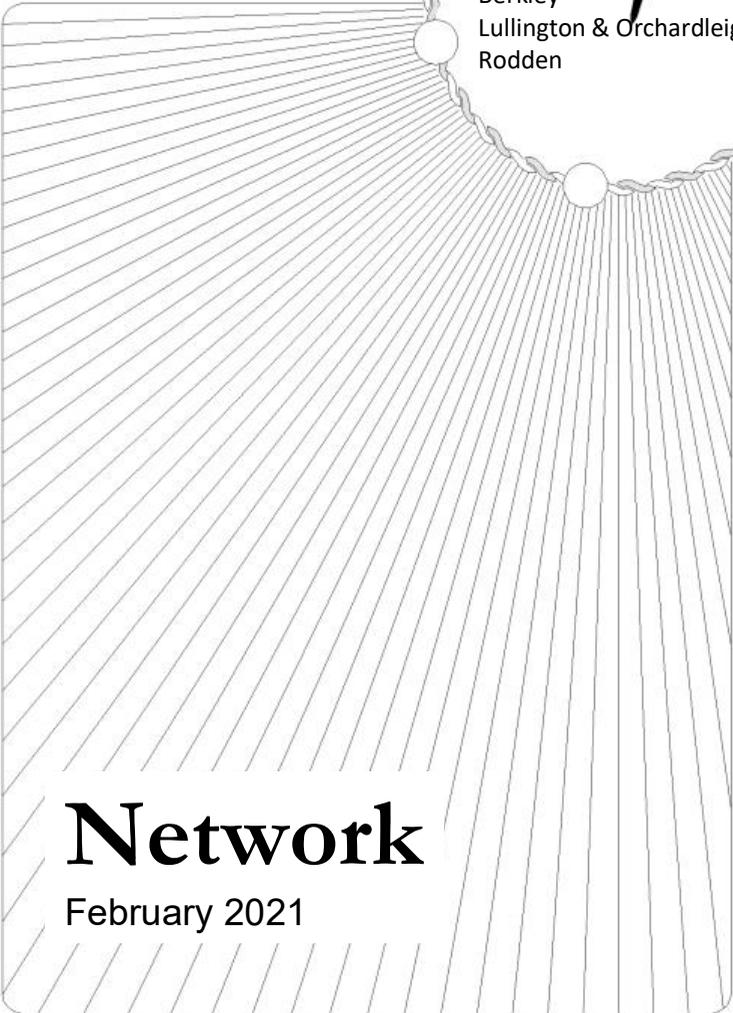


The Beckington Group of Parishes



Beckington
Berkley
Lullington & Orchardleigh
Rodden



Network

February 2021

CONTACT LIST

Rector Ronnie Crossman
 The Rectory 8 Church Street
 Beckington
 Frome BA11 6TG
RectorRonnie@outlook.com
 01373 831680 / 07712 117721
 Ronnie keeps Fridays free for
 rest, family and friends

Readers	Dr. J. Beaven	830535
	Mr. G. Bridges	01225 755784
	Mr. S. McKie	830369
Readers - PTO	Mr. H. M. Daniel	
	Cdr. E. Phillimore	830677
Baptist Minister: The Revd. M. I. White Email: blythehouseconsultancy@gmail.com		453334 07971 438694

Church Officers		
Beckington		
Safe Guarding Officer	Dr J Beaven	830535
PCC Secretary	Vacant	
Church Wardens <small>wardens.beckington@gmail.com</small>	Judith Craig	830970
	Su Coates	
Deputy	Maria Beaven	830535
	maria.beaven@outlook.com	
Treasurer	Henry Coates	831644
	beckingtontreasurer@gmail.com	
Berkley		
PCC Secretary	Caroline White	
	white2caroline@gmail.com	
Church Warden	Jeanette Hayward	832315
	jeanette@jhayward.plus.com	
Treasurer	Christine Eyres	
	c.eyres17@gmail.com	
Rodden		
PCC Secretary	Melanie Pattinson	07803327381
Treasurer	Michael Ruddick	464463
	michaelruddick@rocketmail.com	
Church Wardens	Jim Beck	464574
	alecbeck@talktalk.net	
	Jim Dowling	462515
	flintford2@gmx.co.uk	
Lullington with Orchardleigh		
https://lullandorch.org.uk Twitter: @LullandOrch		
email addresses end with ...@lullandorch.org.uk		
Churchwardens: wardens@...		
Glyn & Ruth Bridges 01225 755784		
Jenny Ladd 01373 830514		
Treasurer: Jo Rathmell treasurer@...		
Weddings: Jenny Ladd weddings@...		
Baptisms: baptisms@...		
Director of Music: David King music@....		
Verger: Jeanette Hayward weddverger@...		

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 **March** issue to:

beckington.network@gmail.com

to arrive no later than **12 noon** on

February 20th

Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Evemy

Please call after 4pm during weekdays

07540 133396 Julie@evemy.net

A Reflection

Beckington News Letter – February

I believe that it was G K Chesterton who said, "When people stop believing in God, they believe in anything." If he were still alive, he would, I suspect, say something like, "There you are, I was absolutely right." We seem to live now in the age of "fake news" and wild conspiracy theories, whether we are thinking of the "stolen election" in the United States, or conspiracy theories built around the Covid 19 virus, or the vaccines presently being given to people as fast as it can be done.

In the US President Trump was certain beyond any doubt that he would win the election. Then, when all the evidence showed he hadn't won, it had to be a fraudulent election. Undercover powers had been working all the time to cheat him out of what he knew beyond peradventure was his!

Here in the UK, we can read on the Web that both Covid doesn't exist and that the vaccine is a way of taking over control of our minds. One "story" was that Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, had arranged for there to be a very small computer chip injected into us with the vaccine so that we can be controlled! There isn't an iota of evidence for any of these.

And then we are told that we Christians believe what we say about Christ without evidence, and are stupid to do so! There is huge evidence for what we believe and it is so important that we know that evidence when we have to give a reason for our faith. Know what you believe and know **why** you believe it.

Reverend David Clark.



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 - Take Away fish & chips

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 Saturday 9 am to 5 p.m.
 Sunday 10 am to 2 p.m.

(café to 4pm)

Restaurant: Thurs-Sat from 5.30pm

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Bereavement support

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**

9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

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www.danceworksfrome.co.uk

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E: bespoketabbychic@gmail.com
Mrs Lisa Applegate

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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
Registered Charity No.202751





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Veterinary Group

Covid-19 Please visit our Facebook page or website for any updates to our services.

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www.fsmsolicitors.co.uk

enquiries@fsmsolicitors.co.uk

St. George's Beckington



Floodlighting

27th November 2020 Chris

"With love to Chris, who I met just before lockdown and has been the most kindest loving person. Our friendship will last forever. Big hugs Daniele, Percy, Coco and Freda"

17th December Howell

"In memory of **Charlie Howell** from his family"

2nd January Casey

"The tower was lit on January 2nd in loving memory of my mother and mother-in-law from Jo Casey"

15th January Vezey

"The church tower was lit on 15th January for **Joshua James Vezey**"

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.**



Friends of St George's

Beckington Past and Present Quiz

Thank you to everyone who supported this quiz and to Ruth Millett, Tom Matthews and Michael McGarvie who set the questions. Special thanks go to Millie Jenkins who edited and formatted the quiz sheets, which was a skilled and lengthy task. Congratulations to the **winner Jane Eyles**, who was presented with a lovely hamper courtesy of Whiterow Farm shop. Mrs Bailey came a very close second.

For general interest, the quiz Questions and answers are published on pages 16 and 17.

An auction of talents

How much money would you donate to charity if someone tackled your pile of ironing?

Would you welcome a delicious homemade cake?

Do you have a path that needs pressure hosing?

Are you a knitter and looking for a new project?

Have you painted a scene from the village?

Do you have a bit of time to spare to do a garden spring clean?

Friends of St George's are planning an online auction of skills and talents.

This month we would like to hear from anyone who would like to donate a skill or the gift of time.

We've given a few suggestions, which could still be carried out even though our lives remain restricted.

With the hope of brighter days and the raising of restrictions in mind you may like to offer "Dinner for Four" "Afternoon Tea" "Trip to Stourhead" that sort of thing.

Please send your "Lots" to rectorronnie@outlook.com by 18th February. To submit a "Lot" please provide the following information

Your Name, email and phone number, and basic information about your "talent/gift." Ronnie will ask for further details if necessary.

Ronnie will publish the lots in the March Magazine. A "silent auction" will then be under way. Bids must be submitted by 10th April, via email or posted through the Rectory Door. But unlike a real auction, you only get one opportunity to go as high as you are willing.

Successful bids and participants will be notified soon after 10th April.

The overall amount raised will be publicised in the May magazine.

Future plans to develop the church for greater community use, include installing an onsite toilet and a small servery for refreshments and to greatly improve the heating.

As we look positively towards the future, the church is a wonderful space not only to give glory in worship and prayer, but as a venue for concerts and plays and other activities needing a large flexible space. It is a resource for the whole village.



All Saints Rodden

It appears unlikely that we will have any services at Rodden [see announcements elsewhere in Network] but if circumstances change, notices will be put up on the door at Rodden Church and the Styles Hill noticeboard.

Selwood Parish Council have informed us that Wessex Solar Energy are **proposing to build a 52-acre Solar Park on land South of the A3098 Frome to Chapmanslade Road that is crossed by 2 footpaths.**

For information, please contact the developers at: -
info@wessexsolarenergy.co.uk

Jim Dowling

Lent 2021

You are invited to join in the Church of England Lent materials this year which draws its initiative from the book “Living His Story” by Hannah Steele.
For more detail

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

We are offering a zoom discussion group based on the material, a WhatsApp Group and phone chats.

For more information, please contact Rev Ronnie.
rectorronnie@outlook.com
07712117721

Joseph Bilal our Mission Partner in South Sudan

The Benefice has supported Joseph and his family from the time that he first came from Sudan to the UK 20 years ago to do further training in Christian ministry. He is now heading up a new university with a Christian foundation. At a recent Zoom Prayer Breakfast, we heard an update from Joseph:

Conflict: The church, in particular the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury, brokered a peace agreement between the warring factions. Church leaders in S Sudan are now trying to hold the political leaders to this agreement.

Covid: The good news is that S Sudan seems to have been spared the worst ravages of the pandemic. Joseph thanks God for His

protection over the country. Although there is great deprivation

and disease, which recent floods have worsened, food is coming in by road from Uganda.

University: Five existing colleges have been brought together under the banner of the new University and the aim is to raise the level of teaching so that students can study to degree level. A site has now been given for a new large campus outside the capital, Juba.

If you can pray for Joseph and his wife Sarah and children Tinate, Amin and Liza he will be extremely grateful. If you want to contribute financially to support Joseph contact St George's treasurer.

Andrew Kellett

Beckington Astronomical Society (BAS)

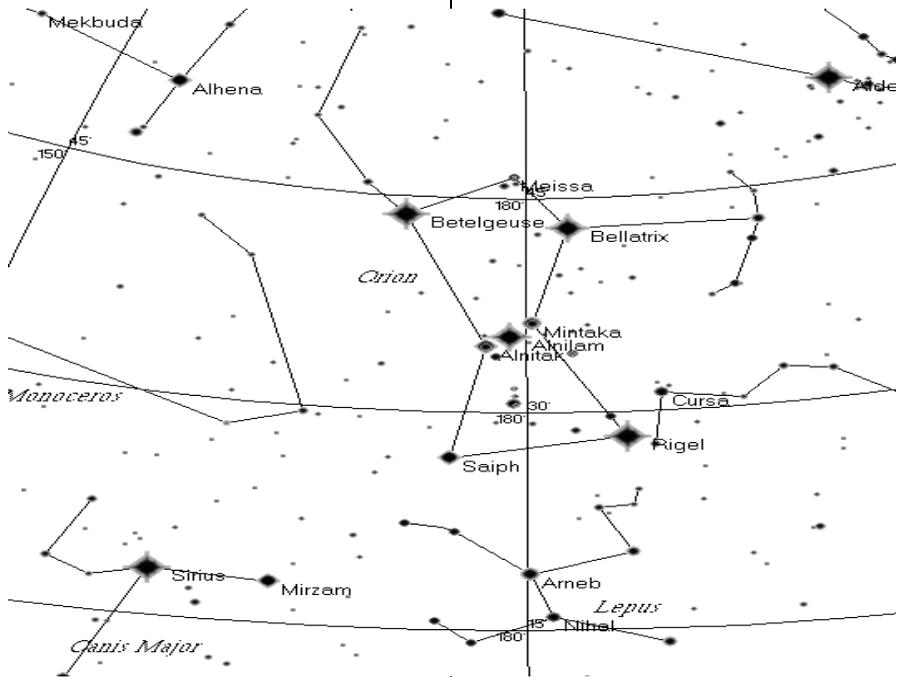
www.beckingtonas.org

Orion is one of the easiest constellations to identify. The map shows the view looking South about 9.00 pm on a February evening. In the upper left is Betelgeuse (BET-el-jouze but often called Beetle-juice). It is a Red Giant and varies in brightness from Mag. 0.4 at its brightest to 0.9 at its faintest over roughly a 5-year cycle. Rigel at the bottom right of Orion is quite different, it is a blue supergiant and one of the most luminous stars to the naked eye. Look at these two stars through binoculars but slightly defocus, so the star is a small fuzzy spot rather than a point of light. This technique enables one to better appreciate the colour.

Down to the left we have the constellation of Canis Major and the sky's brightest night time star Sirius, the Dog Star (Mag. minus 1.46). It is about 40 times more luminous than our Sun and 'only' 8,7 light years away. Due to it being low in the sky, its light comes through more of the Earth's atmosphere than for stars high up and this can make it twinkle. It can appear to flash red/blue/green. On a clear winter night, it is well worth looking at this area of the sky.

With the vaccination programme well under way we are hopeful our society meetings will soon recommence.

John Ball 830419



Springmead School

On the evening of Monday 4th January Boris Johnson announced that primary schools were to close the next day. All schools in the country, overnight, had to devise their plans and communicate these with parents for the next morning.

No easy feat for any setting, the logistics for everyone involved, especially working parents, cannot be underestimated. However, the safety of our children comes first and with guidance ringing in our ears we set too, working through the night.

With committed staff, supportive parents and enthusiastic children we were able to hit the ground running.

By 9.00 am on Tuesday morning vulnerable children and the children of critical and key workers were in school and children at home were set up and ready to go. There was no break in learning.

We are all aware that January is considered one of the most difficult times of the year, in a usual year, let alone a pandemic year, as well as staying on top of learning we keeping children's spirits up a variety of events such as: -

- A family quiz hosted by the Muncktons
- Wearing funny clothing on some class zoom sessions
- Sharing random acts of kindness, there is no better

tonic than reaching out to others

- Watching out for our own rainbow of hope at school
- A family sports challenge, in allowed spaces, and sharing these with our community
- A family art challenge, shared with our community

We are staying positive, eyes fixed on the silver lining of the vaccine, and wishing everyone in Beckington a safe 2021.

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.



Beckington Group Mothers' Union

We had to abandon plans for our AGM but were able to take part in a successful Zoom meeting, which was led by Ronnie. We listened to music, a Bible reading and a talk, and joined in with prayers. After this Jenny brought us up to date with the latest information from the diocese and some of the events which we can access on line and we exchanged news with our friends and fellow members.

Many of us were sad to hear of the death of Pam Hamp of Norton St Philip. Pam and her husband David were popular and well-loved members of their church and local community. David was a lay-reader, and Pam was very active in many areas of village life. For many years she was Deanery President of Mothers Union and was instrumental in working with the prison at Shepton Mallet to provide a creche at visiting times to care for the children.

Our AGM has been put on hold, but annual subscriptions are now due, and members are asked to pay these in the near future. This year the amount is £25.00 which includes payment for Families First and prayer diaries.

Payment can be cash or cheque made payable to Beckington

Group Mothers Union, and given to Jenny Ayrton.

We intend holding the Wave of Prayer service on Zoom on 27th January, owing to a change of dates.

Rosemary Ball

Friends of St George's Open Gardens 2021:

Friends of St George's are hoping to run **Beckington Open Gardens** again either 13th or 20th June **provided Covid-19 conditions allow.**

Would you like to open your garden for 3 hours on a Sunday afternoon?

This event gives so much pleasure to others and raises money to keep the church in good repair. Any type or size or garden, whether established or newly planted would be so very welcome.

More information from Jo Casey
Tel 830885

Parents & Toddlers

**We Meet every Tuesday
between 2 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. in
the Beckington Baptist Church
Hall.**

**Everyone welcome, especially
new families who have just
moved into the area.**

More details: Freda 830597



Government
Counter Fraud
Function

GOV.UK/coronavirus



Counter Fraud Authority

COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD



Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

The **NHS** will:

- ⊗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ NEVER ask for your bank details
- ⊗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

TOP 4 VACCINE SCAMS



TEXT MESSAGES

People are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine, doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill and fraudsters collecting personal information to use again.



PHONE CALLS

Victims receive a phone call from a fake caller offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details



WEBSITES

Fake URL links to convincing-looking NHS vaccine booking forms, these look like official NHS forms and may contain some personal information already, at the end of the form it asks for their bank details.



IN PERSON

Fraudsters are calling unannounced at the homes of victims by pretending to be from the NHS to administer the vaccine there and then, in exchange for a cash payment.

Beckington Memorial Hall

Belated New Year's greeting from the Hall Committee to all our recent users coupled with our thanks for your continued support in these difficult times. We are now of course in another lockdown and we have closed the Hall until further notice, although the Play area is open. We are keeping a skeleton cleaning programme going and are checking the property regularly. However, we are saddened to see again some fly dumping by our large bin, which had occurred occasionally in the summer, but has not been evident for some time until now.

It is very difficult to prevent this totally antisocial behaviour and we would be grateful to hear if anyone can cast any light on the latest occurrence.

David Prince BMH Committee
Chairman

Standerwick, Berkley and Beckington W.I.

We now are all into a New Year, and everyone is looking forward to a better 2021. A few of our members have had a vaccination to protect against the covid-19 virus, and more of us are hopefully waiting.

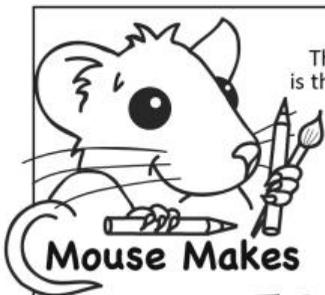
To help to lift spirits in these dull days, the W.I. have organised a Virtual Winter Show for our

members. There are a wide range of subjects from cookery to art, poetry and photography. Photographs of the entries to be sent to the secretary, who will collect them for judging. There should be something there for most people. Unfortunately, the cookery entries cannot be tasted, but I am sure the results will be circulated and will tempt the members to perhaps try something they would not necessarily think of doing at the present time. The Somerset Federation secretary has agreed to be the judge.

The W.I. is continuing to keep in touch with members by holding a fortnightly zoom meeting with a quiz and chance to catch up with everyone who is able to join in. The W.I County Federation is also organising zoom meetings with speakers, if any members want to take part. A recent one was on Cyber Crime. Members not able to use zoom are contacted by those that have, to make sure they are included with any information. As the weather is improving now, according to the forecasters, we can look forward to the spring. In my garden the violets, primroses and snowdrops are blooming and a blue tit was inspecting the nesting box to see if it was a "des res". Happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

Marion Oxlade

As some of you will be 'Home Schooling' this may be of some help !



WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E _ _ _ H

- What two things did God create first? *Genesis 1:1*

_ _ S _ _

- What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
- What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

E _ _ _ G

- Who is the creator? *Genesis 1:1*
- What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

_ _ _ _

- Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
- Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

_ _ _ H _ _

- Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

I _ _ _ S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **fourth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



FIND THE CREATION PAIRS
from Genesis 1 and 2

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

DID YOU KNOW?
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*

C R E A T U R E H G O D P
D G A L R E F R U I T E L
L O R I E S L B M O S E A
A O T G E T Y D A R K P N
N D H H E A V E N I G H T
D A Y T R R S P I R I T W
A S E E D S K Y B I R D O

Can you find these words in the word search?
GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
FLY • DEEP • EARTH
DARK • DAY • LIGHT
NIGHT • STARS • SKY
SEA • LAND • BIRD
CREATURE • HUMAN
TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

Distant Past

1. What is the meaning of the name Beckington? *The settlement of Becca's people*
2. When was 'The Domesday Book' written? *1086*
3. a) What is the Devil's Bed & Bolster? *Ancient stones, a Long Barrow*
b) Where is the Devil's Bed & Bolster? *North of Seymours Court, towards Rode*

St George's Church

4. By what other name has it been known? *St Gregory's*
5. a) What is the oldest section of the church building? *Norman tower*
b) What is the newest section of the church building? *The vestry, Compton's chapel*
6. Who is depicted in the brasses of The Chancel Floor? *Sir John Seyntmaur & Lady Elizabeth Seyntmaur (Seymour)*
7. Who was the Rector in 1947? *Revd. Langford-Sainsbury then Revd. Judd*
8. a) How many bells did the church originally have? *Five, possibly Six*
b) How many bells are there now? *Eight*
c) Who is Captain of the Bell Ringers? *John Ball*
9. Who is the current regular organist at St George's? *Graham Hayward*
10. Which Bishop of Bath & Wells was a native of Beckington? *Thomas Beckynton*

Historical Miscellany

11. The Edgells were a distinguished local naval and clerical family. Which house in the parish did they occupy? *Standerwick Court*
12. a) Beckington flourished in the middle ages. From what industry was money made? *Woollen industry*
b) For what item was the village renowned, at that time? *Blankets*
c) 'The greatest clothier in England' lived in Beckington in the early 17th Century. What was his name? *John Ashe*
13. Which 17th Century diarist visited Beckington and was amused by the dialect of the local children? *Samuel Pepys*
14. a) Which local poet and historian produced masques for the court of King James 1? *Samuel Daniel*
b) What are his dates? *1562-1619* c) Where did he live? *Ridge (Rudge) Farm*
d) A blue stocking aristocrat paid for his monument in St George's. What was her name? *Lady Anne Clifford, Countess of Dorset*
15. When was the Beckington Riot? *September 1766*
16. Which King is known to have ridden on horseback through the village? *Charles the 2nd en route to Longleat on 15.9.1663*

Facts and Figures.

17. What is the approximate area of the village of Beckington? *2100-2200 acres or 900 hectares*
18. What is the approximate population of Beckington & Rudge in 2020? *Just over 1000*
19. Approximately how high above sea level is the village? *100 metres at top of Bonnyleigh Hill*
20. a) Name the area considered to be the centre of the village? *The Plaine*
b) What was its former name? *Beckington Bottom*

Churches and Worship

21. Who sold land to the Dissenters for the purpose of erecting a Meeting House? *Mr William Bailly*
22. What date was The Baptist Church founded? *1786*
23. Who became deacon of The Baptist Church in 1963? *P.A. Boyce*
24. Where is The Dissenters Burial Ground in Beckington? *Berkley Lane*

25. Where was the Wesleyan Methodist church? *Enderby Hall, Goose Street*
26. a) Name the 5 churches in the Beckington Benefice. *St George's Beckington; St Mary's Berkley; All Saints Lullington; St Mary's Orchardleigh; All Saints Rodden.*
- b) Which one was owned by King Harold II and later by a companion of William the Conqueror?
Lullington
- c) Which church takes its name from the old English for 'roe-deer valley'? *Rodden*
- d) The Birch-tree wood or clearing was the Anglo-Saxon name for which Parish? *Orchardleigh*
- e) Which one was a chapel of ease to Boyton in Wiltshire? *Rodden*
- f) Which parish was once owned by The Marquess of Bath? *Lullington*
27. Where is the 'Dog Monument'? *Orchardleigh graveyard*

19th & 20th Century Beckington

28. When was the First AGM of the Parish Meeting held? *4th December 1894*
29. Mr Cuzner ran an Academy in Beckington.
- a) Where? *The Old Manse* b) When this school closed, a master went on to start a boys' school in Beckington. What was it called? *Pickford or Clifford School*
30. There was a Victorian school for young Ladies. Where was it? *Beckington Abbey*
31. What was the name of the school that once occupied the Castle? *Ravenscroft*
32. a) What was the Blind House? *The Village Lock-up*
- b) Where was it? *On the Plaine, opposite the Woolpack junction of Frome Rd/Bath Rd*
- c) Why was it called the Blind House? *It had no windows so would not see from within*
- d) How many rooms did it have? *Two cells*
33. a) How many public houses were in the village in the 1920s? *Five*
- b) Can you Name them? *The Woolpack, The Foresters, The Crown, The George, The New George*
34. Who occupied the Abbey during World War Two? *English soldiers then American soldiers*
35. A known artist who was 'President of Society of Painters in water colour' was born in Goose Street.
- a) What was his name? *Alfred Parsons*
- b) In which house did he live? *The Abbey House*
36. Which architect (one of a dynasty) designed Orchardleigh House? *T.H. Wyatt*
37. The Village Flower Show has been held at a private house. Which house? *The Cedars*
38. Where did the stone come from to build the Frome Road bus shelter? *The dismantled Blind House*
39. When was the Beckington Bypass opened? *1989*
40. Who founded the Astronomical Society (BAS)? *John Ball*
41. Where was Beckington Post Office? *Opposite the Woolpack on Warminster Rd*
42. What was formed in 1996 for the enjoyment of the village? *Beckington Choir*

Beckington Today

43. In Beckington Village there are two areas set aside for the recreation and enjoyment of all.
- a) Where are they? *The Playing Field at Memorial Hall & Tennis Courts in Warminster Rd*
- b) What are their purposes? *All sports especially Cricket; Tennis*
44. Where is Scutts Bridge? *The Packhorse Bridge over the River Frome between Woolverton & Rode*
45. What usually happens in Beckington on Tuesdays between 2pm and 3:30pm?
Parents and Toddlers meet at the Baptist Church Hall
46. a) How many Parish Councillors are there today? *Six councillors & one vacancy*
- b) Who is the present Chairman? *Mark Wilson*
- c) Who is the Clerk of The Parish Council? *Simon Pritchard*
47. What does C.P. stand for? *Civil Parish*
48. Who are 'The Mole Catchers' and where can you find them?
Stuart Barnes, Phil Cary & John Hayward.
In the Music Hall and local stage shows. (If they haven't retired!)

People in the Parish

This month, Network has been speaking with **Freda Brann** a long-standing resident from Beckington.

I came to the village as a young girl, moving into Beckington Cottage where my parents set up a market garden. Beckington was home to several little shops and a post office, where locals could meet at the peril of crossing the road, which even then, was very busy!

At 16 I left home to train as a nursery nurse at the Children's Home in Bath. From there I travelled to London to work. I went to London and ended up at Butlins where I met my husband Tony. Tony and I were married in St George's Church Beckington October 1963.

In the meantime, my parents sold the cottage and had a bungalow built, making the most of a lovely view.



I came back to Beckington to live in the bungalow with my own family in 1988, just in time for the opening of the bypass. We all danced in the street wearing fancy dress to celebrate!

In 1993, we started Parent and Toddlers in the Baptist Church, with the help of the Mothers Union. I'm part of the group, which continues to meet in the church, and have met so many lovely babies and toddlers over the years. Along with Anna Yerbury, I was a founder member of the Beckington Choir, which we began in 1996. The choir grew in size and we've had many wonderful concerts over the years, lots being held in the village hall.

From dances to suppers, Village Day in the summer, to the Fayre at Christmas, the village hall has always been at the heart of Beckington life. However, it's well known that it's the delicious food (made by the community) which make all of the events so successful.

Something you may not know about me.....My main hobby is gardening, which keeps me busy most of the time, but I also enjoy the odd muddy walk and I lock up the church.

Freda Brann

Thank you Freda for taking the time to send in your article to Network.

Beckington Baptist Church

In a previous Network article, I gave some indication of the existence and present activities associated with the Baptist Church in Beckington. A couple of questions from the recent village quiz highlighted its earlier history and stimulated some interest, to which I am responding.

The Baptists are a group of Christians who came into active prominence in this country from the late 1500's. The original British Baptists most likely emerged from the Continent, linked to trade in lace. These people followed the example of Jesus, who was baptised at the start of his ministry, and this practice was continued in the early church as we read in the book of Acts. Christians were baptised by total immersion to indicate a public confession of their acceptance of Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, and this was the sign of entry into the Christian Church.

This sign of belonging by Baptism became adapted to baptising infants followed by a later confirmation of faith. This marks one difference between the Established Anglican church and Baptists.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the Baptism of Believers in some Anglican churches as is evidenced by the new baptistry at Holy Trinity Church Frome and of Baptisms taking place there. In my own ministry I have also baptised or been associated with those from

other Christian groups, who have wanted to witness in this way, some Anglicans, House Church, Methodists, Congregationalists and Salvation Army.

These ranged from teenagers, to mature adults and a number in their eighties. It was the Baptism of Believers on confession of their personal faith.

People of Baptist persuasion eventually totally broke away from contact with the Established Church over matters that they were not able to accept. It was, however not until 1689 that they were legally able to meet together in private homes for worship.

These Baptists (known as 'dissenters') were led in worship by one or other more educated person from their own locality or from a nearby group of believers. Preachers, at first mainly Lay preachers with regular employment, were known to walk or ride on horseback over a fair distance to minister to the group.

There are records of a gathering of Baptists from other churches from Wiltshire as a group at Clifford Mill in 1699; it would seem that these Baptists had some standing. Worship on the present site dates from 1786 when the group of Baptists, who for at least 20 years had been gathering in a house in Church Hill (now long ago demolished), were told that the house they were using had been sold. Suddenly they were homeless.

Fortunately, God provided a wonderful answer to their problem.

One of their number, a Mr William Bailey, had recently purchased a plot of land for £20 and sold this land to the group at the same price which enabled them to erect a small meeting house on the site. Thus, the visible evidence of Baptists worshipping in the community on the present site was established.

Over the years it developed and has served the village in various ways as a place of worship and a place for social and other gatherings. Today we long to be able to resume our service to the community in whatever way we can, when the present pandemic enables us to return to some form of normality.

Rev. Michael I White.

Beckington Parish Council

Time Off for Good Behaviour?

The First Parish Council meeting of 2021 saw the Council agree to award a sabbatical to its Chairman, Cllr Mark Wilson.

The last few years have been very busy ones indeed with the Parish Council taking on and completing a number of projects and also fully engaging in Local Planning matters including challenging Mendip District Council's Local Plan housing allocation for the Village and the Redrow II planning application. Everything that the council members do is done on a voluntary basis and often family or paid work is put on a backburner

while energy is put into Council matters.

So, it is not surprising that having just taken on a new job the priority has shifted and Mark is stepping back from Council duties for at least six months. All members of the Parish Council have their own area that they cover, so if you wanted to contact the Council about a specific area then do take a look at the website to see who covers it.

More Bins Please – But Still No Post Box

The Council has agreed to buy a further Grit Bin for Rudge and a bin on the A36 layby to try an improve the littering situation there.

However, the long-awaited Post Box for Rudge still has not turned up.

The bureaucracy has been (very) slowly grinding on during the Covid crisis; this has been regularly monitored by the Parish Council. The latest is that a report has been commissioned of the area they are to install the box into (the same area they took the box away from) and once they have the results of the report back, they will instruct their team to install it - This could happen by March.

Simon Pritchard
Clerk to Parish Council

Love Is...

As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: What does real love look like?

The Apostle Paul says:

***'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).**

Love is unconditional:

At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word *agape*, which demonstrated in God's love for us:

***'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19).**

Love is forgiving:
According to the film *Love Story*, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is

being ready to forgive others and *'keeping no record of wrongs'* (5). We can only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

Love is sacrificial:

Paul says that *agape* love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross.

Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word *love*, substitute your own name. Now substitute the word *Jesus*.

This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish.

'To love at all is to be vulnerable.'
(C S Lewis).



Pancake Day

16th Feb: Shrove Tuesday



Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney,

Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs

"And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the stuff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

If you have any articles/submissions that would be suitable for Network, then do please drop us a line beckington.network@gmail.com

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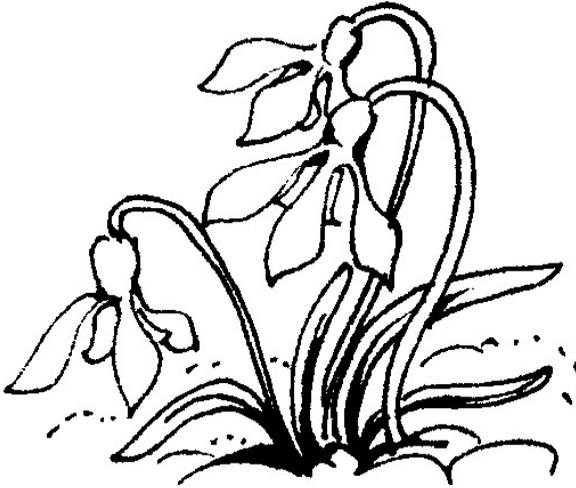
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Services for February

At present all of the churches in the benefice are closed for public worship as we seek to respond to the current national Lockdown. This situation is under regular review and each church will reopen according to an individual risk assessment taken. It is unlikely any church will open before mid-February, and possibly not until much later. We will make every effort to let congregations and the wider community know when we are able to safely reopen. **The table below is therefore for reference only and the services listed are unlikely to go ahead in person.**

A short service is distributed each week by email and hand delivery. Please contact rectorronnie@outlook.com or 01373 831680 to be added to this mailing. Please contact the wardens in each parish for an update on worship.

An online zoom worship is offered each Sunday at 10am. It takes the form of a simple morning prayer with worship songs, reflection and prayer.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83747451613?pwd=czk1b3VWYmtNWmtwSUZxNXlCOSTdUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 4745 1613

Passcode: Psalm121

St George's Church in Beckington is open Wednesday and Sundays from 9.30am till 4pm for private prayer.

An online zoom Ash Wednesday Service will take place on 17th February at 7.30pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88297572209?pwd=MXN2WHdOczQ5O>

[TFaWE1XSiHgK1haZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88297572209?pwd=MXN2WHdOczQ5O)

Meeting ID: 882 9757 2209

Passcode: 40days

Parish				
St. George's Beckington		7 th Feb	10.00am	Morning Worship
		14 th Feb	10.00am	Communion with Berkley
		21 st Feb	10.00am	BCP Matins
		28 th Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion
St. Mary's Berkley		7 th Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion
		21 st Feb	9.00am	All Age Worship
All Saints Rodden		14 th Feb	4pm	Holy Communion
		28 th Feb	4pm	Evensong
Lullington & Orchardleigh Services at Lullington		7 th Feb	11am	BCP Holy Communion
		14 th Feb	11am	BCP Matins
		21 st Feb	11am	BCP Matins
		28 th Feb	11am	BCP Holy Communion