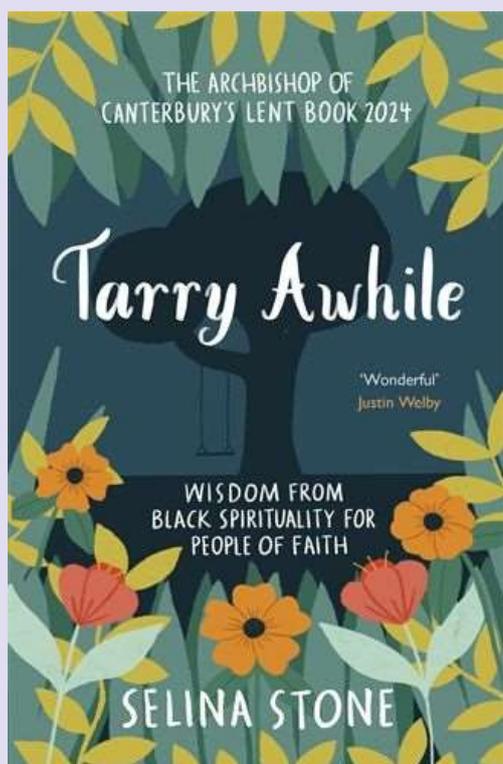


The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is 'Watch and Pray' wisdom and hope for Lent and life.

"Watch and pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: In darkness and in quiet, in movement and migration, in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit, in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning."  
Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell.



This year's resources have been inspired and informed by the book Tarry Awhile by Selina Stone. "In this wonderful, insightful book, Dr Selina Stone draws on the tradition of 'tarrying', staying with the Lord, bringing the wisdom of Black Spirituality to bear on our individual and collective waiting's on Christ. What tarrying does, as Selina makes clear, is open the possibility for genuine encounter with God and between ourselves." Justin Welby (from the Foreword).

For more details, and to receive daily Lent reflection emails from The Church Of England, please see links

<https://www.churchofengland.org/node/41651>

<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/tarry-awhile-drawing-on-the-riches-of-black-spirituality-for-the-whole-church-800>

**Friends of St George Lent Lunch** is being held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 12-2pm at Beckington Memorial Hall with guest speaker Gavin Osborn from Julian House. See further details in March Network.

"Every year, Julian House supports over 2,000 vulnerable and at-risk people across the South West. We operate more than 40 projects and services, including homeless outreach services and a 20-bed emergency access hostel, support for those experiencing domestic abuse, refugee resettlement and so much more. Everything we do is aimed at helping people rebuild their lives and I look forward to talking to you all about us, and the many ways you can get involved, on 7<sup>th</sup> March". Gavin Osborn



### **Bilal Family Visit Zebedayo In America**

The Bilal family have all travelled to America, at different times, to visit their new family member, Zebedayo. His Mum, Tinate, and the baby are both doing well: you can see them with a proud Dad, Tim, in the first photo, and Grandparents Sarah and Joseph in the other two. Doesn't it make your heart swell with joy seeing these pictures!

Joseph, who is one of our mission partners, is travelling back to South Sudan as I write this, again leaving Sarah, Amin and Liza in Bristol. He has messaged four prayer requests:

- For Joseph's health. He is currently having headaches and ear pain and asks for prayer for healing. We could also pray for protection from malaria (which he often suffers with), and from other infections
- For Sarah as she returns to work on Monday as a nurse after having a break
- For the work of The Episcopal University and progress as they seek substantial funding to build the central campus at Rokon
- For the leaders of the Episcopal Church, working together to promote peace and unity across a nation still troubled by internal conflicts, especially in view of the likely elections in December. Joseph will continue to be heavily involved in this process including urging political leaders to implement previous agreements and to facilitate constructive dialogue at all levels of society

### **New 'Parish Prayers' Section**

We are starting a new Parish Prayer section each month in the Benefice Newsletter - as we are currently not meeting specifically to pray for our mission partners. Similarly, if you have someone or a situation that you want prayer for, please send your details to the Churchwardens at [wardens.beckington@gmail.com](mailto:wardens.beckington@gmail.com)

## Easter Experience

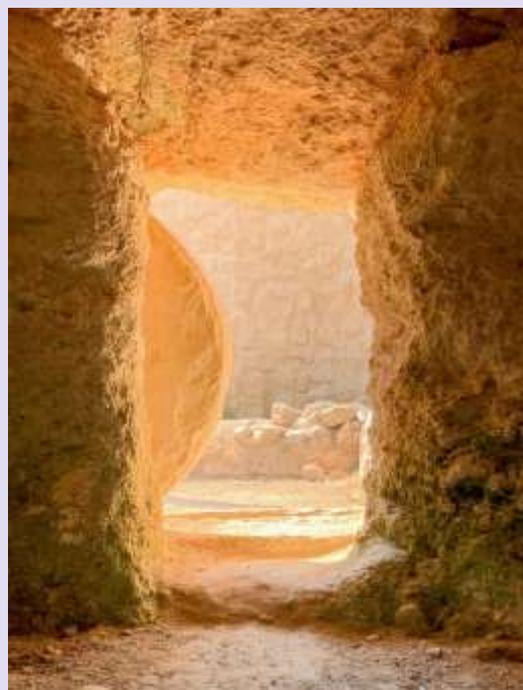
As you may have seen in network/previous newsletter, we are planning an 'Easter Experience' for the KS2 children at Beckington First School. It will be on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> in the morning.

I am looking for a little more help....so if you have a free morning I'd welcome your support. The story of Easter will be told through drama...if you would like to be part of that you'd be very welcome....we'll be dressing up and there will be a narrator. Non- speaking parts on offer if you'd prefer!! However, if acting is not for you then there will be arts and craft activities and having people to support the children as they do these would be greatly appreciated.

To make this a success we would benefit from a few more volunteers.

If you can help, or would like to know more, please contact me [White2caroline@gmail.com](mailto:White2caroline@gmail.com)

Caroline White



## Good News for Everyone (GNFE) (formerly Gideons) Update

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and prayers for GNFE! Having just celebrated Christmas and the New Year we have so much to thank God for... the gift of His precious Son...and the open door of opportunity to spread the Good News in our homes and communities! Whilst some of the traditional routes for outreach have been curtailed in recent years, others are emerging! These include large scale events such as recent distributions to Scouts and Guides at Exeter Cathedral and sports organisations such as Bristol City and Rugby Bears. Over the past year there has been much blessing at recent summer festivals and agricultural shows! The following provides a brief snapshot:

- Opportunity to distribute 100s of New Testaments and tracts at both the Frome Cheese Show and the Bath and West Dairy Show. Overall people are happy to engage in conversation... especially students/young people and families
- Circulating around 500 scriptures to the asylum seeker barge in Portland Harbour... following this a neighbouring church has commenced regular bible studies for a group from Iran
- The Falmouth Tall Ships event last August provided opportunity to distribute 1400 "Tall Ships" badged New Testaments along with 5000 tracts to the ship's crews and hundreds of visitors from all over the world!
- August also saw the annual GNFE Bath Abbey outreach. 1000 English and 185 foreign languages New Testaments were distributed.
- A unique opportunity in collaboration with the local church to distribute 1000 New Testaments to new housing estates in a neighbouring town.
- The carol service at Frome Market was well attended. There was a clear presentation of the Christmas message alongside distribution of New Testaments
- A recent Christmas initiative at the annual Frome extravaganza involved distributing bibles and hot chocolate to children and families in the annual Christmas light switch-on!

## 2024 prayer points

- Opportunity for Youth Testament Distribution at Year 6 leavers events in conjunction with the Diocese of Bath and Wells.
- Opportunity to distribute scriptures to our emergency services especially the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue service and South West Ambulance service
- Opportunity to circulate scriptures to local uniformed organisations and sports clubs
- Others to catch the vision of the unique opportunity for handing out GNFE New Testaments! “Evangelism is something we learn by practice....” especially being inspired working alongside GNFE members in outreach events! (Three volunteers at the recent Bath Abbey Outreach have now become active members of the branch!)

## For your encouragement:

“Scattering Seeds of Hope” Jeremy Marshall (written just before his death from cancer)

<https://uk.10ofthose.com/product/9781915705518/scattering-seeds-of-hope-paperback>

A short, easily readable book, full of encouragement!

Dr Richard Loveless

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 6pm Connect Service Beckington Church School Hall

### Theme Mental Health

How can we better look after our own and others mental health? In our nation and community mental and emotional wellbeing is a real and growing concern. We have all been affected in some way. Margaret Blakey will help us to understand these issues and what we can do as individuals and as a church. Margaret comes from **Renew Wellbeing** who help churches to run “quiet shared spaces where it’s OK not to be OK”

Connect Services start with refreshments, are informal and interactive, and also include worship and prayer. Do come along and see what they’re like if you haven’t been before.

Andrew Kellett





Beckington & District Branch BR2461

# Afternoon Tea



Featuring a special appearance by Jane Norris  
who will enlighten us on:

## Down the steps in the Royal Albert Hall

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Rodden Church Hall  
BA11 5JL

ADMISSION FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME

Registered Charity Number: 238729

Royal British Legion, Bag House, 101 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA

There is still time (just) ! to make it to the 'Afternoon Tea' being held tomorrow 17<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm at Rodden Church Hall for the Royal British Legion, Beckington & District Branch.

Admission Free, donations welcome

**Community Coffee  
Morning  
Wednesday 28th  
February 10.30 -12  
68, Goose St,  
Beckington.**

Come along and join a friendly group for a chat over a hot drink. You will be made very welcome.



**Community Coffee Morning  
10.30-12md Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
All welcome**



Running until the end of February, the Social Hub 10.30am – 1.30pm at Lahs Place, Beckington.

For more details contact Andrew Kellett 07850 310547

**EAST WOODLANDS  
VILLAGE HALL**

BA11 5LQ

**£8**

INCLUDES TEA OR COFFEE

Events 2024...



Soup and Pud  
24th February  
12.00 - 2.30pm








East Woodlands Village Hall (opposite St Katharine's Church) Soup and Pud Day

24<sup>th</sup> February 12md – 2.30pm

Not to be missed! Delicious food, company and stunning surroundings!

## Worship

Feb/March 2024	Service time and church
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February Lent 1</b>	<p>10am Holy Communion Berkley</p> <p>11am Matins (*) Orchardleigh</p> <p>11.15am Morning Worship East Woodlands</p> <p>6pm Connect Service Beckington - <b>Visiting guest Margaret Blakey from Renew Wellbeing, talking about Mental Health.</b></p>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> February Lent 2</b>	<p>10am Morning Worship Beckington with Baptism</p> <p>11am Matins (*) Lullington</p> <p>6pm Holy Communion (*) Rodden</p>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March Lent 3</b>	<p>10am Matins (*) Beckington</p> <p>10am All Age Worship Service Berkley</p> <p>11am Holy Communion (*) Lullington</p> <p>11.15am Holy Communion East Woodlands</p>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday</b>	<p>10am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion Beckington – <b>Please see advert</b></p> <p>6pm Evensong Rodden</p> 

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

### Churchwardens

**Beckington:**

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Judith Craig 01373 830970

Maria Beaven 07940 420596

**Berkley:**

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Jeanette Hayward 01373 832315

**Rodden:**

[Flintford2@gmx.co.uk](mailto:Flintford2@gmx.co.uk)

Jim Dowling 01373 462515

**Lullington & Orchardleigh:**

[wardens@lullandorch.org.uk](mailto:wardens@lullandorch.org.uk)

Mike & Wendy Wilsher 07590 110860

## Postscript From Around our Benefice...

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3, v 5-6***

Waiting and leaning on God...

None of us like waiting and having to depend on others for actions - we want instant answers and results. But waiting patiently on God's timing for our answers to prayers, however challenging that may seem, we are gently and gracefully reminded that God is seeing the bigger picture: *His* plans. Plans that fulfil *His* covenant: a new bountiful and everlasting life in Christ. Through waiting, we welcome His invitation – becoming more dependent on His guidance and less on ourselves.

After faithfully waiting in prayer, we are delighted that Rev Jo Robinson, currently serving as a Curate in the neighbouring benefice of Hardington Vale, has been appointed as our new Priest in Charge, and will be joining our Benefice towards the end of May to lead, teach and inspire us through the word of God.

Deborah X

To circulate information on this Newsletter, please contact Deborah

[beckington.network@gmail.com](mailto:beckington.network@gmail.com) **before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month** with your articles and/or details of your upcoming events, making sure to include dates, times, and venue. Thank you.

