

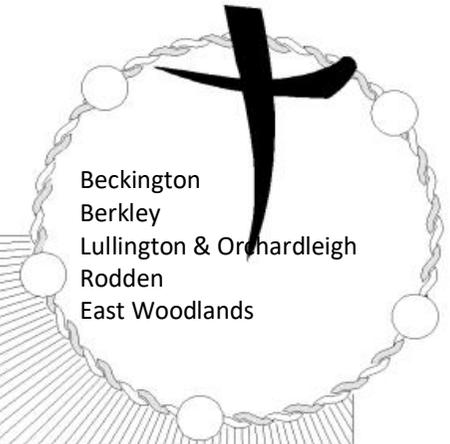
## Worship in April

We seek to work in partnership to offer a range of services across the benefice and you are very welcome at any service in any church.

The Church of St George in Beckington and the churches of Lullington and Orchardleigh are open daily for private prayer.

<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b></p>	<p>10am Matins (*) Beckington            10am All Age Worship Berkley            11am Holy Communion (*) Lullington            11.15am Holy Communion East Woodlands</p>
<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b></p>	<p>10am Holy Communion Beckington            6pm Evensong Rodden</p>
<p><b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b></p>	<p>10am Holy Communion Berkley            11am Matins (*) Orchardleigh            11.15am Morning Worship East Woodlands            6pm Connect Service Beckington</p>
<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b></p>	<p>10am Morning Worship Beckington            11am Matins (*) Lullington            6pm Holy Communion (*) Rodden</p>

The Beckington Group of Parishes



Beckington  
 Berkley  
 Lullington & Orchardleigh  
 Rodden  
 East Woodlands

# Network

April 2024

## CONTACT LIST

<b>In vacancy</b>  <b>Contact relevant</b> <b>Churchwarden</b>	Reader	Dr J. Beaven	830535
---	--------	--------------	--------

Church Officers Beckington		
Safeguarding Officer-Beckington	Dr J Beaven	830535
<a href="mailto:Safeguarding.beckington@gmail.com">Safeguarding.beckington@gmail.com</a>		
PCC Secretary	Vacant	
Acting Secretary	Maria Beaven	830535
<a href="mailto:maria.beaven@outlook.com">maria.beaven@outlook.com</a>		
Administration	Deborah Bailey	
<a href="mailto:beckington.network@gmail.com">beckington.network@gmail.com</a>		
Churchwardens wardens.beckington@gmail.com	Judith Craig	830970
	Maria Beaven	830535
Treasurer	Wendy Wilsher	
<a href="mailto:beckingtontreasurer@gmail.com">beckingtontreasurer@gmail.com</a>		

Berkley		
Safeguarding Officer-Berkley	Luci Hooper	07814 909475
<a href="mailto:Luci.pickford@me.com">Luci.pickford@me.com</a>		
PCC Secretary	Janet Harvey	832303
Churchwarden	Jeanette Hayward	832315
<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>		

Rodden		
Safeguarding Officer-Rodden	Jim Dowling	462515
PCC Secretary	Melanie Pattinson	07803327381
Treasurer	Michael Ruddick	464463
<a href="mailto:michaelruddick@rocketmail.com">michaelruddick@rocketmail.com</a>		
Churchwarden	Jim Dowling	462515
<a href="mailto:flintford2@gmx.co.uk">flintford2@gmx.co.uk</a>		

**Lullington with Orchardleigh**

<https://lullandorch.org.uk> Twitter @LullandOrch  
 Email addresses end with ...@lullandorch.org.uk  
 Churchwardens: wardens@...  
 Mike & Wendy Wilsher  
 Safeguarding officer: Mike Wilsher...  
 Treasurer: Jo Rathmell treasurer@...  
 Weddings: [weddings@lullandorch.org.uk](mailto:weddings@lullandorch.org.uk)  
 Wedding Verger [weddverger@lullandorch.org.uk](mailto:weddverger@lullandorch.org.uk)

### Beckington Web Site

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

### 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

Clerk: Paul Russell

[parishclerk@beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### 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 & Glenys Brown. Meets 1<sup>st</sup>

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Please submit items for publication in the

**May 2024 issue** to:

[beckington.network@gmail.com](mailto:beckington.network@gmail.com)

to arrive no later than **12 noon** on **April**

**20<sup>th</sup>**

**For Network Advertising:** Mrs. J. Every

Please call after 4pm during weekdays

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## Minister's Page

### Living In An Ever Changing World

As we move through this fast changing world we are constantly encountering changes that are taking place in and around us. As we encounter new experiences we often need the encouragement of others to enable us to gain the greatest benefit from them. We find this revealed in the changes developing locally, nationally and internationally as the year progresses. New experiences can be exciting and rewarding, whilst others may result in feelings of concern about how we may be affected by their outcome.

Local and personal experience reminds us that none can foretell what will befall us in our personal relationships. We can be confident, however, that as we place our trust in God who indeed knows the future, that he holds us with his hand and guides us on our way. We should seek God's aid in all relationships and seek to help each other where help might be needed. This is where Network may widen our experience of our wider family. In the spiritual life of the Benefice, folk can indeed experience a new dimension with the arrival of Rev Jo Robinson as Priest in charge. As she joins the Christian fellowship that has called her, she will, we hope, and give new encouragement.

Members in the Benefice are also discovering new links with friends from East Woodlands, these provide experience to be valued. Folk need however to realize that they may be called upon to experience changes to old habits to accommodate developing experiences; may such changes be a stimulus for excitement rather than the production of disgruntled feelings. Joy can result from being positive in our thinking and rejoicing that God is in control. He is always ready to provide encouragement and help for those who turn to him. We can do nothing about the past, though we may indeed learn from it. We can, however, do much with regard to the future as we value the best of the past and move forward with hope and joy, developing new things and encouraging each other in a partnerships in life. Let us look forward to any new things in the coming year and rejoice in them. There are so many positive activities taking place in and around us, so rejoice and thank God that we are part of the ongoing life of the community in which our lives are set. Our confidence being in phrases from a hymn.... "One more step along the world I go"... "from the old things to the new, you'll be travelling along with me."

Baptist Minister Revd. Michael I White



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**Advance Notice - Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

St George's APCM will be held this year on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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. For more details, please contact Electoral Roll Officer Jenny Ayrton 01373 830208



**All Saints Rodden**

The Coffee Morning held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at The Old Carhouse was a great success, attended by over 50 people. Our thanks go to all who came to help raise £479 for Rodden Church funds.

**Newspaper report from 1889 unearthed by Mark Pattinson:**

"Rodden School Treat - On Thursday, through the kindness of the Rev.E.M.R.Edgell, the children attending Rodden Sunday School had their usual treat at the Rectory. About 3pm they assembled in front of the Rectory, and partook of tea, after which they dispersed about the grounds, swings and numerous other amusements being indulged in. Many of the boys, accompanied by Mr Edgell, occupied themselves by playing cricket in a neighbouring field. The Frome Union Drum and Fife Band was in attendance and helped to enliven the proceedings by selections of music. Among the visitors during the afternoon and evening were Miss Edgell, the Misses Harman, Mrs John Shepherd, Mr W Harding and the Misses Harding, Mr and Mrs Barnes, the Misses Coles, and Mrs and Misses Hill. Before separating at the close of the evening, each child received a small present, all having spent a most enjoyable time."



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## St George's Day

23<sup>rd</sup> April

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier,' one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon.'

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military

service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers – 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' – one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty – they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration.

Parish Pump

## St. Katharine's Church News

Our thanks to Gillian and Steve Twohig and the Wilshire family and their friends for the most generous donation to St. Katharine's Church, following the Carol Singing and Blessing of the Crib in Gillian's garden in December. Frome Town Band were in great form. A lovely occasion with mulled wine and mince pies to accompany the lusty singing.

Following a recent funeral, we are also very grateful for the donations from family and friends following the service. Some of them had to contend with the closure of the M25 to get here on time, as did choir member Lorna, so well done to all of them.

Be assured we will spend these gifts wisely and well in the upkeep of our lovely church at East Woodlands.

Lorna and Steve did a recent tidy up in the graveyard and were amazed at the amount of plastic wrapping which had accumulated. A notice will request that all mourners leave flowers only at the graveside and take home all wrapping which is not biodegradable.

Lots of other items currently being progressed at our PCC Meetings. Watch this space. Want to be involved? Any member of the choir will steer you in the right direction.

I don't want to keep banging on - but I will. Vacancies have been open for

some months for Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and new members of the PCC.

We have a band of volunteers who undertake these jobs but permanent backup would be welcomed with open arms.

Don't forget to drive to the church along the lane of daffodils. They should last a little longer. Stunning as ever this year.

You should receive the free copy of our new Benefice's magazine **Network** in April. If you can deliver any to a section of East or West Woodlands, Friggle Street or Feltham please let me know on 07715 673991.

### Village Hall News

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April Pop up Pub 7.00 pm**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April Murder/Mystery Evening 6.30 pm.**

Supper provided. Licensed Bar. Tickets £12.00 available from Chris and Glyn Carpenter on 01373 462963.

Pam Chapman

## Beckington C of E First School News

It has been a tremendously busy term at Beckington C of E First School. In January, I started in school as the Interim Headteacher, and I would like to thank all the families, staff and governors who gave me such a warm welcome, and who have been tremendously supportive over the last two months. The children have had some wonderful experiences over the course of the term. Our younger children became explorers when learning about dinosaurs, whilst others have been superheroes or their favourite book characters when celebrating book week. Celebrating this event really helps to foster a love of reading. It is a pleasure to see children and families sharing high quality texts.

There has been a great deal of music resounding round the school also. Our brass players have loved learning their pieces that were showcased in a public performance at the Cheese and Grain, performing with other schools and professional musicians. Likewise, we have some wonderful singers who are looking forward to their performance in the Opera Project; another fabulous project run by Jackdaws Music Trust.

The gymnasts in school, taught by Sarah Kendrick, deserve huge congratulations, having earned gold medals in the North Devon Schools Floor and Vault Event. Well done to them all!

Adam Summers  
Interim Headteacher

## Springmead School

### Mid Somerset Festival



We have had the most wonderful week at the Mid Somerset Festival, where our pupils did us proud in all aspects of their performances. We saw polished and eloquent poetry, children looking smart and presenting themselves in an impressive manner, politeness, and pride, along with detailed creative writing, poetry recital, piano and drama.

Our children scored very highly, including 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places and received excellent feedback to take forwards onto their next projects, which served as a reminder for why we do these things. It may seem like hard work to learn it; there may be nerves; there may even be tears from the high-adrenaline atmosphere. But every participant took something away from the event. And so many children have expressed their excitement at attending next year. Well done to all those who took part - we are very proud of you all and hope you feel just as proud of yourselves.

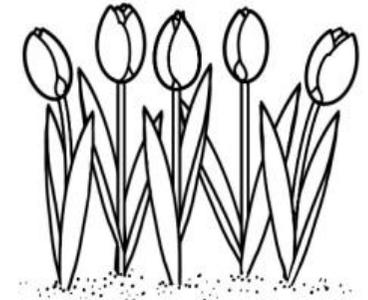
## Post Pandemic Bounce-back

Attendance at Church of England cathedrals has continued to bounce back following the pandemic, according to the latest statistics. Figures show that adult usual Sunday attendance rose 60% between 2021 and 2022 for the 42 Church of England mainland Cathedrals to 12,300 adults. A total of 28,200 people including children attended services every week, according to [Cathedral Statistics 2022](#). Over the year there were 584,000 attendances at specially arranged services – not included in average weekly attendance – such as school services. The number of special services stood at 2,100. The total reported attendance at Christmas services stood at 104,000.

## April Brings Beauties Of Spring A time when we especially admire Creation...

The probability of life originating by accident is comparable to the probability of the complete Oxford dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory. – Edwin Conklin

To create requires infinite power. All the world cannot make a fly.  
Thomas Watson



### Prayer for April 2024

Almighty Father,  
In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.  
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.  
Bring us your peace.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely. Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.  
We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

Daphne Kitching

## Glorious The Song When God's The Theme

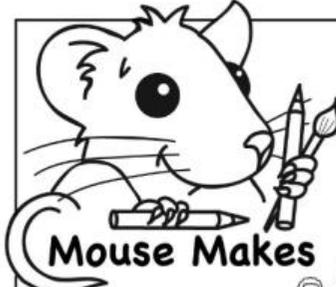
In 1980 Ted Perry decided to found a new independent record company, Hyperion. If that was not financial risk enough, in the following year Hyperion issued a CD of a composer virtually unknown in the 1980s – Hildegard of Bingen. The risk paid off, and Gothic Voices' recording of the music of this remarkable medieval nun became a best seller. The CD sold in its thousands and received awards from the gramophone industry. 'A feather on the breath of God,' the title of the CD, is how Hildegard described herself. 'Listen, there was a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself, but because the air bore it along. Thus am I a feather on the breath of God.'

Hildegard was born in 1098, the tenth child of noble parents who lived in western Germany. Aged only eight, she was given into the care of Jutta, abbess of a monastery in the Rhineland, near Bingen. There she lived the life of an enclosed nun, her only contact with the world outside via a grille through which food was passed.

After 30 years, Hildegard left that cell and was assigned a scribe, who wrote down her visions and meditations in two volumes. She founded two monasteries, wrote books on medicine and natural healing and the first morality play, and composed a great range of songs. She corresponded with the great and the good, and as the 'Sybil of the Rhine,' her advice was sought by popes and emperors, by kings and bishops. A truly creative life of prayer and service until her death in 1179.

The starting point for her own compositions was the plainsong of that time. Modern techniques of singing and performing often make plainsong slow and heavy. The secret to bringing plainchant alive is to sing it with relaxed attention. In many ways that is the secret of the life of prayer: that paradox of resting in the Lord while being alert to the promptings of his spirit. Hildegard realised that secret as she brought to her music, as she did to everything, an intensity of emotion and faith, developing the medieval plainchant into melodies that flowed off the page and soared into the skies.

It is all there in the chant 'O ignis spiritus' on the CD – an ecstatic song, praising the life of God's Spirit as breath and spark of flame, as a power within and armour without. As Hildegard contemplates this gift, her music moves and grows, reaching upwards to God's throne of glory in praise and adoration and outwards to those who listen.



**Mouse Makes**

How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?  
Read John 21:14

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked: "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"

How many disciples were there? Who were they?  
Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?  
Read John 21: 11



**READ**  
the story in **John 21**



B S N F F I R E R F  
W A T E R I F D A Y C W  
R I G H T A N I I B O A T Y  
J O H N D S S O C S I N  
M S H C B N T B A  
T S E A H I I R O J E T  
I S I M O N P E T E R H  
L A N D R G L A H S I A  
F O J K M E H E D I U A N D  
B R E A K F A S T N S S A  
D F I S H U N I G H T E  
C A U G H T L D O F U L L

DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY  
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET  
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish Apr24©deborah.noble • parishpump.co.uk

## Beckington Memorial Hall

**The Pantaloons Theatre Company will perform The Merry Wives of Windsor Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

OUTDOOR THEATRE SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

"Wives may be merry, and yet honest too!"

Sir John Falstaff, everyone's favourite Shakespearean sleazeball, has fallen on hard times. In order to fix his finances, he plans to seduce the wives of two wealthy merchants. But, wise to his wily ways, the ladies take the opportunity to punish Falstaff by playing a series of hilarious tricks on the nincompoop knight.

Expect silly slapstick, abundant anachronisms and memorable music nestled amongst Shakespeare's poignant poetry as the critically-acclaimed Pantaloons put their own innovative and interactive spin on this classic comedy.

Pizzas, hot dogs, desserts and ice creams will be on sale. There will be a bar.

Bring something to sit on and dress for the weather.

Tickets available online at <https://buytickets.at/thepantaloons/1190997>

Please don't forget you can **sponsor a square metre of flooring** (£50 for a square metre) and have your name on our honours

board which will be displayed in the playground. Go to Just Giving and search for Beckington Memorial Hall.

### March 200 Club winners

The draw took place at the committee meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** £50 no 16 Anne Hodder

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** £25 no 172 Barry Davies

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** £10 no 196 Brenda Power

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

### For Sale/Wanted

If you would like an entry in this column, please send it to Julie Evemy (see inside front cover). A suggested donation of £2 towards Network would be appreciated which can be left in the slot in the wall inside St George's church when open or use the contactless donation screen. Private advertisements only please.

#### For Sale

**6 Fairy wall plates.** Villeroy & Boch porcelain. They just need to go to a little girl's home, so price unimportant. 831217 Power

#### **4 Original watercolour**

**paintings.** Two are 'Victorian' rural landscape's, one traditional scene, and one modern/abstract. Any

proposed plant sale and monthly raffle ticket sales could offset this, so membership fees will not be increased.

We then welcomed Gill Hazell to talk about Classic and Unusual Bulbs. In 1967 Gill and her husband moved to Somerset they began entering Sutton Show. Through showing they got interested in gladioli and ordered new varieties every year. When the grower advised them, he was going to retire they decided to buy the business. They discovered he not only imported gladioli but also many unusual bulbs to sew in the Autumn. This led them to travelling regularly to Holland to see new and exciting flowering bulbs. She was fascinated to discover the wide range of types of tulips, narcissi, and hyacinths available since the introduction of the tulip for gardeners in 1600. She talked knowledgably about a wide range of lesser-known bulbs, illustrating their size and colour ranges. Most can be safely grown outdoors here, but some need the protection of an unheated greenhouse. There were almost too many to choose from, but many will be planning to chase those that really appealed. Sadly, since Brexit it has become too expensive to import smaller amounts from Europe, so she no longer sells corms and bulbs. Other smaller, specialised companies are also ceasing to trade, so finding them could become more difficult.

This month will be the last one in the village hall for some months. Our speaker will be Carrie Pakenham, who will talk about herbs their

cultivation and use on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Guests are always welcome. Members are invited to bring any spare plants to sell.

This month there is also a willow workshop in Rode Village Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 10am -1:00, to make an obelisk for the garden. The cost is £29, which includes all the materials required and refreshments. There are just a few spaces left. Contact the club on the website to book a place. board [rodeanddistrictgardeningclub@outlook.com](mailto:rodeanddistrictgardeningclub@outlook.com)

We are planning to do **Rode Open Gardens again this year, on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 11am to 4 pm**, where we hope to have a larger plant sale. More details will be available next month. This will be a chance to visit several different gardens in the village. A date for your diary.

Another date to add to your diary is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September when there will be a coach from Rode to RHS Wisley, to visit these beautiful gardens in their autumn colours. This trip will be open to all villagers, so add the date to your diary if you would like to join us. Full details, including costs, will be in the magazine next month.

Sharman Flindall

two "Green Open Home" events, with (on each occasion) around a dozen local homes hosting visits to their energy-saving projects. The technologies on display have ranged from solar PV and heat pumps to electric bikes and secondary glazing.

We're now looking to provide a permanent on-line resource (hosted on the Rode village website) with details of local "eco-projects", to include some background on the project, the pros and cons, learnings and recommendations, etc, etc - with the overall objective of inspiring more local residents to investigate and implement energy and carbon-saving solutions. If you've undertaken such a project - no matter how small - and would be prepared to share some information on-line, then please get in touch at the address below.

[jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.mcauliffe@btinternet.com)

## Beckington Mothers' Union

At our monthly MU meeting in March, we were pleased to welcome Rev Stephen Kivett, who led us in a service of Holy Communion for Lent.

In April we will be holding our "Make a Mother's Day Tea", money from which will support MU's projects, to help empower women in developing countries to transform their lives and to reach their full potential. This will be held on Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lahs Place at 2.15. Please come and bring a friend.

Rosemary Ball



## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Rode and District Gardening Club

The Chairman highlighted how successful 2023 had been for the Club, with its mixture of garden visits in the warmer, lighter months and talks in the late Autumn and Winter. She thanked the committee for their hard work and support. Two committee members have resigned; thanks were expressed to Peter Simper, and to Margaret Clark, who is stepping down as our president. Her long service to the Club and the committee was marked with a bouquet and gift. Volunteers were sought to join the committee and share the workload. After the meeting Sari Gilbert was persuaded to take on the role of president. The treasurer reported increased membership in 2023, which increased income. However, the increased costs of the coach trip and speaker fees meant there was a small loss of £25. This can easily be covered by reserves and in 2024 a

reasonable offer accepted. 831217 Power

### Wanted

**Exercise bike** Must be in good full working order and reasonably priced. Ideally local for collection purposes. Phone 07443 750052 if you can help.

## Standerwick, Berkley & Beckington W.I

We welcomed four visitors to our meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Our speaker, Ann Collins, who is based at Beckington Surgery, talked to us about 'Health Connections Mendip..'. This organisation, funded by the NHS, offers support to people who need help other than medical help for example loneliness or isolation.

Some of our members are busy knitting items for dementia patients and premature babies. These items are donated to hospitals and nursing homes. On Saturday 16 March some of our members are looking forward to a trip to the Kapunda Gardens, Southstoke, Bath. These gardens specialise in Hellebores. Our next meeting is on Thursday 4 April at Beckington Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Laura Batt will talk to us about the Hedgehog Rescue Centre. If you would like to contact us please contact our secretary, Kathy Kingman [contactkathy@btinternet.com](mailto:contactkathy@btinternet.com)

## Community Coffee Morning

Community Coffee Morning  
April 24th 10.30-12 noon  
68, Goose St, Beckington.

Everyone welcome.  
Come along and join our friendly group.



 **Cats In Distress** 

## SPRING FAIR

### Help Our Kittens

GIFTS FOR YOUR CAT  
HANDMADE GIFTS  
BOOK SALE  
RAFFLE  
TOY TOMBOLA  
REFRESHMENTS  
CAKE, CAKE, CAKE!

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 10.30 - 2.00  
BECKINGTON MEMORIAL HALL  
BA11 6SH



## Worship is key

In January I was back in my old Diocese of Exeter, marking the death of Sabine Baring Gould 100 years before. What an extraordinary person he was, with an incredible range and roundedness of learning and interests, in an equally full and fulfilled life. He was a great traveller and prolific writer of biographies, folklore, travel books, theology, novels and hymns, including some, such as 'Onward Christian soldiers' that remain popular today. He was a linguist and translator; and, as an archaeologist on Dartmoor, very much a pioneer in the field. For many, his greatest achievement was his collecting the old folk songs of Devon and Cornwall, providing inspiration for such composers as Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Holst. He was also the Squire of Lewtrenchard and, being ordained, he appointed himself as parish priest as well!

This he saw as his true vocation. His responsibility, and that of the local church, was the cure of souls from cradle to grave. This meant a care for the spiritual wellbeing of all in the community and for their bodily and social welfare too. Striving for good health and housing must go hand in hand with growth in faith and prayer. All should be encouraged to full humanity, to holy discipleship, to the recognition, and use, of whatever gifts anyone possessed for the common good.

But, underlying all of this, one other aspect of this great man's life speaks very strongly to me now. That is how he understood worship

and its relationship to the whole of life.

'To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.'

Michael Langrish  
Assistant Bishop for Bath and Wells

## Beckington Village Choir

Now recruiting new singers to join a friendly and welcoming mixed voice village choir. No audition required.

If you love to sing, please come along.

**We practice on Tuesday evenings in Beckington Memorial Hall from 7.30pm till 9.15pm.**

For more information, please contact Marianne Burke  
07884185143

## Rode, Beckington & Norton St Philip Climate Emergency Group

### Proposed Solar Farm in Rode

The Climate Emergency Group (CEG) and Rode Parish Council (RPC) is strongly in favour of sustainable energy, and RPC formally declared a Climate Emergency in 2021. However, in line with the views of many local residents, both the CEG and RPC believe the proposed development is flawed in many ways – in particular, the scale of the solar farm (which would be the largest in Somerset), its proximity to the historic village of Rode, and the impact it would have on the character of the local countryside.

The planning application was due to be determined by 12<sup>th</sup> February. However, the applicant was required to provide a significant amount of additional information in order to respond to issues raised by consultees, and there is now a re-consultation period, closing on 14<sup>th</sup> March. It is expected that the application will be considered at the April meeting of the Somerset East planning committee (April 2<sup>nd</sup>).

### Rode Repair Café

Plans are underway to bring a Repair Café to Rode! Building on the success of the Norton St Philip Repair Café, the idea is to hold at least a couple of events a year in Rode, with the first one pencilled-in for **Saturday 8th June** (in Rode Memorial Hall). In order for

this event to take place we obviously need expert repairers! So - if you have some knowledge or experience of fixing household objects (be they electrical, mechanical, pottery, porcelain, clothing or footwear....) please drop a line to the address at the foot of this article. And please pass on this request to anyone you know who may be interested in helping out.

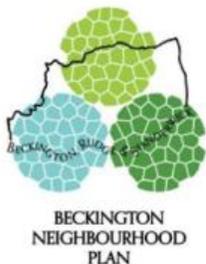
### Climate Emergency Group – new leader required!

Having been in the hot-seat for three years, Jim will be stepping back from leading the CEG in the summer. Whilst we've organised a number of successful events, produced a monthly email newsletter (with around 100 subscribers), and sought to highlight the climate emergency locally, it's time for someone with more expertise, energy, and time, to take on the mantle - and in particular to inspire us to reach the next level. If you think that person is YOU - please drop Jim a line (address at the foot of the page)...and, if it's not you, but you know someone who could be interested, please ask them to get in contact.

Plus, we're always on the lookout for new members, with some ambitious aims covering all three local villages in 2024. Send Jim an email if you'd like to join the group.

### Do you have an interesting home eco-project to share?

Over the past couple of years the Rode, Beckington & Norton St Philip Climate Emergency Group has held



**UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**  
**For the Civil Parish of Beckington**  
**comprising, Beckington, Rudge & part of Standerwick**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 saw the first event organised by the Beckington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Held in the Memorial Hall, Beckington, this was the first consultation with local residents. There was a good turnout, on a rather damp night, for drinks, nibbles, a short presentation and conversation to learn more about what a Neighbourhood Plan is and why our community needs one. Those attending were invited to give feedback, via interactive notice boards, particularly on what they like most about the Parish, preferred housing styles, favourite views and facilities and services that are missing.

The event also served to launch the Beckington **Neighbourhood Plan Survey**. This bespoke survey will inform the Steering Group about residents' views on a range of issues, including transport, infrastructure and services, housing and the environment. Surveys have been delivered to every household in the Parish but if anyone is missing a copy or would like additional copies for other family members, it can be downloaded from the Neighbourhood Plan website [www.beckingtonplan.co.uk](http://www.beckingtonplan.co.uk), or completed on line via the website. Further paper copies can be delivered if you contact Debs Byrne on 07770 757922.

**The deadline for completing the Survey is April 6<sup>th</sup>.** Please drop your survey response into the collection box at locations listed in the survey, or contact us if you need someone to collect it from you.

Please complete and return the survey as your views matter!

Beckington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

**Friends of St George's  
(FOSG) Coin collection**



Do you have **out of date and other foreign coins, cluttering up your house?**

Friends of St George's will be happy to collect from you, or please leave in the Bell Jar in the Church . We can use the scrap value towards our funds, used to restore and maintain Beckington's beautiful church. Further information from Jo Casey: 07775 900047/ 01373 830885

**FOSG Lent Lunch**

Thank you to all who attended the Friends of St George's (FOSG) Lent Lunch with talk on Julian House which was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

**£460.00** was raised along with donated food (which has kindly been taken to Frome Food bank). Monies raised were divided equally between Julian House and FOSG. Well over 50 people came to hear Gavin Osborn, who works for the charity, give an honest, frank and informative talk about the charity

and the reality homelessness has on people's lives with its far reaching exclusion from 'normal' life - how having no permanent place to live can impact on a human's every aspect of their daily existence.

For more details on Julian House and how to donate, please see [Support Us | Julian House | Homeless Charity | South West](#)

Thank you

## Care for our River Frome

As we welcome the end of winter and enjoy the birdsong, more daylight hours than dark and some warmth in the sun when it magically shines ... our spirits may be a little lifted, at long last spring has sprung! At the risk of bursting this introductory bubble of 'positivity and feel-good vibes,' I do want to put a spring focus on looking at a key aspect of our local environment that is often overlooked and possibly taken for granted: our beautiful River Frome.

Our stretch of the River Frome was classified as being in 'Moderate ecological health' by the Environment Agency in 2022. That's OK then, you may be forgiven for thinking. However, looking at the picture below, perhaps we should be a little concerned about the impacts our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives are having on this important environmental feature, as it gently meanders its way through our local communities?

*River Frome 'foam island' downstream of Beckington in the summer of 2023*

With our changing weather patterns, it seems heavy rainfall events are happening more frequently than they used to and the sad consequence of this is more 'permitted overflows' of raw sewage into our rivers. (For those of you reading this that may not have had the memo yet, the companies treating our sewage can apply for a 'permit' to pump raw sewage straight into the nearest river if we have heavy rainfall and their 'sewage treatment plants' aren't able to cope.)

So, here's a newsflash for all water companies in Britain ... climate change aside ... storms and heavy rains, even in summer, are nothing new in this country. History tells us that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 55 B.C. (i.e. long before even the August Bank Holiday weekend was dreamt up) one infamous chap, called Julius Caesar, was beaten by the stormy British weather and had to retreat from our shores, aborting his first attempt\* to conquer 'this sceptred isle'.

In fairness to Wessex Water's current Wastewater Management Plan, it acknowledges that



"The Frome area has a high risk for sewer incapacity and high groundwater levels from prolonged rainfall periods affect areas of this catchment."

The second half of last summer was quite wet and certainly this winter has been wet, but it's specifically the periods of 'heavy rainfall' that Wessex Water can't cope with adequately. Of course, we shall have to wait to see, but probably the 2023 figures will exceed the 2022 figures when added to the table below.

Beckington Treatment Plant Permit No: 011987 – Storm Overflows into the River Frome					
Frequency			Hours		
20	20	20	20	20	20
21	22	23	21	22	23
15	20	??	18	20	??
			3	7	

Source "The Rivers Trust"

The Rivers Trust's latest report says that our rivers are in a desperate state of affairs:

*Toxic chemicals that remain in ecosystems for decades pollute every stretch of English rivers. Some forms of pollution are obvious from the riverbank; plastic bottles and crisp packets bobbing in the water, brightly coloured single-use vapes nestled on the riverbed, and wastewater from combined sewage overflows (CSOs). Untreated sewage spills blight most of our rivers, and even treated wastewater still contains a cocktail of chemicals.*

Wessex Water are part of a Malaysian company called YTL. Their Chairman says:

*"Unprecedented criticism from the public, media, and politicians about the state of rivers and the impact of storm overflows has challenged us to fundamentally re-assess our investment programme and priorities. The entire water industry failed to recognise early enough that the legacy of storm overflows is simply unacceptable in the 21st century. So let me say very clearly: I get it, my Board and everyone in Wessex Water gets it. Overflows must be either treated or eliminated."*

So, let's hope that April can be a repeat of last year ... or that when it rains, we have 'April showers' and not more deluges of wet stuff!

### Remember the advice from The Rivers Trust:

*Avoid entering the water immediately downstream of discharges and avoid the storm overflows, especially after it has been raining heavily.*

\* NB Julius C's Mum instilled in him the 'if at first you don't succeed, then try again' principle, ... so he returned in July 54 B.C. ... and the rest is history!

Shannon Brooke