


The Beckington Group of Parishes



Beckington
Berkley
Lullington & Orchardleigh
Rodden



Network

March 2021

CONTACT LIST

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 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	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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Beckington		
Safe Guarding Officer	Dr J Beaven	830535
PCC Secretary	Vacant	
Church Wardens <small>wardens.beckington@gmail.com</small>	Judith Craig	830970
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Lullington with Orchardleigh		
https://lullandorch.org.uk Twitter: @LullandOrch		
email addresses end with ...@lullandorch.org.uk		
Churchwardens: wardens@...		
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Treasurer: Jo Rathmell treasurer@...		
Weddings: Jenny Ladd weddings@...		
Baptisms: baptisms@...		
Director of Music: David King music@....		
Verger: Jeanette Hayward weddverger@...		

Beckington Web Site:

Awaiting reconstruction

Beckington School Web Site:

www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk

Berkley School Web Site:

www.berkleyschool.co.uk

Springmead School Web Site:

www.springmead.com

Beckington Memorial Hall

Sara Coffield 01373 710210

beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk

Beckington Parish Council

beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: Simon Pritchard 07792 478960

Berkley Parish Council

Clerk: Janet Harvey 01373 832303

Bell ringing practice

at St. George's is every Thursday

from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tower Captain: J Ball 830419

johnagball.51@gmail.com

Beckington Group Mothers' Union

Branch Leaders: Jenny Ayrton 01373

830208 & Jacky Lobley. Meets 1st

Wed in the month except August.

Beckington Tower Lighting

Mary Hickling 01373 830274

Beckington Pre-School

beckingtonpre-school.co.uk

Please submit items for publication in the

April issue to:

beckington.network@gmail.com

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

March 20th

Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Evemy

Please call after 4pm during weekdays

07540 133396 Julie@evemy.net

A Reflection

Dear Friends

How are you? No really.... "How are you?"

It's a phrase we often use when we greet someone, especially if we haven't seen them for a while, or chatted on the phone.

I am conscious that when I'm using this phrase at the moment, it really has become much more than a greeting. I am definitely wanting to know how friends and family are doing. How are you? How are you physically? How are you coping with home schooling the kids? How is the job going amongst the stresses of Covid? How are you coping without seeing the grandkids? How are you managing the shopping trips? Have you seen anyone this week? Shall we chat again soon, really chat? I think I'm saying to my friends and family let's be honest with each other and really listen. So How are you? No really..... "How are you?"

Covid has highlighted the need for us all to stay healthy, not only physically but mentally. It has reminded us of two really important things we need to do much more often. "Talk to each other" and "Listen to each other". Really talk and really listen. I often reflect on the wisdom of two ears and one mouth. I probably use the one mouth far too much and need to use my two ears much more often. So, in this season of Lent, perhaps I'll give up too much speaking and take up much more listening!

Rev Ronnie

Easter Services

Please see the back page for a list of services for March. Easter Sunday is on 4th April. I certainly hope we shall be able to hold services across the benefice on this very special day in the Church Year. Posters and Notices will be displayed as soon as we can, and advertised in April Network, although that may be a little too late. Please also be aware that we may need to operate a booking system to safely manage numbers at larger services. Do feel free to email or ring me or the church wardens of the individual parishes. Contact details are given inside the front cover.



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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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Frome Farmers' Market

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

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

www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk

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

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

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

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www.fsmsolicitors.co.uk

enquiries@fsmsolicitors.co.uk



St. George's Beckington

Friends of St George's: A silent auction of talents

A big thank you to all those who have offered their talents. We hope this is an enjoyable exercise as well as a successful fund raiser and brings people together, as soon as we are able. Activities will take place within or as Covid restrictions allow.

Below is an amazing list of twenty-four "Lots". Please carefully consider your top bid and email rectorronnie@outlook.com or drop a note through the Rectory Door- 8 Church Street, Beckington. Please ensure you clearly state YOUR NAME. The Lot number and the description given below. YOUR PHONE NUMBER/EMAIL. And most important your TOP BID. **By noon on 10th April.** You can of course bid for more than one Lot! In the event of identical top bids participants will be offered a second chance.

1. 3 course meal for 5 (wine included)
2. Garage Restaurant - *dinner for four in a rustic setting*
3. Special afternoon tea for 6 including a glass of Fizz!
4. Three Hours Gardening by experienced couple
5. Recover your favourite silk lampshade

6. Ironing (one average load)
(Top three bids as we have three offers to iron)
7. Three online Pilates lessons for an individual or small group of friends
8. Dog Walking or Dog sitting (2-4 hours)
9. Personalised home crafted gift cards
10. Two Jars of Rudge Honey harvested Autumn 2021.
NB £15 reserve
11. Shopping Trip to Frome
12. Trip to a Garden Centre
13. Afternoon Tea for four on a veranda with stunning views
14. 'Made by Maria' chocolate brownies each month for a year" (i.e., 12 batches)
15. Garden Rotavating
16. Pressure hosing to clean a patio
17. 500g sourdough boule every 2 weeks for 2 months. *Commencing after 4th May*
18. A rustic Bird Feeder
19. A Hanging Bird Box
20. Three ½ hour piano lessons for a beginner
21. a jar of lemon curd x 3 months (i.e., a jar a month) and deliver it.
22. A homemade fruit cake
23. Garden Watering (to cover a holiday period)
24. Your weekly supermarket shop collected and delivered to your doorstep for 2 weeks-*Mornings only*

Successful Bidders will be notified soon after the 10th April and put into contact with the owner of the talent offered above. A full list of the successful bids will appear in the May magazine, on "Rectors Rambles" and on the St George's Church notice board.

HAPPY BIDDING

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**



All Saints Rodden

John Wheeler Recently passed away

John was a man of many talents. Rodden Church benefited hugely from his kindness and his ability to play the organ. John played the organ at Rodden for more years than I can remember at our Sunday morning services. I never recall his letting us down. In the more recent years, he suffered a

lot of pain in his hands and had problems with his eyes. John, however, was a very determined man who would not let these difficulties stop him. His friends at Rodden will surely miss him and will be sad to learn of his death on 17th January 2021. We remember Jean and his family in our prayers.

Jim Beck

Rodden 200 Club

Just a reminder to any of our friends who have not yet submitted their applications that you only have a few weeks left to do so. Thanks to all who have joined so far for their generosity!

Michael Ruddick

Beckington Memorial Hall

Since we have removed the black bottle bin from the Hall carpark and locked the main red bin, we seem to have brought a halt to the illegal use of this facility -long may it continue. I have little else to report as nothing is happening at the moment! However, we remain hopeful that the successful vaccine programme will allow us to start to return to normality before long.

David Prince

Best foot forward....

Under lockdown, millions of us who rarely walked around our immediate locality are now well acquainted with every nearby driveway, every crack in the pavement, and every pothole in the road. We have developed views on our neighbours' gardens, on their oddly coloured garage doors, and on their dogs, children and cars.

If we go out at the same time every day, we may even be saying hello to the same people we don't know every day. For many of us, that daily walk has become the high point of our day. Some of us go early, to enjoy the relative peace and quiet. Some of us go midday, to at least see other people, even if we can't talk to them. Others of us opt for dusk, the dark comfort of a street with lit houses and stars in the sky. Whatever time you most enjoy, make sure you do make the time to go for your walk. Your mental and physical fitness can only improve.

For Sale or Wanted

Various jigsaws, all complete, £10 each.
636 pieces and boxes with 4 puzzles x 500 pieces in each.
Contact Sally 07709 692921 for further details.
Happy to deliver locally

If you would like an entry in this column, please send it to Julie Evemy (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.

Live prayer service

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Have you lost a loved one during the COVID pandemic?
Join Bishop Ruth for an hour of prayer live on Facebook.

She will be live on Facebook www.facebook.com/bathwells at **2pm on 3 March** and the service will also be streamed on the diocesan website www.bathandwells.org.
Joining on Facebook will allow you to submit during the names of those you mourn, so they can be remembered by name.

If you would like to submit a name in advance to be remembered service, please email comms@bathwells.anglican.org.

Springmead School

Preparing children today, for a bright tomorrow

So many things have felt different this term; however, one thing that has remained consistent has been hard work and a commitment to learning from everyone. This has been particularly so for our Year 6 children who have been busy preparing for the next stage of their educational journey; this has involved test preparation across different academic areas as well as interview preparation, and in some cases auditions too.

During the Autumn term Y6 worked diligently, coming in early to prepare for tests and to go over papers that had been sat at home. We are delighted that once again children have been awarded places and scholarships in the very best independent senior schools in the area with state school places still to be announced.

Throughout the last year children at Springmead have continued to receive a well-rounded education, that goes beyond the national curriculum and seeks to develop the whole child with a plethora of extra-curricular opportunities, many of which we have been able to creatively keep going during the pandemic. This has only been possible with incredibly supportive parents and committed staff working tirelessly to make the most of every learning opportunity.

We have been delighted with the engagement of all children across the school in 'remote' and 'in school' learning over the latest lockdown but we can't wait to get everyone back!

Madeleine Taylor
Principal

Rode & District Gardening Club

We are pleased to announce that we have arranged for a special 50% discount rate for seeds bought from Suttons Seeds. Join the Club at a special membership rate of £4 for this year to get your discount code. People who paid for 2020 are still members for 2021. Remember there is 10% discount on purchases from Barter's Plant Centre, Chapmanslade and Prior Park Garden Centre, Bath. Contact me at address below for details.

We are holding our AGM on Monday 8th March 2021 at 7pm. on Zoom. Do you want more flowers, more wild flowers, more trees in our environment? Come and join us and help develop new ideas for improvements in our village.

Averil Morrow 830686
averil.morrow@yahoo.co.uk



Beckington Parish Council

Council Tax:

While writing this in mid-February, it is being reported that Somerset County Council (SCC) is going for a 4.99% increase and Mendip District Council (MDC) a 2.99% increase from April. The Parish Council has voted to freeze the Parish Council part of the council tax bill, but unfortunately as the SCC & MDC part of the bill is far greater than the Parish Council share, residents should be braced for an overall increase.

Allotments Waiting List Open:

Finally, the legal agreement for the transfer of the allotment land is in place and so it is now possible to open up the allotment waiting list. The Beckington Allotment Association manage the waiting list, they can be contacted by email:

beckington.allotment.assoc@gmail.com –

To be on the waiting list you must be a resident of the Parish of Beckington. At this time, it is just not possible to say how long you would be on the list before an allotment becomes free but it is likely to be years. However, registering your interest is useful to the Parish Council as an indicator as to how much more land is required to cater for demand.

People With An Interest In Planning Sought:

Most will be aware that the Parish Council scrutinise every planning application that is made in the Parish. The Parish Council also pay an interest in Mendip District

Council's planning policy and responding to all consultations.

The Parish Council now requires some help in this area due to a leading member of the council leaving the area and therefore has an impending retirement from the Council. You may have the time to carryout site visits, scrutinise planning apps or read understand and be able to translate local planning policy. You would not necessarily have to become a member of the Parish Council, but it would be useful if you could attend the monthly meetings (Second Tuesday of the month).

Please email:

beckingtonparishcouncil@outlook.com if interested.

Grants Awarded:

The Parish Council is pleased to be able to support the Network Magazine with its running costs by awarding a grant of £50 and the Beckington Preschool a grant of £385.84 towards play equipment

Simon Pritchard
Clerk to Parish Council

Jasmine's Dogathon for Dorothy House

Jasmine is my popular 5-year-old yellow Labrador/Husky cross. She is well into **her commitment to run for about 6 miles a day over the six weeks from 6th February to 20th March – coinciding with the current major fundraising campaign by Dorothy House** – meaning she will have covered over 250 dog miles by that date. "Sponsorship" donations are invited by logging on to www.justgiving.com and searching for Jasmine's Dogathon for Dorothy House. Sponsoring her to the tune of 6p per mile suggests a donation of £15.00 but there is, of course, neither a minimum nor a maximum figure. Jasmine and I are hoping lots of people will support her in this worthy endeavour.

Christopher Massy-Beresford
01373 830524

Dorothy House Hospice Care provides free palliative and end of life care across 700 square miles, serving a population of 550,000 people in Bath & North East Somerset, and parts of Somerset and Wiltshire. Providing our services for people living with a life-limiting illness, their families and carers requires significant funds and for every £1 from the government, we have to raise £5. This critical work has become even more vital during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. There are more patients to look after and we must make sure each one receives the highest quality care and compassionate support.

New Practice Website

www.beckingtonfamilypractice.co.uk

We are pleased to announce that our new and updated practice website has been launched. It gives up to date information on opening hours, the best ways to contact us and available services. Please have a look; we hope you will find it a useful reference.

National Coronavirus (Covid-19) Vaccination Programme

We are vaccinating patients based on the priority groups identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation in collaboration with the other practices in our local primary care network. Most of the vaccinations take place at Shape Centre Mendip District Council Offices, Shepton Mallet.

National guidance and vaccine deliveries control when each priority age group can be invited and where vaccinations take place. As a result, we are unfortunately limited in how many vaccinations we can give in Frome. We would encourage you to receive your vaccine as soon as possible, even if this means travelling further. Please do not contact the surgery directly – we will contact you when it is time to have your vaccination.

Please note: If you are awaiting a call from us, our phone number will show as withheld when we call.

We are sending some text messages to patients with a booking link. For more information on the NHS Vaccination programme in Somerset, please visit:

<https://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-during-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset/>

Local Cricket 2021 Season

It's been a long tough winter but with Covid vaccinations being given at a fantastic rate of knots, it promises to be a good spring and summer. Hopefully this current lockdown will be eased over the coming months and we can all get out a lot more. To this end I'm very optimistic about the coming cricket season and feel we will start the season at the usual time this year all be it with some Covid restrictive precautions in place to start with.

We have a brilliant set up which caters for all age groups, so there is something for everyone and what better way to start by getting out in the school holidays at Easter and having a good run around and fun with all your friends in preparation for the new season. Here's what is on offer in your local area....



Junior Cricket for all boys and girls

Easter Holidays - Cricket camp- All age groups - Fun and games and getting fit for the new season.

Thursday evening training - All age groups including:

ALL STARS - Entry level Reception and year 1/2 - Fun and games with parental participation. You even get a goodie pack consisting of a bat, ball, back pack, water bottle and personalised shirt and cap. Fun and fitness for all the family!

U7s & U9s - Still with the emphasis on fun we start to learn the game of cricket. Kwik Cricket is played with plastic bats and balls and is totally inclusive. Bring Granny and Grandad to watch their first matches at the many Sunday morning Kwik Cricket festivals.

U11, U13 and U15 hard ball cricket

We have fantastic facilities, kit and qualified coaching staff to progress cricket through the various age groups. We play competitive league and cup matches throughout the season in the Bath and District Youth Cricket League with pathways for development that could lead to district and county selection.

U19 and Senior cricket - If you want the T20 razzmatazz of large crowds, coloured kit and flashing bails, or the Saturday afternoon tradition of league cricket, or the more social side of evening friendly cricket then again we can cater for everyone from the dizzy heights of Wiltshire League, to a hefty slog to cow corner. If you have just moved to the area or the kids have grown up a bit and you want to dust off your prized bat from the attic, come along and have a game this year.

The social side to cricket - You don't have to play to be involved. All teams and coaches need help in organisation or you may fancy helping with pitch preparation or grass cutting or you may just fancy joining the "Prosecco Wednesday" crowd for some social chitchat and supporting your local team. Quiz and social evenings, there is something for everyone. Which ever it is we would love to see you this summer.

There will be more info in the April edition or just contact me and I'll give you the details you need....

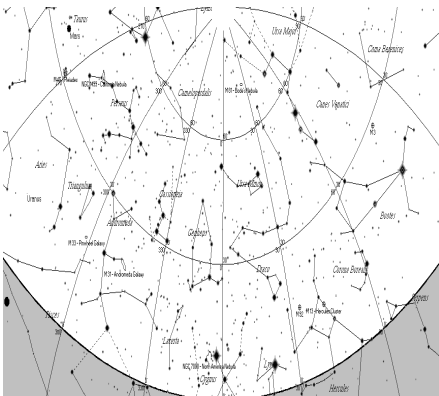
Mark Finch - Chairman Beckington, Norton St Philip & Rode Junior cricket - 07876 191100



Beckington Astronomical Society (BAS)

www.beckingtons.org

Most of the star maps we find printed in magazines (for UK observers) show the view looking South and the majority of Amateur astronomers' observatories have their telescopes set up to have a clear view of the Southern horizon. There is a good reason for this. The Earth's axis, i.e., a line through the poles points almost exactly to the Pole Star. This is not labelled in the map but it is right in



the centre of the page and in the constellation of Ursa Minor. Where the lines converge at the top of the page is the Zenith - a point directly above the observer. As the Earth rotates, the stars appear to rotate about the pole star, and you may have seen time exposures of the night sky showing circles around the pole star. The tilt of the Earth and our latitude means that many of the constellations we see in the lower part of the Southern night sky will never appear in the Northern night sky, but many of those in this Northern night sky map will, in 6 months' time, be well

placed in the South. Having said all that, I thought I would show a map of the Northern night sky for the middle of March. As mentioned, the pole star Polaris is right in the centre of the map and you can see how well the 'pointer' stars of Ursa Major (The Plough, Big Dipper) can act as a pointer to the pole star and the geographical North (it is accurate to within one degree).

We are lucky in the Northern Hemisphere as in the Southern Hemisphere they do not have an easy way to find due South. Mars is just in view in the left of the map but not quite as bright as some of the brightest stars, so not so easy to find. It was nice to hear today (19/2/21) that the Mars lander had been successful. A bit below Mars are the Pleiades or seven sisters; this is a lovely cluster of bright bluish stars than are usually highlighted as a winter object to view. The Andromeda Galaxy can be seen in the left-hand part of the map and again this is best viewed in the Autumn when it is almost directly overhead. If you put a point of a compass (for drawing circles) on the pole star and the pencil point on a chosen star or galaxy you can draw its movement round the pole star (note all the rest of the sky similarly rotates). It is always worth taking a look to the North.

Let's hope it will not be too long before the society can resume its meetings.

John Ball 01373 830419

Standerwlick, Berkley and Beckington W.I

The W.I. is continuing with its zoom meetings every 2 weeks. A chance to catch up with members and find out what everyone is doing. Several members have been painting, pictures not walls! They showed them to the other members on zoom: all very impressive. Also, we are hoping to organise a talk on zoom for the members.

The book club is still continuing. The same book is read by the members and a zoom meeting is held to discuss it. This time it was *The Running Hare* by John Lewis Stempel. It was about the environment and resulted in a lot of discussion among the members. When talking about the changing weather, one of our members told us she was living near Lake Windermere in 1963 when the lake completely froze over. It was so frozen that she walked over it. When we had snow, the children really enjoyed it. Another of our members is involved with setting up a charity shop in the old M&Co shop in the Frome precinct. It is being organised by the Frome Rotary Club and they are taking books electrical goods and ornaments etc. But NO CLOTHES. They are welcoming donations and should be opening shortly. For further information contact Frome Rotary Club.

The Somerset W.I. Federation has had another zoom meeting on the Great Western Air Ambulance and Dorset and Somerset Air

Ambulance. They showed pictures of the new very expensive helicopter which is able to fly at night, and also told of the difficulties they have to cope with now we have the virus. The next talk they have organised is called "The Pearl Lady." She will be talking about the history and information regarding pearls. It should be very interesting.

Several members reported receiving a scam email asking to be sent amazon vouchers urgently. BEWARE

Hope everyone is staying well.

Marion Oxlade

Beckington Group Mothers' Union

We had a successful meeting on Zoom last month for our annual wave of prayer service, with many of our members taking part. We heard encouraging news from the liaison officers in our link dioceses in Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa and South India, where Mothers' Union is flourishing, and members are supporting one another and their local communities through these challenging and difficult times.

Although many meetings and events have been put on hold, there are on-line services and resources which can be accessed.

We also have a newsletter every month from our diocesan president Madeline Hellier and her team in Wells, with information of events we can join with, and one from Mary Sumner House in London

with news of members worldwide. Our diocesan chaplain has prepared a Lent course of readings and reflections, available on-line. Many of us are keeping in touch by phone and email. Our AGM will be held at a later date. The next meeting will be on Zoom, on **Wednesday 3rd March at 2.30.**

We shall be thinking about Lady Day, which is 25th March, and celebrates the feast of the Annunciation, and will be led by Ronnie. Please join us if you can.

Rosemary Ball



THANK YOU

The family of the late **June Hibbard** would like to thank everyone for the many cards, letters, kind words, flowers and donations following her sad death on 19th January 2021, aged 93.

Donations in her memory of over £400 will be given to The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth. June was born in Beckington and lived her entire life in the village.

She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

People in the Parish

This month, Network has been speaking with..... **Jon White** who has many happy memories and connections with Beckington and the surrounding villages.

Although I've never lived in the village, Beckington has been part of my life for many years. Probably my first memory is of lay preachers from the Baptist Chapel coming to speak at the Frome church and giving the traditional 'children's' address' to us little ones.

I grew up in the Baptist community of East Somerset and West Wiltshire and can remember the stories I was told of the links between all the local Baptist churches going way back into the 18th Century.

In my teenage years, I can remember when the main road still ran through the middle of the village and I would regularly cycle through on my way to Trowbridge or on cycle runs out through the villages of Beckington, Lullington, Laverton and through Orchardleigh Park. We also used to come to the village hall which was a popular venue for discos in the early 80's when I was at Frome College.

I moved away from the area for Uni but returned to Frome with a young family in my mid-20's, first working at the Woolpack pub and Frome Sports centre before beginning my career in education at Critchill school in Frome. In my teacher

training I did my first placement at Beckington village school and can remember Christmas play rehearsals in the Village Hall and taking the class the stone's throw over to the church for worship.

Over the years I have enjoyed playing the organ in the Baptist church and, on a few occasions, the much grander organ in St George's and once, the magnificent one at Berkley! I have kept up links with the Baptist Church, and in normal times, playing for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve has always been the thing that has started Christmas off properly.

I now live and work 'over the border' in Wiltshire and I am part of Oasis church in Bath, but I really value the links I have with Beckington Baptist Church, and in the latest lockdown it has been great to be able to join with St George's on a Sunday morning through Zoom.

Thank you, Jon, for your valuable contribution.

Do you have fond memories of our benefice? We would love to hear them. Please send your stories into beckington.network@gmail.com and maybe see your story in print !

Baptists in Beckington over the years

With the excitement of the group of Baptist Christians who moved from a house in Church Hill around 1786, their life became based on the site of the building that bears that date. There had been Baptists active in the villages for a number of years prior to this, certainly from 1692, when a Mr. Randall of Beckington left a sum of money to Badcox Lane church in Frome.

Beckington Baptist church was founded in October 1786 by fourteen members, who were baptised at Frome by the minister of Sheppards Barton Church. The list of family names, have over the years been associated with local Baptist churches in Beckington, Frome, Bratton, Southwick Trowbridge, and Rode. Those listed as founding members of the Beckington Baptist Church were John Alford, William Bailey (who had provided access to the site by sale to the group of land that he had bought) Anthony Bourne. Samuel Nash, Richard Keevil, Harry, Joseph, and Betty Timsbury; Ann Moss; Joseph Thresher; Sarah Abbot; Martha and Elizabeth Carter; Sarah Hillman, and Betty Payne.

Many of these family names occur on tombstones in the parish and folk will recognise some of the surnames as being those of locals to this day; others will be called to mind by older residents. The building in which the founding members gathered was however

not the present building. The one in 1786 was smaller it had cost £307 to build and was licensed as a Dissenters Meeting House on 20th September 1788. The first pastor of the group was John Alford, one of the founding members. John pastored there until 1795 by which time the church had grown to 46 members. He was replaced by a Mr. Hilton a cloth manufacturer from Bradford on Avon. He would ride over each Sunday morning and back after the afternoon service, to serve the church. He did this without pay for some twenty years. It is recorded that this was a person whose 'soul burned for the Lord and was full of love for Jesus and for his fellow men and women.' His ministry was to be very fruitful.

In 1802 the church attendance had grown to such an extent that the building had to be extended; this marked the construction of the present building, By the time Mr. Hinton retired in 1815, the church had grown to some 215 folk. Mr. Hilton served the church faithfully and during his ministry the church was able to help many of the poor in the community, and to serve the village in other ways.

We now look forward to again renewing ways of continuing service to the Lord and to the community when the restrictions of the Pandemic allow. (234 years and still going).

Rev. Michael I White.

Mental health ideas for uncertain times

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, and vaccinations and better weather may make handling the pandemic a little easier. On the other hand, marking a year from the start of the first UK lockdown will be painful for some, especially as many of us are likely to be experiencing restrictions or ongoing hardships for quite some time. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

Getting outside

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction. Enjoying creation can also help us connect with God, our Creator.

Looking outside

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

Lament and praise

The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day.

Journaling

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

Acts of kindness

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

Gratitude

Gratitude is another natural drug, in a sense that it can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

Laugh, sing, make music, dance

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.



**Marie
Curie**

Great Daffodil Appeal

Marie Curie, the UK's leading end-of-life care charity will this year celebrate their 35th annual Great Daffodil Appeal, which is held every March across the UK. The money raised from this appeal enables the charity to continue their vital work providing care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their families.

The coronavirus continues to have a devastating effect on Marie Curie's fundraising, as activities up and down the country have had to be cancelled.



However, there's still lots of ways people can get involved, with things like the Step into Spring Challenge in March where people walk 10,000 steps a day, they can host a virtual collection or buy and wear one of the charity's iconic daffodils in memory of a loved one.

This year will be even more special as the charity encourages the nation to come together to reflect, grieve and remember for a National Day of Reflection. Tuesday 23rd March 2021 will mark one year since the UK first went into a nationwide lockdown and Marie Curie is inviting the nation to unite and remember those who died and show support and solidarity for those who have been bereaved. The charity knows how important it is for people to grieve and the emotional and psychological impact of not being able to say goodbye properly and grieving in isolation can have.

Due to the pandemic, Marie Curie won't have their normal collections on the street, so donations are more important than ever. To support the Great Daffodil Appeal, you can donate at www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil or you can buy your daffodil pin in store at a number of high street stores including Superdrug or Savers.



Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL

Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH

Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL

Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN

Genesis 29:32

GAD

Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1:20

OBED

Matthew 1:5

ISAAC

Genesis 21:3

Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

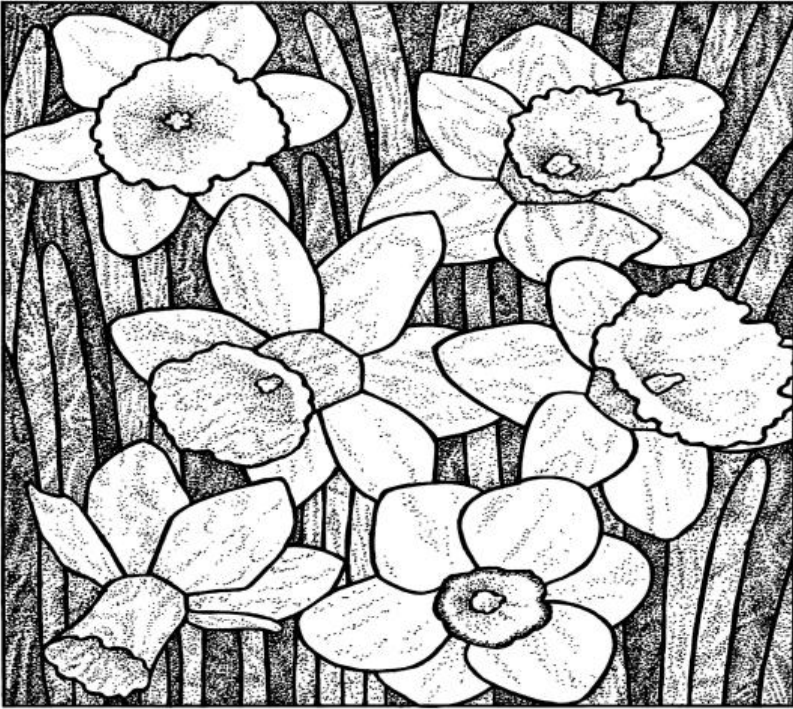
ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14



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

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?



Mothering Sunday **14th March 2021**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ. On Mid-Lent Sunday, the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads

"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church. Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

Palm Sunday

28th March 2021



The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following. On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later

that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines;

and how His followers would face persecution. By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus broke bread and shared it with his disciples to represent his body, and shared a cup of wine to represent his blood. Christians still celebrate this in the Holy Communion.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible says in Luke ch22 v42

"Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done".

Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship. As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive – and to strengthen others by the love we give.

We know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive – and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him. Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching



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