5th October

**Norton Newsletter**

**Newsletter**

*JANUARY 2016*

*ISSUE No. 340*

**Stockton Parish Council**

A meeting of Stockton Parish Council took place on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at Norton Village Hall, Norton. Items discussed included potential financial support to the Village Hall for celebrations surround the Queens 90th Birthday, an offer from a specialist support unit providing Crime prevention information for Rural areas at Shropshire Council to attend an event in the Village, lobbying Shropshire Council in terms of speed limits on the A442, highway maintenance for Cheswardine Lane, and the development of a risk assessment for the play area.

Parishioners were also encouraged to consider becoming a Parish Councillor as there is a vacancy at present, the Parish Council meets six times a year anyone wanting more information should contact one of the existing Parish Councillors or email the Clerk Graham Bould at gbouldparish@yahoo.co.uk,

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th January 2015.

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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***Dates for your diary:***

Jan 6th – Parish Council Meeting

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Norton Over 60’s

Our meeting on the 10th was busy as after our usual game of Bingo we held our Christmas Draw. Hilary kindly came and drew out the winning tickets, congratulations to all the winners .Thank you to everyone who bought tickets

also to our members who sold them. We were sorry to hear Sid had an accident but were pleased to see him at our Christmas Lunch bruises and all; you can’t keep an old dog down. The Village Hall Committee kindly gave us Lunch on the 17th; the Ladies provided us with a wonderful meal and super puds. Thank you Paula and all the ladies for all your hard work. That was our last meeting of the year; we resume weather permitting on the 18th of February. Happy Christmas and Good Luck and Good Health in 2016 to everyone.

Rene Davies

Norton Art Group

We are a friendly enthusiastic group (tutored), working in all media.

We meet at the Norton village hall on Mondays 7.00 to 9.00pm, usually during term time.

Our spring term starts on 11th January and runs for six weeks. All levels welcome. To book a place of for further information call Malcolm on 07773150308 email [malcolmhague@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolmhague@btinternet.com)

**St Patrick’s Day Ceilidh Dance**

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***Friday 18th March at 7pm with licensed bar.***

We have the very popular Stone the Crows Ceilidh Band and Caller for you to dance the night away in Norton Village Hall to traditional Irish music with supper and well stocked bar for your refreshment. Limited number

of tickets available -

£10 in advance to

include supper,

over 18’s only

please, from

Helen 730489,

Charlie 730424

and Kathryn 730823.

***SHROPDOC***

***08444 06 88 88.***

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**BAPTISMS**

Congratulations to Mia and Noah Porter children of Alastair and Gemma who were baptised on 6th December at Beckbury Church.

Please pray for him that with help and encouragement he may grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Robert Nixon age 83 c/o Badger

whose service was held on 24th November at Telford Crematorium

…..Also to the family of the late Bill Hughes age 81 of Sutton Maddock whose service was held on 4th December at Telford Crematorium

…..Also to the family of the late Peter Pitchford age 83 of Higford whose service was held on 8th December at Telford Crematorium

…..Also to the family of the late Arthur Truss age 92 of Beckbury whose service was held on 19th December at Beckbury Church

DIARY DATES for JANUARY 2016 OUT & ABOUT

Tues 12th12.30pm Six Parishes Friendship Club Lunch at Seven Stars, Beckbury

KEMBERTON WI

This is just to confirm that we will not be having our usual meeting of the ~WI in January as we go out for our late Christmas celebration.   The next meeting will therefore be in February and I’ll let you know what is planned asap. Many thanks for your help and all good wishes for Christmas

**Contact Carol Wynes on 01952 680110**

CHURCH NEWS

**…..**Thanks to all who contributed to and helped with **Christmas Services** in our six churches - decorating, dressing trees, providing refreshments, reading lessons and poems, ringing the bells, singing in the choir, playing the organ.

**…..**The next festival services are on **Sunday 4th January** when we celebrate the visit of the Three Kings **(Epiphany)** and at **11.00am Sunday 24th January** at **Stockton Church** we have our annual country festival for **Plough Sunday**

**…..The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is **January 18th – 25th** with lunch time 12 pm noon meetings at churches in Shifnal and on **Friday 22nd at Sutton Maddock**

**…..**Our Six Parishes harvest appeal for **Farm Africa** raised £450.

**…..**The Christmas **Shoebox** appeal was again well supported

**SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

As members gathered for our annual Christmas party it was noticed that some members were absent through illness and they were in our thoughts during the afternoon.  The food provided by our members as usual was excellent, with plenty for all.  The puddings were something else, with everyone suitably replete.

John Whitham produced one of his Christmas quizzes to stimulate the brain, whilst a group of members adjourned to the kitchen to wash up and put everything away neat and tidy.

At this point around 40 pupils from Beckbury Primary School joined us and entertained us with a selection of carols, followed by two young ladies playing recorders and then we had a violinist to round off the afternoon’s entertainment.  This was a truly delightful interlude by some very talented youngsters who were a credit to their school.

We then finished off the quiz and checked the answers, the eventual winners being Alan and Jean Jones and Sarah Nemes-Lawton.  We finished up with a Christmas raffle and then it was time for home after a pleasant and busy afternoon.

Our next meeting in on **Tuesday 12th January** and will be **lunch at The Seven Stars, Beckbury, starting at 12.30,** and members are reminded that we need their choice of main course a week prior to this date.

**Contact: David and Beryl Tooth 01952750324**

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

**Dear Friends**

Another New Year and we look back over 2015 with its joys and sorrows, its successes and disappointments. A number of families have had their share of each.

On the wider scene, nationally and internationally, there were several tragedies and atrocities which stayed in the news for days. Those affected continue to live with the aftermath of them. Hanging up a new calendar, starting a new diary or switching into 2016 with our smart phones does not mean bringing to a close those situations which linger on from 2015. Just because the calendar has changed does not mean that situations in the world and in our lives have changed.

Yet we always hope and pray that January 1st will usher in something new and better……….

The hymn writer Sidney Carter wrote the popular modern hymn

*'One More Step along the world I go'.*  It has a jaunty up-beat melody and it also expresses the hopeful belief that, as we go 'one more step', so God will keep travelling along with us.

I often use lines from a hymn as the Prayer of the Month. This time I am offering a longer 'prayer' with more verses from a hymn than I usually provide. They make a lovely prayer for the New Year, not least because they give a realistic view that there will be difficult sad and disappointing times ahead - such is life!

Yet in those times we can still find God with us and in faith ask God to go with us 'one more step' into that unknown future.

Wishing you all that sense of God's presence with you in the New Year ahead.

***Keith Hodson***

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (Epiphany 6th January)

Creator of the heavens,

You led the Wise Men by a star to worship the Christ-child;

Guide and sustain us, we pray, that we may find our journey's end

In Jesus Christ our Saviour Amen

Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes – January 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Badger** | **Beckbury** | **Ryton** | **Kemberton** | **Stockton** | **Sutton Maddock** |
| **Jan 3rd** |  | 9.30am  EPIPHANY Hymns and Readings (KH) |  |  |  | 11.00am  Communion  New (KH) |
| **10th** |  |  | 9.30am  Matins  (KH) | 11.00am  Communion  New (KH) |  |  |
| **17st** | 9.30am  Communion  Trad (KH) | 9.30am  Morning Worship (TD) |  |  |  | 11.00am  Matins  (KH) |
| **24th** |  |  | 9.30am  Communion  New (KH) |  | 11.00am  PLOUGH SUNDAY  (KH) |  |
| **31st** | 9.30am  Matins  (KH) |  |  | 11.00am  Morning  Worship  (KH) |  |  |

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

**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