember those who have passed away, especially in the last twelve months.

**….**Local churches AGMs take place this month. Details are available at the churches

**….**May 1st is **Rogation Sunday** and our special 11.00am farming service will be at Stockton Church

**….**The new **Bishop of Lichfield** will be Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave OBE MA PhD who has been since 2012 the area Bishop of Woolwich in the diocese of Southwark, London.

**SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Our February meeting was a first Table Olympics we had arranged for our members but it was amazing the variety of games which were produced, ranging from a set of dominoes (which had been played on board a ship 70 years ago), to snakes and ladders purchased specially for the afternoon, and soon we were all in our own little worlds again, playing games not used for many years.  We had a super afternoon, full of laughter and noise especially when the Tower of Babel fell down.  Alas the afternoon passed far too quickly and after a burst of happy birthday to Leon Custance it was almost time for home.

For our meeting on **Tuesday 12th April** we meet at **1.30pm by Beckbury Church**

for a visit to the **Percy Thrower Garden Centre at Shrewsbury,**

which promises to be a very interesting afternoon out.

. **Contact: David and Beryl Tooth 01952750324**

. **Afternoon Tea**

in aid of

**Motor Neurone Disease Association**

**Including flower demonstration and raffle**

**The Park House Hotel, Shifnal, TF11 9BA**

**Thursday 12th May at 1.30pm**

**Ticket price £12.50**

**can be purchased from Shiona Ferriday**

**01952 730313**

KEMBERTON WI

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 7th April 7.30pm**

in **Kemberton Village Hall**

**Jean Barrett – A gentle job for a mature lady**.

£10.00 payment due for the Tong evening on 4th May

Thank you *Carol Wynes*

**Contact Carol Wynes on 01952 680110**

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

**Dear Friends**

April 23rd is St George's Day, the patron saint of England. But I am not expecting too much celebration, compared with March 1st St David's Day for Wales; March 17th St Patrick's day for Ireland; and November 30th St Andrew's day for Scotland.

Though, maybe this year, there will be more flag waving and red roses on show with the present discussions and debates about our place in the UK, and in Europe. Nationalism in the past was linked to Great Britain, but with Wales and Scotland now having measures of independence, this may cause the English to look more to England than to GB. Certainly in soccer and rugger this has been true for years, and England fans are very passionate and vocal for their team. Andy Murray's tennis success has caused some confusion for commentators about claiming him for …….Britain?

St. George’s connection with England is non-existent, and the story of his slaying the dragon is mythical. King Edward III put his [*Order of the Garter*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Garter) (founded 1348) under the banner of St. George. This order is still the foremost order of knighthood in England and [St George's Chapel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_George%27s_Chapel) at [Windsor Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windsor_Castle) was built by Edward IV and Henry VII in honour of the order. In his play [*Henry V*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_V_(play)), [William Shakespeare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare) famously invokes the Saint prior to the battle of [Agincourt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Agincourt) (1415):

*“Cry 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'"*

April 23rd was in those centuries a feast day on a par with Christmas, but as ''The United Kingdom'' developed, so St George fell out of popularity. There have been calls to replace him with a saint who has played a part in English history.

Likewise there have been calls for a new National Anthem for England's international sporting fixtures, as *God save the Queen* is British rather English. Both the RFU and FA say there are happy with it, so we wait to see what MPs say in the debate in parliament on St George's Eve April 22nd.

Flanders and Swann ("*mud, mud glorious mud”)* wrote a Song of Patriotic Prejudice in 1963. Here are some of the lines

*And all the world over, each nation's the same They've simply no notion of playing the game  
They argue with umpires, they cheer when they've won*

*And they practice beforehand which ruins the fun!*

*The English, the English, the English are best so up with the English and down with the rest.*

*It's not that they're wicked or naturally bad*

*It's knowing they're foreign that makes them so mad!*

Haven't things changed since 1963!

***Keith Hodson***

PRAYER OF THE **MONTH**

Heavenly Father, give us the bravery of St George to stand up for what we believe.

Give us the strength to overcome that which threatens our lives.

and give us the compassion to help people in distress.

For Jesus' sake AMEN

Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes – April 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Badger** | **Beckbury** | **Ryton** | **Kemberton** | **Stockton** | **Sutton Maddock** |
| **April**  **3rd** |  | 4pm  Memorial Service  (KH) |  |  |  | 11.00am  Memorial Service  (KH) |
| **10th** | 9.30am  Communion  Trad (KH) |  | 9.30am  Matins  (TD) | 11.00am  Morning  Worship  (KH) |  |  |
| **17st** |  | 9.30am  Communion  New (KH) |  | 6.30pm  Evensong  (KH) |  | 11.00am  Communion  New (KH) |
| **24th** | 9.30am  Matins  (TD) |  | 9.30am  Communion  New (KH) | 11.00am  Communion  New (KH) |  | 6.30pm  Evensong  (KH) |
| **May**  **1st** |  | 9.30am  Matins  (KH) |  | 8.15am  Communion  Trad (KH) | 11.00am  Rogation  Service (KH) |  |

**Abbreviations:** KH=Rev Keith Hodson; TD=Tina Dalton; NM= Nene Mason

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

**St Chad’s’ Church Flowers Rota**

March 27th EASTER FESTIVAL FLOWER ARRANGER

April 10th & 17th Mrs S Middleton

April 24th & May 1st Mrs S Middleton

May 8th & 15th Mrs T Dalton

May 22nd & 29th Mrs R Parnham

June 5th & 12th Mrs A Christie

June 19th & 26th Mrs R Davies & Mrs L Piper

July 3rd & 10th Mrs P Davies

July 17th & 24th Mrs S Middleton

July 31st & Aug 7th Mrs S Ward

Aug 14th & 21st Mrs R Parnham

Aug 28th & Sept 4th Mrs T Dalton

Sept 11th & 18th Mrs S Middleton

Sept 25th Mrs G Bennett & Mrs J Bennett

Oct 2nd HARVEST FESTIVAL FLOWER ARRANGERS

Oct 9th & 16th Mrs S Ward

Oct 23rd & 30th Mrs R Parnham

Nov 6th REMEMBRANCE Mrs S Middleton

Nov 13th until Dec 18th There will be silk flowers on the alter

Dec 18th CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL FLOWER ARRANGERS

On behalf of the Stockton PCC, I would like to thank you all for your hard work throughout the year, any dates that don’t suit please ring Sue Middleton on 730230.