

The Beckington Group of Parishes

Beckington  
Berkley  
Lullington & Orchardleigh  
Rodden



# *Network*

December 2019 /  
January 2020

## CONTACT LIST

<i>We are awaiting the appointment of a new Rector</i>	<b>Readers</b>	Dr. J. Beaven	830535
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		Mr. S. McKie	830369
	<b>Readers - PTO</b>	Mr. H. M. Daniel	461870
		Cdr. E. Phillimore	830677
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<b>Berkley</b>		
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<b>Rodden</b>		
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<b>Lullington with Orchardleigh</b>		
<a href="https://lullandorch.org.uk">https://lullandorch.org.uk</a> Twitter: @LullandOrch email addresses end with ...@lullandorch.org.uk Churchwardens: wardens@... Glyn & Ruth Bridges 01225 755784 Jenny Ladd 01373 830514 David King 01225 710127 Treasurer: Jo Rathmell treasurer@... Weddings: Jenny Ladd weddings@... Baptisms: baptisms@... Director of Music: David King music@.... Verger: Jeanette Hayward weddverger@...		

### **Beckington Web Site:**

[www.beckington.org.uk](http://www.beckington.org.uk)

### **Beckington School Web Site:**

[www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk](http://www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk)

### **Berkley School Web Site:**

[www.berkleyschool.co.uk](http://www.berkleyschool.co.uk)

### **Springmead School Web Site:**

[www.springmead.com](http://www.springmead.com)

### **Beckington Memorial Hall**

Gary Peters 01373 830949

[beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk](http://beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk)

### **Beckington Parish Council**

[beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://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](mailto:johnagball.51@gmail.com)

### **Beckington Group Mothers' Union**

Branch Leaders: Jenny Ayrton 01373

830208 & Jacky Lobley. Meets 1<sup>st</sup>

Wed in the month except August.

### **Beckington Tower Lighting**

Mary Hickling 01373 830274

### **Beckington Pre-School**

[beckingtonpre-school.co.uk](http://beckingtonpre-school.co.uk)

Please submit items for publication

in the **February** issue to:

[beckington.network@gmail.com](mailto:beckington.network@gmail.com)

to arrive no later than 12 noon on

**January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Evemy,

01823 322 287 [Julie@evemy.net](mailto:Julie@evemy.net)

## *Reader's Message*

'GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN'

I write this article some three weeks before the General Election at the epicentrum of the election debate. It has been a cliché, indeed a truism, to say that our political culture is more divided, more vitriolic, more unpleasant than for many generations; that we have lost the ability to disagree politely with one another. Indeed, the very people who make this point most frequently are often the rudest in political debate just as politicians who complain, justifiably, of the abuse to which they are subjected are often those who are most vitriolic in their criticism of their political opponents.

Political activity, like all human activity, is subject to the law of God, a law of love in which we are commanded to love one another and our neighbours as ourselves. In a redeemed society, a state of society to which we have a duty to aspire, this would be the fundamental nature of human relationships.

It is not surprising, however, that the social and political life of a society which has turned its back on Christianity, that has replaced, as its fundamental values, duties with rights, equality of worth with equality of possessions, self-sacrifice with self-fulfilment and service with self-indulgence should decline into squabbling, hatred and mutual accusations of offence. When this article is published and, it may be, as you read it, the election

will still be in the future, its result uncertain, but we shall have entered the season of Advent.

Advent directs our attention both backwards and forwards. It directs us back to the mystery of the Incarnation of Christ at a particular time in history, to the simple fact that, at Christ's First Coming, God revealed Himself to us as the Creator, the Sustainer and the Redeemer of the world, that He loves us and calls us to transcend the failings, anger and petty squabbles of mankind and to conform ourselves to be the image of the living God.

Advent also directs our attention forwards, away from the uncertainties of the present to the absolute certainty of Christ's return; to His Second Coming when He will judge both the living and the dead, He will bring an end to the material world as we know it, He will inaugurate a glorious new Heaven and a glorious new Earth.

Simon McKie  
Reader, Rodden





## **ST GEORGE'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>**

We welcome you to come and enjoy a variety of sparkling trees in the CHURCH as you take time out from Christmas preparations. Children's activities & Nativity stories.

Tea and cakes.

Saturdays & Sundays 11am-4pm

Monday to Friday 2:30-4:30pm

## **BECKINGTON BENEFICE ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

Take time out in the busy days leading up to Christmas to focus on advent, preparing for the birth of Christ and His return

**Wednesday Evenings**  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**7.30 - 9pm**

**Refreshments  
served from  
7.15**

**Lah's Place**  
Community Room  
Sandy Lane,  
Beckington  
BA11 6SB

*Let earth and heaven combine*

***Come thou long expected Jesus***

Reflections using Hymns of Charles Wesley and Scripture to explore themes of longing, promise and incarnation



***Hark the herald angels sing***

For more details contact Judith Craig 830970 [wardens.beckington@gmail.com](mailto:wardens.beckington@gmail.com)  
or Maria Beaven 830535 [maria.beaven@outlook.com](mailto:maria.beaven@outlook.com)

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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 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday of the month all year round  
from 9am-1pm.

www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk

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E-mail: clerk@hospitalofstcross.co.uk  
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## **St. George's**

### ***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.**

The tower was lit:  
on November 8<sup>th</sup> in memory of Lucy.  
Angela.

on November 23<sup>rd</sup> in memory of  
Margaret Matthews. Always in my  
thoughts, Tom.

on November 29<sup>th</sup> in Loving Memory  
of Richard and my young family.  
Penny Hoare.

The tower will be lit on January 15<sup>th</sup>  
Happy memories of Keith.

Sylvia

### ***MacMillan Coffee Morning***

Thank you for lots of help and  
generous gifts at our MacMillan Coffee  
Morning. A grant total of £663.50 was  
raised.

Freda Brann

# St George's Church, Beckington **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**4.15 pm**

**For every age**  
**All welcome**

Christingles Provided

**Come early for  
cake, tea &  
to see the  
Christmas Tree  
Festival**



**Come and make a  
Christingle in  
St George's  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec  
between  
2pm and 4pm**





## **St. Mary's Berkley**

***There is no  
service at  
Berkley on  
Sunday  
December 1<sup>st</sup>***

Christingle Family Service  
with the children and staff from  
Berkley Church of England VA First

School



Come and join us for the Family Service on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9-15 which will feature a Christingle Service led by the children of Berkley School. Everyone very warmly welcomed. Refreshments to follow service.

### ***Thank you***

Berkley Church PCC would like to thank Berkley School and parents for the cheque of £360 (which is most appreciated) presented at the recent All-Age service. This will be used to

help with the church running costs, heating, electric etc.

Eric Oakes

## **Shoeboxes**

Thank you to the staff, parents and children of Berkley School for the shoe boxes and to all who filled them so generously.

I will give an update on total numbers in February.

Maureen Newman

*Berkley village committee*

**Invite you to join us for an evening  
of Fun Christmas themed**



**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Chapmanslade Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm

**Hot 2 course Supper !**

*Bingo Books £1 available on the night*

*Plus Big prize Raffle*

***(Please bring your own drinks and glasses)***



**Tickets £12.50 pp from Louise**

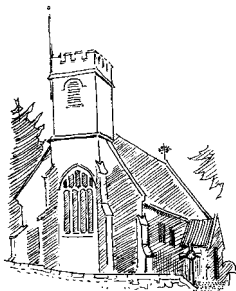
Please call to reserve your place on  
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louisejames@homecall.co.uk.

**THE ST MARY'S CHURCH BERKLEY CHARITABLE TRUST  
HAS ESTABLISHED A TRUST FUND, (CHARITY NUMBER 1174747)**

The aim of this fund is to encourage people with a connection to BERKLEY CHURCH from school, marriage, christening, attending church, loss of a loved one or just living in the area etc. to make a donation or leave a LEGACY when making a will to help build a secure fund for the maintenance of this unusual church with its domed ceiling for future generations.

For further information if required contact Eric J. Oakes, Church Warden  
Tel 01373 474652 or email [ericoakes@btconnect.com](mailto:ericoakes@btconnect.com)

## All Saints Rodden



The **Carol Service** will be held in Rodden Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December followed by coffee and mince pies in the hall.

**Carols-on-the-Green** takes place as usual at 6pm on Christmas Eve by the post box on Styles Hill.

As Christmas draws near, the flower team would appreciate donations towards the cost of the candles and flowers that decorate the church at this festive time. Please give to Pat Antell or Di Dowling.

Jim Dowling

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at No 30** will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us at 30 Styles Hill from 10.30am. Come and take a break and join us for a hot drink and a chat.

Sheila Walker

Date	Flowers	Cleaning
1	SaraJane (Walwin)	Mrs Beck
8	SaraJane (Walwin)	Mrs Beck
15	FLOWER TEAM	FLOWER TEAM
22	FLOWER TEAM	FLOWER TEAM
29	FLOWER TEAM	FLOWER TEAM
6	Mrs Beck	Mrs Beck
13	Mrs Antell	Mrs Antell
20	Mrs Higham	Mrs Higham
27	Mrs Higham	Mrs Higham
3	Mrs Dowling	Mrs Dowling

## Rodden 200 Club

The results for the Rodden 200 Club Draw held on 15<sup>th</sup> November were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize £50 - P D & S Stephenson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £25 – W M Mitchell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £15 – A Sandell
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize £10 - P Harrison

### From the Registers

Beckington

Funeral

6<sup>th</sup> November – Maurice Smith

Orchardleigh

Marriages

20<sup>th</sup> October - Paul Weavers and  
Lorraine Whitehorn

Lullington

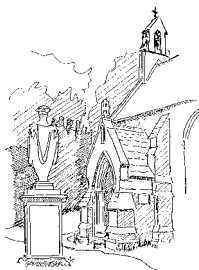
Marriages

25<sup>th</sup> October - Miles Harris and Chloe Gage

## YMCA

There are a number of young people who have come out of the care system or are estranged from any family members and we would love to ensure that each young person receives presents that will be a bit of a treat as well as useful. They are aged 16-25, of both sexes. Presents should not be wrapped so that the right presents can be chosen for each individual. Items are needed in good time for Christmas and should be dropped into the YMCA at the Frome Foyer between December 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The YMCA entrance is at 16 Bath Street, Frome (press the button marked Reception to the right of the metal gate.) next to the Old Bath Arms. Thank you so much.

Chris and Miriam Hare - Mendip YMCA  
Chaplains (Tel:01373-469788)



## **Lullington & Orchardleigh**

### **SNOW**

The recent early flurry of snow reminded me of the

verse in Isaiah 1:18 "Come now let us reason together. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." In other words, although our sin is like huge red blotches on newly lain snow; all the wrong in our lives can be completely covered and made 'white' again.

He says 'they shall be white as snow' and they shall be as wool'. Jesus is the Saviour, His birth in Bethlehem; His death on the cross, and His rising again, were all so that we might be forgiven. He came to save His people from their sins. No matter how scarlet or red like crimson our wrong may have been, if we ask Him, God will wipe it all away, making us white as snow.

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. God has given Himself to us in Jesus. The Bible teaches that heaven is not a reward but a gift. If we wish to receive the gift all we have to do is turn from our old ways and trust Jesus as Lord, Saviour and friend.

Glyn Bridges

## **Darkness to Light**

The start of the new church year on Advent Sunday is being marked at All Saints, Lullington with a special service 'Darkness to Light' on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6:00pm. All are welcome to join us for this service.

## **Christmas**

Christmas starts with the atmospheric **Carol Service** at All Saints, Lullington at 6:00pm on Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December) and on Christmas Day (Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December) there will be a celebration of Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer at 11:00am also at All Saints, Lullington.

## **Rode & District Gardening Club**

Next month we will hold our Christmas party at 7pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December for members and their guests. Usual format, bring enough food of your choice for your selves and guests and this year, bring your own wine or alternative.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January when we will welcome David Moon with an audio-visual presentation on RHS gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show.

Averil Morrow

## **Beckington Astronomical Society**

([www.beckingtonas.org](http://www.beckingtonas.org))

Our members will have their Christmas Social evening in December.

Our next 'open' meeting is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at the Beckington Baptist Church Hall starting at 7.30pm. We finish around 9.30pm with tea/ coffee. Annual membership £15 or £3.00 for a single meeting. We will have a beginner's item (about 15 mins) and this will be followed by our visiting speaker Jonathan Gale. Jonathan's talk is titled 'The Herschel 400'. You do not need to know anything about astronomy to join us - just a desire to know more about this fascinating subject. If you have any questions please look at our website or give me a ring on 01373 830 419.

John Ball

## **Parents & Toddlers**

Everyone is welcome, especially new families with babies and toddlers.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm to 3.30pm at the Baptist Church hall.

More details from Freda: 830597

## **Beckington Memorial Hall**

**Fireworks**... or lack there-of.

Sadly not a great deal we could have done about that. There were severe weather warnings; we really had no choice but to cancel.

Many thanks though to everyone who was involved, not least to all at Beckington First School for their lovely art work which formed the basis to all the posters.

On a more positive note, we are now the proud possessors of a shed load (not literally) of fireworks, all saved up for either next year or maybe another village event between now and then.

### **The Mikado!**

This is planned for February 1<sup>st</sup>. The White Horse Opera Company will be performing and we would hope to make an evening of it: cash bar, great snacks, mid-term ice creams, raffle and any and all other Mikado-centric ideas we can come up with.

Tickets will be on sale soon, keep an eye out in Mes Amis and on Facebook (if you're techno-savvy) for info. How about buying a couple of tickets as a stocking filler? It'll be different and I'll bet no one else gets them!

### **200 Club**

Due to an unavoidable delay in collecting for the 200 club draw we'll do the October, November and December draws at our 9/12 meeting.

## ***Carol Singing Round the Tree***

Carol Singing round the Beckington Village Christmas Tree will take place on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6 pm.**

## ***Royal British Legion***

The Beckington branch raised £4,566 for this year's POPPY APPEAL, down by 9% from the £5,019 in 2018 (the Armistice Centenary) but up by 10% on the £4162 collected in 2017, thus continuing to produce a steady first-class result.

The branch's district covers the villages of Beckington, Berkley, Lullington, Oldford, Rudge and Standerwick. Special thanks go to the village residents who sold poppies from house to house and at the Standerwick markets, which accounted for 31% of the total raised. Nearly one fifth came from donations at the Remembrance Day services and the rest from the collecting boxes placed within the villages, at retail points, with local employers close to the A36 and A361 main roads.

Very many thanks to those who were involved in helping to organise and raise these funds and to all who donated so generously.

Steve Jenkins, Chairman - Beckington & District Branch

## ***Beckington Group Mothers' Union***

Our November meeting started as usual with a short service, during which there were prayers for those who are unwell, and for our fellow MU members worldwide. We heard how MU members in South Sudan are actively working for peace and reconciliation by meeting together and finding what they have in common despite tribal customs and allegiances.

Then Mike Rolfe spoke to us about his experiences when he went to Calcutta in 2001 with the Christian charity Tearfund. Mike spent time living in the slums, among some of the world's poorest people. He illustrated his talk with slides so we could see the conditions in which people lived, a real challenge to us whose lives are so different. There was time for questions and to talk over tea, and Mike was thanked for such an interesting personal account.

The next meeting will be our Advent Service on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at LaHS Place, followed by tea and mince pies. MU will also have a Christmas tree in church mid-December for the Christmas Tree Festival - come and find us!

The following meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, one week later than usual, to allow for the New Year holidays. Please come along to elect and support the leaders and new committee.

Rosemary Ball

## ***Beckington Memorial Hall***

I should like to begin the 2019 Chairman's report by thanking members of the Committee for their dedicated hard work in maintaining the Memorial Hall and Clifford suite as a centre of so much village activity - a fact perhaps not always appreciated. David Norman continues as Treasurer and has kept the Hall financially healthy. Stan Wilson has become Hall Fire Officer as well as chairing the Fireworks sub-committee and Debs Byrne, Roz Searle, Ian Morris and Pam Portsmouth-Layton have all worked in various capacities to support our activities for which I am very grateful. Sadly Hilary Grist had to retire this year as Secretary and we now share this function between the Committee members and we also lost Sian Chapman and Val New for personal reasons. I am asking all regular users of the Hall to forward representatives to the Committee as **we desperately need volunteers to help run what I think most people regard as a valuable village amenity.** I have agreed to stay on as Chairman into 2020 but it is really time I stepped down for a more youthful successor.

This year has seen the completion of the painting and renovation of the outside of the buildings. We have also completely overhauled the safety lighting system and installed a new fusebox in the main building. A projector and screen will shortly be added to the Clifford suite and we also hope to have a new radiator fitted before the winter months. We intend to spruce up the Clifford although

major improvements await the outcome of Beckington Cricket Club's proposals for a new pavilion. The Play Area again passed its ROSPA inspection in June although we are well aware of the growing need for a major renewal.

We are pleased that the Fireworks evening is planned to return this year. The subcommittee has worked very hard to meet the exacting and many demands of Health and Safety and we hope their labours will be rewarded by a good village attendance.

As I said in my opening remarks, I don't think it is always realised how much expensive and time-consuming work is taken up in just keeping the Hall, Play area and Field in good running order. We really need as much support and goodwill we can get from the village to meet these demands.

David Prince

## ***Finding Out***

Recently posted paragraphs on [reflectiverambles.blogspot.com](http://reflectiverambles.blogspot.com):

- Stand up and be counted
- What is spirituality?

And soon to arrive on the site:

- Dark night of the soul
- Spirituality of 4 hymns

Martin Weymont

## ***Berkley School***

I hope everyone reading this has settled into the excitement of what is to come in Term 2! During Advent and in December it is not only a very special time of year in the Christian calendar but for many across the world. Berkley really enjoyed supporting the Shoebox project and it was a pleasure to see so many children carrying their wrapped boxes into school and church. This Term we launched our new value of *Courage*. We are all trying to be courageous in our everyday lives and the children have shared many moments already. After watching a fantastic re-enactment of David's story and what he achieved when faced with Goliath, we all felt inspired to try and remember we are never alone when faced with a challenge.

Our whole school have a topic that is linked this term to all things icy. Reception class have so far built an igloo outside and have thought about the props they need. They have gathered some key words to go alongside it and I observed some very excited children trying to melt frozen items; some were edible.

In year 1 and 2 the children have made snow globes and written instructions for how to make them, linked to the class text 'The Snowman'. They have been investigating ice and the properties of water by coming up with plans to rescue some toys that got trapped in the freezer! The teachers and the children both enjoyed using a variety of methods and discovered that salt

and warm water freed the toys the quickest from their icy adventure.

Our year 3 and 4 children stepped through the wardrobe doors into a very snowy winter woodland, you guessed it, and they landed in Narnia. Each class is set to make wardrobe doors to fit their book corner and they have started some creative story openers. Mr Banton took the Year 3 children to Liberty Gym in Frome this week; the children were able to use the equipment and lots of fun was had. Next week our Reception children are making reindeer food and the older children will be baking treats to enjoy at our Christmas Fayre which takes place on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. We will be talking to the children about the types of decorations and presents they can make for loved ones at this time of year.

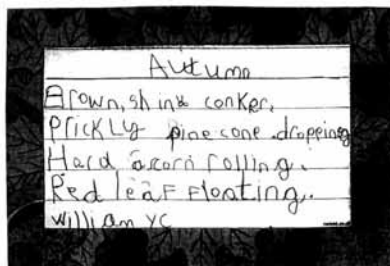
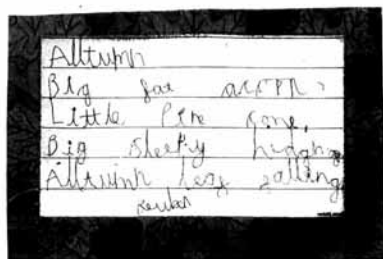
Within the school we have an FBS (friends of Berkley school) which raises funds for the school to use to enrich the children's time at Berkley. They recently held a disco at school and I was so impressed with the support of parents and the money raised. I am always so grateful to the community for any support given.

I mentioned in a recent assembly that we all need to remember that it takes courage to face each new day and some days it seems really hard but we do it because we are loved and because courage lies within us all.

Best Wishes


Suzanne Thompson,  
Headteacher

## Autumn poems written by Year 1 and 2.




**Beckington Baptist Church**

**Christmas Eve Family Crib Service**



Please join us at 4pm for mince pie and mulled wine and Christmas Music by



Service starts at 5pm





The year 3 children have been learning about Claude Monet and his style of 'impressionism'. The children chose 4 different colours and developed different shades in order to paint. Meredith's painting is her interpretation of Monet's painting of the River Thames.

### Springmead Showcase 2019

Over 70 children were involved in this heart-warming event that exists to give our young the shine and also inspire them. The school took over the Athenaeum Theatre in Warminster for the annual Showcase event which featured all aspects of performing arts, from poetry to gymnastic displays to musical theatre performances.

All main school children have the opportunity to take part, working on acts at home, ready to audition at school where they receive support and advice. School clubs, whole classes and teachers performed too, sharing their talents with the audience of parents, staff and families.

How amazing and moving it was to be privileged to see the wonderful celebration of talent and teamwork. Our community is supportive and inclusive, and children and adults congratulate each other on progress, success and accomplishments. This illustrates our firm belief that when you give children opportunities to explore creatively through the spoken word, drama, dance and music their self-belief grows with the results being truly transformative.



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## **Beckington Churches**

### **Update concerning the vacancy for Rector of the Benefice of Beckington with Standerwick, Berkley, Rodden and Lullington with Orchardleigh.**

As many parishioners will be aware, we have been seeking a new Rector to lead our group of churches. The first round of advertising did not result in any applications which was disappointing but, in the current climate where there are more vacancies than available clergy, this is not at all unusual. We believe that God will call the right person at the right time and that we need to continue to be patient. The post is now being re-advertised.

We are delighted that Bishop Peter, of Bath and Wells, has offered to come and conduct our service of Holy Communion at St George's Church at 11pm on the night of Christmas Eve and we do hope that many will be able to join in that occasion.

Judith Craig and Su Coates  
(Churchwardens at St George's)



## **The Manor House, Beckington**

I have a document entitled - *The Manor House, Beckington, Establishment for Young Ladies* advertising this school, with vignette & tariff, obviously Victorian, but not dated. I wonder if anyone could enlighten me as to when this School opened?

Many thanks

Mrs. L. Holdstock  
turnstock@btinternet.com

## **Physiotherapy Moves and Expands**

Alison Rossiter & Lesley Fussell have lived locally for 30 years. Not only did they work together as Physiotherapists at Frome Community Hospital for over 20 years but they also enjoy sharing cycle rides and open water swims these days. Now, Alison who has been running a successful private practice from home, is due to move her practice into Lesley's new clinic room at Shawford Farm, Beckington, on the A36.

Lesley said "it will be so good to be working alongside Al once again, I've always respected and admired her and I'm so grateful that she has agreed to move across to the new Beckington Physiotherapy Practice". We hope our patients will enjoy the new experience too.

## **Standerwick, Berkley and Beckington W.I.**

At our November meeting we were treated to a cookery demonstration by Val Vincent, a very highly qualified chef. She told us about her life while cooking 7 different dishes and a salad, all in under one and a half hours!

All the dishes were lovely and mouth watering ! Val's grand-daughter also helped by ferrying ingredients to and from the kitchen and putting the dishes into the oven and back to be tasted.

At our next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December the talk will be about George Formby and the Ukulele at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors will be very welcome.

**NOTE: THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2020.** The 6<sup>th</sup> February meeting will have a talk on Policing.

Marion Oxlade

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Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) are also taking part in *The Big Give*, and online donations to the campaign that are made during the

week-long *Big Give Christmas Challenge* - midday Tuesday 3 December to midday Tuesday 10 December - will be doubled! So, not only will your donation be worth twice as much, but even more older and isolated people across the county will feel warmer and better connected this winter.

If you would like to donate to Surviving Winter, visit

[www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter) or call 01749 344949.



We are very happy to welcome Jennifer Davies to the practice. Jennifer is a qualified and experienced Nurse Practitioner.

She is working Monday to Friday, normally at Beckington surgery in the morning and Fromefield surgery in the afternoon.

Jennifer will be seeing most patients with an urgent concern, who need to be seen on the same day; she can prescribe and refer to hospital if necessary.

Jennifer was previously working at the RUH in Bath as a Nurse Practitioner in the Urgent Care Centre and prior to that as a Nurse Practitioner in emergency General Surgery. Jennifer is looking forward to transferring her skills to care for patients in primary care.



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## ***Beckington Parish Council***

### **New Parish Lengthsman:**

The Parish Council has taken its first look at what budget it will need for 2020/21 and therefore what the precept will need to be for the Parish. Nearly all the Council's costs have flatlined, however the Council have resolved to appoint a Parish Lengthsman.

The position of the Lengthsman dates back to the Middle Ages when Parish Councils employed men to maintain an area or length of road. But it began to fall into decline after the late 1880s when road maintenance became the responsibility of County Councils (this is still the case today).

The new Beckington Lengthsman will be employed to serve the whole of the Parish, not just one stretch of road and their remit will go well beyond just sweeping the highways. They will cut, trim, slash, sweep, scrub, wipe, buff, drain and move all manner of things. Helping to keep footpaths open, hedges cut back, ditches kept clear, bus shelters kept clean.

Residents can contact the Parish Clerk with suggestion of jobs that need doing. It should be noted that work will only be carried out on publicly owned land or on public footpaths.

The employment of a Lengthsman will add about £11 per year to the tax bill of a band D property. Members felt that difference in having this resource available to the Parish was worth the small increase.

### **Safe Cycling Initiative:**

The Parish Council has been exploring the possibility of putting on a safe cycle training event for adult cyclists. This would look at the best ways a cyclist can keep themselves safe when using the highways to get about. Any resident interested in attending this free event should contact the Clerk. No times or dates yet but it would be useful to know if there is any interest.

### **Grit Bins:**

Somerset County Council have announced they will fill up any empty grit bins this Winter. What they won't be doing is driving around looking for empty ones. Empty grit bins can be reported to: [countyroads-mendip@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:countyroads-mendip@somerset.gov.uk). As with so many things now, the onus is being put on to residents to report rather than things happening automatically.

Simon Pritchard, Parish Clerk

## ***Beckington Planning Applications***

Demolition of existing workshop and erection of replacement workshop 18 Warminster Road  
Ref. No: 2019/2761/HSE

Proposed erection of 4 new dwellinghouses and demolition of existing dwelling 22 Frome Road  
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See:

<https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/> for details.



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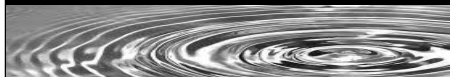
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## Diary Dates

### This month

- Dec 4    **MU Advent service/Christmas meeting.** Lahs Place, 2.15
- Dec 5    **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at No. 30 Styles Hill**  
10.30am
- Dec 4, 11, 18 **Advent Reflections** 7.15pm for  
7.30pm (Beckington venue)
- Dec 5    **W.I.** George Formby and the ukulele  
7.30pm
- Dec 10    **Beckington Village Choir Christmas Concert** 7.30pm Beckington Memorial Hall
- Dec 14-22 **St. George's Christmas Tree Festival**

### Next Year

- Jan 3    **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at No. 30 Styles Hill**  
10.30am
- Jan 8    **MU AGM** Lahs Place 2.15pm
- Jan 17    **W.I.** Christmas Lunch, Royal Oak, Corsley
- Jan 17    **BAS** 7.30pm Beckington Baptist Church hall

- Feb 1    ***The Mikado*** at Beckington Memorial Hall
- Feb 6    **W.I.** 7.30pm Policing
- Mar 5    **W.I.** From Russia with Love
- Apr 2    **W.I.** Gardens of the Rich
- May 7    **W.I.** AGM Resolutions & Quiz
- May 26    **W.I.** Outing to Denman (**Tuesday**)
- Jun 4    **W.I.** Colourful Buttonholes
- Jul 2    **W.I.** Curious Bath
- Aug 6    **W.I.** Social Evening – shared supper & Quiz
- Sep 3    **W.I.** Behind the Scenes at the National Trust
- Oct 1    **W.I.** Down the Garden Path
- Nov 5    **W.I.** 'Refresh' and talk on Rwanda
- Dec 3    **W.I.** Kingdom of the Ice Bears

The calendar of activities in St. George's church is online at  
[www.beckington.org.uk/stgeorgescalendar](http://www.beckington.org.uk/stgeorgescalendar)

Don't forget that the next issue of *Network* is for **February**.  
Items for inclusion by **midday on January 20<sup>th</sup>** at the latest please.  
To: [beckington.network@gmail.com](mailto:beckington.network@gmail.com)

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## SERVICES December

<b>Benefice</b>	<i>Mondays</i>	12.00pm	Midday Prayer at St. George's
Lullington	December 1	6.00pm	<i>Darkness Into Light</i>
Beckington	December 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

<b>St. George's Beckington</b>		Dec 1	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.00am	Morning Worship
		Dec 8	10.00am	Holy Communion <i>with Berkley</i>
	<i>Monday</i>	Dec 9	7.00pm	Springmead Carol Service
		Dec 15	10.00am	BCP Matins
			4.15pm	Christingle Service
		Dec 22	10.00am	Morning Worship
			<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Dec 24	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Crib Service at Baptist Church</b>
			<b>11.00pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion <i>with Bishop Peter</i></b>
	<i>Christmas Day</i>	Dec 25	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Family Holy Communion</b>
		Dec 29	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion</b>

<b>St. Mary's Berkley</b>		Dec 1		<b>No Service</b>
		Dec 8	10.00am	Holy Communion <b>at Beckington</b>
		Dec 15	9.15am	<b>Christingle</b>
		Dec 22	9.15am	Holy Communion
	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Dec 24	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
		Dec 29	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion at Beckington</b>

<b>All Saints Rodden</b>		Dec 1	6.30pm	BCP Evensong
		Dec 8	6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion
		Dec 15	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
		Dec 22	11.00am	BCP Matins
	<i>Christmas Day</i>	Dec 25	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>BCP Holy Communion</b>
		Dec 29	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion at Beckington</b>

<b>All Saints Lullington</b>		Dec 1	11.00am	BCP Holy Communion
			<b>6.00pm</b>	<b><i>Darkness Into Light</i></b>
		Dec 15	11.00am	BCP Matins
	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Dec 24	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
	<i>Christmas Day</i>	Dec 25	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		Dec 29	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion at Beckington</b>
			4.00pm	Evensong

<b>St. Mary's Orchardleigh</b>		Dec 8	11.00am	BCP Matins
		Dec 22	11.00am	BCP Holy Communion
		Dec 29	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion at Beckington</b>

<b>Baptist Church</b>	Services each Sunday at 3pm to which all are welcome <b>Christmas Eve Crib Service 5pm</b>			
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## SERVICES January

<b>Benefice</b>	<i>Mondays</i>	12.00pm	Midday Prayer at St. George's

<b>St. George's Beckington</b>		Jan 5	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.00am	Morning Worship
		Jan 12	10.00am	Holy Communion <i>with Berkley</i>
		Jan 19	10.00am	BCP Matins
		Jan 26	10.00am	Morning Worship
		Feb 2	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.00am	Morning Worship

<b>St. Mary's Berkley</b>		Jan 5	11.00am	BCP Matins
		Jan 12	10.00am	Holy Communion <b>at Beckington</b>
		Jan 19	9.15am	<b>All-age Service</b>
		Jan 26	9.15am	Holy Communion
		Feb 2	11.00am	BCP Matins

<b>All Saints Rodden</b>		Jan 6	6.30pm	BCP Evensong
		Jan 12	6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion
		Jan 19	11.00am	BCP Holy Communion
		Jan 26	11.00am	BCP Matins
		Feb 2	6.30pm	BCP Evensong

<b>All Saints Lullington</b>		Jan 6	11.00am	BCP Holy Communion
		Jan 19	11.00am	BCP Matins
		Feb 2	11.00am	BCP Holy Communion

<b>St. Mary's Orchardleigh</b>		Jan 12	11.00am	BCP Matins
		Jan 26	11.00am	BCP Holy Communion
		Feb 9	11.00am	BCP Matins

<b>Baptist Church</b>	Services each Sunday at 3pm to which all are welcome			
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Diary Dates are on Page 30

A BIG THANK YOU  
to our faithful team of volunteers delivering *Network* to houses across  
the Benefice ten times every year.