


The Beckington Group of Parishes



Beckington
Berkley
Lullington & Orchardleigh
Rodden



Network

June 2021

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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
 July/August issue to:
beckington.network@gmail.com
 to arrive no later than **12 noon** on
June 20th
For Network Advertising: Mrs. J. Evemy
 Please call after 4pm during weekdays
 07540 133396 Julie@evemy.net

A Reflection

I'm a great lover of the Church's festivals and the particular hymns we sing at those times of the year. However, there is a danger that we just think of the particular event celebrated on a particular Sunday and that's that. I always remember being taken to task by a parishioner for preaching on the Holy Spirit as it was before Pentecost!

By the time you read this Pentecost will certainly be past - unless the Editor is super human - and probably so will Trinity Sunday. That's the Sunday that has both the clergy and the congregation scratching their heads! What is the Trinity all about is the question very often asked? I'm very aware of the many illustrations used to explain the Trinity, but in every case, they don't quite do the job. And yet it is a fundamental doctrine of the Christian Faith.

Years ago, I saw a photo of a very famous fresco in Florence. It has the title "The Trinity" and the artist was Masaccio and is on the wall of the church of Santa Maria Novella in Florence. Many years ago, my wife and I had a holiday in Florence and while visiting various places chanced to walk into that Church, and there it was on the wall facing the entrance. I stood absolutely still and just looked. I had seen it many times in books but here was the fresco itself! It depicts Jesus, the second person of the Trinity on the Cross, just as we see in many pictures. But above the Cross is the Father, the first person of the Trinity holding the Cross, taking some of the weight of what Martin Luther called "Jesus Cross work". Above Jesus' head and between Him and the Father is the dove, the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. All are involved from start to finish in the work of salvation; all are still involved in the work of encouraging you and me in our work of living the Christian life and bringing the wonder of the Gospel to others.

Reverend David Clark



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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
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from 9am-1pm.

www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk

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St. George's Beckington

Wildlife on our doorstep

We live in a beautiful part of the country and are blessed to have fields and woodland surrounding us. Many of us have enjoyed these precious open spaces during lockdown. We also have a different sort of open space on our doorstep that many people visit to find a quiet space and to remember and give thanks for our loved ones. Our churchyards are very special areas to be loved and treasured.

They can also be a real haven for wildlife. Many local churches, including St George's in Beckington are joining in with a campaign to reintroduce wild flowers and to take steps to create havens for all sorts of wildlife. Beckington School are in partnership with St George's Church as together we learn more about the precious wildlife, the birds and wildflowers in our churchyard. We are hoping more people would like to get involved with wildflower and wildlife surveys.

5th-11th June is "Love your burial ground week". To find out more about looking after and valuing these treasured areas you may like to visit

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

As you visit the local churchyards, you may at first be surprised to see what appears to be unkempt areas. You may see bits of bamboo stuck

into walls. You may see piles of leaves. Nettles may be growing amongst discarded wood piles. This is not neglect; it is creating homes and sources of food for God's creatures with whom we share this space.

May we learn to pause and wonder.
May we grow to appreciate.
May we respond in love to all of
God's creation. Amen

Rev Ronnie

Floodlighting

If you would like the tower to be floodlit, please contact: Mary Hickling maryhickling@btinternet.com or 830274. Suggested donation £10 payable to PCC Beckington. Thank you.

Friends of St George's

The Plant Sale on May 8th raised **£1400** for the repair and maintenance of our parish church, and we would like to thank the generous supporters and helpers. We do hope that your gardens may flourish this year!

On **Sunday June 13th**, from 2-5pm there will be 8 different and unusual **Beckington gardens open**, and it promises to be another very enjoyable afternoon. **Tickets with the map and details will be on sale outside the Woolpack**, a children's trail, teas and plant sales will be included. We look forward to seeing you then but sorry, no dogs please.

August 7th: Arts & Crafts with teas in St George's Church.

Reflected Faith Sit and be Still

How do you 'sit' in church? I'm a wriggler and change my position on the seat often. I cross one leg over the other, then swap them over, stretch them out, then cross them at the ankles. I do the same with my arms. I lean one way and then the other.

In other words, 'I'm a fidget.' But having been absent from a church building for so long, I wanted to think this month about simply *sitting and being still* before the Lord.

I'm well aware we've done little else this last 18 months – but if you manage to get into a church building, for whatever reason I'd like to encourage us all to just sit still and breathe in the place. To relish being 'back'!

To sit 'heavily' in that spot. To feel the solidity of the surface you are sitting on. Lean into it. Feel how it supports you. Feel each part of your body where it is touching the chair or pew.

Look around you at all the distinctive seating set aside for the different participants of the church: the choir, the worship leader, a deacon or curate, the priest and so on.

In an Anglican church there will be a chair especially dedicated for the use of the Bishop.

However plain or fancy each piece of furniture is within your building, they all have the same purpose. To hold the person and keep them safe.

This month:

As you sit in the church building – or at home if you are not able to do so – think of all those people in the Bible stories who sat with Jesus.

The number of times He taught in the Temple or in a synagogue, or to crowds gathered on a hill. Recall the Last Supper and His friends gathered sitting with Him to eat and share the Passover meal, and then recall the meal with the men from the Emmaus Road. So many meal times with the bold and the weak, the saints and the sinners. With you and me.

Revd Dr Jo White



Springmead School

Since coming back into school, it has been all systems go. Over the last few weeks, we have been conducting annual GL assessments (similar to SATS) throughout the school. The children approached the tasks with confidence and maturity, testimony to the hard work they have put in during the last year turbulent year. Now that restrictions have started to ease, we are excited to be broadening the extra-curricular provision, which is the real Springmead difference, with exciting activities across the whole school.

In order to assist the growth and development of the school and to facilitate succession, Sally Cox will become Headteacher from 1st September 2021. Sally will have day to day control of the school and be the main decision maker.

After teaching in two schools, Sally Cox joined Springmead 19 years ago; over that time she has gained experience across the whole school, as a class teacher, as Head of Pastoral Care, as Designated Safeguarding Lead, and over the last three years, as Deputy Principal. Sally brings to the post her in-depth knowledge of how children learn and the academic requirements of primary education as well as a real strength in supporting children's personal development.

Shirley Offer, in her role of Head of Early Years, will deputise for Sally Cox, assisted by the leadership

team of Charlotte Munckton, Nick Munckton and Caroline Miller.

From September, I will step into the role of Proprietor, and as such, retain ultimate responsibility for the school. Be assured that I will still be in school as much as ever, supporting Sally and the team in every way possible to continue to achieve our vision: striving for excellence in our provision and thus enabling each child to achieve their full potential.

Commenting on her appointment, Sally said, *"I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as Headteacher of Springmead School. I have been a part of this wonderful school since its beginnings, and have watched with pride how it has flourished; to be appointed as the first Headteacher is a proud moment and one I relish. I feel privileged to be inheriting such a flourishing school and leading it forward."*

Madeleine Taylor

Beckington School

The environment and issues around sustainability are high on the agenda amongst our children. The whole school was excited to welcome Paula Fox and her daughter Francis, to our outdoor celebration assembly on Friday where they were able to ask questions about how she had met Greta Thunberg.

The children have also been set a challenge to devise a name and

logo for the sustainable group being set up to raise awareness and think about how Beckington Village can be more sustainable. In addition, Owl Class are working with Reverend Ronnie on creating wildlife areas around the church yard and are currently designing various bug hotels.

Owl Class also enjoyed a football tournament run by IG Sports last week where they were divided into teams and worked on developing their skills of working together, as well as their learning gem super powers of **ruby** (supporting others), **emerald** (being courageous and sticking with it even when it gets tough), **topaz** (collaborating in a group) and **sapphire** (keeping focus and avoiding distractions).

Our younger children have been enjoying stories about Katie Morag and also 'The Lighthouse Keeper.' They have been writing their own stories which they have been very proud of and designing science investigations.

The Beckington Loop continues to be a popular walk for our Forest School and spring is a wonderful time of the year for spotting new beginnings and changes.

I am sure you are all, like us, looking forward to some warmer weather as we attempt to plan for some summer term outdoor activities such as sports days!

Claire Chantler

Friends of St George's

BECKINGTON

OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY 13th JUNE

2pm – 5pm

£5 (children under 12 free)

Start outside the WOOLPACK

Teas and Plant Stall

Children's Trail. No dogs please.

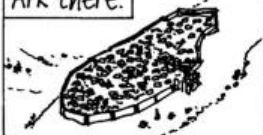
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15:1-28

Copies of God's laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

When king David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



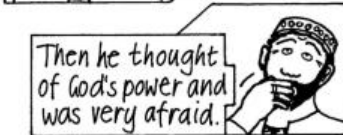
The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.



David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.

So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



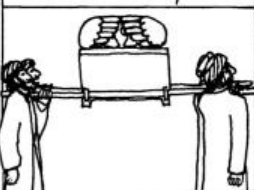
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



God's holy Ark was treated with respect.



Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.



Story adapted & illustrated by
Francesca Ross

Standerwick, Berkley & Beckington WI

On Thursday 6th May we held our monthly meeting & AGM via Zoom. June Saffin was elected as President for another year & the existing committee members will remain with the addition of two new members.

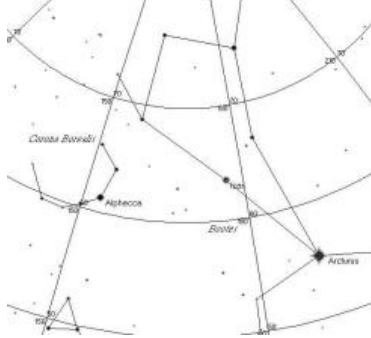
After our AGM our Speaker, Reverend Ronnie Crossman, entertained us by describing key stages in her varied career. Ronnie was ordained in 1993 & was one of the first women to be ordained in the Church of England. Since then, she has worked in many places including Bristol, Bavaria in Germany, Swindon, Portishead, Highbridge & Salisbury. As many people will know, Ronnie is now Priest in Charge at St. Georges Church in Beckington & its associated churches.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3 June at 7pm via Zoom. The Speaker will be from the charity "Medical Protection Dogs". This charity is currently training dogs to detect the COVID 19 virus & they'll be deployed at airports, railway stations etc. As usual non-members will be welcome to join us. If you would like to attend, please contact Roz Serle by email so that she can send you the link for the meeting. Her details are zamund@btinternet.com

Beckington Astronomical Society (BAS)

www.beckingtonas.org

Some constellations bear a resemblance to their name and the Corona Borealis "northern crown" is one. Its brightest stars form a semicircle but you will need binoculars to see them unless you have exceptionally good sight.



The map shows the sky looking south late in the evening in June. It may be easier to locate Boötes the kite shaped constellation which has the bright Arcturus at its base. Most of the stars that make up Corona Borealis are 'variable stars' ie they vary in brightness over a period of time. Within the semi-circle 'crown' you might see another star: it is usually of 6th magnitude (that is the level just discernible in a dark clear unpolluted night sky and with good eyesight). Every few years this star fades to about Mag 11 (need a good telescope to see it) then after a few months it returns to its steady magnitude 6. It is thought the star has puffed off carbon (sooty) material that hides it from view; this eventually disperses. I believe this last happened in 1962.

(BAS) www.beckingtonas.org

John Ball 830419

Beckington Group Mothers Union

After this long period when we have been deprived of our normal friendly monthly meetings, we are all looking forward to the easing of restrictions so that we can meet in person.

Thanks to Rev Ronnie for enabling some of us to meet on Zoom and to Jenny for keeping in touch with us all.

Last month we were able to meet in church, when Ronnie talked to us about Rogation, the time when we pray for God's gifts in creation, the crops in our fields and gardens, and for all those engaged in agriculture. We remembered our local farming communities and prayed for farmers and those feeling isolated by the pandemic, and for the markets in our area where locally grown produce is bought and sold. We also spoke about weeds! with encouragement to look closely at the beauty and intricacy of the tiny flowers, and to allow space in our gardens for rewilding.

Mothers' Union members in many parts of the world are engaged with agriculture in their own communities, perhaps with self-help projects which can produce income, thereby improving their quality of life.

There is still uncertainty about where and when we can meet again, and it was agreed we would not meet in June, but wait until July. By then we hope Covid restrictions will have eased and we will be able to go ahead with our usual Summer Cream Teas. More details to follow.

Rosemary Ball



Trivia Pursued - in Beckington

There is a tall pyramid of stones against the base of St. Michael's clock tower, which was, I believe, erected around 220 years ago.

Its existence has much to do with widespread growth in the popularity of "ball games" in Somerset and the immediate area.

Playing "ball" had become a popular sport in Southwest England by the 12th Century, A.D., to such an extent that the Bishop of Exeter had felt it necessary in 1184, to ban the playing of ball games against the walls of his cathedral. Later, in about 1588, a team of sturdy Wiltshire men demonstrated a ball-game played on grass, over a net, before Queen Elizabeth 1st - a precursor to Lawn Tennis, perhaps?

Over the years, ball games became a county-wide sport, played mainly against church walls in Somerset villages - though not, as far as I can ascertain in Frome or any of the immediately surrounding villages. The significance of the game reached such a point that a 1750 map of Nether Stowey had been updated by 1755, to include a wall. The map is now in the County Archive in Taunton but I was unable to find any wall when I visited the village recently. In 1754, the Bishop of Bath & Wells issued an edict forbidding the playing of ball-games against church walls, as it had become very expensive in broken windows: purpose-built walls then became popular. (In the early 1800s several were built like tall basque walls, by French POWs on parole in

and around Wincanton. In wall-deprived Frome, there was tennis court in Fromefield at least into the C19, but in Beckington steps were taken to prevent playing against any suitable wall and a preventative stone pyramid was built against the wall below St. Michael's church clock. (The playing of ball and other games in Somerset villages was killed off following the arrival of the railway in 1838).

Roger Ford

Village Agent News

The re-opening of services will bring great relief to the many thousands of unpaid Carers in Somerset who have not had access to respite facilities for a considerable length of time. Organisations such as **Heads Up Somerset** who provide day care for those with brain injuries, learning difficulties and dementia in the Wells area have reopened from April 1st - you can call them on 01749 670667 or visit

<http://www.headsupsomerset.org.uk/>

There is also **The Filo Project** for Somerset residents The Filo Project offers high quality day care for small groups of older people that have memory loss or moderate dementia. You can call them on 0333 939 8225 or visit

<https://www.thefiloproject.co.uk/>

We Hear You provides free therapeutic support to children, families and individuals in Somerset affected by cancer and other life-threatening conditions. Their face-to-face services are reopening and you can contact them on 01373 455

255 or visit

<https://www.wehearyou.org.uk/>

If you are an unpaid Carer, please do get in touch you may not feel you need any help and support right now, but we can just check in with you, so you know what's available if and when you feel you would benefit from further advice. Right now, we can help you with anything from finding a sitting service if you have a hospital appointment, a package of care if you or a family member are returning from hospital, or provide you with a little rest from cooking with our 'Carer Packs' - delicious pre-made meals for you and the person you care for. We can help make your everyday life a little easier, check you are receiving the correct benefits and look at the whole family support need, especially as we work closely with your doctor's surgery and adult social care. We have a freephone Carers Advice line you can call 0800 31 68 600 or text 'CARER' to 78070 and the Carers Advice line will call you back.

Whether or not you care for someone you may need a little extra help at home. From personal care, Carer's respite to household jobs a micro-provider could be just what you're looking for!

Micro-providers are providers of very small, community-based care and support services.

A micro-provider has eight or fewer paid or unpaid workers and totally independent of a larger organisation. Examples of micro-services could include:

- Support to keep a person well, social and remain independent
- Support to people living in their own homes
- Short breaks and holidays
- Support to access employment, education and leisure
- Day support and help around the home.

As Village Agents, we can help connect you with the right micro-provider for your needs - and it may be that you have more than one undertaking different tasks for you, as many have different areas of expertise. As always, if you need support, information or advice, please get in touch by phone or e-mail. 07946461468

nicolae@somersetcc.org.uk Nic

Beckington Memorial Hall

Following the government roadmap, the Memorial Hall will be gradually opening up its hiring programme from now on with the hope that normality may be restored before too long. There are still some Covid rules to follow, however, and potential hirers should contact the Booking Secretary if in doubt about what is permissible.

David Prince

Beckington Allotment Association

Winter skulked around the edges of Spring this year, threatening late frosts and strong, chilly winds well into May. The cool conditions meant that direct-sown seeds have taken longer to germinate but the tulips have hung around a little later for us to enjoy and the apple blossom seems to have survived the storms.

At last, the risk of frosts has passed and so we've been busily planting out our precious seedlings, moving them from the safety of our greenhouses, cold-frames and windowsills with all the care of proud parents. Lighter, longer days mean that the plants grow with such speed it is almost possible to watch them. Unfortunately, this goes too for the grass and the weeds, which race to colonise our composted beds – the slugs too know that it's nearly summer and there's a bounty to be had!

It's almost time to harvest our garlic, onions and any remaining leeks, making some much-needed space for winter brassica crops, some late courgettes and other summer softies. The over-wintered chards are beginning to bolt, putting out some beautiful baby leaves before finally running to seed, which make a fine salad mixed with the first of the young lettuce pickings.

Tip of the Month: Snap off the flower spikes (also known as "scapes") put up by your onions and garlicks, before the flower bud has opened. This encourages the plant

to focus its energy on making a larger bulb. Don't waste the flower spikes though: use the onion scapes as you would a spring onion and try pickling the garlic flower buds for an interesting addition to a cheese board.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Beckington Open Gardens 2021.

YARD SALE

at 45 Goose Street
Beckington

on Saturday 26th June

10.30a.m. - 2.00p.m.

LOTS OF BARGAINS

from a washing
machine & a lawn
mower
to puzzles & bric-a-
brac

A prince's legacy on matters of faith

Just when we thought the last word had been written about the late Duke of Edinburgh, it emerged that he had a genuine interest in theology. That dashing young naval officer, who became the Queen's dutiful consort and accompanied her to thousands of church services, was someone who listened intently to sermons, thought through what was being said, and then asked questions.

Every Sunday when the royal couple were at Sandringham, a diocesan bishop was invited to preach in the parish church. Afterwards, they were grilled by the Duke who, we are told by one of them, showed that he "wanted to be intellectually and spiritually engaged". That's a polite way of saying he wasn't prepared to swallow what came out of the pulpit if he wasn't convinced by it.

Some Christians are suspicious of people who probe the faith. Should it not be taken on trust? Who are we to question the Almighty? For others, doubt hovers uninvited. Honest doubt won't settle for unbelief but will continue to persevere with its enquiries.

The Russian writer and philosopher Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote:

"It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt."

Dostoyevsky had lived a turbulent life, both personally and publicly,

and wrestled mentally with himself and God. Some people are like that.

Prince Philip had been baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church and was received into the Church of England just before his marriage. He organised much of his own funeral, and if you followed it, you will remember how traditional it was. Many of the prayers were from the 17th Century Book of Common Prayer, the hymns were more ancient than modern, and the Bible readings confidently proclaimed the magnificence of God's Creation and Jesus' teaching about the resurrection. These are basic to Christianity and it was from such a foundation that he was able to explore.

So, if you wake up one morning questioning everything you have believed, take it as a spur to dig deeper and ask questions. Be encouraged by Philip, who shunned a second-hand faith because he wanted to know the truth for himself.

If in your private conversations with God, you find yourself praying, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief,' you won't be the first.

See Mark 9, verse 24.

The Ven John Barton

Churches ‘stepped up’ support

More than 4,000 Church of England parishes have stepped up their support to local communities in the face of rising levels of poverty, loneliness and isolation since the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new research.

Church volunteers have delivered food, shopped, walked dogs and collected prescriptions this past year, according to a report by the Church of England and Church Urban Fund. Church volunteers have also done gardening projects, been ‘phone buddies’, aided with job-hunting, and helped people get online, as local people struggled with the social and economic effects of the pandemic. Despite restrictions on meeting socially, nearly a quarter of churches even started a completely new activity during the pandemic. More than of them adapted two or more of their existing community activities in order to meet local needs. Overall, 37% of churches reported that they were providing *more* support to their communities, with this figure rising to 41% in rural areas. Food provision and pastoral support were by far the biggest area of support provided by churches, with nearly 80% of churches involved in running or supporting a food bank or similar service. Many opened food banks for the first time. Church leaders reported that isolation, loneliness and mental health difficulties, food poverty, unemployment and debt are more widespread in their communities as a result of the pandemic. Church buildings, because of their size and ventilation, have been well used for activities

from ante natal classes to socially prescribed exercise. In fact, many became ‘symbols of hope’, with flags, posters and artwork as a “form of visual encouragement”. Church Urban Fund Chief Executive Rachel Whittington said: “2020 was a year like no other, and yet churches across the UK rose ... with undeterred compassion, displaying the love in action which lies at the heart of the Christian gospel.”

What do you think will happen after Covid?

You can take your choice: a recent survey has found that a third of us think that society may *never* go back to the old ways, a third of us think we will go back to *exactly* as we were before, and a third of us think that we will be *keener than ever* to stay together. The Together Coalition, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been working for the past year on a piece of research to track just what has happened to communities during lockdown. The new research has found that “People feel a stronger sense of connection to their neighbours and community. ... We found a clear public appetite for a society in which we are more connected to each other, and the community spirit of 2020 is kept alive.” It also found that around 12.4million people have volunteered during the pandemic, 4.6million of them for the first time. And 75 per cent of those volunteers would be happy to do so again.

Parish Pump

People in the Parish

This month Network has been speaking with **Michael Brotherton**

In 2005 Rachel and I had a simple plan: to move to a village where you could walk the children to school and preferably find a house with a flat garden. We couldn't have chosen a better village, and so we arrived in 2006 with our children, Jack and William and 'one on the way'. Libby duly arrived the following January. All three have gone through the village pre-school, the village school, Selwood Academy, before moving on to St Augustine's in Trowbridge.

Prior to the grand plan of 2005, I had been brought up in Lincolnshire and educated at schools in Shropshire and Lancashire, whilst Rachel was born and raised in the Wirral, attending Chethams School of Music in Manchester. We ended up at Wolverhampton University where we met on the first day and have been pretty much inseparable ever since. Rachel had to move to Singapore for a couple of years before I came to my senses and asked her to marry me, which we did on 1st April 2000 at Prior Park College in Bath.

In 1998 I had moved to Bath having started a training contract at the law firm Stone King, and Rachel followed me in 1999, training as a primary school teacher. Fast forward to 2021, and I am still at Stone King, now a partner (and the 6th

generation in my family (maternal side) to be so), Rachel is still a primary school teacher but has moved to Castle Mead Primary School near Trowbridge after 15 years at Peasedown St John.

We love being part of village life; I have been a governor at the village school for 12 years, part of the Music Hall / Pantomime scene for circa 7 years, and am now one of the lucky allotmenters learning through trial and error (mind you, my red onions are pretty special!).

We've learnt that this village is rich in so many ways: the sports facilities, the allotments, the pubs, the beautiful church, to the lovely walks and the sense of community: sometimes it's the simple plans that are the best.

Thank you, Michael for your wonderful description of community village life. Couldn't agree with you more.

Fathers' Day 20th June

A time to celebrate male role models.

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, how about a Zoom meeting?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So, the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's

Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19th, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too.

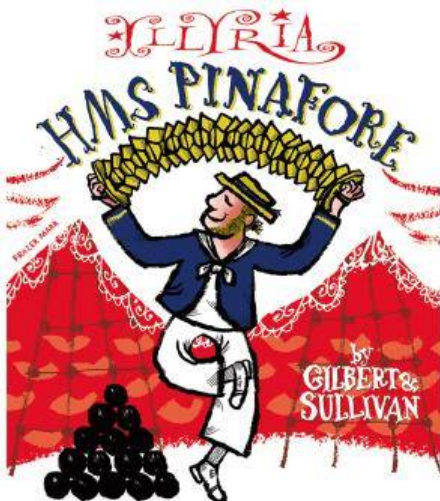
The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living.

Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Parish Pump

What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard by posterity.

Richter



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**I AM THE
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John 14:6

I Do Not Know the Man....

At the end of this month, on **28th June**, we celebrate two of the great saints of the early church: Peter and Paul.

We might relate more easily to Peter because his humanity and vulnerability spill out of the pages of the New Testament in everything he said and did. Peter was a fisherman, who was impetuous and headstrong, not once, but over and over again, saying one thing, and doing another. And yet our Lord chose Peter as the rock on which He would build His church, and at Caesarea Philippi Peter acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Then, when Jesus is arrested, the same Peter in the High Priest's courtyard declares with an oath, 'I do not know the man.'

That denial is in all four Gospels. We might have expected the evangelists would have had greater respect for this follower of Jesus. But they are not intimidated by his later fame and importance, and they record the episode in vivid detail.

That episode is recorded by Duccio in this month's painting, 'Christ before the High Priest and the Denial of Peter.' Duccio worked in Siena in the late 13th and 14th centuries. In his paintings Jesus and the saints are no longer remote, austere figures: he portrays them in a natural, simple way. His greatest work was a series of 45 panels called the Maesta.



(Christ before Annas and Peter Denying Jesus. Duccio di Buoninsegna).

This month's picture is the first painting to depict Jesus' trial and Peter's denial together. The scene is a two-storey building: the figures above, apart from the High Priest, are all on their feet. Below, the figures are all seated, with the exception of the serving girl. Notice the wonderful array of hair styles and beards that are typical of Duccio's work.

In the painting Peter is recognisable by his halo, like Jesus above. He is in a direct line below Jesus, but just look at the contrast between the two. Jesus is standing with His

hands bound in front of Him and His head

to one side. Peter below is seated, looking straight at the girl, raising his hand to protest his ignorance and warming his feet by the fire. It needed courage for Peter to be there, but the Gospels tell us how quickly his vulnerability is exposed. As he answers the questions and reveals his Galilean accent, he starts to curse. He denies Jesus three times, and the scene ends in bitter tears. For all the bravado, a human, broken figure leaves the scene.

On his feast day we rejoice in that humanity of Peter, which brought him low, but encouraged him to try again. In Duccio's painting his denial takes place by the fire of the courtyard. It will be by another fire lit on the shore of the sea of Tiberias that Peter will be asked another three questions – not by a serving girl, but by Jesus. This time he will respond with affirmation, knowing that his Lord has come in resurrection glory to bring a new way forward for him and for everyone as He offers life in abundance.

Revd Michael Burgess

Network is online!

The online copy of Network can be found at:
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Information-
We have received an enquiry from a researcher into the sculptures of Rom Landau - Did you know anything about the Henderson Family who lived in Berkley House in the 1930/40's? Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact beckington.network@gmail.com
Thank you

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.

The Ancient Church

Sometimes I sit within my pew
And gaze upon an ancient view
Of stones, which, set by mason's line
Have stood through centuries of time;
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright
Have told their wondrous tales of light
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years
God's servants preached to faithful ears;
The lectern and its Bible read
Aloud to both the quick and dead;
The feet, which down that aisle have trod
To worship everlasting God;
The angels, as they downward gaze
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries
As they gathered to baptize,
Songs of love and celebrations
In marriages and confirmations,
Songs of sadness and of loss
Sung before the Saviour's cross.
So many lives have come, then flown
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how
Such history should guide me now?
Such faithful worship through the years
May move me to shed humble tears.
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear
I know I'm just a tenant here
And in one way they are my guide –
They keep me free from pompous pride

Nigel Beeton

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

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St. George's Beckington	6 th June	10.00am	Morning Worship
	13 th June	10.00am	Communion with Berkley
	20 th June	10.00am	Matins
	27 th June	10.00am	Holy Communion
St. Mary's Berkley	6 th June	9.00am	Communion
	20 th June	9.00am	All Age Worship
All Saints Rodden	13 th June	6.30pm	BCP Communion
	27 th June	6.30pm	Evensong
Lullington & Orchardleigh	6 th June	11am	BCP Holy Communion
	13 th June	11am	BCP Matins
	20 th June	11am	BCP Matins
	27 th June	11am	BCP Holy Communion
Services at Lullington			
Beckington Baptist Church		3pm	Services each Sunday at 3pm to which all are welcome