

The Steadfast Hope of Easter – Fulfilled!

We were absolutely delighted to see so many people attend and celebrate with us the joy and hope of Easter at our Benefice celebrations. There was something for everyone, ranging from school plays, (with some Oscar worthy acting I hear!) mini Easter garden making, devotional music services, right through to sacred contemplative worship. **Thank you to everyone** who helped to make Easter so special.



A group of people from St George's planned an Easter Experience for the Year 3 and 4 children at Beckington First School. We acted out four of the events of Holy Week: The Great Parade - The Important Meal - A Dreadful Day and A Happy Day with introduction and narration from Suzanne and Jane. We also organised craft activities to reinforce the stories. The resulting Palm Sunday type banners and Easter Gardens were displayed in the church porch and round the church for everyone to enjoy.

Some of the children acted the stories with us and everybody felt it was a worthwhile event.

Thanks go to John and Maria, Judith, Andrew and Jane, Suzanne and Mike, Jenny and Hayley. Also, the school staff who supported us. Everyone's support was greatly appreciated.

Caroline White



Scripture Union

This organisation was started by Josiah Spiers in 1867 as he wanted to share his faith in Jesus with children. The Children's Special Seaside Mission started on Llandudno beach and spread to many other places during the summer holidays.

As a child I came to know Jesus at the Perranporth mission and Judith Craig enjoyed the Polzeath mission, both in Cornwall. Now, there are also specialist holidays for sporting activities, baking, sailing, camping and many other interests. It is now a global movement present in 120 countries. Bible reading notes are produced for different age groups to encourage reading the Bible daily, which nowadays can come as an app on your phone. They have outreach to schools and run holiday clubs and churches' children's work. There is also a free app called 'Guardians of Ancora', a game for children to enjoy playing either alone, or in after school clubs, helping them learn about characters in the Bible.

A sad fact, true in our country today is that 95% of children have no knowledge or contact with Christianity or church. SU works to try and change that; Faith Guides are one way - SU uses 'ordinary' Christians, supported and trained, to befriend young people and try to lead them to faith.

Dave Newton is the new national director of SU - he says that sharing Jesus has been his life-long passion. He brings enthusiasm and wide experience to this appointment.

Points for prayer -

- For Dave Newton as he settles into his new role
- For leaders and team members of all the missions and camps happening this summer.
- For Faith Guides giving friendship & support to young people, helping them get to know Jesus.
- For financial support to continue funding these activities.

If you want more information, or to receive the 'Connecting You' prayer booklet, use this email info@scriptureunion.org.uk or visit www.scriptureunion.org.uk Thank you.

Jane Kellett

Preparing To Welcome Rev Jo Robinson

We are very much looking forward to Rev Jo Robinson's celebration service (licensing) on **Thursday 23rd May at 7pm**, which is taking place in St George's Church, Beckington.

Plans are coming together and we are very grateful to John Beaven for co-ordinating a team of people from across the Benefice to take care of practical details. To help with planning, please let your churchwarden(s) know if you are planning on coming to this service. It would be helpful if you could also indicate please if you are intending to stay for refreshments afterwards (however, booking is not essential for either). If you would like to contribute something towards a finger food buffet please get in touch with your warden(s). For St George's please email maria.beaven@beckingtonbenefice.org or sign up on the sheet placed in the welcome area.

Jo will be taking up residence in the Rectory at the beginning of May. It is not yet clear if any work is needed in the house or garden but once the current tenants have vacated on the 22nd April we will know. If you are able to help practically in the house or garden between the 23rd April and 1st May please let Maria Beaven know (maria.beaven@beckingtonbenefice.org/ 07940420596/01373 830535) by 21st April and she will get in touch if there are jobs that need doing.

God Wants J-shaped People

If God is looking for J-shaped people, there are a good number here in Beckington at least! As a lay reader (preacher) we've got John Beaven; Judith Craig is one of our churchwardens and Jane Kellett is now a lay pastoral assistant. For many years we've supported Rev Joseph Bilal in South Sudan and to cap all this, the spiritual leadership of our churches will soon be in the hands of our new vicar, Jo Robinson.

Of course, God isn't all that interested in which initial letter starts our name but in our character.

I've been re-reading a great Lent book from 1989 called "Just Like Him" by Michael Marshall.* It's a series of potted life histories of seven Old Testament characters whose names happen to begin with a J: Joel, Jacob, Joshua, Joseph, Jonah, Job and Jeremiah. These are all people whose lives were reshaped by events, often traumatic events, in which God touched them and turned their lives around. They were put down by life and raised up by God. They all have a family likeness, and they are all supremely like Jesus.

In this post Easter period, as we continue to think about the resurrection of Jesus, we realise that we also have that same family likeness. We remember that we, like them and like Jesus, have "gone through the mill" and like Him we have also been raised by God to new life. Let's allow Jesus to continually re-shape our lives and become more and more truly... Jesus shaped people.

Andrew Kellett

*Michael Marshall, "Just Like Him" The Passion of Christ in the Old Testament, BRF 1989

Growing Good - Transforming Our Communities Toolkit taster webinar 21st May 7.30pm on Zoom

The Growing Good Toolkit is helping churches to grow in knowledge of their local communities, in confidence in their mission as a church, and in relationships with local people and institutions.

Join Growing Good and the Diocese of Bath and Wells for an evening exploring the [Growing Good Toolkit](#).



This interactive webinar will provide an introduction to the Growing Good Toolkit, a free 6-session course for churches that want to grow connections and make a difference in their community:

- Reflect on the connections between social action and mission.
- Discover more about the research behind the Growing Good Toolkit.
- Be equipped to use the Toolkit in your church.
- Learn from churches who have seen results from using the resources.

[Please register for the online webinar.](#)

For more information, please email Claire.horton@bathwells.anglican.org

Health Connections Mendip (HCM)

HCM works with GP practices across Mendip. Ann Collins, who is the Health Connector for Beckington Family Practice, has kindly sent in their latest access details for anyone requiring information regarding resources and support.



HEALTH CONNECTIONS FROME

There are lots of things that can help with your health and wellbeing, for example:



Resources and information

Support from a Health Connector

Healthy lifestyles opportunities

Financial support

Practical support

Digital support

Connecting to self

Connecting to others

Connecting to nature

Find out more by visiting a Health Connections Information Access Point



HEALTH CONNECTIONS FROME

Information Access Points

Find out about support, resources and opportunities to improve your health and wellbeing, in a way that suits you.

Visit a Talking Cafe:
Mondays 10–11.30am Cheese and Grain Cafe
Thursdays 1–2.30pm Coffee#1 Westway, Frome

Pass by a Talking Bench:
Fridays 11.30–12.00 noon outside Frome Library

Visit the website directory:
www.healthconnectionsfrome.org

Call: 01373 468368



Information correct as of spring 2024

Vacancies For Local Giving Advisers

The Diocese of Bath & Wells are looking for someone who can help churches raise money for their ministry and mission.

This part time role would suit someone who can talk about God and money in the same paragraph!

For more details scan the QR code or visit GivingTeam@bathwells.anglican.org



DIOCESE OF Bath & Wells
Living the story. Telling the story.

We are hiring!

Local Giving Adviser

Are you looking for part time work?

Do you want to help local churches to raise money for their ministry and mission?

We are looking for a new Local Giving Adviser in your area!



Scan the QR code for more information or email GivingTeam@bathwells.anglican.org

Advance Notice - Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

St Georges APCM will be held this year on **Sunday 12th May 2024** after the morning service. Varied discussions relating to parish activities take place during these once yearly meetings and is open to all who wish to attend but in order to vote individuals need to be on the Electoral Roll.

Upcoming Social Events



The Social Hub in Lahs Place Community Room on Tuesdays (10.30-12.00) has proved to be a great success since it started in January. Each week 12-18 people from the village turn up and engage in animated conversation, help to make teas & coffees or play cards or dominoes. We'll continue during May then plan to take a 3 month break in the summer, restarting in September. Thanks to all those who help out, the Parish Council for some seed funding and St George's for taking overall responsibility.

Andrew Kellett (Organiser) 07850 310547



**Spring Fair in aid of Cats In Distress Saturday 20th
April 10.30-2pm Beckington Memorial Hall**

**Community Coffee Morning
10.30-12 noon Wednesday 24th April.
68 Goose Street Beckington**

All welcome





Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in aid of St Mary's Church, Berkley on Saturday 27th April 10am-12.30pm at Tangiers Farm, Frome.

Do please come along and give your support. For more info or to make your donations, please contact Louise 07977208006

Looking ahead.....

Saturday 15th June 10:30 – 12:30 Beckington Village Hall Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale in aid of Local Riding for the Disabled Group and other charities.

Any other local Charity or Group wishing to book a table please phone Heather on 01985 213530. Saxon Group RDA Registered Charity 1187766



****Connect Service 6pm Sunday 21st April**



Do come and join us for our Connect Service, starting with refreshments, on Sunday 21st April at 6pm in Beckington Church school Hall. This month we'll delve into the ways to engage with the impactful initiatives of Mothers' Union in our community(s). Our goal is to be a transforming Christian presence; making partnerships with organizations like MU a perfect fit. We're excited to have MU's regional director, as well as Jenny Ayrton, the local branch leader, to give us a glimpse into their work which will be followed by a Q&A session to brainstorm collaboration opportunities. Of course, we'll also enjoy some uplifting sung worship and share personal experiences of connecting and how God is moving in our Benefice. We look forward to seeing you.

Connect Team

Worship

April/May 2024	Service time and church
21st April	10am Holy Communion Berkley 11am Matins (*) Orchardleigh 11.15am Morning Worship East Woodlands 6pm Connect Service Beckington ** Please see above article
28th April	10am Morning Worship Beckington 11am Matins (*) Lullington 6pm Holy Communion (*) Rodden
5th May	10am All Age service Berkley 10am Matins (*) Beckington 11am Holy Communion (*) Lullington 11.15am Holy Communion East Woodlands
12th May	10am Holy Communion Beckington & Annual Parochial Church Meeting 6pm Evensong (*) Rodden

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

Churchwardens

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Mike & Wendy Wilsher 07590 110860

Postscript From Around our Benefice...

Harpist Emmy Broughton truly delighting the (very) fortunate guests at a recent wedding in St Mary's church Orchardleigh.

It is believed that the Harp is the world's oldest stringed instrument, dating back to 3000 BC. Praise God for the joy, and gift, of music!

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95 v1-2.



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.