



Beckington Benefice Newsletter 16th December 2023

**God's Richest Blessings To All
Our Readers Over Christmas
And Throughout The Coming
Year**



All dressed up! Christmas Tree kindly donated by Mole Valley in Standerwick, sitting ready to bring festive cheer to all who visit St George's Church in Beckington this December. Thank you to everyone, from all the Parishes, who very kindly gave up their time to decorate and prepare our churches ready for Christmas.

Lord Jesus Christ, may we never cease to wonder at your birth, when heaven touched the earth and you came to be among us; our Saviour and our God

New Social Hub

A new venture will be starting in January 2024 for two months which hopes to bring people together socially from around the Benefice area. Retired Baptist Minister Andrew Kellett explains more ...

A Community Hub For Beckington - Several people in the village suggested that it would be good to have a place to meet during the cold months of January and February, and we in St George's have decided to take a lead in organising it.

- It will be an opportunity to get out of the house and socialise
- We'll serve tea, coffee and biscuits plus a simple soup and bread lunch
- For all ages
- Open 10.30 to 1.30 on Tuesdays from January 9th
- Venue: the lounge at LAHS Place Community Centre off Sandy Lane
- Free, but we hope that donations will cover most of the costs

It would be lovely to see folk from St George's popping in to chat and enjoy the company, and if you would particularly like to help out, see below. I've been deputed to oversee this project. If you can help (including making soup) please get in touch with me and, if possible turn up at a planning meeting on Jan 2nd 10.30 at LaHS Place.

Andrew Kellett 830464 or 07850 310547

andrew.kellett@blueyonder.co.uk If anyone out there could design a poster/flyer for this Social Hub for distribution round the village, please let me know.

Searching For The Peace Of Christmas?

In the busyness of Christmas, and when your 'to do' list is as long as your arm, the prayer corner in St George's Church offers an oasis of calm and inspiration for prayers and reflection. The church is open during daylight hours - all are welcome.



Beckington First School Christingle Service

It was a great delight to join with Beckington First School last Tuesday for their final assembly of the term and a Christingle Service. The pupils contributed prayers and songs from their Christmas plays and we explored the meaning of the different parts of the Christingle with the aid of a giant Christingle!

The sight of all of the children standing in a ring in the darkened church, faces and Christingles lit by their candles, was a magical one.

Our thanks to the school for all that they prepared and contributed, and especially to Claire Chantler who is retiring at the end of this term and has done so much to make the most of the valuable and important link between the church and the school.

Thank you Claire, staff and children! Our thanks, prayers and blessings go with Claire as she begins this new chapter.

John Beaven



Springmead Candlelit Carol Service

St George's was delighted to welcome Springmead School, with parents and friends, to their annual candlelit Carol Service in the church on Monday 11th. It was cosy and quite warm (for a change!), with around 115 adults and 75 children in all. A number of the pupils, in different age groups, took us through the Christmas story, interspersed with congregational carols, prayers with sung responses, and several songs relating to the story sung by different groups of children, including one written for Springmead by music teacher Hannah Drury. James Shone, the school chaplain, closed the evening with some thoughts and a prayer.

Well done to everyone involved!

Have a wonderful Christmas break, remembering the true meaning of Christmas, and see you again soon.

Judith Craig

Wreath Making Course - A Sell Out!

The Wreath Making course held at the beginning of December proved to be a huge success with all tickets sold out.



When you're next out posting your Christmas cards through letterboxes, and notice a handsome Christmas wreath, it may very well have been handmade at this event!



Beckington Village Choir invites you to its

Christmas Concert



at St. George's Church, Beckington

Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm

Director: Neil Moore - Accompanist: Alan Burgess

Come and enjoy a wide range of seasonal pieces by John Rutter, Philip Stopford, Bob Chilcott and many others

**Tickets £10 payable at the door
Children Free**

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies afterwards

There is still time to purchase tickets for the Christmas Concert being held on Tuesday 19th December. Please support our very talented village choir!



Beckington Baptist Church

*Christmas Eve Family
Crib Service*

*join us for refreshments at
4pm and Music from
Beckington Bandits. Crib
Service will follow at 5pm*

Christmas Eve Family Crib Service Beckington Baptist Church

Do join us at 4pm for refreshments and music from Beckington Bandits. Crib service follows at 5pm.

December/January 2024	Service @ Church
17th December Advent 3	10am Holy Communion Berkley 11am Matins (*) with Carols Orchardleigh 11.15am Morning Carol Service East Woodlands 6pm Carols by Candlelight Beckington
Christmas Eve Advent 4	11.15am Morning Communion East Woodlands 4pm Crib Service Berkley 6pm Carol Service Lullington 11pm Midnight Holy Communion Beckington
Christmas Day	9.30am Holy Communion (*) Rodden 10am All Age Communion Beckington
31st December Christmas 1	10am Benefice Holy Communion Beckington
7th January Epiphany 1	10am Matins (*) Beckington 10am All Age Worship Berkley 11am Holy Communion (*) Lullington 11.15 Holy Communion East Woodlands
14th January Epiphany 2	10am Holy Communion Beckington 6pm Evensong (*) Rodden

(*) Traditional language using Book of Common Prayer – BCP

Churchwardens

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Postscript From Around our Benefice...

What is a Church?

Back in November, St George's held their Morning Worship service in the Church School Hall. The congregation gathered together to worship and praise God in this different venue.

Man-made buildings/venues are just that: man-made, but the presence of God within us is where the Church lives and grows.

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 1Corinthians 3 v9



Members of the Church family congregation gathering to worship in Beckington Church School Hall.

To circulate information on this Newsletter, please contact Deborah beckington.network@gmail.com **before the 15th of each month** with your articles and/or details of your upcoming events, making sure to include dates, times, and venue. Thank you.

