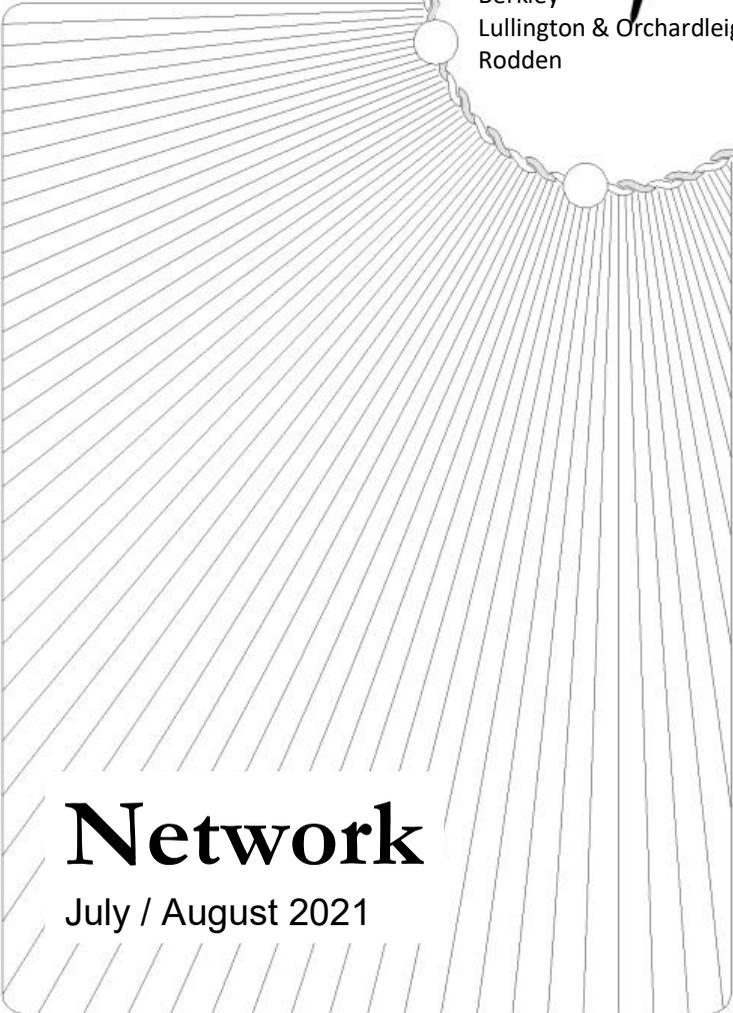


The Beckington Group of Parishes



Beckington
Berkley
Lullington & Orchardleigh
Rodden



Network

July / August 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

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	Mr. G. Bridges	01225 755784
	Mr. S. McKie	830369
Readers PTO (Permission to Officiate)	Mr. H. M. Daniel	
	Cdr. E. Phillimore	830677
Baptist Minister:	The Revd. M. I. White Email: blythehouseconsultancy@gmail.com	453334 07971 438694

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Safeguarding Officer-Beckington	Dr J Beaven	830535
Safeguarding.beckington@gmail.com		
PCC Secretary	Vacant	
Church Wardens wardens.beckington@gmail.com	Judith Craig	830970
	Su Coates	831644
	Maria Beaven	830535
Deputy	maria.beaven@outlook.com	
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Lullington with Orchardleigh		
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email addresses end with ...@lullandorch.org.uk		
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Mike & Wendy Wilsher		
Safeguarding officer: Mike Wilsher		
Treasurer: Jo Rathmell treasurer@...		
Weddings Administrator: Jenny Ladd weddings@..		
Baptisms: wardens@...		
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
 Sept issue to:
beckington.network@gmail.com
 to **arrive** no later than **12 noon** on
August 20th
For Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Evemy
 Please call after 4pm during weekdays
 07540 133396 Julie@evemy.net

A Reflection

Dear Friends

I'm going to share with you a few words from one of the songs found in the Bible. From Psalm 104. It is a song about creation and about the rhythm found in the seasons and our working day. I was chatting to one of our local farmers in the first half of June and hearing of his relief to have the dry days before cutting grass for silage after the very wet May we endured.

¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle and plants for people to take care of. That's how they get food from the earth.

¹⁵ There is wine to make people glad. There is olive oil to make their skin glow. And there is bread to make them strong.

¹⁶ The cedar trees of Lebanon belong to the LORD. He planted them and gave them plenty of water.

¹⁹ The LORD made the moon to mark off the seasons. The sun knows when to go down. ²⁰ You, LORD, bring darkness, and it becomes night. Then all the animals of the forest prowl around.

²¹ The lions roar while they hunt. All their food comes from God.

²² The sun rises, and they slip away. They return to their dens and lie down.

²³ Then people get up and go to work. They keep working until evening.

We don't have lions in our villages, well not unless Longleat suddenly develops a significant problem! But we are surrounded by wildlife. I'm still surprised by the variety of bird song I hear. During the day I'm blessed with the sound of children from the two ends of Church Street in Beckington. The sounds of the rhythm of growth and nurture. And that isn't a typo.... I really do mean nurture.

Many have talked of slowing down during the covid lockdowns. Spending more time in our gardens, if we are fortunate to have one, or out walking in nature. People have talked about changed priorities. Life is once again getting busy and there is considerable relief in the activity and being able to meet up and spend time with family and friends.

As a person of faith, I value moments of daily prayer and periods of spiritual retreat. It helps me consider my priorities and to find a rhythm that feeds me at our deeper level.

During these summer months, I shall value moments to pause and sit and to enjoy the amazing gift of God's creation. And I am especially looking forward to singing God's Praise at the Open Air Service on the 18th July.

Rev Ronnie



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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

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St. George's Beckington

Thank You

As a community, our group of parishes would like to say THANK YOU to all our doctors, nurses, surgery staff and volunteers who have continued throughout the pandemic to keep us safe and well.

Friends of St George's

Open Gardens:

Friends of St George's want to say a massive public "thank you" to the garden owners who by their kindness and hard work made it possible to run this very successful event.

Over 170 tickets were sold and the money raised is **£1,340.00** We also thank the supporters and helpers on the day and it was wonderful to see the re-union of friends and neighbours after months of isolation.

Arts and Crafts exhibition:

On August 7th there will be an Arts and Crafts exhibition in church together with Cream Teas on Sale from 2-5pm.

Local artists will be displaying work for sale and if you would like to exhibit, please contact Jo Casey on 830885.

White Horse Opera:

September 4th White Horse Opera will be presenting a selection of favourite songs from the operas. This promises to be a wonderful 'party like' concert with refreshments, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets will be limited and available from Lisa Gauntlett on 830978.

Join us at The Friends of Beckington School Fete on July 3rd!

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.** Thank you.

All Saints Rodden



Rodden 200

Club

The first draw for 2021 was held after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 23rd May.

The winners were:

1st Prize £50 no.120 **Ray**

Nicholson

2nd Prize £25 no. 83 **Catherine**

Dowling

3rd Prize £15 no. 31 **Beryl Perkins**

4th Prize £10 no 135 **Barry Antell**

The next draw will be held later this summer.

Michael Ruddick



Friends of St George's

**ARTS
CRAFTS
CREAM TEAS**

SATURDAY AUGUST 7th 2-5pm
In St George's Church

Exhibition and Sales

Please contact Jo Casey if you wish to take part: Tel 830885

Beckington Memorial Hall

We have been pleased, and relieved, to have received this year's ROSPA report on the Hall Play Area which indicates that it remains usable although some minor repairs are required which will be carried out shortly.

We would be pleased to receive any offers of help with this and would like to thank Beckington Garage for repairs they have already done to the junior swings.

David Prince

Berkley School

It has been an eventful academic year for all schools and although there are many words that represent how we feel, when we have time to reflect, grateful is one that sticks in my mind. I am so grateful to the staff at Berkley for rising to the challenges of remote learning, the parents for accepting the challenge and supporting our aims and ethos, and the wider community within our parish and Frome. Without everyone's efforts it would have been a much lonelier time. Well done to all the schools within our parish.

The summer term is in full swing and all the year groups have been able to plan exciting trips outside of school; these are so valuable within our curriculum. The Reception children (our Rabbits) took a cross country walk to the local farm where they learnt about the running of the farm and its animals. They also took part in a mock Christening with Reverend Ronnie; the children

looked delighted as they walked down the church path wearing their smart clothes. Our year one class (The Squirrels) ventured out to Nunney Castle despite a bit of rain, and they made shields, completed a scavenger hunt and enjoyed a picnic together. The class came back to school and went on to plan a traditional banquet as they were researching castles. In their maths lesson they had to pick and buy items for the banquet from the supermarket basket once they had decided on the budget. Needless to say, they all had great joy in doing this as well as eating it all at the end!

Our older children have taken part in lots of sport this summer term, with cricket being a theme. The teachers also planned a trip, with years two, three and four at the stunning location of Stourhead. Activities were planned at Stourhead and an ice-cream for every child was enjoyed. Creating these memories of being together and learning about nature and history are so vital to our young people's lives.

value the process. This exhibition will be held at the Silk Mill in Frome and is set to be a lovely evening for families.

We will also be welcoming new families into school at the end of July; we have only a few spaces left for September. As this could not happen last year, we are very much looking forward to face to face meetings. We will of course be saying a goodbye to our wonderful year 4 children who have been a real asset to the school.

May I take this opportunity to say, thank you for supporting our small school. We are set in a very rural spot and although we are small, we strive to make the learning come alive every day and for each day to be an adventure. Thank you to the FBS for coming together this term and thinking of some fabulous events, and thank you to all those who make our school shine. May you all have a restful, healthy and happy summer break; you deserve it!

Take care of each other.

Suzanne Thompson Headteacher

Springmead School

Inflating their balloons of self-belief.

You may have wondered why a brightly coloured double decker bus was parked in Castle Corner a few weeks ago.

This beautiful bus belongs to the 'I can and I am' charity, run by our school chaplain, James Shone. The purpose of the charity is to get young people to reflect on their self-belief. On the bus, over the course of the day, our Year 5 and 6 children baked bread, each individual producing a tasty French baguette. This hands-on experience enabled the children to 'get stuck in' and get to know the facilitators. After they had baked their bread, the children went upstairs and discussed, with the facilitators, how they can best keep their balloon of 'self-belief' inflated.



'Each one of us is wonderfully unique and we need to recognise our own strengths, needs, and in turn, develop our own self-belief.'

(James Shone)

Inspired by what they had gained from the experience, the children in Year 5 and 6 went on to raise over £400 through a charity jump. The money raised will help James and his team continue their great work with school children all across the country.



Zack Man Saves the World!

Zack Man flew everywhere to save the world. He breathed out hot flames of fire and worked hard to bring joy and kindness to the world. Zack Man carried a staff of fire. One day, Zack Man's evil twin brother called Frost Man tried to freeze the world! Before Frost Man could destroy the world, Zack Man picked up his staff of fire and smashed it against the floor. All of a sudden, a zig-zag shield of flames covered the world and melted Frost Man forever! Zack Man felt relieved that he had defeated his evil twin brother. His life could get back to normal, helping all his other superhero friends.

Esme – Year 2



Ice Girl Saves the World!

Ice Girl lived in a cold, wintery snow globe practising her ice aim. Ice and snow shot out from her cold, icy hands. Ice girl carried a cold, icy sceptre and it held the world inside it. She worked hard to bring joy and kindness to the world. One day, Ice girl's evil twin sister called Fire Flame tried to melt and destroy the world with flames. Before Fire Flame could destroy the world, Ice Girl picked up her sceptre and smashed it on the ground. All of a sudden, a cold, towering wave of ice washed Fire Flame and her flames away forever. Ice Girl felt relieved that she had defeated her evil twin sister. Her life could get back to normal, helping all her other superhero friends.

Otilie – Year 2

Beckington Family Practice

We would like to thank all of our patients for your patience and your expressions of support during the pandemic so far.

Although it is not currently possible to directly book a face-to-face appointment with a GP, we have continued to provide face-to-face, telephone and online support and our nursing team have been working hard to provide essential care and investigations. We are also performing large numbers of blood tests on behalf of the local hospitals. Thank you for being patient. We're very busy, with many people contacting the surgery for medical advice and treatment. We are doing all we can to answer your queries as quickly as we can – this may take longer than usual.

Now that lockdown is lifting, our GP practices are experiencing very high numbers of patients trying to contact them. In response we have been providing almost 20% more consultations than two years ago but this is proving very challenging. Please be patient and understanding if it takes a while for us to answer the phone or for you to be seen for an appointment. Don't forget your highly qualified, local community pharmacist can provide health advice and over the counter products or help with a wider range of minor illnesses and injuries like backache, bites, coughs and colds, sunburn, hay fever and diarrhoea. For urgent care, or after our GP surgery has closed, call or click NHS 111 to be directed to the local healthcare you need.

With new variants circulating, only half of the adult population fully vaccinated, some very vulnerable patients, and with scientific advice to minimise numbers indoors (including waiting rooms) and limit face to face contact time, we cannot safely return to 'service as normal' yet.

While face-to-face appointments continue to be offered to those based on clinical need, many issues can be resolved during a phone consultation without patients having to travel to a surgery. The practice team will direct you to the most appropriate healthcare team for your needs. We can also conduct video consultations and receive images by text or email, if the GP requests this. We are certainly not 'phone only', as some have feared, but we are likely to be 'phone first' for the time being.

Dr John Beaven



Lunch Club

We have provisionally booked the Memorial Hall for 14th October to hopefully recommence our Lunch Club.

In the meantime, you are invited to coffee and cake (free of charge) at the **Memorial Hall on Thursday the 5th August at 11.00 am**. You are welcome to bring your friends. We thought it would be nice to have a little get together as October is some way off.

It would help if you could call me on Tel. No 01373 830011 to let me know if you can come. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Gill Barnes and the Team.

Standerwick, Berkley & Beckington WI

On Thursday 3 June we held our monthly meeting via Zoom. Our speaker was from the charity "Medical Protection Dogs". The charity trains some dogs to become Medical Alert Assistance Dogs. They alert their owners if medical problems are going to arise, for example, epileptic fits or crises due to diabetes. The charity also trains Medical Detection Dogs. They can "sniff" out various diseases such as cancers or Parkinson's Disease. At present some dogs are being trained to detect the presence of COVID in individuals.

On Tuesday 6 July at 3pm some of our members are going to visit the gardens at Mells Park House. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1 July, via Zoom. There will be a talk by Barbara Jones on "Fings ain't what they used to be".

Carol Sadler

Beckington Baptist Church welcomes the return of the Bandits

Until recently when restrictions on Brass Bands were amended, the group of folks who, prior to Covid, normally gathered each Wednesday evening as a group wanting to share the skills of playing instruments have not been able to meet.

We are delighted, however, that they are now permitted to gather, observing social distancing etc. We wish them well as they make music. From time to time, the group have played for events in our church and in the village, and they look forward to joining folk at St. George's church on Sunday 18th. July for an open air "Songs of Praise" from 4-00pm, playing favourite hymns.

How good it will be to sing God's praise.
Hope to see you there.

Michael I White Baptist Minister

Beckington Astronomical Society (BAS)

www.beckingtonas.org

Warm summer nights are an invitation to look at the night sky and this can lead to buying a telescope. Sadly, there are many telescopes up and down the country that are never used because they were bought on impulse. I thought for this Network, I would say a little about binoculars and telescopes that might be helpful if you are thinking of making a purchase.

First a few words about binoculars. Don't underestimate their value to amateur astronomers. They are easy to use and transport, and Patrick Moore was a strong advocate of them. Keep an eye out at car boot sales as one can get a real bargain! If they look tatty, they have probably been used a lot because they are good. The binoculars will be marked with two numbers e.g., 10X50. The first figure gives the magnification and the second figure the diameter of the large lens in millimetres. The larger the big lens the more light gathering capability and fainter objects will be able to be seen. The example I have given is a popular choice. I was fortunate at an Astronomy Star party to look through some very large binoculars. The view of the Milky Way was the most impressive I have seen (except for with the naked eye in British Columbia National Park). A quick word on setting the focus. One of the eyepieces will have its own individual focus control. Shut the eye against that eyepiece and adjust the main focus using the

other eye. Then without touching the main focus adjust the 'individual' eyepiece for that eye (the one you had closed earlier). Having done this, you should only need to use the main focus when looking at different objects.

Turning to telescopes.

There are two basic types Refractors and reflectors (and numerous combinations – particularly for the specialists). A refractor only uses lenses and is what most people think of as a telescope - like Admiral Nelson used. A reflecting telescope uses a mirror to gather the light which is fed through an eyepiece to the eye. Newton was famous for this design hence they are often called Newtonian telescopes. Something that can be strange to the newcomer is the eyepiece is on the side of the Newtonian telescope. For both telescopes the larger the main lens or mirror the greater the light gathering capability but it is not good having a large mirror/lens if it is of poor quality. Something often missed is the importance of a good mount for the telescope. There are two basic types Alt/Azimuth and Equatorial. The Altitude/Azimuth is like a gun mounting. The telescope can swing round in a horizontal plane and up and down in a vertical plane. To track an object in the sky, adjustments are necessary in both planes to offset the rotation of the Earth.

The Equatorial mount has one of its axes parallel to the Earth's axis and it is only necessary to adjust one axis to compensate for the

Earth's rotation. Any mount needs to be firm and steady without vibration. I should mention something to look at late on a July/August night. Looking South, the 'summer triangle' is easy to find made up of the stars, Deneb, Vega & Altair.

Before buying a telescope think about how you will use it. Where will you use it and store it. How long will it take you to set it up? What do you want to view? (Planets, Constellations, Galaxies, photography). The best thing is to talk to some amateur astronomers, and if possible, look through different types before making a purchase. Hopefully our society meetings will be starting again in September and we will be very pleased to see new members (and of course our existing members). If you have a question about buying a telescope, give me a ring and I'm sure I or one of our society members will be able to help you.

John Ball. 830419

Beckington Parish Council

CASUAL VACANCY

Join our local team and become a Parish Councillor.

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council would like to fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as possible. No special qualification is required to be a councillor; indeed, it is important that all sorts of people serve as councillors to give good representation of the community. Training for new councillors is also available to help assist with understanding the responsibilities of the role.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a Beckington Parish Councillor please either get in touch with the Clerk

(beckingtonparishcouncil@outlook.com) or come along to the next meeting of the Parish Council to introduce yourself (outside).

If more people indicate their interest in becoming a Parish Councillor than the number of vacancies available, candidates will be asked to give a short verbal or written statement about why they are interested in the role, and the Parish Council will make their decision by a majority vote.

What do Parish Councillors do?

Beckington Parish Council is made up of 7 voluntary councillors, who meet once a month to discuss and act on issues of importance to the local community.

The Parish Council sets and monitors how a proportion of local taxes are spent in the Parish, make comment on planning applications in the Parish and consider projects to help maintain, improve, or enhance the local area.

Local Government is changing, and Parish Councils are seeing an increase in the responsibilities and opportunities to influence decisions made that affect our local community.

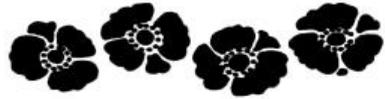
Parish Council Awarded Environment Grant:

The Parish Council has been awarded £6,000 from Somerset County Council's Climate Emergency Community Fund. SCC had made £1m available to Town and Parish Councils across Somerset for projects that would have a positive impact on the environment.

The Beckington bid centred around improving cycling links between the Village centre and Rudge, Rode and Frome. The awarded grant must be used towards commissioning a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Frome Town Council have already commissioned a LCWIP and many of the surrounding Villages are starting to look at doing the same, so it will be important to ensure they fit in with each other's.

Many thanks to Cllr Paula Fox who put in the hours filling in pages and pages of grant application forms – Great result!

Simon Pritchard
Parish Clerk



100 POPPIES FOR 100 YEARS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We would like to make an outdoor display to celebrate the 100 years anniversary of The Royal British Legion, which was founded in 1921 after the Great War (WW 1) when four charities came together to fight the injustices faced by veterans returning home after the war. The Royal British Legion still continues to help, advise, care and support millions of veterans and their families.

Can you knit, crochet, sew or make felt poppies?

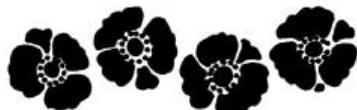
(Patterns available from the contacts below).

This is to be a village project and will be displayed on the Church wall in Church Street in November.

Please start knitting or stitching for our remembrance display. We should like your poppies by the weekend of 9th October.

There will be a box in the Church, or phone if you would like them collected.

Jenny 830208, Freda 830592,
Caroline 472636



Beckington Allotment Association

Last month at the Allotments was a time for celebration. The Beckington Open Gardens provided a chance to showcase our hard work and to share our enthusiasm with others in the village and wider community. As an association we met to congratulate two of our members on their forthcoming wedding and the Allotments also played host to their youngest plot-holder's 1st Birthday party.

With the bunting fluttering in the breeze and the House Martins swirling overhead, it feels as though summer has at last arrived and we know the garden's bounty will now be soon to follow. This month we will pull up our onions and garlic, leaving them to dry on the warm soil before hanging them up inside to store. We'll unearth buried golden treasure of our early potatoes and continue picking broad beans, lettuce, radishes, strawberries and sweet peas. The inevitable courgette glut will be well underway by the end of July, as the hairy limbs of the courgette plants reach for each other across the paths.

With the spuds and alliums cleared, we will gain some much-needed space to direct-sow more lettuce, radish, beetroot and carrots. Now is also the time to move our brassica seedlings into position- making sure to cover them from butterflies.

Tip of the month

Potatoes are generally ready to harvest around 2 weeks after the plants have flowered.

Amy McElhinney



Beckington Group Mothers Union

In view of the uncertainty surrounding the lifting of Covid restrictions, we have reluctantly decided to cancel the cream tea which was planned for July. We now hope this can be held on **4th August** at the Memorial Hall.

This will be our contribution to MU Summer of Hope campaign, and will be to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Mary Sumner, who founded the Mothers' Union 145 years ago, since when it has spread across the world, empowering women and mothers worldwide.

Sadly, a planned service of thanksgiving has also been postponed. This has been a difficult year for us all, and we look forward with hope to resuming our regular meetings later in the year.

Rosemary Ball

The value of making our church 'common ground'

As we seek to reconnect with our community this summer, how many local people would find it easy to even venture into our church?

Dr Anne Richards, National Adviser, Mission and Publish Affairs, Church of England, recently had this to say:

"I think that churches, especially rural churches, can be sites of common ground for their communities, both physically and spiritually.

A lot of people who contact me think that churches are private spaces and that they might not really be 'allowed' to walk in the churchyard or to visit the church on a casual basis.

They are often surprised by the openness and welcome of churches.... Mission flourishes where our 'commons' are developed and offered. Have we developed holy habits of neighbourliness and care?

Parish Pump

"TOP OF THE OPS"

Saturday 4th September 7.30pm

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Tickets will be limited. Details from

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Friends of St George's

People in the Parish

This month Network has been speaking with **Andrew Kellett**....

My life had been very varied before I came to Beckington about 8 years ago:

- 10 years in farming and agricultural research, mainly in Cambridgeshire
- 20 years as the minister of an inner-city Baptist Church in Bristol
- 10 years as a Chaplain/Manager in the Bristol Salvation Army Hostel.

I was born and brought up in the suburbs of Preston, Lancashire. After studying agriculture and working on a variety of farms I got a job with the Ministry of Agriculture doing practical research on soils and field drainage-this was in the 1970s when farmers were still getting grants to drain their land. While studying agriculture, I discovered God in a new and refreshing way and so on moving to Cambridgeshire I got stuck into the work of the local village Baptist Church, including helping to lead the youth group and the newly formed Boys Brigade. Eventually I felt God calling me to full time Christian ministry. I trained in London and then became the minister (Pastor) of the church in St Pauls in Bristol; about half the congregation were black Afro-Caribbean, mainly with Jamaican connections, and half, white English. The fervent prayer

and care of the black members was wonderful.

Sadly, after 15 years my marriage broke down and I had the responsibility for the upbringing of my two children who were then both at primary school. I could only work part time so I got a job at the Salvation Army Hostel supporting the men to get their lives back on track. This included work in the detox and rehab units. Later I was also a voluntary Chaplain at Bristol Prison. Altogether it was a very difficult time which I survived only with God's help. My two children also survived well and *both* are now hospital pharmacists! Learning from this time, I'm now one of the team of facilitators for the Bristol based Aquila divorce recovery self-help courses.

I live in Beckington now, because 10 years ago I met the lovely Jane and we married in June 2013. We still have some links with Bristol-I've managed to keep my allotment there growing! Church-wise, I'm involved with both CofE and Baptist churches, preaching occasionally at St George's and in village chapels like Rode as well as here in Beckington. I'm also supporting Frome Baptist while they don't have a minister.

It's been lovely coming back to village life and agriculture. During the pandemic we've really enjoyed walking. By the end of May we had clocked up 1,400 miles and have just had to have our walking shoes re-heeled!

Thank you, Andrew for taking the time to share your story with us.

July Village Agent News

As Village Agents, we enjoy being able to respond to people's situation quickly and efficiently – we pride ourselves on being problem solving solution finders!

This can be from a seemingly simple task of finding someone a gardener to help reclaim an unruly garden that was causing a mental and physical distress, to being able to provide someone escaping domestic abuse the basics they need to start up a new home and keep them safe.

To do this we rely heavily on our Crisis Fund – an unrestricted pot of funds we manage that we can use to purchase things for people in need. People in crisis.

The Crisis Fund has proved to be an enormously valuable and valued extra “tool in the bag” for Village Agents to help people facing personal and family crises. We haven't ever actively fundraised for the Crisis Fund before, as the donations we had kept us ticking over, but our team has tripled in size in 3 years in response to unprecedented demand for our services, and as a result we are meeting more and more people in need. The past year has been our most challenging yet, and this time of crisis and hardship for many in our communities the need is greater than ever, and we **desperately** need donations towards the fund which has been almost depleted.

So, this month, it is a plea for the #LoveSomerset Crisis Fund. To help people in Somerset get out of crisis, quickly and with dignity -

<https://ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/>

You can donate here:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/somerset-crisisfund/> or to a district specific fund

Mendip:

<https://localgiving.org/charity/somerset-crisisfund/project/mendipcrisisfund/>

We help when others can't, won't, or don't. Some examples of what these grants have been used for recently are:

To buy 2 mattress protectors for a carer who was supporting their loved one with night time incontinence.

To support a family with funeral costs after their teenage son died.

To buy children's clothes for a family who had recently lost Dad to cancer.

To buy half a tank of oil for a lady with a chronic health condition who was struggling to heat her home.

To buy a washing machine for a carer who is struggling to keep up with washing demands.

To Buy food and drink for a client who had been struggling to get shopping during the lockdown. If you have any questions about the Crisis Fund, please do call 01823 331 222. And if you are struggling, please do get in touch via that number or give me a call. 07946461468

Nic Edwards

Olympic Gold

This month should see the start of the Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews:

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith'
Hebrews 12:1-2

The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race. During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed

the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side.

Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race.

Canon Paul Hardingham

St Swithun 15th July

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly, everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral.

His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Parish Pump

William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson 30th July

During the 18th century many people in England were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The CofE remembers especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson – three very different but all tireless campaigners against the evil practice.

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was an Anglican clergyman and one of the most prominent of the anti-slavery campaigners. In 1787 he helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and his energy and hatred of injustice made him a 'moral steam-engine'. He travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ships' captains to doctors.

Olaudah Equiano (1745 – 1797) had been kidnapped in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. When he finally escaped, he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners. His brutal autobiography of 1789 ran to nine reprints, and was translated into many languages, bringing home to people the horrors of the slave trade.

William Wilberforce (1759 – 1833), of course, became the main figurehead in Parliament. He came from a wealthy family in Kingston-upon-Hull, and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson, who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within Parliament. Wilberforce was an inspired choice: not only wealthy and well-connected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785.

He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, but it was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed.

Parish Pump

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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.



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Daphne Kitching

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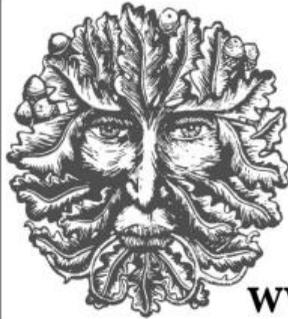
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Worship in July/August

Please visit www.lullandorch.org.uk for details of booking for worship at Lullington & Orchardleigh

In addition, there is an Open-Air Songs of Praise in St George's Churchyard on Sunday 18th July at 4pm. Please bring a garden chair/rug and a picnic if you wish.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Ruth (acting Diocesan Bishop of Bath and Wells) to the benefice service on Sunday 29th August at 10.30am to be held at St George's Church in Beckington.

The Church of St George in Beckington is open daily for private prayer.

Please observe the continued guidance and law when visiting our churches. At the moment Face Coverings are still a legal requirement. Please maintain 2m distance. Singing is not yet permitted indoors. For those who continue to worship at home a monthly service is available from Rev Ronnie. Ronnie also circulates a weekly update. Please contact Ronnie on

Rectorronnie@outlook.com to be added to the circulation or on 01373 831680 if you do not have access to email.

Parish			
St. George's Beckington	4 th July & 1 st Aug	10.00am	Morning Worship
	11 th July & 8 th Aug	10.00am	Communion with Berkley
	18 th July & 15 th Aug	10.00am	Matins
	25 th July & 22 nd Aug	10.00am	Holy Communion
St. Mary's Berkley	4 th July & 1 st Aug	9.00am	Communion
	18 th July & 15 th Aug	9.00am	All Age Worship
All Saints Rodden	11 th July & 8 th Aug	6.30pm	BCP Communion
	25 th July & 22 nd Aug	6.30pm	Evensong
Lullington & Orchardleigh	4 th July & 1 st Aug	11am	BCP Holy Communion
	11 th July & 8 th Aug	11am	BCP Matins
	18 th July & 15 th Aug	11am	BCP Matins
	25 th July & 22 nd Aug	11am	BCP Holy Communion
	29 th August	11am	BCP Holy Communion
Beckington Baptist Church		3pm	Services each Sunday at 3pm to which all are welcome