

The Beckington Group of Parishes

Beckington
Berkley
Lullington & Orchardleigh
Rodden



Network

October 2020

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 Ronnie keeps Fridays free for
 rest, family and friends

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Beckington Web Site:
 Down for maintenance
Beckington School Web Site:
www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk
Berkley School Web Site:
www.berkleyschool.co.uk
Springmead School Web Site:
www.springmead.com
Beckington Memorial Hall
 Sara Coffield 01373 710210
beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk
Beckington Parish Council
beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk
 Clerk: Simon Pritchard 07792 478960
Berkley Parish Council
 Clerk: Janet Harvey 01373 832303

Bell ringing practice
 at St. George's is every Thursday
 from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 Tower Captain: J Ball 830419
johnagball.51@gmail.com

Beckington Group Mothers' Union
 Branch Leaders: Jenny Ayrton 01373 830208 & Jacky Lobley. Meets 1st
 Wed in the month except August.

Beckington Tower Lighting
 Mary Hickling 01373 830274

Beckington Pre-School
beckingtonpre-school.co.uk

Please submit items for publication in the
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beckington.network@gmail.com
 to arrive no later than 12 noon on
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 Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Evemy
 Please call after 4pm during weekdays
 07540 133396 Julie@evemy.net

Edmund's Message

In hard times, count your blessings!

We are thankful that we have been able to restart services in our churches. And now this first Sunday in October brings us to the annual Harvest Thanksgiving, a time to count our blessings and say "thank you." You will find details on page 10, and how, if you wish, you can bring a gift for the Frome Foodbank.

Harvest Thanksgiving is an opportunity to say 'thank you, Father' not only for the fruits of the earth but for all the other things that make our lives possible. Covid19 is threatening our lives and livelihoods in many ways, but it has made us more aware of both the NHS Staff and others who have, and are, working to supply our daily needs.

We can give thanks that our hospitals have not been overwhelmed as was feared they might be in March. Despite a bit of panic buying, we are grateful that shops have continued to be stocked with food and our other needs, and for the many people who have made that possible, often in trying circumstances. In short there really are many blessings to be counted: blessings for which we can say, "Thank you, Father."

Saying 'thank you' is more than being polite. Saying 'thank you' acknowledges someone else, encouraging them and enabling good relationships as we respond to one another in goodwill. If that is true of human relationships, saying 'thank you' to God is also key to discovering the relationship He wants us to enjoy with Him.

One of the Psalms, number 100, bids us come into God's presence with thankfulness and praise. Both are key to opening our hearts and minds to the reality of God and his bounty. The New Testament writers stress their importance as they encourage us to rejoice and thank God in all circumstances. Thanking Him in good times is easy, but easily overlooked. Thanking Him in hard times is counter intuitive.

God's ways may seem strange at first, but if we respond to them, we come to see that they are good and wise. It is when things are hard and life is tough that we need to know that God really is there. At such times saying 'thank you' to God is to acknowledge his unseen care and provision, and we are surprised to discover that even in the midst of our troubles there are good things we can rejoice in. A thankful heart opens the door that allows Jesus to become the strength that helps us in our weakness, the friend who comes to walk beside us. A thankful heart rejoicing in God's bounty is no longer alone and fearful.

Edmund Phillimore
Reader, Beckington



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Frome Farmers' Market

Frome Farmers' Market takes place every month in the Cheese & Grain Hall in Frome.

The market takes place every 2nd Saturday of the month all year round from 9am-1pm.

www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk

The Hospital of St Cross & Almshouse of Noble Poverty 'England's Oldest Almshouse' Vacancies for Brothers

The Hospital, founded in 1132, is home to 25 retired laymen ('Brothers') and applications are welcomed. A registered Charity with a Christian foundation, the Hospital is situated a mile south of Winchester. Each Brother lives independently and occupies a flat which he furnishes himself.

Further information and an application form are obtainable from:
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St. George's Beckington

Floodlighting

If you would like the tower to be floodlit please contact: Mary Hickling maryhickling@btinternet.com or 830274. Suggested donation £10 **payable to PCC Beckington.**

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are sorry we were not able to go ahead with this event. The Woolpack are doing a sponsored Lego walk for Macmillan and we have agreed to promote this for them and find sponsors.

If you would like to do this or just send us donations please contact Freda Brann 830597 Jenny Ayrton 830208.

Beckington Group Mothers' Union

Another month with no meeting, although we are receiving newsletters with details of meetings and services, which some of us can access on-line. Otherwise we keep in touch by phone, emails and meeting for tea in our gardens! Jenny and I were pleased to be invited to Norton St Philip at the end of August to join a celebration for the 90th birthday of

Eleanor Sames, a very well-known and long-time member of Mothers' Union. This was a picnic lunch arranged by Eleanor's friends in the village, and we sat well apart in a pleasant sunny area of the church yard. We brought our own food and drink, but drank a toast to Eleanor with sparkling wine and enjoyed birthday cake.

Members from Norton and Rode joined with Beckington a couple of years ago, together with ladies from Frome, so we are a group from several different churches.

Most members are still able to attend meetings, although it is becoming popular to be a so-called Indoor Member. This does not exclude people from coming to meetings, but provides a friendly letter from the diocesan coordinator, cards on special occasions, prayers, a newsletter with information about projects and activities, and helps keep members in touch with what is going on.

We are still planning for our next meeting to be a service of **Holy Communion in Beckington Church, on Wednesday 7th October at 2.15**, unless new restrictions mean this cannot take place. We will take each month as it comes and make sure everyone is kept informed. Please join with us in praying for all who are affected by the virus, and for all concerned with decision making at this difficult time. Let's remember all who are lonely and isolated, and take time to make a phone call or send a card.

Rosemary Ball

All Saints Rodden



The next service at Rodden Church will be **Harvest Festival on Sunday 11th October @ 6.30pm.**

We would welcome donations of fruit and vegetables brought along on the night and placed to decorate the windows. These will be for sale after the service, Covid rules permitting. Thank you

Jim Dowling



BECKINGTON FAMILY PRACTICE FLU CLINICS

Many patients are entitled to a free seasonal flu vaccination. This includes patients aged 65 or over, those who are pregnant and those with long-term health problems. Main carers of someone, who is disabled or elderly and whose welfare would be at risk in the event of their carer becoming ill, are also eligible for this free scheme. Children who were 2 or 3 years old on 31st August 2020 are eligible for a free nasal flu vaccine.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

Please telephone us between 2pm and 5pm on 01373 830006 to make an appointment.

Whilst we've received information that all 50-64-year olds may be eligible for a free flu vaccination as part of plans to protect more people against seasonal flu, these free vaccinations will be subject to delivery later in the year.

This allows us to focus on those who are in an at-risk group. They will be given priority and offered the vaccine first.

If the programme is extended this is likely to be November or December.

Of course, if you wish to access a vaccine prior to this date you can pay to have this at your local pharmacy as in previous years, otherwise please wait for more information.



St. Mary's Berkley

I do hope that you are well in these very difficult times. Here at Berkley we have a very big problem in the vestry with dry rot.

The floorboards are rotted and very unsafe. Large amounts of fungus are growing daily and creeping up the doorposts. I have met with our architect plus an expert on these things and have received one estimate and waiting for two more. The estimate we have shows that it is going to be very expensive to put things right and to stop the fungus growing again.

Due to Covid 19 we have been unable to have our usual fund-raising events and, not being able to hold our services, there have been no weekly collections. Here I must say that, some people have sent us donations to cover their collection and for their gift to the Gift Day we were unable to hold. These donations were very much appreciated and we say a very, very big thank you to the people concerned and to two persons who contribute by monthly credits into the bank.

Our fund raising brings us in at least £5,000.00 per year so you will realize that our funds available are much depleted. If any of you feel able to make a donation, however small, to the cost of restoring the vestry we will be very

grateful. We are very fortunate that Nick Marshall and Terry Prescott have offered to do any work they can to help reduce the cost. They are both very professional at what they do and we are so grateful to them. If you wish to make a donation you can send it to myself:

Jeanette Hayward 92a High Street, Chapmanslade, Westbury, Wilts. BA13 3AN or to our treasurer **Christine Eyers 11 Berkley Marsh Frome Somerset BA11 5JE**

Thank you

Note about forthcoming services
Sunday 4th October will be a Holy Communion service at 4pm
taken by Ronnie- PLEASE NOTE THE TIME

Sunday 18th October will be an All Age Service and Harvest. At this service, if you are able, please bring any unperishable gifts of food that will be given to the Food Bank.

Hilary Daniel

We are very sad to hear that Hilary has had a stroke and was unconscious on admission to the RUH on 18th September.

As of 23rd Sept, we are very pleased to hear that Hilary appears to be making good progress. We are praying for him and putting him in the hands of the Lord.

Jeanette

Harvest and Remembrance Festivals 2020

Harvest Festival at St Georges Church in Beckington is due to take place on Sunday 4th October at 10am. However, with ongoing precautions due to the virus, it won't be able to be like the services we are used to.

We are arranging for the church to be open on Saturday 3rd October from 10am till noon for a collection of non-perishable food items for Frome Foodbank. Rev Ronnie will be around that morning and looks forward to chatting to you when you drop off your items.

Harvest Evensong will be at Rodden Church on Sunday 11th October at 6.30pm.

All Age Worship at Berkley on 18th October at 9.15am will have a Harvest Theme.

It is still a little difficult at the moment to plan ahead for **Remembrance Sunday** due to the current uncertainty and the second wave of the virus. All being well, we shall have an act of Remembrance outside at 11am at St George's Church in Beckington. The Church will be open for private prayer with a specially constructed prayerful display.

More details about all of the festival services will be circulated in the usual way and notices displayed in our churches. If you are not currently on an emailing list please contact one of the church

wardens or
rectorronnie@outlook.com

Further Development at St George's Beckington

We are in the early and exciting stages of thinking about how to provide greater hospitality at St George's Church in Beckington. The PCC is currently considering the provision of an accessible toilet, a servery, improvement to the heating, flexibility of space and the possibility of a disabled parking space. It must be stressed that the discussions are at a very early stage and we are only just beginning to consider plans and funding. We have a long way to go. There will be a display up in church in the coming weeks, and we hope to update the plans, and receive feedback from the new Facebook page.

We really do want the church to be used by the village and wider community. We have a small group working on the project and would welcome further input. A further update will appear next month. In the first instance you are very welcome to contact Rev Ronnie as a member of the buildings group, with any offers of help or for further discussion.



Springmead School

Learning through strange times

Our academic year has got off to a great start; we have enjoyed welcoming old hands as well as many new faces. As a school, we have continued to grow in every way imaginable through the pandemic.

As a place of learning, we are in the business of getting children to adapt: that is, after all, what learning is! We teach our children to have a growth mindset, and we enjoy the same 'can do' attitude from the adults we work with. This positive approach means we are continuing to deliver a rich, exciting and ambitious educational experience, albeit, in different and creative ways at the moment. At Springmead we are focusing on the art of the possible.

We are alert to the unfolding situation and taking all steps to keep everyone safe. What our academic year eventually looks like remains uncertain; what is a definite is our unwavering commitment to do our best for each of our charges, at each step of the way, and to keep learning each and every day.

Principal Springmead School
Madeleine Taylor



Beckington School

It is lovely having all the children back in school now; they have quickly adapted to the new routines and are resuming their friendships.

A huge welcome to our new reception children and also the new children who have joined us in other year groups.

It was great to have Reverend Ronnie leading our collective worship this week: she did this with individual classes as we cannot have the whole school together at the moment.

During the first couple of weeks, we have focused on the children's well-being and planned arts weeks, with the five ways of well-being running through as themes.

These are:

Connect: Spend time with family and friends. The children have enjoyed re-connecting with their friends in school.

Be active: It keeps you physically healthy, and makes you feel good. We have been learning new wake and shake routines, doing football sessions with Martin Phillips and doing extra PE and forest school activities.

Keep learning: Try something new. We have studied artists and connected art with emotions, including trying out activities with clay, and creating miniature tree houses.

Take notice: Take a break to see how you feel. We have enjoyed

talking walks round Beckington Loop and noticing our natural environment.

Give: Do something for a friend or relation/adult and, as well as making them feel good, it can make you feel good too! We have made cards for people in our families to say 'thank you.'

We will be offering virtual tours of the school via our website at the beginning of October.

We hope that all our families and members of our community stay safe and well.

Claire Chantler

Berkley First School

I have just come from our all age service at St Mary's Church this morning where we were able to meet Ronnie. The sun was shining, and still is, and although we could not sing in church, it brought a smile to my face seeing everyone's different actions to the songs.

We have been back in school for two weeks, and we have had lots of smiley faces, chatty children and outdoor learning taking place. The children have been wonderful at settling into our new routines and procedures. I am really thankful for our school community; the support we provide each other is invaluable.

Our Christian value this term is Friendship. During the week, our new reception children made friendship bracelets, our Year 1's created some beautiful paintings and some of our older children made pizzas together. We are celebrating old and new friendships, and we see each other in our virtual assemblies, where children have already been nominated for special certificates.

Whilst the sun remains and we have some dry weather, we have been able to use our outdoor classroom for our music sessions; the children in year 3 have just purchased their own recorders so we soon hope to hear them playing across the field. We begin our main topics in a week's time, and the home work challenges tap into everyone's creative side. I look forward to seeing the results.

As you may know, our school is on a road and not in a village.

However, lockdown has taught us that it is extremely important to be grateful for the stunning scenery and landscape that we have on our doorstep. We are currently exploring safe ways to get our children out and about on the footpaths and into the woods here at Berkley.

The children brighten our days, and we remain positive about life in school and with our own families. I have mentioned the sunshine a few times. Hopefully we can have a bright and warm harvest too, but if not, we can appreciate the time to bake indoors and eat the produce so many of you have grown. During the time when we remained open throughout lockdown, children made mint tea from our school garden. We will be looking at new ways to use our herbs this Autumn; we may even have a bake off in our bubbles!!

Take care of each other

Best wishes

Mrs S Thompson

Beckington Memorial Hall

Annual Report 2020

2019 -2020 has been a unique year in the history of the Memorial Hall in that Covid has closed down virtually all activities for six months. We are only just seeing the re-emergence of regular hirers, apart from Beckington Cricket Club, who have managed some fixtures in the last couple of months. We are indebted to David Norman and Stan Wilson who have spent a lot of time putting together the Hall Covid protocols and health and safety policies to make the return of hirings possible.

November 2019 saw the enforced cancellation of Fireworks Night because of bad weather, after a lot of preparation by Stan Wilson and his subcommittee. Fortunately, this was followed by an outstandingly successful panto by the Beckington Players, which brought a handsome profit donated to the Hall, and a well-attended evening of opera in February when the White Horse Opera's production of 'The Mikado' in St. George's church was much enjoyed. Our thanks to Debs Byrne, Pam Portsmouth- Layton and Roz Searle for running this, and the Churchwardens for their very helpful support. Since then, sadly, no events have been possible and this year's Fireworks and Panto have had to be cancelled.

All this has placed a strain on Hall finances, but we have been helped by generous Government grants which have kept us going. Despite the lack of hiring income, we have

managed to complete several maintenance jobs.

A new heater has at last been fitted in the Clifford suite, we have replaced the sagging section of the perimeter fence with a post and rail and we have fitted a new keypad system in the main Hall and Clifford suite. The need for the latter was partly caused by the demands of our insurers and the much-felt loss by the retirement of Gary Peters, our Booking Secretary, whose sterling service over a number of years we have much valued. In his place we are employing Sara Coffield who is running the booking system and also acting as Hall Secretary and Archivist. At this point I should like to thank the Committee for their hard work and support: David Norman as Treasurer, those already mentioned in this report and Mike Collins our excellent choir representative. We have also been joined by Hannah Drury from Springmead and Floor Holmes representing Beckington Players.

Despite these welcome additions, we still need new blood and we have also lost the valued services of Ian Morris, to whom, "many thanks." In the continuing absence of a younger volunteer, I have agreed to continue for one more year as Chairman.

And for the future? -who knows? Once we have a clearer picture of future hiring and events income, we would like to replace the unattractive and deteriorating high fencing along the Bath Road

boundary of the field. Redecoration of the main Hall and Clifford is due, and the lavatories and changing areas will soon need modernisation. The Play Area remains a concern. It passed its ROSPA inspection this July but insurance and H and S issues will increasingly demand renewal and replacement, the considerable cost of which is well beyond the Hall's finances and will need some form of community fund raising to achieve.

Let us hope that the post-Covid era will see these requirements realised.

David Prince BMH Chairman

Standerwick, Berkley and Beckington W.I.

In spite of the continuing problems caused by the Coronavirus we are still holding our zoom meetings and managing to continue speaking to one another.

The zoom meetings give people a chance to talk to the other people attending, and via them, to the other members, giving information about the hobbies and walks etc they have been doing.

On Thursday 3rd September we had a semi normal W.I. meeting. Information was circulated to all members. The meeting was limited to 20 people and places had to be booked in advance. Anyone not able to be included was put on a waiting list in case someone was unable to attend at the last minute. Also, those wishing to come but unable to be included, were put on a list to be first to come next time.

We met as usual in the village hall, but all socially distanced from each other, for a very enjoyable game of Bingo.

A prize was awarded for the first line on the card and then for a complete card. We all thoroughly enjoyed it. Unfortunately, no tea, coffee or biscuits.

The planned workshop due to be held at the beginning of October has had to be cancelled.

The 1st October meeting is now cancelled.

Further information is available on our Facebook page or email our secretary Roz on zamund@btinternet.com.

This will give up to date information as we are keeping up to date with all the regulations as they change, and looking at new ways to meet up under challenging circumstances.

Marion Oxlade

Lunch Club

Dear Friends

We are sorry that we have been unable to hold our usual lunches because of Covid 19. It is hoped that it will not be too long before we are allowed to start up once more. We look forward to seeing friends old and new again as soon as we are allowed. Existing tickets will be honored. Please pass the word on! Immediately we have some definite news, we will let you know. In the meantime, look after yourselves and stay safe.

Jill Barnes and the team.
Tel 830011

Sharing Gardening Tips

Network Magazine is looking for articles on growing vegetables, flowers or other general garden related advice. Please send to beckington.network@gmail.com
Thank you.

Ivy – never underestimate its goodness!

Autumn is in full swing but there is at least one plant that is in full bloom. Not spectacular to look at, yet ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.

Ivy produces flowers from September to November. Spherical clusters of greeny-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns with knobs on! The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs, each containing five seeds. Poisonous for us, but birds love them.

Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered, roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground. [There's not much nutritional value in a brick.] Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy

trees, its weight can cause problems.

What a useful plant it can be! Providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed ones we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy, but has anyone discovered why, although mentioned in the first line of the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is absent from the rest of the verses?

Kirsty Steele

Rode and District Gardening Club.

I am sure all our gardens are looking wonderful after all the extra time and attention available this summer.

We are hoping to be able to resume meetings later in the autumn when restrictions are lifted further. We recognise that many members may feel unable to take part in the near future and will keep you up-dated with our plans. We hope some of the speakers booked for 2020 will be able to visit us in 2021, subscriptions for 2020 will also cover 2021.

Keep safe and continue enjoying your gardens.



Drawing by Ruth King

For Sale or Wanted

If you would like an entry in this column, please send it to Julie Every (see inside front cover). A suggested donation of £1 towards Network would be appreciated which can be left in the slot in the wall inside St George's church-when open. Private advertisements only please.

For Sale

Mobility Scooter, barely used. Excellent condition/as new. £300 or near offer, was £600 new, Bryan White 07792 234004

For Sale

1 male and 1 female adult bikes £50 each or near offer 07891706126

For Sale

£10 2.5 litre white emulsion paint for bathroom or kitchen, with least hint of pink. Purchased early at £25 but surplus to requirement.

Proceeds to Friends of St George's. Call 01373 830677

Wanted

Moving back to this area and require dry secure storage space for my furniture to be temporarily stored. If you are able to help please phone 07968 629538



FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S PLANTS, CAKES & Bric-a-brac SALE SATURDAY 10th

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Rudge to get a Post Box

In 1635 Charles I introduced a public mail service, finally in 2020 Rudge is to get a Post Box.

Ok to be fair it had one before, next to the Full Moon Pub and well used it was too. However, at some point towards the end of 2019 Royal Mail promptly removed the Post Box saying it was “an immediate health and safety risk as it had reportedly rusted through”. This should be no problem one would think, this must happen all the time, wooden posts rot and metal boxes corrode and given the number of post boxes Royal Mail has they must be replacing the boxes or pots all the time, you can almost image the warehouse full of spares ready to be installed, surely this will be a very quick process, over in weeks? 9 months later and the courier pigeons are still in use.

How could it possibly take so long for a Post Box to be replaced? Well Covid is partly to blame, but the other issue has been that the original location of the Post Box was on private land, so rather than seek to replace the box, Royal Mail started to look around for some land in public ownership to relocate the Post Box to. Rather odd given that no one, including the land owners, had ever complained about the location of the box and in fact it was there for good reason, it's easy to access and central and if you do drive to it you can pull right in off the road and safely post your letters.

Around mid-February the Parish Council became aware that Royal Mail had been in contact with Mendip District Council to consultant them (but not the Parish Council) about a new location that had been identified for the Post Box on public land. Mendip District Council has not responded to Royal Mail and so Royal Mail were about to proceed to install the Post Box under their “statutory rights”. However, in Rudge there was “considerable resistance to this location for the reasons that Rudge Lane here is a single carriageway width and there is great concern for the safety of people posting letters and post van drivers” and so in turn the Parish Council immediately, formally objected to the new location while simultaneously requesting that a Post Box was reinstated at the former location at the Full Moon, with the full support of the Landlords.

The sudden involvement and objection from the Parish Council halted the proposed instalment of the Post Box in a new location and shortly afterwards Royal Mail agree to send out the area manager to site visit – then a global pandemic hit and we all rather forgot about things.

The matter somewhat re-emerged last month when the Network magazine rather randomly published the Parish Councils objection to the new Post Box location that had been made back in February, this out of context publication gave the impression that the Parish council was trying

to prevent a replacement Post Box, rather than the actual story of the Parish Council pursuing the wishes of the Rudge residents. But it also did help to highlight that after 9 months, Rudge was still without a Post Box.

In the last few weeks, the Parish Council has pursued the matter and has now received written confirmation that Royal Mail will shortly reinstate the Post Box back in its former location. I can only hope by the time you read this; the Pigeons will once again be at rest.

Simon Pritchard - Parish Clerk

-

Understanding the Bible

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the authority of the Bible.

As we acknowledge **Bible Sunday this month**, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: **Why should I read the Bible?**

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to

be the primary way by which God speaks to us:

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is inspired ('the word of God in the words of men') and presents itself as a **manual for life**, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives

: *'The Spirit will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13).*

However, the Bible could also be described as a love letter from God, as He uses it to deepen our relationship with him. As Jesus said:

'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me' (John 5:39,40).

Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better.

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words 'The most precious thing this world affords'. Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

Why not explore more at www.biblesociety.org.uk

People in the Parish

Each month we will be finding out about local groups, societies, individuals or businesses who have connections to our parishes. This month we have been talking to.... local resident **Stuart Barnes**

You are known locally as “The man with the Shires.” How and why did you get involved with horses?

“I grew up with heavy horses. One grandfather was a blacksmith and kept horses and my other grandfather was a Fen farmer, who worked his land with horses. I’ve been in love with cart horses since before I started school, and it was always an intention of mine to have some of my own. The two horses that we now have are named after our grandmothers Lottie and Annie and they were both born here in Beckington.”

Besides living in this area, do you have any other local connections?

“I’m originally of the Cambridgeshire Fen lands. School was in Northampton and I came to Beckington via Salisbury by accident. Somerset is the nicest county in the country, but I’m lucky enough to come from the best! Doubly blessed.”

Do you have any local history/information that our readers may find of interest that you have learnt from living in this area?

“We have lived in Lauder Cottage for nearly 40 years. Previous inhabitants include a Miss Hulls,

who was a senior mistress at Frome Grammar School, Willy the lamp lighter, who would light the gas lamps in the village (and it was said he left his pole in the front garden), a lady who sold sweets to the local kids who walked past the cottage to Beckington school, and the Nicholas family, who lost two sons in WW1.”

And finally, tell us something interesting people don’t know about you

“Family apart, my passions are rugby football as well as Shire horses. I am a fervent supporter of Northampton Saints (not Bath!) I’m also a Shire Horse Society council member and judge. I’ve judged all over the UK and Europe. Also, I’m a fervent supporter of Beckington school where I was very pleased to have been a governor for almost 15 years. I’m particularly proud to have been, and remain, a Beckington ‘Mole Catcher’ along with my friends Philip and John.



Farmer at heart, Stuart (3rd from left) playing as a ‘Mole Catcher’ with friends Philip and John.

Somerset County Council

£1m Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund

OPEN for applications from **1 October**

A pot of £1 million is now available to help local communities become carbon neutral and mitigate the impacts of Climate Change in Somerset.

Somerset County Council Leader David Fothergill announced in February 2020 that £1 million would be made available for city, town and parish councils to support local communities.

From 1 October, city, town and parish councils across Somerset are invited to bid for between £5,000 and £75,000 for innovative projects that can make a real difference in reducing carbon emissions and can contribute to making Somerset resilient to the effects of Climate Change.

Councillor Fothergill said: "This is a great opportunity for city, town and parish councils to support their own communities to get involved in reducing carbon emissions. Somerset is working towards being carbon neutral by 2030 and if we are to reach this target, then everyone has an important part to play."

Councillor Clare Paul, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health & Well-Being and Climate Change, added: "We are looking forward to seeing proposals for interesting and innovative projects that can have

real impact and make this £1million go as far as possible."

For information about the Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund scheme, eligibility criteria and application process, visit

www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency.

Please note that all applications must be submitted by your parish, town or city council or local member if you are in an unparished area, so if you've got a great idea for what your local council might do, get in touch with them now.

Full details of the Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund scheme can be viewed online from 1 September and from 1 October applications can be made via the website.

www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency

Noah and the Ark 2020 version!

In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, "Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. "Noah", He called out, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me Lord", begged Noah "but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

"The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can't build the Ark until they've conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can't use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

"So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark." Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. "No need for me to destroy the world after all," observed God. "The government has the matter already in hand."

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SERVICES October 2020

Benefice	Wednesdays at St George's	5.30pm	Short Evening Prayer	
St. George's Beckington		Oct 4	10.00am	Morning Worship Followed by APCM
		Oct 11	10.00am	Holy Communion with Berkley
		Oct 18	10.00am	BCP Matins
		Oct 25	10.00am	Holy Communion
St. Mary's Berkley		Oct 4	4pm	Holy Communion
		Oct 18	9.15am	All Age Worship and Harvest
All Saints Rodden		Oct 11	6.30pm	Harvest Evensong
All Saints Lullington		Oct 4	11am BCP	Holy Communion
		Oct 11	11am	Matins
		Oct 18	11am	Matins
		Oct 25	11am	Holy Communion
St. Mary's Orchardleigh	Not yet open on Sundays.			Please book your place wardens@lullandorch.org.uk For services at Lullington
Baptist Church	Services each Sunday at 3pm to which all are welcome			

Some Online Options

Exploring Prayer? <https://www.hopespaces.com>

Church of England <https://churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/online-church>

Norton-St-Philip/Rode
<https://www.hardingtonvale.org.uk>

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Diary Dates

- Oct 1 **W.I. Down the Garden Path**
CANCELLED
- Oct 3 **St George's Barn Dance**
CANCELLED
- Oct 5 **Rodden Harvest Supper 7.00pm**
CANCELLED
- Oct 7 MU Meeting 2.15pm at St George's church. Service of Holy Communion
- Nov 5 **W.I. 'Refresh' and talk on Rwanda**
- Nov 6 **St. George's Early Christmas Market**
- Nov 13-15 **Beckington Benefice Weekend Sidholme NO LONGER AVAILABLE** - alternatives under discussion
- Nov 21 Rodden **Festive Soup & Puds, 12-2pm. CANCELLED**
- Dec 3 **W.I. Kingdom of the Ice Bears**

Keep the faith...but not from others! - Anon

Please note that the next issue of Network is for **November**. All articles for this edition must be received by **midday on October 20th**

Network is online!

The online copy of Network can be found at:

www.beckington.org.uk/church/network-magazine.htm

and on the Information page at: beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Keeping each other safe in Church

- Face coverings must be worn.
- Sanitise on entry
- No Singing
- Keep 2m distance
- Sit where guided
- Please chat outside
- Don't congregate near doors

And do remember to pray, as we do all we can to support each other through this pandemic.