


The Beckington Group of Parishes



Beckington  
Berkley  
Lullington & Orchardleigh  
Rodden



# Network

September 2021

## CONTACT LIST

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 The Rectory 8 Church Street  
 Beckington  
 Frome BA11 6TG  
[RectorRonnie@outlook.com](mailto:RectorRonnie@outlook.com)  
 01373 831680 / 07712 117721  
 Ronnie keeps Fridays free for  
 rest, family and friends

<b>Readers</b>	Dr. J. Beaven	830535
<b>Readers PTO (Permission to Officiate)</b>	Mr. H. M. Daniel	
	Cdr. E. Phillimore	830677
<b>Baptist Minister:</b> Email:	The Revd. M. I. White blythehouseconsultancy@gmail.com	453334 07971 438694

<b>Church Officers</b>		
<b>Beckington</b>		
Safeguarding Officer-Beckington	Dr J Beaven	830535
<a href="mailto:Safeguarding.beckington@gmail.com">Safeguarding.beckington@gmail.com</a>		
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
Church Wardens wardens.beckington@gmail.com	Judith Craig	830970
	Su Coates	831644
	Maria Beaven	830535
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Treasurer	Henry Coates	831644
<a href="mailto:beckingtontreasurer@gmail.com">beckingtontreasurer@gmail.com</a>		
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<a href="mailto:jeanette@ihayward.plus.com">jeanette@ihayward.plus.com</a>		
Treasurer	Christine Eyres	
<a href="mailto:c.eyres17@gmail.com">c.eyres17@gmail.com</a>		
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PCC Secretary	Melanie Pattinson	07803327381
Treasurer	Michael Ruddick	464463
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Church Wardens	Jim Beck	464574
	<a href="mailto:alecbeck@talktalk.net">alecbeck@talktalk.net</a>	
	Jim Dowling	462515
	<a href="mailto:flintford2@gmx.co.uk">flintford2@gmx.co.uk</a>	
<b>Lullington with Orchardleigh</b>		
<a href="https://lullandorch.org.uk">https://lullandorch.org.uk</a> Twitter: @LullandOrch email addresses end with ...@lullandorch.org.uk Churchwardens: wardens@... Mike & Wendy Wilsher Safeguarding officer: Mike Wilsher Treasurer: Jo Rathmell treasurer@... Weddings Administrator: Jenny Ladd weddings@... Baptisms: wardens@... Director of Music: David King music@.... Verger: Jeanette Hayward weddverger@...		

**Beckington Web Site:**  
 Awaiting reconstruction  
**Beckington School Web Site:**  
[www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk](http://www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk)  
**Berkley School Web Site:**  
[www.berkleyschool.co.uk](http://www.berkleyschool.co.uk)  
**Springmead School Web Site:**  
[www.springmead.com](http://www.springmead.com)  
**Beckington Memorial Hall**  
 Sara Coffield 01373 710210  
[beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk](http://beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk)  
**Beckington Parish Council**  
[beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)  
 Clerk: Simon Pritchard 07792 478960

**Berkley Parish Council**  
 Clerk: Janet Harvey 01373 832303

**Bell ringing practice**  
 at St. George's is every Thursday  
 from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
 Tower Captain: J Ball 830419  
[johnagball.51@gmail.com](mailto:johnagball.51@gmail.com)

**Beckington Group Mothers' Union**  
 Branch Leaders: Jenny Ayrton 01373  
 830208 & Jacky Lobley. Meets 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Wed in the month except August.

**Beckington Tower Lighting**  
 Mary Hickling 01373 830274

**Beckington Pre-School**  
[beckingtonpre-school.co.uk](http://beckingtonpre-school.co.uk)

Please submit items for publication in the **October** issue to:  
[beckington.network@gmail.com](mailto:beckington.network@gmail.com)  
 to **arrive** no later than **12 noon** on  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**For Network Advertising:** Mrs. J. Evemy  
 Please call after 4pm during weekdays  
 07540 133396 [Julie@evemy.net](mailto:Julie@evemy.net)

## A Reflection

As we approach Autumn, our minds may focus on what September often heralds in our area: thoughts of the reaping of the grain, the ripening of apples, and the various social events associated with the countryside. September often provides the opportunity for folk to get involved in Carnivals, but sadly the pandemic has led to these being abandoned again this year, hoping for greater freedom in 2022.

It would be good if it was only the fun of Carnival that had been destroyed by recent events. Sadly, we see the tragic killing of innocent victims by a disturbed gunman and the disruption of the life of a community. Almost daily, we learn of knife crime and cases of assault on our streets. Maybe we thought Britain was safe compared with the States of America, but evil truly exists here in our own homeland. Greater evil still may be seen in the events unfolding in Afghanistan. The world has surely been shaken by the Taliban usurping control; world leaders are astounded and must feel helpless with all human efforts seeming to have failed. Furthermore, the consequences of events, though far away, could have an impact on our own doorstep.

We have to admit that God alone has the answer to the complex problems of our world. We should recall, with hope and confidence in God, that throughout history, tragic events have caused men and women to cry out to Him, and thankfully, He has responded. The situation in which we now find ourselves must surely cause us to consider what God may be drawing to our attention. We live in a fallen world that has for too long given Him scant attention. Today we need to admit our human weakness and cry out to God for his help.

Thankfully, September is the month of harvest, and we can rejoice that it still takes place. Despite the effects of Covid-19 and the more unsettled climatic conditions, the promises of God remain sure: that seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, will not fail.

Let us turn to our loving God, laying before him the needs of our world and giving thanks that He still keeps his promises to mankind.  
In thee O Lord, do I put my trust.

Michael White



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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

# Tracy Wint

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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: clerk@hospitalofstcross.co.uk  
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## St. George's Beckington

### Michael Pennels

Passed away peacefully at home with his family around him on 03/07/2021 after a short battle with cancer.

His funeral was held at St George's. Donations for Julian's House £330 and Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £300 were kindly given. Thankyou.

The Pennels Family

### Friends of St George's

#### ARTS, CRAFTS AND CREAM

**TEAS:** Thank you to the many artists and makers who took part in the exhibition on August 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a wonderful variety of talent on display for visitors and delicious cream teas to enjoy whilst catching up with friends and neighbours. The building provided an excellent space to display the arts and to involve the wider community; this marks the start of a drive for the development plans to install a toilet and servery at St George's as well as updating the heating system and fixing the roof, to enable the building to be used for other events in the future. Thank you to all the many helpers on the day, we raised £700.

**"TOP OF THE OPS"** Our next fundraising event is on **SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 7:30pm** in the church: see the advert (on page 23 of Network) and get your tickets as soon as possible from Lisa. It promises to be a lovely evening with favourite Operatic arias and Songs from the Shows, to lift your spirits; drinks and small eats available during the interval.

**"POP UP PRODUCE STALL"**  
**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
Near the Woolpack 10am-12noon  
**Bring and Buy: Fruit, Vegetables, preserves etc**

**"AUTUMN MARKET ": on**  
**SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 10:30-2:30pm at the MEMORIAL HALL:**  
This year we have brought usual Christmas Market forward. You will still find suitable shopping for Dec 25<sup>th</sup> as there will be an eclectic mix of good quality unusual stalls! Any offers of help or donations will be most welcome.

**Village event coming up:**  
**BECKINGTON CREATIVES OPEN HOUSE ART TRAIL 19TH -21 NOVEMBER 2021.**

Details to follow.

The **Beckington defibrillator** is situated on the side wall of the Woolpack Inn inside a locked cabinet and the entry code to open the cabinet is **C 123X**. The code is displayed in various sites around the village including The cricket club, The village hall, The Forresters, The Woolpack, Mes Amis, and Hillman's garage.  
Mary Hickling (07930016831)



## Lullington & Orchardleigh

The new PCC has begun the process of welcoming our Rector, Ronnie Crossman. It has initiated the steps required to withdraw the objection made by the previous PCC so that Ronnie is able properly to fulfil her role in our two churches. It is hoped that this process will soon be complete.

We are reaching out and engaging the church with the village community through a team of 25 villagers - what we're calling the People's PCC - taking leading roles:

- Cleaning - Wendy Wilsher & Jo Rathmell
- Community - Chris Vincent, Gus Colquhoun & Mike Wilsher
- Churchyard - Nicola Hall, Giles Hall, Sarah Backhouse, Alison Ukleja
- Events - James Sherwin & Sam Pullin
- Finances - Jo Rathmell & Lorna Wheeler
- Flowers - Deb Bee, Lorna Wheeler, Katherine Dabell
- Fundraising - Gus Colquhoun (& Parish), Lorna Wheeler & Mike Wilsher

- Heritage - Andy Langley & Ronnie Crossman
- Maintenance - Stuart Barefield & Mike Wilsher
- Open Access - Julian Thomas & Gus Colquhoun
- PCC - Ronnie Crossman, Jo Rathmell, Lorna Wheeler, and Mike and Wendy Wilsher
- Choir & Facebook - Julian Thomas
- Weddings - Jenny Ladd & Janet Laugher
- Worship - Ronnie Crossman

And we're encouraging more to get involved. If you would like to, please contact any of the villagers above or me at [wardens@lullandorch.org.uk](mailto:wardens@lullandorch.org.uk).

Each team will develop their plans and review them for approval with the PCC. Anyone involved or interested is welcome to attend the PCC meetings to see the progress we're making and give their input.

Mike Wilsher

Please be in contact with Rev Ronnie for all wedding, baptism and funeral or memorial services across the whole benefice.

The parish of Lullington and Orchardleigh also has a wedding administrator, Jenny Ladd. Details on page 2.





THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Parishes of  
Lullington &  
Orchardleigh

## Services Calendar, 2021

Sunday of Month	Date	Church	Service	Celebrant
3	15-Aug-2021	All Saints	Matins	Phil Gray
4	22-Aug-2021	All Saints	Holy Communion	Barry Davies
5	29-Aug-2021	All Saints	Holy Communion	Rob Martin
1	5-Sep-2021	All Saints	Holy Communion	David Gatliffe
2	12-Sep-2021	St Mary's	Matins	Edmund Philimore
3	19-Sep-2021	All Saints	Matins	Ronnie Crossman
4	26-Sep-2021	St Mary's	Holy Communion	Rob Martin
1	3-Oct-2021	All Saints	Holy Communion	Barry Davies
2	10-Oct-2021	St Mary's	Matins	Edmund Philimore
3	17-Oct-2021	All Saints	Matins	Ronnie Crossman
4	24-Oct-2021	St Mary's	Holy Communion	Barry Davies
5	31-Oct-2021	All Saints	Holy Communion	Ronnie Crossman
1	7-Nov-2021	All Saints	Holy Communion	Rob Martin
2	14-Nov-2021	St Mary's	Matins	Edmund Philimore
3	21-Nov-2021	All Saints	Matins	Phil Gray
4	28-Nov-2021	St Mary's	Holy Communion	Barry Davies



## All Saints Rodden

Rodden Church will be holding a **Harvest Songs of Praise on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6.30pm.** The annual Harvest Supper will be on Monday **4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm.** Tickets available from Di Dowling on 01373 462515/flintford2@gmx.co.uk [payable in advance].

The next services at Rodden Church will be **Holy Communion on Sun 12th September and Evensong on Sun. 26th Sept both at 6.30pm.**

Harvest Songs of Praise on Sunday 3 October at 6.30pm

Jim Dowling

## Springmead School

What we know in life is that if we always continue to do what we have always done, we will get what we have always got. However, in education that simply isn't good enough. A school must develop, progress, and be open to suggestions. It must always challenge practice and provision. The commitment to this philosophy underpins everything we do at Springmead and it is this which makes Springmead a great school. It has also been the reason we have been able to adapt, survive and thrive during an unprecedented time.

We talk every day about Building Learning Power...resilience, reflectiveness, resourcefulness and reciprocity. These elements of learning, alongside our commitment to sound human values encapsulated in the Springmead Way, are the corner stones of our provision and permeate all we do. With these elements the school grows from a good place. It is with a huge sense of pride that I look back on what our school has achieved in the last year and what we have to look forward to this year: -

- Watching the staff working tirelessly to ensure learning continues regardless of restrictions and working in true partnership with our parents to support this process
- Finding creative ways to ensure our youngest have had as many experiences as possible.... working from a place of can do rather than can't do attitude, so still enjoying a busy and lively programme of enrichment clubs and activities
- Being recognised by the Independent Schools Association as a school with outstanding provision for children's personal development
- Celebrating our musicians and young performers who have been so busy with concerts, exams, competition success, productions, and class

presentations, now with green screen experiences to add to their CVs

- Enjoying our children's sporting successes in school and beyond

Our new Headteacher, Sally Cox, and the entire team have been working tirelessly to deliver superb learning opportunities every day, but also undertaking a review of our entire curriculum, planning, and assessment and reporting procedures for the forthcoming year

I am looking forward to supporting Springmead in my new role as Proprietor and to seeing it continue to shine brightly.

Madeleine Taylor

## **Berkley School**

Welcome back to a new school year, and welcome to all those new families who have joined us this September.

Whilst I write this it is the summer holidays, always a funny phrase as I have not seen much of summer yet, but raincoats and wet picnics are all part of the holiday fun; it wouldn't be the same without packing wellies alongside sunhats! I hope that families around the parish community have enjoyed a range of activities and some well-deserved down time.

I live locally to the area and we are so lucky to have numerous outdoor places to entertain children and adults alike. Whilst the children are off site, we have been having some

work done to improve our facilities. We are hoping this academic year will be the start of some normality returning to school. I am sure we will have a few hurdles to overcome but we are all well prepared and ready to face new beginnings.

In school we will be focussing on settling all of our children into the school routine; after a long break children take a bit of time to adjust and we want to ensure they feel happy, safe and secure with a clear understanding of our expectations. We welcome new families into reception; it is always very exciting to learn new names and to see new relationships being formed with pupils and staff. As always it will be an action-packed term full of smiles and new experiences. We are a nurturing place, developing young minds and helping them to reach their potential.

We currently have a few spaces left in Reception for September: please contact us on 01373887390 to discuss.

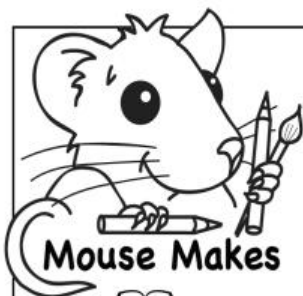
Look after each other.

Mrs S Thompson  
Headteacher

## **Parent and Toddlers**

We are hoping to open again on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October starting at 2.15pm – 3.30pm at Beckington Baptist Church Hall. We look forward to welcoming all families, friends & new ones who have not met us yet!

Freda Brann 830597




## Mouse Makes



### The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread." he asked her. 

She answered "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry." Elijah said,

"Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW  
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE  
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY  
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY

## For Sale/Wanted

We are looking for a dog sitter/walker for our dog Mabel to cover occasional weekends and holidays. We are 5 minutes from Beckington Village. Mabel is nervous of other dogs, so wouldn't suit households who already have a dog. Will pay walking/boarding rates for care. If you think you may be interested, please email me at: [chris.sand12@gmail.com](mailto:chris.sand12@gmail.com)

Child's car seat which is no longer of use. It is a "Nania" and we do not want anything for it, just a new home! We can be contacted on either 07801240187 or [ruthph41@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthph41@hotmail.com)

### For Sale

Selection of 1lb & 2lb Kilner Jars & Rings  
-say donation of £1 each for Rodden Church  
Ruddick 01373 464463

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.

## Rode and District Gardening Club

We are looking forward to starting our programme of talks and demonstrations in the autumn. All talks this year are free and we look forward to welcoming lots of new faces.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
'Growing Sweet-peas' with Julia Robb. Julia is well-known in the village for many gardening initiatives and runs her own gardening business.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 The X factor. -10 tips for gardeners with Neil Ross. Neil is a gardener and author with experience in New Zealand and at Sissinghurst.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 'The Dry Garden ' with Martin Young.

All meetings start at 7.30pm in Rode Village Hall.

## Standerwick, Berkley & Beckington WI

Eighteen of us (fifteen members & 3 visitors) braved the showery weather on Thursday 5 August to gather for a meeting. This took the form of an afternoon picnic outside Beckington Village Hall. We brought our own picnics & chairs & it was a chance to actually meet up & socialise in person, instead of via "Zoom" which is what we have been doing for some time.

Our next meeting will be at **7.30pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in Beckington Village Hall.**

The Speaker will be Andrew McElwe & his subject will be "Working behind the scenes at The National Trust".

As usual, visitors are welcome to join members at this meeting. At 2.30pm on Thursday 9 September some of our members are going on a barge trip at Bradford on Avon.



## Beckington Memorial Hall

Firstly, a big thank you for the positive response to our letter which was recently circulated around the village. This resulted in a further fifteen names being added to the 200 Club, enabling us to give three prizes a month from now on. Please see the results of the August draw below.

We were also able to co-opt two new members to the committee and received a generous donation from a charity, which we shall use towards the cost of installing Wifi at the Hall. This job will be carried out in the near future.

It is a great relief to see our regular users coming back to the Hall and to be able to meet face to face as a committee once again.

Our AGM will take place at the Hall on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October** and anyone living in Beckington is cordially invited to attend.

### August 200 Club winners

The draw took place at the committee meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize** £50 no.152 **Brian Mansfield**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** £25 no. 40 **Caroline Smith**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** £10 no.118 **Claire Covill**

The Beckington Hall 200 Club is registered with the MDC Licensing Department Reg No LN/009406098

## Beckington Astronomical Society (BAS)

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

I am very pleased to say that after the last difficult 16 months, the society is now able to hold meetings again. Our next meeting will be on Friday **17th September** at the Beckington Baptist Church Hall starting at 7.30pm (About 50 yds. from Woolpack off the Frome road - see website). For those not familiar with the society, we usually have a talk on the current night sky followed by one or two short talks finishing about 9.30pm with Tea/coffee/biscuits. In the past we have often had a visiting speaker but I'm sure readers will understand that with the recent covid problems that may take a little while to organise.

Membership for the year (10 meetings; no meetings July/August) is £15 (£1.50 a meeting - not bad!?) and £20 for family membership. £3.00 for a single meeting. Those paid-up members will have credit for the 4 meetings not held last year. The aim of the society is for members to enjoy learning more about this fascinating subject. There are no tests or exams. Your increasing knowledge of the night sky will enable you to put in perspective some of the hyped-up rubbish that appears in print. I have just read in a newspaper 'A rare chance to see Jupiter as a 'bright star' in the night sky this Thursday' (19th August). It may technically be its brightest that day but it will still be bright for several weeks. In fact, Jupiter will always be somewhere in the sky every 24 hours and not

difficult to see if it is during the hours of darkness. Some newspapers got very excited when the comet Shoemaker Levy was due to hit into Jupiter. The end of the world was predicted by some. It was a very interesting event and amateur astronomers were able to see, through their telescopes, the marks made on Jupiter by the comet's impact.

If you are thinking about buying a telescope, it is well worth learning the pros & cons about different telescopes, and where better to do this than by talking to other amateur astronomers who can tell you about their good and bad purchase decisions. However, you definitely do not need a telescope to enjoy astronomy. Most amateur astronomers will say the best view of the Milky Way is with the naked eye.

At this meeting (as at all meetings), we want to hear what topics you would like to see included in future meetings.

If you have any questions about the society, please give me a ring.

John Ball. 830419

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes on earth.

Isaac Newton

## What is a Village Agent?

The Village Agent service is part of the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) and offers free, confidential, practical support to **anyone** in need, including community groups. We have unrivalled local knowledge, and are problem solving solution finders!

I'm **Nic**, the Village Agent for the Beckington area - I love the challenge of making a positive impact in our local community for people who need it most. It is very rewarding when a plan comes together, and a person's life is enhanced by the work I have done. I also love to chat! If needed, I work closely with your local GP surgery and the Adult Social Care team, so you have well rounded support.

### Sounds Interesting but WHO can a Village Agent help?

A Village Agent can help if...

- You are an unpaid Carer or looking after someone else informally & need a little help & support – for you and the person you care for.
- You are struggling with a problem that can be fixed or improved by accessing the right people or services in the local community, but don't know where to turn.

- You live alone and are feeling lonely and isolated.
- You are part of a community with a collective problem & need a kick start to solve.

It doesn't matter how big or small the problem, we are here to help.

### OK that's great – but HOW exactly can a Village Agent help?

It's probably easier to list the things Agents CAN'T do!

We don't like to pin down exactly how an Agent can help, as each person's situation is unique, but generally to make someone's everyday life better with the right connections, access to food, emergency funding or practical community-based solutions. A few recent examples are:

- Supported clients to access transport so that they can attend their vaccination appointments.
- Delivered food to families and individuals who are shielding or isolating & set up an arrangement with the local food bank to supply food to clients.
- Source & arrange delivery of white goods, furniture & household items to people in need.



- Made sure that the clients are supported to get the financial help they need.
- Arranged translations for clients who don't speak fluent English but need our support.
- Supported people who need help collecting prescriptions.
- Conducted welfare calls on behalf of local GPs to ensure clients are safe and well.
- Gave emotional support to people who are feeling isolated and lonely.
- Supported people & **particularly unpaid carers** by brokering a micro provider who can help with daily living tasks to alleviate some pressure & provided respite meals for Carers.
- Supported elderly Somerset residents to 'survive winter' by making sure that they have sufficient heating and cooking facilities. Distribute Surviving Winter grants.
- Gifted refurbished mobiles to people who are cut off from their family & friends.
- Helped people to get home from hospital or temporary accommodation.

- Helping people to stay independent in their homes.
- Found & made connections between clients & the right community-based support.

If you think we could help you in any way please call Nic on 07946461468 or visit [www.somersetagents.org](http://www.somersetagents.org) and request a call back. You can also email [info@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetccc.org.uk).

Thanks, and best wishes,

Nic.

## Health Connections Mendip

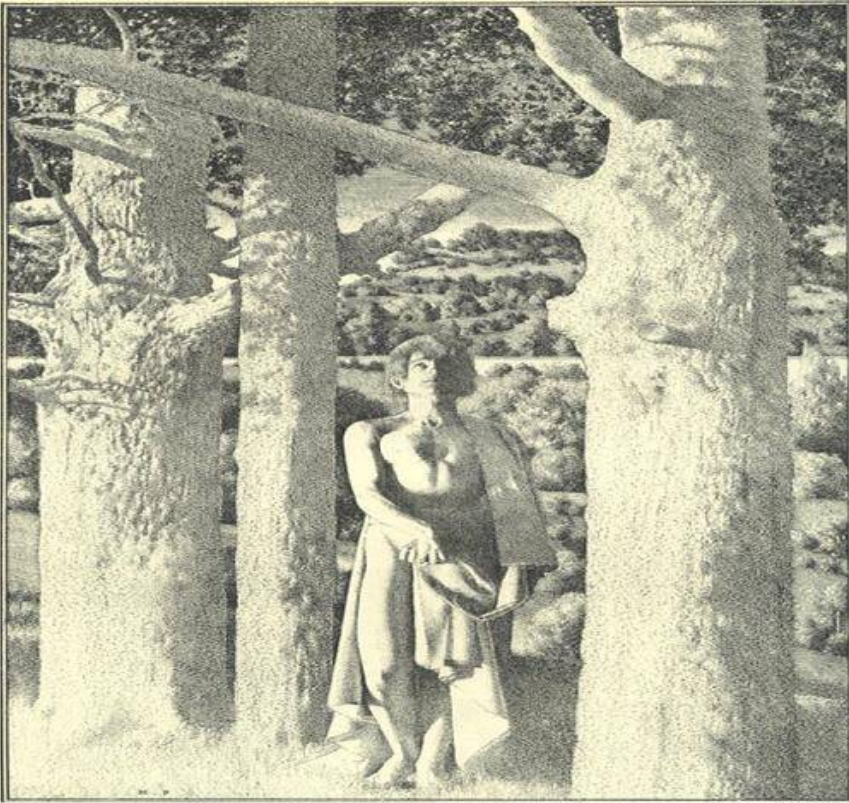
Health Connectors are part of your GP practice staff team and we can work alongside you in a number of ways.

We can work with people one to one, where we start by listening to what's important to you - this might be improving your health and wellbeing, meeting others, being connected to other services, getting more involved in your community, training, getting online, building confidence or supporting others.

We also run groups such as Talking Cafes and Healthy Lifestyles programmes. You could even do some short training with us to become a Community Connector - you can then go on to signpost others to support in your community.

There are so many ways to get involved. It all starts with a call or do look on our website for more information. The service is free of charge and open to patients of Mendip GP Practices. Contact us 01373 468368

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*'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish*

## How wonderful creation is

There is a story that someone asked a Father of the early church, Tertullian, to prove the existence of God.

He replied by showing the person a rose. But Tertullian took a risk, for while many appreciate the beauty and wonder of a rose, it is not everyone who sees that beauty pointing to God as its creator.

In one of his hymns, Fr Faber wrote:

'How wonderful creation is, the work which thou didst bless, And O! what

then must Thou be like – Eternal loveliness.'

A rose can speak of beauty and speak of God to some; to others a rose is just another flower in the garden. William Blake wrote, 'The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way.' We know that only too well when forests are cut down in the name of progress, and trees that have stood for centuries are hewn down in a moment.

This month's work of art is 'A Hill Prayer' by Maxfield Parrish: it shows a man standing in a forest of venerable and imposing trees, and the hills stretching out behind him. Maxfield Parrish was an American artist, who created paintings of brilliant colour and luminosity. The particular cobalt he used was known as 'Parrish blue.' Much of his work was for illustrations in books and magazines and in advertising. But here is an early drawing of 1897, based in a New England Forest, that has a haunting quality about it.

He drew it to accompany a poem of Marian Warner Wildman where the writer goes into the forest to escape the doubts and worries of the world and to find release and peace. It ends with the lines:

'I love thee with a beauty-broken heart  
And worship thee, be whatever  
thou art.'

The drawing may evoke for us memories of forests and countryside we have explored, with trees towering above us, reaching to the sky, their leaves rustling in the wind and letting shafts of sunlight through. Like the artist, we may have wondered at their age and beauty and pondered the mystery of creation around us. In their beauty we can glimpse their Creator; in the miracle of their life, we can see the bringer of life and eternal life. For scripture begins with trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with the story of how human pride exchanges paradise for hard work and toil.

But the final pages of the Bible describe that tree of life once again: this time arching over the river that runs through the heavenly city with leaves that bring healing and restoration. And bridging that tree of Genesis and the tree of Revelation is the wood of the cross: 'None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be.' In that tree we can truly glory.

Autumn will soon be with us, and the magnificence of the trees around will fade as their leaves fall and are swept away. After the death of winter, spring will come and bring the miracle of new life to their roots and branches, and once again we can behold their glory, like the traveller in the forest of Maxfield Parrish's drawing – trees that remind us of 'the one and only noble tree': the Cross that is the sign of salvation for all seasons and all lives.

The Revd Michael Burgess

## Becoming new

When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it's hard to believe it's the same creature. But at both stages of its life, it has a body that is perfectly suited to living in a particular environment.

This insect can help us understand the afterlife and the significance of the resurrected Jesus. Paul, on his journeys, discovered that some members of the church in Corinth were confused about life after death. So, Paul, wrote a lengthy letter to them to explain the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, and how it affects our future existence.

Paul doesn't mention caterpillars and butterflies but describes a seed becoming a plant. By just looking at an individual seed there is no knowing what it is going to look like! But out of its death comes a beautiful new life form.

Paul points out that all living beings have a body that enables them to live in a particular environment. There are earthly bodies for living in a physical world and a spiritual body for living in the heavenly realms. And so, God will give to us a new spiritual body to enable us to live with Him in heaven.

Of course, all butterflies eventually die, but in our resurrected body we will not be subject to decay or death. How do we know this? Jesus said:

*"Because I live, you also will live"*  
(John 14:19).

Jesus pioneered the way for us. He died on the cross, arose from the

grave, and so opened up the way for all believers in Him to go to Heaven. Thanks be to God!

Lester Amann

## Climate Sunday

Sunday **5<sup>th</sup> September** is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change? We have damaged God's creation: God delights in His creation:

*'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.'* (Genesis 1:31).

However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most. Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation.

*'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth,*

*visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.’ (Colossians 1:16,17).*

Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion. An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

## **Holy Cross Day** **14<sup>th</sup> September**

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ’s victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it. Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans

around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them – the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335. The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are ‘sealed’ or ‘marked’ on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: “Draw an I.” That is you standing before the Lord, saying, ‘Here I am’. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: “Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service.”

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus’ wonderful promise

*“And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.” (John 12:32)*

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## **Faithful to Scripture Faithful to Science**

Alister McGrath is well-known as a theologian, but he started out as a scientist. After becoming a Christian as a student, he wanted to learn about his new faith so he studied theology at the same time as completing his PhD in molecular biophysics. He has not lost touch with science, but has continued to write and speak about how science and Christian faith work together. In this extract from a recently released interview, he shares his experience of being a scientist and a Christian.

“I think my most vivid experience of wonder took place in the 1970's when I was on vacation in Iran. We were travelling on a bus in the middle of the night because it wasn't hot then, and the bus broke down. We found ourselves in the middle of this solemn black desert, and the night sky shone with a brilliance like I had never seen before. That just overwhelmed me, it made me think there is something really wonderful here.

“Now, I was a Christian by that time and I knew how Christianity could answer that but it just struck me, that sense of wonder has two possible outcomes. One is science - this universe is wonderful, what's it all about? But of course, it is also about religion, the deeper levels of things that science can't really

engage. I think one of the things I have discovered over time is that maybe this sense of wonder both opens the gateway to science and to faith, and that those two together are able to answer questions which on their own they simply couldn't.

“I think science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer - they transcend its capacities to answer, and you might think of non-empirical questions like, ‘Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? What is good and how do I live a good life?’

“These are real questions and they're good questions but they're not scientific questions. And the psychologists tell us that we really need answers to those questions if we are to lead a fulfilled human existence. You find some scientists who say, ‘Well because science can't answer them there are no answers to be given’, but actually most realise that there are answers waiting to be discovered - it's just that science can't deliver them.

“Science fills in part of a big picture but there are parts of the picture you have to fill in from somewhere else. Science is part of the answer but only part, and faith supplements it, giving us a vision of life that is exciting and reliable, and also something that we can inhabit meaningfully.”

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

## People in the Parish

This month, Network has been speaking with **Suzanne Hales**

I was a farmer's daughter, Leicestershire born and bred, who did not want to marry a farmer! They never went on holiday, although I loved the country life and would not have wanted to work in town. I trained in shorthand and typing for want of something better to do; I ended up at the ripe old age of 19 as an assistant Personnel Officer. Fortunately, it was interesting as I knew I could never just do a plain secretarial job.

I met Mike while he was at Loughborough University and he came to our Church. After I married, I did some unqualified teaching under a brilliant head in a very poor area where children did not even know what a book was. I learnt so much; it was a good time. Then I had my family and Joanna and Marianne arrived. When Marianne was about 3 1/2, I was given a place at Loughborough University, graduating in Drama and Education.

The story of my life seems to be that I receive telephone calls suggesting jobs. My old school, where Marianne and Joanna had just started, still had the same headmistress who taught me! Amazingly she offered me a job if I would go immediately after graduating! It was tough, with no break, but with help from Mike and friends who helped each other with

the children, it worked, and I had many happy years at Fairfield School, Loughborough.

Again, a telephone call. The BBC was looking for a 'fresh girl's' voice. I never lived this down; apparently someone had passed my name on to a producer as having a voice that would record. I went along to the interview for a bit of fun, and my memory of it is that it was highly intellectual: mostly about the Magic Roundabout!

I was told that they would get in touch, but at the end, the producer took the tape recorder and disappeared. When he came back, he asked me if I would accept. To be continued.....

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To reign with the Lamb whose name is Love.

Megan Carter

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### Seymours Court B & B

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Amy: 07971921651 or Caron: 07971921617  
[info@busybees2000.co.uk](mailto:info@busybees2000.co.uk)

[www.busybees2000.co.uk](http://www.busybees2000.co.uk)

## Worship in September

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

We remain vigilant and mindful of others when attending worship and continue to encourage the wearing of face coverings, especially when singing in church.

For those unable to attend worship we can arrange home communion and a pastoral visit. Please contact Rev Ronnie.

Please also be in contact with Rev Ronnie for all wedding, baptism and funeral or memorial services.

The parish of Lullington and Orchardleigh also has a wedding administrator – Jenny Ladd. Details in the inside front cover

[rectorronnie@outlook.com](mailto:rectorronnie@outlook.com)  
01373 831680 or 07712 117721.

Parish			
<b>St. George's Beckington</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.00am	Morning Worship
	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.00am	Communion with Berkley
	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.00am	Matins
The advertisements featured in Network should not be regarded as recommendations by the editorial team.			
<b>St. Mar Berkley</b>			
<b>All Saints Rodden</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	6.30pm	BCP Communion
	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	6.30pm	BCP Evensong
<b>Lullington &amp; Orchardleigh</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11am	BCP Holy Communion (Lullington)
	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11am	BCP Matins (Orchardleigh)
	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11am	BCP Matins (Lullington)
	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11am	BCP Holy Communion (Orchardleigh)
<b>Services at Lullington</b>			
<b>Beckington Baptist Church</b>		3pm	Services each Sunday at 3pm to which all are welcome