

The Beckington Group of Parishes



Beckington
Berkley
Lullington & Orchardleigh
Rodden

Network

May 2020

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Beckington Web Site:

www.beckington.org.uk

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

Gary Peters 01373 830949

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 issue to:

beckington.network@gmail.com

to arrive no later than 12 noon on

Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Every,

07540 133396 Julie@every.net

**Letter from the Right Reverend
Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and
Wells For Parish Newsletters – May
2020**

A time to 'Love our neighbours as ourselves'

I wonder - are you someone who gets everything ready long before you need to; jobs done well before time; and someone who is never late for anything? Or are you someone who leaves things to the last minute; works right up to the deadline; and catches the bus or train with moments to spare? Or maybe you are somewhere in the middle?

One of the things that Bishop Ruth and I enjoy doing is writing these articles each month for parish magazines and newsletters. It gives us a chance to keep in touch with people across the diocese and to share the things that are in our hearts and minds as the year unfolds. The only drawback is that we have to write these articles well in advance, so that they reach magazine editors and church administrators in good time. The problem is of course that things may change in all sorts of ways between us writing them and you reading them. I am particularly conscious of that this month, as we are in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. Things are changing very fast and it is hard to know what the next few weeks will bring. That inevitably brings with it a certain degree of uncertainty and some us, especially those who are isolated and

cut off, may be feeling anxious for ourselves or for others.

My hope throughout this time of 'lockdown' is that although some of us may have felt physically isolated from each other, that we have not felt socially or spiritually isolated. Indeed, I have been truly amazed and encouraged by all the stories I have heard of people caring for each other, phoning each other and going shopping for those who cannot get out to buy the food they need. At this stage none of us knows quite how and when this virus will eventually be brought under control. However, I do hope that when we get to the stage that restrictions can be safely lifted and we begin to go out and shop as we did before, that things will be different. Many of us have had difficulty buying the food we wanted. Some of us have had to rely on others for our daily needs. We have had to learn new ways to pray and keep in touch with others in our churches and communities. We have had to trust, hope, and look out for our neighbours, especially those who are particularly vulnerable. We have been humbled by the courage and dedication of those who work in the NHS and care homes and all who as 'key workers' have worked tirelessly to look after and provide for us.

Jesus taught us to

'Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind' and 'to love our neighbours as ourselves'.

My hope and prayer is that as we emerge from this pandemic that we

and our communities may be a more compassionate, more generous, more grateful. And may we all have discovered what it is to know in a deeper way the peace and the presence of God.

May the peace and the joy of the Risen Lord be with you

Bishop Pete



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Frome Farmers' Market

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

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

www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk

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

Vacancies for Brothers

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



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

Floodlighting

If you would like the tower to be floodlit please contact:
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Suggested donation £10 **payable to PCC Beckington.**

Friends of St George's Plant Sale:

NEW FORMAT to accommodate social distancing we have spread the location and extended times as follows:

SATURDAY 16th MAY 10am-4pm
SUNDAY 17th MAY 10am-12noon

Plants will be available on driveways at following 3 houses:

"Stepstones" (Next to the Baptists Church).

Driveway next to 29 Goose Street.

24 Bath Road.

Vegetable and fruit plants, Perennials and Annual Flowers, Herbs.

Any "purchases" will be by donation to prevent handling money. Donated plants very welcome! and if you wish to pre-order, please phone Jo Casey 830885



St. Mary's Berkley

From the Registers

Lullington

Marriages

7th March - Thomas Jones and
Christine Holmes

Baptism

15th March - Edward William Crouch

Eric James William Oakes Dec'd

We would like to thank everyone for their sympathy and kindness following Eric's death in January.

The support and help received by us has been very much appreciated.

We are pleased to advise that the sum of £1192.16 from the collection at his thanksgiving Service has been donated in his memory to St. Mary's Church, Berkley.

Anne, Jill and Lynnette

Parents & Toddlers

Sadly, unable to meet at present.

More details from Freda: 830597

All Saints Rodden



Date	Flowers	Cleaning
3	Melanie/Rachael	Melanie/Rachael
10	Rachael/Melanie	Rachael/Melanie
17	Mrs Jones	Vacant
24	Mrs Jones	Mrs Drew
31	Mrs Bungay	Mrs Bungay



Lullington & Orchardleigh

doesn't mean that we don't plan for the future. It means that we order the space within us so that we make room for God and for others. It means that we seek change and transformation in the world we live in. It means that we extend help to the single mothers and the poor in our community. It means that we make positive changes in our world. Jesus promises that if we do this we will find joy and contentment.

Glyn Bridges

Beneath the trees in our small orchard there is a profusion of snowdrops, daffodils and violets with some primroses too. Looking at them reminded me of Sunday's Bible reading from Matthew 6 beginning at verse 25 the section is headed

'Do not worry'. Verse 28 reads; 'Why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. . . . even Solomon in all his splendour was not dressed like one of these.'

The passage points us towards God's unfailing faithfulness to which the whole of creation bears witness. God's love for the world has no limits; it never ends so we do not need to worry about our life, what we need, what we want and what our future looks like. The world of advertising is effective in making us want more than we need in our life and at selling the lifestyle, status and security that we crave but Jesus draws us back to the discipline of simplicity. To seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness

STAY HOME

STAY SAFE

STAY SCAM AWARE

Devon, Somerset and Torbay
Trading Standards Service

Commissioned by Devon, Somerset and Torbay Councils



The outbreak of COVID-19 has seen an increase in scams and doorstep traders who are trying to exploit fear and uncertainty during this difficult time. As individuals and communities, we urge you to keep safe and vigilant in the current environment and look out for scams in your neighbourhood, which often target elderly and vulnerable people.

Types Of Scams



Testing Kits and Cures

There is currently no cure for COVID-19 and limited access to testing kits outside the NHS. When these kits are available, always ensure you are purchasing from a reputable supplier.



Doorstep Crime

There are many genuine community groups and charities that are assisting the most vulnerable, however, be alert for individuals who may be taking money under the false pretence of helping.



Donation Scams

There have been reports of thieves extorting money from consumers by claiming they are collecting donations for a COVID-19 'vaccine'.



Refund Scams

Some companies are offering fake holiday refunds for individuals who have been forced to cancel their trips. People seeking refunds should also be wary of fake websites set up to claim holiday refunds.



Financial Scams

Criminals are seeking to take advantage of the financial uncertainty many people are facing. These include calls/emails pretending to be from your bank, mortgage or internet provider, as well as increases in loan shark activity.

How To Stay Safe

- If you need help, try and use people you know and trust. If you cannot do this, always ask the person for ID, preferably in the form of a driving licence and make a note of their details
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It is okay to say no and refuse an offer
- Don't open links or attachments from suspicious emails or text messages
- Never give out your personal bank details, pin, passwords to anyone over the phone, online or on your doorstep
- Don't ring the number the caller has given you to check it's genuine. Always try to look the number up for yourself
- If buying online, only make payments if there is a padlock symbol in the browser window frame and you have carefully checked the site and website address for inconsistencies
- If you are unsure, please seek advice from someone you know and trust

We are calling on communities to look out for each other. If you see or hear anything suspicious contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0800 223 1133**

For more advice visit our website: www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk

helpline launched

A single phone number is now available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support from their councils.

The number, 0300 790 6275, is now live and will make it easier for people access any local authority help they may need, including emotional support, in the current crisis.

It links together the district and county council contact centres and will be operating seven days a week, 8am to 6pm, making it the one number you need to remember for Coronavirus-related enquiries. The district and county councils usual phone numbers will be running as normal alongside the new number for non-Coronavirus related issues.

The new number won't cover medical advice, for which people will need to continue to use the 111 NHS online service and only ring 111 if they cannot get help online.

Anyone who can't find help within their own local networks and volunteers, can use the new number to get help and advice around:

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

Beckington Memorial Hall

During this crisis the Memorial Hall buildings and children's play area will have to remain closed until we all receive further notice from the government.

We are however as a committee doing some vital maintenance work to the perimeter fence and also dealing some issues within the buildings.

Please be assured that as soon as we can we will open everything up again to the village.

Springmead School

Following guidance from the Government, Springmead along with all other schools in the country, temporarily closed its doors on Friday 20th March. From Monday 23rd our children began lessons from home, taught remotely by our teachers and supported by parents...a brave new world!

For some, the children of key workers and those in need of a little more support, school has carried on. So now Springmead is teaching from two places... remotely and onsite.

As you can imagine, the entire team has been working incredibly hard to provide remote learning and 'in school support'. My colleagues, despite their own real fears and worries, have continued to dig deep and doing all they could to support their charges, their school, the wider community and their own families. I am incredibly grateful for their support and receptiveness to the changes we have put in place. I have been overwhelmed by the messages of support from the parents, who, like us are on a steep learning curve with online lessons, conference calls and all that remote learning involves.

This month it is our 18th birthday, our celebrations which were planned for church and school have taken on a different feel, but as you would expect from a school that lives up to its maxim of 'seize the day' we celebrated remotely with flourish and joy!

We remain steadfast in keeping our children's best interests at heart and we will continue to grow and adapt as necessary until things return to a new normal. In the meantime we are doing all we can to keep our children, staff and families' safe, well and supported.

Warmest wishes to all our neighbours in Beckington, stay safe.

God bless

Madeleine Taylor



Freshford Surgery Update

The Somerset Primary Care Commissioning Committee met on 13 January 2020 to consider the application made by Beckington Family Practice to close the branch surgery premises at Younghusband House in Freshford.

The application to permanently close the old premises was approved at the Committee meeting, with the Committee recognising the building's unsuitability for ongoing use as a surgery and accepting the decision made by the Practice to temporarily close the branch surgery in March 2018 when it became apparent that they could no longer operate there safely.

On 10 March 2020, the Committee considered an application from the Practice to open a new branch surgery at Freshford Village Hall. The application was discussed in detail and, following a vote by the Committee, the application was declined. The desire and commitment of the local community for a branch surgery was noted, but on careful examination of multiple relevant factors, such as patient impact, health inequalities, stability and viability of Beckington Family Practice, alignment with Somerset CCG Commissioning and Estates Strategy and the proposed premises terms and conditions the Committee concluded that the proposed branch would not be sustainable.

This means that the Freshford branch surgery will permanently close and the Practice will no longer operate a branch surgery in Freshford. Dr John Beaven, Senior Partner, Beckington Family Practice, said:

"We know that this will come as a disappointment to many people. We would like to thank the Younghusband Trust for allowing us to operate from Younghusband House for so many years. We would also like to thank the Freshford Village Hall Redevelopment Committee, who worked with us over the last 7 years to develop an attractive proposal to operate a new surgery from the village hall site. Regrettably trends in funding, governance and GP recruitment mean that in the last two years the proposal has moved being viable to not being sustainable.

"We continue to offer all of our services from our Beckington and Fromefield sites and intend to continue the medication ordering and collection service at The Galleries, with their kind consent."

Dr John Beaven

BECKINGTON PHYSIOTHERAPY PRACTICE

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Parents & Toddlers

**We Meet every Tuesday
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830597**

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Parish Council Meetings

It will come as no surprise that the Parish Council didn't have a formal in-person meeting in April. Members did however have an informal chat on Zoom (Online video). The Government have temporally changed the law on how local government meetings must be conducted and it is now lawful to hold remote meetings, so Councillors may opt to do this over the next few months if something comes along that a decision needs to be made on. On the Parish Council website, you will find links to the latest COVID news and a list of local volunteers who are offering to do shopping or pick up prescriptions. You will also find all the latest news and planning applications.

Planning Applications:

This is one area of Local Government that hasn't stopped, if anything it is speeding up at a time when it is going to be harder for us to all engage with the planning system. All planning applications registered with Mendip District Council are listed on the Parish Council website, so it is worth keeping an eye on this as we have already seen an unwelcome return of a previous application that was rightly turned down by the District Council, the fear is there could be more speculative applications come.

Annual Parish Meeting:

It is unlikely that there will be an Annual Parrish Meeting this year, however I am not sure this will be a big loss to most residents, last year it was attended by 2 parishioners and in the three years before that zero attendances.

Footpaths / Rights of Way:

Landowners are responsible for the maintenance of the public rights of way that cross their land, including the upkeep of stiles and gates. It is possible to report defective gates / stiles or overgrown footpaths to Somerset County Council online, but if you could let me know as well then we can do our best to monitor the issue and try and get it resolved.

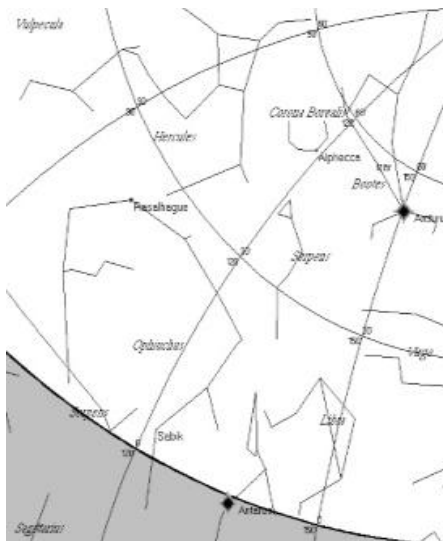
Beckington Astronomical Society

All meetings are cancelled until there is an appropriate relaxation in the 'lockdown' rules. Please see our website where details will be given when we can recommence meetings.
www.beckingtonas.org

Please take the opportunity to look at the night sky, we seem to be getting some very clear skies at present due partly no doubt to the absence of polluting aircraft Venus will be close to its brightest and very easy to identify as it is the brightest object in the

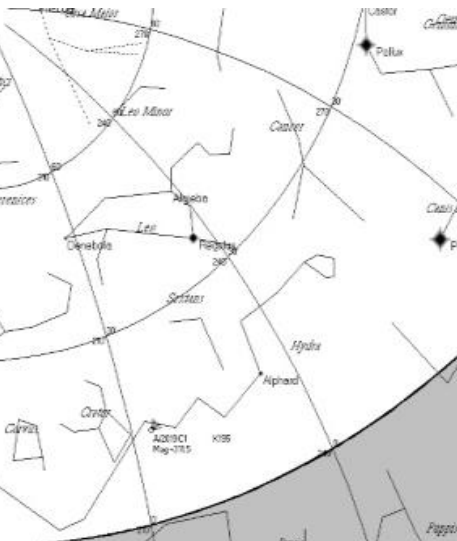
than it is when it is close to a full disc. With lockdown many should have time to look at and enjoy the night sky. For a quick starter I have shown a map of the sky looking South at about 10.30 (BST) in the middle of May. It is useful to get to know a few key constellations. In the map two of the most prominent constellations are the Kite shaped Boötes with the bright star Arcturus and the constellation of Leo the Lion with the bright star Regulus. The constellation of Leo is one of the few whose shape bears some resemblance to its name. Arcturus is the 4th brightest star in the night sky.

Please visit our website for the latest



western evening night sky (apart from the moon).

With good binoculars you should be able to see Venus as a crescent. Interestingly, Venus at its brightest is a crescent as it is closer to the Earth



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Beckington Parish Council

Progress on Beckington Drainage Review

Key Highlights

- Five culverted watercourses were identified within Beckington which had not previously been surveyed. These were mainly old stone-lined culverts, many beneath houses and gardens, making access difficult. Due to the lack of manhole access, some parts of the system were unable to be fully surveyed.
- Many of the older dwellings in the village have water wells within their grounds (some up to 12 metres deep). Inspecting these, we found that ground water levels were well below the surface, indicating low risk for ground water flooding.
- Most of the older properties in the village have downpipes that discharge rainwater straight onto the road via small surface grills. These discharge into the highway drainage system via the highway drains.
- All existing highway gullies were thoroughly cleaned during the survey works.
- Culverted watercourses are generally in good condition with some minor stone/slab movement in places (only one partial collapse noted on Goose Street).
- The culverts carry a substantial amount of woody debris from upstream rural areas, making some parts of the system difficult to survey. Improvements to ditch maintenance and using trash screens upstream of the culverts (where open ditches drain into the system), could help to prevent woody debris and leaves from

entering the culvert. This is being looked at as part of the review. Key Highlights

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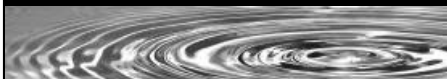
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Beckington Planning Applications

For details see:

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

2020/0693/OTA - Outline application with all matters reserved for the provision of two dwelling houses. Land At 379975 152332 Bath Road Beckington Frome Somerset, 02 Apr 2020

Received at the meeting on 10 Mar 2020:

2018/0971/HSE - The removal of a modern extension, the reinstatement of original fenestration, repair works, and the provision of a single storey rear extension, with associated hard and soft landscaping (amended scheme).15 Castle Corner Beckington BA11 6TA, 20 Feb 2020
Parish Council recommendation: No Objection

2020/0546/LBC - Alterations to existing dwelling and annexe, including replacement windows and doors, internal alterations and partial demolition to reopen blocked opening on ground floor.
Wool Hall Castle Corner Beckington BA11 6TA, 12 Mar 2020
Parish Council recommendation: No Objection

2020/0545/HSE - Alterations to existing dwelling and annexe, including

replacement windows and doors, internal alterations and partial demolition to reopen blocked opening on ground floor
Wool Hall Castle Corner Beckington Frome BA11 6TA, 11 Mar 2020
Parish Council recommendation: No Objection

2020/0467/TCA - T1 - Willow. dismantle/fell
5 Bath Road Beckington BA11 6SW, 03 Mar 2020
Parish Council recommendation: Objection

2020/0229/CNS - Installation of a lamp pedestal post box
Land At 382784 151664 Rudge Lane Rudge Frome 27 Jan 2020
Parish Council recommendation: Objection

SERVICES May 2020

Public worship in all churches has been temporarily suspended, but the life and worship of the church continues – albeit in a different way.

Church of England resources:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

scroll down to “Digital resources” or go to:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/online-church>

To search for traditional Book of Common Prayers Services:

<https://www.pbs.org.uk/churches-and-services/-1>

Premier Christian Radio Online, on DAB radio or Freeview channel 725

St. Bart's (C of E.) Bath

The Bible encourages us not to neglect meeting together but to encourage one another... (Hebrews 10:24-25), and we can do that in a “virtual” way. We will be live-streaming a short ‘no congregation’ service at 10.30am starting each Sunday. Do use your laptop, tablet, smart TV or smartphone to access our YouTube channel and join in with others:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeZiiKhF3K_sPntUz1Bbcw

Diary Dates

Please follow government advice
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*check with organizers before
venturing out*

May 16 **St Georges Plant Sale** 10am-4pm
ALSO 17th May 10am-12MD **Please**
see page 8 more details

May 26 **W.I.** Outing to Denman **(Tuesday)**

Jun 3 **MU** 2.15, Lahs Place. Talk - from
Curate to Bishop's wife

Jun 4 **W.I.** Colourful Buttonholes

Jun 14 **Beckington Open Gardens** for
Friends of St. George's 2pm

Jul 1 **MU** Cream Teas, 2.30pm

Jul 2 **W.I.** Curious Bath

Jul 25 **Rodden Barbecue** at Flintford
Farm, 6.00pm

Aug 6 **W.I.** Social Evening – shared supper &
Quiz

Aug 21 **RBL Biennial Fundraising Dinner** at
Beckington Memorial Hall

Sep 3 **W.I.** Behind the Scenes at the National
Trust

Oct 1 **W.I.** Down the Garden Path

Oct 3 **St George's Barn Dance**

Oct 5 **Rodden Harvest Supper** 7.00pm

Nov 5 **W.I.** 'Refresh' and talk on Rwanda

Nov 6 **St. George's Early Christmas Market**

Nov 13-15 **Beckington Benefice Weekend**
Away, Sidmouth

Nov 21 **Rodden Festive Soup & Puds**, 12-
2pm.

Dec 3 **W.I.** Kingdom of the Ice Bears

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The calendar of activities in St. George's church is online at
www.beckington.org.uk/stgeorgescalendar