

The Beckington Group of Parishes

Beckington
Berkley
Lullington & Orchardleigh
Rodden



Network

December 2020
January 2021

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Beckington Web Site:

Awaiting reconstruction

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
February issue to:

beckington.network@gmail.com
to arrive no later than **12 noon** on

January 20th

Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Evemy

Please call after 4pm during weekdays
07540 133396 Julie@evemy.net

Dear Friends

I came across this prayer the other day. You may have seen it doing the rounds on Facebook. *It was written by the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rev Richard Bott.*

A prayer when we are putting on our face covering....

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental in the wearing of this cloth –let it be “an outward sign of an inward grace” – Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours as I love myself. Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words but with my actions. Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, help me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with your love. In your name and in that love, I pray. Amen

At the time of writing, mid-November, mid-lockdown we don't know what Christmas will be like this year. We know it won't be like our usual Christmas. And we may feel deeply saddened. We may feel extremely frustrated. Yet into this chaotic, dangerous world came a vulnerable infant. The new-born didn't immediately appear to make a significant difference. Just a few weather-beaten shepherds were strangely drawn to come down from the fields. They came to an outhouse, where goats and sheep and maybe a cow would normally sleep.

“What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

Yet, what I can I give him? Give my heart”

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

We are now getting used to wearing a mask. A mask to cover our faces to protect others and sometimes a mask to cover our emotions, to protect ourselves. The words of the prayer for putting on our face covering, talks about uncovering our heart. It's a risky thing to do, but it's exactly what happened in a draughty stable. God chose to enter our world as a vulnerable baby – and in so doing gave us nothing less than his love, his heart.

I also share with you a few words from modern hymn writer Stuart Townend

“When Love came down to earth

And made His home with men,

The hopeless found a hope,

The sinner found a friend. What joy, what peace has come to us!

What hope, what help, what love!”

There may be much that we shall miss this Christmas. But let us also embrace those precious heart-filled moments, of hope, of help and of love.

Rev Ronnie



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The Somerset Bereavement Support Service is here if you've been bereaved and need emotional support or someone to talk to.

Call 0800 304 7412

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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:
Clerk to the Trustees, Hospital of St Cross Winchester, SO23 9SD
Tel: 01962 878218
E-mail: clerk1@hospitalofstcross.co.uk
www.hospitalofstcross.co.uk
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Covid-19 Please visit our Facebook page or website for any updates to our services.

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Forrester Sylvester Mackett

SOLICITORS

FSM Solicitors' Frome office is offering a week of half price Wills from 11th - 15th January 2021. There will be no hidden costs - you will receive a 50% discount on the legal fees to write a single Will, or mirror Wills if you are a couple.

The Process:

- 1 Take advantage of the offer by calling 01373 485485 - hurry, appointments are limited!
- 2 We will send you a Will Questionnaire to complete, where you state your details and basic Will requirements.
- 3 Send the form back to us, and we will book you in for a telephone appointment with a qualified Solicitor to discuss your Will.
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If you would like to receive the full link please email rectorronnie@outlook.com
Or just use the meeting ID and password

A black and white line drawing of a church building. The church features a tall, square steeple with a cross on top. The main body of the church has a large, arched window with vertical bars or panes. The roof is gabled, and there are smaller windows on the side. The drawing is done in a simple, sketchy style with cross-hatching for shading.

Jim Dowling

Final draw for 2020 held on 20 November 2020
1st Prize £ 50 31 P Snelgrove
2nd Prize £25 72 M Pattinson
3rd Prize £15 181 A Frost
4th Prize £10 171 H Frost

It is with considerable pleasure that I can report that we have banked a **total of £4,956** for the 2020 Poppy Appeal, a most satisfactory 8.6% increase on the 2019 total. Bearing in mind that we were not able to conduct house-to-house collections and that there were no Remembrance Day services, nor were we able to make any collections at Standerwick market this year, the total is particularly impressive.

The Poppy Appeal does not happen without a great deal of unseen work. This includes ordering, distributing and later collecting the Poppy Appeal boxes, then counting the money received and finally banking it. Christopher Massy-Beresford has willingly carried out this task for several years. Thank you, Christopher, for your hard work as our Poppy Appeal Organiser.

8



St. Mary's Berkley

Berkley Vestry Appeal

Very many thanks to all those who have kindly given donations to our Vestry Appeal. We are most grateful to you all. I have a meeting on 15th December with the area surveyor of a firm called Cannon Clarke. He will inspect the vestry and then send us a quotation for the work needed. So this is a step forward at last. We are hoping to have **a service of appropriate prayers and readings at 4pm on 24th December**. If this goes ahead, and you would like to attend, then please send your name to me (Jeanette) or Christine as we will only be allowed 30 in the congregation. Our email addresses are on page 2 of Network. I hope you are all coping in the second lockdown and are all well.

Jeanette

Frome Town Neighbourhood Policing Team Beat surgeries

Upcoming Community Engagements

25 November- Frome

Neighbourhood Police will be utilising the mobile Police Station and during this patrol will be making a stop in Beckington Late

afternoon. (*information received
18th November - Editor*)

9 December- Frome

Neighbourhood Police will be hosting a farmers Beat Surgery at Mole Valley Farmers, between 0900 - 1100.

27 January- Beat Surgery will be held between 1200 – 1300 at Mole Valley.

Beckington Baptist Church

During the time that churches were able to re-open after the first Lock down, under Covid-19 restrictions, Beckington Baptist Church was the only non-conformist church in the Frome area that re-opened and was meeting face to face. We hope when the second Lockdown ends in December that we will be able to resume our services which are held at 3-00pm.

We have attempted to make worship as normal as possible within the constraints of Covid-19, and have done so. Although unable to sing hymns, these have been pre-recorded for the service, with choirs singing the words, so a sense of worship has been established. The act of worship is based around a pattern of hymns, prayers, and a meditation based on the Bible Readings set for that particular Sunday; this provides material for Sunday worship and for meditation during the following week.

We are a small group of Christians, mainly from outside the village, who gather for worship, and welcome any others who would

like to share service with us. Social distancing, face covering etc is maintained. We are glad that even during the Lockdown we are able to allow the local Preschool to continue to use our premises, as they have for a number of years, and also a support group that gathers on a Sunday evening is also still meeting.

Some who are new to the village may not realize that there is another Christian church worshipping in the village, although I contribute a regular message to Network, and Andrew Kellett takes up a point from my weekly address for the village Facebook page.

As a building, we are tucked away in the area of the village near Springmead school. Signs relating to the Pre-school, where they meet, will direct you to the Church. Christian greetings.

Rev. Michael I White

Beckington Memorial Hall

We were just seeing a gradual return to regular, if reduced, Hall hirings, when the second lockdown ended virtually all of our custom. The Hall, and now the Clifford suite (with a working radiator), are both still open for certain hirings. The list of which is too long to publish here, although our booking secretary can give you the information you require. The Play area remains open for use.

Our considerably reduced income means that at the moment, we cannot undertake any development or improvement work, although our

Covid subsidy is enabling us to pay for routine cleaning, rubbish clearing, and heating and lighting. Let us hope that a vaccine and the present restrictions will enable us to have some sort of Christmas, and better prospects for 2021.

At our meeting in October we made the **200 Club draw** for the six months since March, and the winners were: April £40 Phil Carey £20 David Prince - May £40 Stan Wilson £20 Suzanne West - June £40 Andy Smith £20 Stan Wilson - July £40 Joan Mallard £20 Gillian Hayward - August £40 Stuart Barnes £20 Bill Hodder and Sept. £40 Sue Brown. Draws for October to December will be made in our next post lockdown meeting in December. We are in the process of collecting subscriptions now due for 2020-21, kindly undertaken by Steve Jenkins and Stan Wilson.

New members are always welcome, and the sub is £2.00 per month, payable annually or monthly. Beckington Memorial Hall 200 Club is registered with MendipCC Licensing Dept. No. LN/00940736

David Prince

Rode and District Gardening Club

As we are unable to have our usual Christmas social event this year, we wish all our members a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for a virus free New Year.

All our gardens will have benefitted from lots of extra attention and we are already making plans for the new gardening year. When government restrictions allow, we

are hoping to be able to have a programme of talks and visits in 2021. The subscriptions for 2020 for existing members will also cover all of our activities in 2021. Please retain your membership card for use in 2021 and we will provide a new programme as soon as possible.

We are always looking for extra help, and ideas are welcome for meetings and visits. Please get in touch averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk 01373 830686.

Beckington Group Mothers' Union

We were very sad to hear of the sudden death of our dear friend Eleanor Sames, of Norton St Philip. Eleanor was a much-valued member of our group, with a wealth of knowledge and experience. She was deanery secretary for a number of years, and organised our Quiet Days and Cathedral prayers. Eleanor was actively involved with many aspects of church and village life in Norton St Philip, and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. Jenny and I were pleased to have been invited to a celebration of her 90th birthday at the end of August. I am sorry to say there will be no further meetings of the Mothers' Union this year. The present restrictions prevent us from holding our Advent Service in December, and at the moment the date for our AGM looks uncertain. However, we do know that our annual subscriptions will soon be due, which next year will be £25. This will now include

the Prayer Diary, 2 issues of the "new look" magazine, and regular issues of the Diocesan Newsletter. Thank you for your continued support for Mothers' Union. We know that many members are actively involved in working to help others during this difficult time. We hope you are all keeping in touch by phone or email, and that we shall be able to meet again before too long.

Rosemary Ball

Berkley School

As I am sure I wrote last year, this is such a special time of year, not only in the Christian calendar but also in school. Berkley will be lit up with lights, children dressing as angels and the hall smelling of sprouts!

Our Christian value for this term has been compassion, and all of our pupils, staff, families and wider school community, have demonstrated it wonderfully when raising funds for Children In Need this year. A snapshot of this term: the children have been able to come to school in bright colours, take part in exercises for their mental health, make Christingles, create Christmas crafts, and become actors, mathematicians, writers and artists. The children took part in a drawing competition based around 'what makes us feel good?' It was a breath of fresh air when they came out with answers such as: seeing the sunshine, walking, riding my bike, baking cakes and being at the beach. This

demonstrates how we find pleasure in small things, and that as a result of these very difficult times, children are appreciating their surroundings.

Thank you so much to all of the school community for your ongoing support to ensure that the children of tomorrow receive the very best. Please do ring the school if you are interested in a place for September 2021.

Look after each other, make time to talk, and enjoy some Christmas cheer!

Best Wishes

Suzanne Thompson

Beckington School

Whilst things are different this year, we are all getting excited about our Christmas plays. We can't perform them on the stage to an audience, so we have decided to do a film instead, involving all the children. At the time of writing, the first bit of filming starts today – big thanks to Tora Young for helping us with expert advice and practical support!

The pandemic has meant the staff learning new skills and making adjustments to our teaching, especially in terms of learning how to use new technology. We are becoming used to 'Zoomed' collective worship, and virtual parent consultations. Yesterday, Beckington School were able to join with Mells School for a joint online assembly from Carymoor Environmental Trust, followed by

workshops where the children investigated food waste and issues around recycling. Today, Owl Class are having an online willow lantern workshop where they will make lanterns to put up in their houses for Christmas, instead of the parade that usually happens in Frome.

We have enjoyed having Martin Phillips as our football coach this term – he is brilliant at enthusing all the children about being active outdoors, as well as learning the skills required to be a great team player. We have also started meditation sessions for our well-being through [Meditationrocks.co.uk](https://www.meditationrocks.co.uk). The children have been encouraged to imagine walks through forests and collecting leaves with magical powers!

Our Christian value this term is Service and Giving: children talk about giving kindness to each other, and the people in their families, as well as collecting for charities such as The British Legion, Children In Need and advent calendars for Fair Frome.

Many thanks to FOBS (Friends of Beckington School) for their fund raising and support, helping us to fund new blinds for the hall, and Christmas parties for each class bubble, among many other things. We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Claire Chantler

Springmead School

Well, once again, the landscape has changed significantly for everyone with the new lockdown. As always, we are keeping up with latest guidance, whilst at the same time, trying to keep everything as near normal as possible for our youngsters. Education continues, with contingency plans in place should we need to teach remotely, to ensure that learning remains uninterrupted. On top of the usual curriculum, we are trying to be creative to ensure that our children still get to enjoy important milestones: as we can't all go to

church to celebrate the birth of Jesus this year, we have created our own stable and are busy re-enacting Bethlehem in Beckington. We will miss singing in church with the wonderful Beckington Choir this year (the first time in over fifteen years), but we hope some of you will be able to share our nativities and carol service via the Springmead School YouTube channel from 10th December. Happy Christmas everyone, thank you for your support and well wishes, and please stay safe.

Madeleine Taylor

Wishing all our members, supporters, sponsors and the whole of
Beckington Village

A Very Merry Christmas from Beckington Cricket Club

Thank you everyone for all the support you have given, in what has turned out to be an interesting and very testing year. We hope to see you all in warm sunshine on the Rec next summer in less restrictive circumstances.

Please can I draw your attention to the

'Friends of Beckington CC' Christmas Draw

This draw will benefit all the junior cricketers in the local area. Despite restrictions this summer we still got an average of 60 young cricketers out at training every Thursday evening and playing matches too.

The draw prizes are fantastic.

1st - Xmas turkey hamper- courtesy of the Wheelers

2nd - Bumper drinks hamper

3rd - Bumper chocolate hamper

Other fantastic prizes include:

Somerset Foodie Hamper, courtesy of Ben Tollworthy

Meals at The Stag, Hinton CH, & The Wheatsheaf, Coombe Hay

£50 Ruby & White Butcher's Voucher

Mes Amis Voucher

And Lots lots more.....

To purchase tickets and get a full list of prizes please contact:
Rode Post Office or Mes Amis or Charlotte Wheeler - 07712 776630

Beckington Parish Council

Bus Stop on Frome Road (above Stubbs Lane)

The Parish Council has commissioned work to have the full length of the bus stop cleared. While not the responsibility of the Parish Council, it has become apparent that Somerset County Council wasn't going to make it any sort of priority for them, so the Parish Council has stepped in and commissioned a good 'hack back' that should last a few years, at least.

New Village Consultation

Some may recall the 'Bettering Beckington' consultation carried out in 2016. The public meeting held that year, and resulting survey, gave residents the opportunity to say what they wanted the Parish Council priorities to be. Four years later, and most of the agreed projects have been completed, with the remaining few being budgeted for next year. So, the Parish Council has already started the process of identifying further projects, and held a drop in event back in October 2019 to generate ideas. The Council has now appointed a local consultant to manage the final part of the consultation, and a workshop of the council members took place in October (2020). The next step is for a second workshop to take place with some residents. If you would be interested in taking part in this, do contact the Clerk (all meetings take place via Zoom). It is hoped that by February the Council will have a document to be

consulted upon. The project is being referred to as 'Bettering Beckington II' – very original!

Community Grants Money

The Parish Council has a community grants pot and local organizations can apply to it now. The money is available for the benefit of local groups; the application form can be download from the Parish Councils website; it is not overly burdensome.

Simon Pritchard

REMEMBRANCE 2020

The virus caused us to mark Remembrance differently this year. A short ceremony was held in St George's Church on 4th November, when a wreath was laid beside the World War One Memorial in the church. On Remembrance Sunday, there was a second ceremony preceded by the Two Minutes Silence at 11 o'clock, when another wreath was laid at the World War Two & Falklands Memorial.

Earlier that week, forty-seven small named Remembrance Crosses were placed in the ground, in front of the Memorial, to mark the lives of each of the forty-seven men on our Roll of Honour.

As is customary, a group of people gathered on 'The Plain' in the centre of Beckington at 11 o'clock on 11th November to mark the Two Minutes Silence. Traffic stopped.

We Will Remember Them.

Steve Jenkins

CCS Village, Community & Carers Agents

Rehome a Phone!

Do you have an unused smartphone lying around? By donating an unused phone to us, YOU can help reduce loneliness and isolation for a person in Somerset. We will be facing a very different Christmas this year with a reduction in the usual festive activities, and the possibility of family gathering restrictions, so we are focusing on re-homing as many of these phones into the community as possible, to keep families and friends in touch with each other over the festive period. We had a brilliant response to our last 'Rehome-a-phone' campaign - so many people in need in Somerset have benefitted from a donated device. One person who received a handset said "You have made my day. This will help me feel not so lonely and I will even be able to do my food shopping online now as I'm house bound and can't get out".

We will:

- refurbish the phone
- remove any personal data
- provide the new owner with a SIM card
- support them to use the phone with video tutorials and install apps that will help them to keep in touch with their loved ones

To donate, please contact our

Village Agent Ellie Bishop on

email: ellieb@somersetccc.org.uk or

call her on 07985 748910

Volunteer Visiting Service

Somerset Sight is a local charity which has been supporting sight impaired people across Somerset for over a hundred years and in 2019 won the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

One of our services is the Volunteer Visiting Service whereby volunteers are matched locally with a sight impaired person for regular visits for company and support, and also helps alleviate their loneliness and isolation.

Volunteers help with a variety of tasks such as reading, correspondence, or making appointments, going out for a drive or just a cup of tea and a chat.

Many volunteers get great satisfaction and enjoyment from their voluntary work, many friendships are formed and the people they support very much look forward to their visits.

If someone is sight impaired and would like to know more about our services or if anyone would like to volunteer for the Visiting Service, please contact us on **01823 333818** for further information.



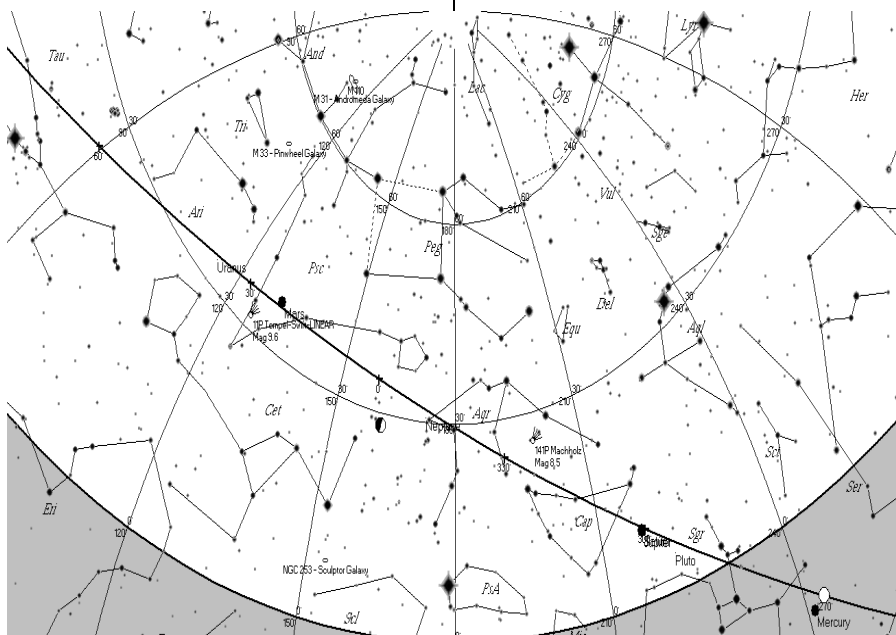
Beckington Astronomical Society (BAS)

www.beckingtonas.org

The map shows the night sky in the early evening of 21st December. I will just pick out a few things that may be of interest. Jupiter and Saturn have been appearing closer and closer in recent months and on this evening, they appear closer than since the conjunction in 1623. It will be 2080 before they are as close again. On the map they are low down on the mid right, almost on the Ecliptic, the dark line across the map. The computer has tried to print Jupiter & Saturn in the same space. The Ecliptic is the path of the Sun throughout the year against the background stars. Some find this confusing, but remember there are stars in the sky during the day, and, for example, on mid-day on

the 21st December the stars behind the Sun are those of Gemini. Astrologers would say 'the Sun is in Gemini'. Neptune is also shown almost on the ecliptic line. Its magnitude is 7.6 so it cannot be seen with the naked eye. A scan of the area with good binoculars should show many faint stars, one of which is not a star, but the planet Neptune. Finally, there is a good 1/4 Moon ideal for seeing its craters with good binoculars or a telescope. It is disappointing that the society will not have its usual social evening for members this Christmas, but let's hope things will return to some form of normality in the New Year. With Best Wishes.

John Ball 830419



Standerwick, Berkley and Beckington W.I.

The W.I. is continuing to keep in touch with members and is holding a fortnightly zoom meeting with a quiz and chance to catch up with everyone who is able to join in. The county is also organising zoom meetings with speakers.

As Christmas is approaching and it is not so easy to go shopping for decorations, here is a suggestion:



Use a sheet of A4 paper and first draw and cut out a circle approximately 14cms (5 and a half

inches) in diameter. Copy the picture, (1) and draw, colour and cut out your choir boy/girl/angel. Turnover and join the back together using glue or sticky tape. To make the wings, cut a 11cm (4 and a half inches) circle and fold in half. Cut the

wings as shown in (2.) and attach to the back with glue or sticky tape. (3.) Attach a cotton thread to the head to hang up.

Marion Oxlade

How well do you know past & present Beckington?

A chance to test your knowledge!

BECKINGTON QUIZ 2020

An activity for the Christmas break

Quiz sheets on sale at £3 from Jenny 830208 or Jo 830885

Answers please by January 4th 2021

The winner will receive a hamper

Friends of St George's raising money for the maintenance of the church building

Support for Somerset residents during lockdown

Help is available for anyone in Somerset who may need additional support during the second national lockdown.

Residents are reminded they can **call 0300 790 6275** if they need any help themselves, or are concerned about relatives or neighbours.

Although the national restrictions and guidance on shielding are different this time, it remains really important for people to stay connected, and also keep active, particularly during the winter period.

Help and advice is available and phone lines are open seven days a week between 8am and 6pm to offer support with:

- Personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions
- Support for the homeless
- Emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious
- Employment, skills and business advice
- Transport to medical appointments
- Waste collection and disposal

Cllr. Linda Oliver, Somerset
County Councillor, Frome North
Division
01373 834210

Stepping Stone Placements

More homes are urgently needed in Somerset to provide vital support to young people as they move from care into adulthood.

With more than 300 young care leavers in Somerset, currently the demand for placements far outweighs availability.

'Stepping Stones' providers receive a weekly fee, starting at £185 per week, plus a little extra for food and utilities (up to £27.50) paid weekly by the young person from their allowance. Providers are also eligible for the same tax exemptions and relief as foster carers, but have much more flexibility to work full or part-time alongside their care role.

If you have a spare room and would like to help, please visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call 0800 5879900

People in the Parish

This month, we have received a letter which takes us on a journey down memory lane.

Thank you, Mrs Hazel Watts, for taking the time to write to Network. If you have any articles/submissions that would be suitable for Network, then do please drop us a line
beckington.network@gmail.com

Dear Readers

I was inspired to write after watching an old film made before we got a By-pass for Beckington. I came to the village in 1957 from the midlands (then Staffordshire). Things were so much different then to now. I could go around and name almost everyone living in each house.

The beautiful little old cottages and cow yard in Goose Street, all knocked down to build the flats (progress they said) wouldn't be allowed now.

Rev Bill Davies and Angela arrived the same year as me, I became a great friend of Angela's.

So many shops and flourishing businesses in the village.

My father-in-law Alec Watts became the Rector's Church Warden and a few years later my husband joined him as People's Church Warden.

Bill Davies did so much for the village, he got the youth activities up and running again. Scouts, Cubs and Brownies. Later Girl Guides.

Rosemary Ball ran the Guide Pack along with myself. Anna Yerbury

ran the Brownie Pack. Rosemary and I had some great times at Guide Camps.

Although the traffic was a big 'nightmare' on the main roads, the lanes stayed very quiet and the children could be free.

The Harrison family were here before the Watts came. Zena Harrison my mother-in-law was their daughter.

In the cottage opposite the Foresters in Goose Street, the Harrisons had a Newspaper shop. Alec and Zena moved into the cottage with Michael as a toddler. Alec helped build the village hall and did all the carpentry work.

My, I could go on forever- so many changes.

Freda Brann kindly visits me and we often chat about the 'Olden Days'.

Nice that I get Network delivered and my neighbour, Valerie, for over 60 plus years, is a rock.

Hazel Watts

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

The Story is still the same!

'Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same!' That's the message for Christmas in 2020. Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual. However, the message of the baby born in Bethlehem is still relevant!

In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the shepherds loudly whispered: 'Hey, you turned off Jesus.' Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas! The angels announced

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11).

The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone! As the king of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests. (Luke 2:14).

We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today?

Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross.

Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God's peace amid the huge uncertainties we face. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

Canon Paul
Hardingham



ADVENT REFLECTIONS 2020

Set aside time in the busy days leading up to Christmas using ReSource's **Sanctuary Days for Our Times** as a tool to help process the impact of the Coronavirus on our personal lives and our churches.

The coronavirus pandemic has affected all our lives, and the impact is ongoing as we look into the winter ahead, and to the New Year. It is important that we take stock of how the whole COVID-19 experience has touched our lives and take time to process it. The four sessions give a framework in which to do just this, complete with words and music.

Each session can take as little as half an hour to complete or can be spread over a longer period of quiet retreat and reflection. For those that don't have access to the internet, there are written versions available. ReSource's hope is that the materials will be a doorway into a spacious place in which to reflect on the pandemic journey over recent months, and to get a perspective on what may still be ahead of us, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The sessions take you on a journey, from stillness through reflection, into the deeper questions of what losses the Lord is asking us to leave behind, and what gains he is asking us to carry into the future.

There are 4 sessions:

Seeking sanctuary; Looking back: singing the Lord's song in a strange land; **Looking up:** What is the Spirit saying to the churches? **Looking Forward:** What are we leaving behind? What are we carrying on with?

Download each session from www.Resource-arm.net or request a copy from Rev Ronnie.

Use the material in your own time. If you would like to join with others from our Group of Churches to share your thoughts, how God might have spoken to you, and to listen, encourage one another, and to pray, then do this before the planned Zoom meeting based on each session. Details available from:

RectorRonnie@outlook.com

01373 831680

Session 1 Wed 25th Nov at 8pm

Session 2 Wed 2nd Dec at 8pm

Session 3 Wed 9th Dec at 8pm

Session 4 Wed 16th Dec at 8pm

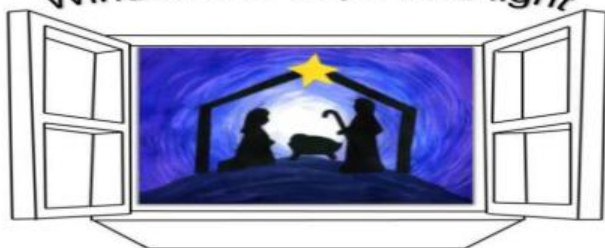
If you can't make these times but would like to Zoom with others, please get in touch to express your interest, and we will endeavour to set up a Zoom at an alternative time.

'Sanctuary Days for Our Times' is written by Ven Kevin Roberts who is Director Of ReSource and was booked as Speaker for our postponed Beckington Benefice Weekend Away. It is hoped that instead we can go away in May 2021 with Kevin as our Speaker.

Maria Beaven

St George's Church, Beckington Village
Join the celebration!

Windows of hope and light



Please light up a decorated window in your homes this festive season. Share the joy, hope and light of Christmas. Light up the village for everyone to enjoy!

"Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light."

CHRISTINGLE *At Home*

Join us for a family friendly
Christingle celebration from the
comfort of your own home
via Zoom. All Welcome.
Sunday 20th December 4pm



You can request a
Christingle candle
from Rev Ronnie.

For instructions on
how to make a
Christingle and for
Zoom details
contact

RectorRonnie@outlook.com

07712 117721

Organised by **St George's Church**,
on behalf of the Beckington Group of Churches

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.

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

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or near offer, was £600 new, Bryan White 07792 234004

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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



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Anna Hammond BA DipArch Msc ARB
e: annahammond@gmail.com
m: 0772 941 1360 t: 01373 834439

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**Please note that the next
issue of Network is for
February**

**All articles for this edition
must be received by
midday on January 20th**

<p>SERVICES December 2020 <u>Subject to any ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic</u></p>

Benefice	Tuesdays during December via Zoom	7.30pm	Evening Prayer-see advert for joining details
	Wednesdays at St George's	4pm	Short Evening Prayer when we are permitted
	A different form of Carol Service on Zoom	Friday 18 th December 6pm	See advert for more detail
	A different form of Christingle via Zoom	Sunday 20 th Dec 4pm	See advert for more detail

St. George's Beckington		6 th Dec	10.00am	Morning Worship
		13 th Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion with Berkley
		20 th Dec	10.00am	BCP Matins
		24 th Dec	11pm	Holy Communion Booking required-see below *
		25 th Dec	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion Booking required-see below *
		27 th Dec	10.00am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion

St. Mary's Berkley		6 th Dec	11.15am	Holy Communion
		20 th Dec	9.15am	All Age Worship
		24 th Dec	4pm	All Age Christmas Service

All Saints Rodden		13 th Dec	4pm	Advent Service and Music and Readings-Book your place
		25 th Dec	9.00am	Holy Communion

All Saints Lullington	All services are BCP	6 th Dec	11am	BCP Holy Communion
		13 th Dec	11am	Matins
		20 th Dec	11am	Matins
		25 th Dec	11am	BCP Holy Communion
		27 th Dec	11am	BCP Holy Communion

St. Mary's Orchardleigh	Not yet open on Sundays.			Please book your place wardens@lullandorch.org.uk For services at Lullington
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Baptist Church	Services each Sunday at 3pm to which all are welcome			
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*For Holy Communion Services at 11PM on Christmas Eve and 10.30am on Christmas Day at St George's, please book places by contacting Maria Beaven by email, phone or text: 01373 830535 07940 420596 maria.beaven@outlook.com

SERVICES January 2021
Subject to any ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic

Benefice	Wednesdays at St George's		4pm	Short Evening Prayer when we are permitted
St. George's Beckington		3rd Jan	10.00am	Morning Worship
		10 th Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion with Berkley
		17 th Jan	10.00am	BCP Matins
		24 th Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion
		31 st Jan	10.00am	Joint Benefice Holy Communion
St. Mary's Berkley		3 rd Jan	9.00am	Holy Communion
		17 th Jan	9.00am	All Age Worship
All Saints Rodden		10 th Jan	4pm	Evensong
		24 th Jan	4pm	Holy Communion
All Saints Lullington	All services are BCP	3 rd Jan	11am	BCP Holy Communion
		10 th Jan	11am	Matins
		17 th	11am	Matins
			11am	BCP 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>

St Barts C of E, Bath <https://www.stbartsbath.org>

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