



Beckington Benefice Newsletter 16th January 2024

(St George's Churchyard bursting with sunlight on a cold winters day)

Unless you happen to be reading this Newsletter in Australia, January can seem a rather cold, dark and long month! But looking closer at what's around us in our beautiful Benefice, light and new life is bursting out abundantly. The above photo (kindly sent in by Maria Beaven) encapsulates this exactly. In the rhythm of God's Seasons, even when we are in the middle of winter, His creation and promise of new life never fails.



Small carpets of Snowdrops and early Daffodils displaying their glory in St Mary's Church, Berkley last week.

New 'Social Hub' Proves Popular

The Social Hub in Beckington started on January 9th and is running every Tuesday 10.30am to 1.30pm until the end of February. As the poster says it's "Beckington's cosy place to meet" in Lahs Place Community Room (that's just off Sandy Lane, near to the back of the Foresters). If you haven't been yet, come along for as long or short a time as you want and perhaps bring a friend who could do with getting out of the house for an hour or two. You might be working on a computer all day and need a break, or a mother at home with a young child who needs to get out to somewhere warm for a while. A total of 15 people dropped in or helped out on the first week.

What did we do? We had some really good conversations, met new people, made and drank tea or coffee, learnt to play cribbage, read the paper and enjoyed delicious soup (from 12md). St George's Church has taken the initiative in getting this off the ground; organising a rota of help and support and dealing with the finance. The Parish Council will hopefully help out with a grant so we're just asking for a donation to cover food costs. The Social Hub is linked in with Health Connections so we can signpost anyone who might need any advice or support. Please pray that the Social Hub will be a positive force for good in the village and a means of blessing to many people.

Andrew Kellett Co-ordinator 07850 310547



Lifts To Services At Beckington And Berkley



Our team of drivers offering lifts to services at Berkley and Beckington is up and running.

If you or anyone you know would like a lift please put them in touch with Maria Beaven 01373 830535 / 07940420596 who will put your request on the group chat. Maria will then get in touch with you to confirm a lift is available. We have a good number of volunteers and are grateful to those that have joined the team but we welcome more so please also get in touch with Maria if you are able to offer lifts.

Fantastic Response To YMCA Request

Once again you have shown immense generosity towards the young people who live at the YMCA in Frome or are supported by them. The Christmas gifts (and the money donated to buy gifts) meant so much to the young people who have usually experienced very little love in the past.

It really was a wonderful way to show them the face of Jesus.

Thank you all so much.

Chris and Miriam (on behalf of YMCA)

Grateful Appreciation From FOSG

Friends of St George's are so very grateful to the talented Lu Hughes for running 2 wreath making workshops on December 1st and 2nd. The 21 people who came were rewarded with wonderful creations to take home and to adorn the doors of Beckington for Christmas! Lu and Paul sourced much of the materials used and their hard work resulted in an income of £538 for Friends of St George's. Thank you to Lu and Paul.

“My Time To Close The Doors” – Revd Michael White

Family and friends gathered together on Saturday evening at Beckington Baptist Church to celebrate the birthday and retirement of 70 + years of ministry for the Revd Michael White.

Michael gave a heartfelt speech about his love of serving the Lord and the community; which he sees as his extended family. A gift was presented by Revd Barry Davies on behalf of all whose lives have been touched either through his job as a teacher or through his ministry. Full details will be in February’s edition of Network.



Jane Kellett Becomes Our First Lay Pastoral Assistant

At the Communion service on Sunday 14th January, John Beaven and I had the pleasure of presenting Jane to the church family, and praying for her as she takes on a new role as Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) in the Parish of Beckington with Standerwick.

Jane has acquired relevant experience through a lifetime career in nursing, her continuing work with Samaritans, and together with her husband Andrew, being on the visiting Pastoral Team at Lee Abbey. She has undertaken an LPA course within the Frome Deanery, completed the appropriate Safeguarding training and has received authorisation with a certificate from Bishop Michael of Bath and Wells.



LPA's have a special role in their communities by visiting and supporting those in need of short-term pastoral care and exercising this ministry on behalf of the church. This may include visits to parishioners who are unwell or needing support, including after bereavement, and those being treated in Frome Community Hospital or local care homes. LPA's may also be involved in welcoming newcomers to the community, or engaging with those who are lonely. Until we have a Priest in charge in post, referrals will be received via the Churchwardens, and John and Judith will provide support and oversight for Jane's ministry.

Judith Craig

'Open The Book' Team Needs You!

If you are enthusiastic about engaging with the children in our benefice village schools by helping us to present Bible stories with the help of well established scripts and simple costumes and props, we would love to hear from you! Our original 'Open the Book' team started in 2019 and we really enjoyed our first few storytelling sessions in Beckington and Berkley first schools before Covid struck. By the time we were able to visit schools again, most of the team had left or moved away from the area and we are now looking to build a new team. During our recent community consultations, children at Beckington school were very enthusiastic for the return of 'Open the Book' and maybe this is your opportunity to get involved. We have been advised that there is a training session on Thursday 22nd February from 10.30-1pm at St Mary's Church, Innox Hill, Frome and it would be great if aspiring new team members are able to attend this.

Please get in touch with Judith Craig if you would like to know more (830970 or wardens.beckington@gmail.com)

Easter Project

We are planning a project to bring the Easter Story to life for children at Beckington First School with a retelling using acting, bible readings and craft activities. We will be forming a team soon: if you would like to be part of this, or would like to know more, please contact Caroline White at white2caroline@gmail.com

Candlemas Christingle Service

Sunday 4th February 2024

10am St Mary's Berkley



An all age Christingle celebration with staff, pupils and families from Berkley First School.

All Welcome.

Christingle Service

10am Sunday 4th February
St Mary's Berkley

Come and join us to celebrate Christ
The Light of the world.

Refreshments afterwards - Everyone welcome.



Back again this year, the popular FOSG 'Valentines Tea Party' with musical entertainment.

We would be grateful for Raffle Prize donations

Please contact Jo (830885) or Jenny (830208) to book your tickets.

Looking ahead...

Lent over Lunch – On Thursdays February 15th, 22nd, 29th, March 14th, 21st and 28th A simple soup lunch with a lent thought. More details to follow. Contact John and Maria Beaven for more information.

Lent Lunch Thursday 7th March 12-2pm Beckington Memorial Hall with guest speaker **Gavin Osborn** from **Julian House**.

Please don't miss this opportunity to hear about the many ways in which Julian House help people who often feel out of reach. Julian House go **beyond** helping homelessness!

They hear the voice that has often gone unheard.

"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 7th March". Gavin Osborn



The Beckington & District Branch Of The Royal British Legion

The days are lengthening, spring is in sight, and it's time to start emerging from hibernation. The branch has been invited to hold an afternoon tea session in the church hall at Rodden since, with the closure of the Baptist Church in Beckington, our usual meeting place is not available. Please join us for tea/coffee, cake and chat at our first gathering in 2024.

An added delight will be the appearance of Senior Nursing Officer Jane Norris, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, who will relate her experiences going down the steps at the Royal Albert Hall. All will be revealed in due course. Don't miss it.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Barry Davies
Secretary

**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.



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 17th February
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Rodden Church Hall
BA11 5JL*

ADMISSION FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME

Registered Charity Number: 219278

Royal British Legion, Flag House, 109 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA

Community Coffee Mornings back after winter break. Restarting at 10.30am on Wednesday 28th February. All welcome

Worship

Jan/Feb 2024	Service @ Church
21st January Epiphany 3	10am Holy Communion Berkley 11am Matins (*) Orchardleigh 11.15am Morning Worship East Woodlands 6pm Connect Service Beckington <u>Being held in School Hall</u>
28th January Epiphany 4 Presentation of Christ	10am Morning Worship Beckington 11am Matins (*) Lullington 6pm Holy Communion (*) Rodden
4th February 2nd Before Lent	10am Matins (*) Beckington 10am All Age Worship Christingle Berkley 11am Holy Communion (*) Lullington 11.15 Holy Communion East Woodlands
11th February Sunday Before Lent	10am Holy Communion Beckington – Followed by Baptism @ 11.30am 6pm Evensong Rodden
14th February 	7pm Holy Communion Beckington <u>To Be Confirmed</u>

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

Churchwardens

Beckington:

wardens.beckington@gmail.com

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Berkley:

jeanette@jhayward.plus.com

Jeanette Hayward 01373 832315

Rodden:

Flintford2@gmx.co.uk

Jim Dowling 01373 462515

Lullington & Orchardleigh:

wardens@lullandorch.org.uk

Mike & Wendy Wilsher 07590 110860

Postscript From Around our Benefice...



***“I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
John 8 v12***

A solitary candle on the Altar of St Mary’s Church in Berkley. Note the intense brightness of how just one small candle can light up everything around it - Meditating on this has reminded me of the song written by Tim Hughes; Here I am to worship.

“Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see. Beauty that made this heart adore you. Hope of a life spent with you.”

Deborah X

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.