

# The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley



West Town & Backwell WI Committee

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Submission deadline for next issue is the  
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# The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

## *Beginnings and endings...*

I can hardly believe it's ten years since I was appointed minister of West Town, Backwell, and Nailsea Methodist churches! Later this summer that period of service will come to an end. It's been a tremendous privilege to work alongside many wonderful people in our village who are committed to seeing our community flourish through the development of strong and supportive



relationships, both with each other and with the physical environment which sustains our life. Being a trustee both of *Wellspring Counselling* and of *Backwell Life*, which oversees the weekly Meeting Point in the Parish Hall, has shown me the power of unconditional acceptance, attentive listening, and friendly hospitality to confer healing and hope. Visiting local primary schools to take assemblies and sharing biblical literacy through the interactive fun of the *Open the Book* initiative has helped forge valuable intergenerational relationships between church and school communities. Overseeing the work of our families' ministry team at the Ready Teddy Sing baby and toddler group at West Town has been a source of great encouragement and joy! Backwell churches have long worked together to witness to the love of God which binds us all to each other's welfare. I've been blessed in my relationships with a succession of fellow church leaders and especially through the worship we've offered together, not only in formal church services but around meal tables, at the Parish Hall and in the open air – most recently at sunrise by the lake on Easter morning! Denominational lines have blurred as Backwell Christians have discovered the riches of each other's spiritual heritage and the power of praying together! Tending our church community at West Town has been the greatest honour of all. Our small but vibrant congregation has remained committed to growing in faith and understanding, in service and in outreach - through challenging times and experiences of painful loss. Much love and loyalty has been shown and shared, and not least to me.

In human experience, endings are usually harder to negotiate than beginnings. Bidding farewell won't be easy. But this ending is at the same time pregnant with possibilities, both for me and for you, as we start a new chapter. My successor, Sally Ratcliffe, will bring fresh gifts and insights to the work here and I am confident you will receive her with open hearts. I will relish more time with Mark and the family, and a 'smaller way' of following my call to ministry! This Easter we have been reminded once again of the power of resurrection love to turn every dead end into a new beginning. Thank God for life, thank God for hope, thank God for love!

*Deborah Mallett*

*Minister of West Town Backwell, and Nailsea Methodist Churches*

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## Backwell Parish Council April 2024 Meeting

Councillors were delighted to welcome Phil Harris as a new Councillor. They wished him a long and happy time on the Parish Council.



### Bus Strategy Improvement Plan

(BSIP) Cllr Hannah Young who is leading on this project for North Somerset Council (NSC) attended the meeting and gave Councillors a comprehensive update on the Plan. As a direct result of the large number of Backwell Residents submitting responses, the proposal to close Dark Lane at its junction with the A370 is being closely reviewed. A summary of responses will be available on the NSC website.

The decisions regarding the location of the Transport Hub and the related pedestrian footpath improvements will probably be made in 6 – 9 months.

**Planning** There is no date for work to commence on the housebuilding at Farleigh Fields.

There is no update regarding Rodney Road or the Gleeson (Nailsea) planning applications.

Grove Farm - Councillors were told that part of the planning application had been altered, requiring a further ecological survey. All those who submitted comments to the consultation will be notified by NSC and Councillors will discuss the new submission at a future meeting.

Even Keel: (Moor Lane). The Planning Officer has requested further information on access.

**Bristol Airport** The Airport now own the Airport Tavern. Once their intentions with the site are fully understood any issues will be reported to Councillors for debate. There has been an issue with illegal parking being set up on greenbelt land at Downside. This has been reported to NSC for action as appropriate.

**Biodiversity Duty** The Council wish to develop a biodiversity policy for Backwell. A committee of Councillors and residents will be set up to take this work further. A statement will be published on the Parish Council Website [www.backwell-pc.gov.uk](http://www.backwell-pc.gov.uk). The Council has been in correspondence with Persimmon Homes regarding the plot of land at Farleigh Fields being offered to the Council as a green space. Councillors heard that there are numerous issues surrounding this offer, and there can be no decision at this time.

### NSC Consultations

Parking Charges in Nailsea. Cllrs Harland and Taylor will draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council. Three-weekly collection of black bin rubbish. A key concern of Councillors was the impact this might have on residents who generate 'purple waste' (disposable nappies, sanitary items), particularly at times of hot weather.

School Place strategy. Cllr Harland confirmed that she had submitted a comprehensive response to NSC before the March deadline.

### Other issues

CCTV. Cllr Ramos offered to attend a joint meeting proposed by Wraxall and Failand PCs regarding the CCTV at the railway station.

Phone Box. Councillors unanimously agreed to pass responsibility for the phone box on Farleigh Road to the Women's Institute for community use.

**May meeting** The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Parish Hall on Thursday, **2nd May** at 7.30pm. Please come along to see what we do.

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WOMEN IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM
- AUGUST 21 2024**  
WALK TO BELMONT ESTATE
- SEPTEMBER 18 2024**  
CHEESE, WINE & RESOLUTIONS
- OCTOBER 16 2024**  
FORAGING
- NOVEMBER 20 2024**  
AGM & CHRISTMAS PUD MAKING
- DECEMBER 18 2024**  
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**Contact us:**

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theWI  
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## Front Cover Story Backwell WI

After a fabulous year re-forming the WI, and with nearly 80 members, our local group is thriving! We've had some fascinating talks from local residents and businesses, and provided a safe, fun space for women to meet. If you haven't come to a meeting yet, remember your first meeting is free. (See more on page 18)

**The Village Magazine**  
BACKWELL CHELVEY BROCKLEY

[backwellvillagemag@gmail.com](mailto:backwellvillagemag@gmail.com)

Editor - Jane Canning

## Annual Open Meeting

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church House  
All contributors to,  
advertisers in,  
readers of

**The Village Magazine** are invited to come and find out more about the functioning and health of this local, not for profit, publication. Your attendance will be rewarded with a glass of wine and a chance to vote for your favourite front cover from last year.

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 Sat 18th: 10am-6pm  
 Sun 19th: 10am-3pm

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## Backwell School News Spring Music Concert

We celebrated the end of Term 4 with an incredible Spring Concert. It is always a great pleasure to showcase the fabulous musical talent of Backwell students. We enjoyed the range of musical genres we've come to expect, from 16th Century Madrigals to 21st Century Pop-Punk. The confidence and talent of the pupils continues to amaze – from Year 7s asking Mr Clarke if they could debut their (amazing) band to a Year 13 presenting a performance of her self-penned (beautiful) string quartet composition. Congratulations to all those who took part and to our wonderful Music team and instrumental teachers.



**Modern Foreign Language Spelling Bee**  
'Felicitaciones' to three Year 7 students who took part in the Modern Language Spelling Bee Regional Final, towards the end of Term 4. Scout, Lily and Arthur all did so well. Arthur did brilliantly - it was touch and go as to whether he would make it as he'd been off ill, but after some encouragement from older siblings and his dad, he managed to get there and performed really well, despite not making it through to the final for French. Scout and Lily came 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Spanish group and have earned themselves a place in the National Final at Cambridge University in July, which is great news. We are delighted with all three of them - they were so composed and did themselves proud and were superb ambassadors for the school.

We now enter, possibly the busiest time of the school calendar. There is much to look forward to in Terms 5 & 6, including our celebrated Backwell Enrichment Week in June, when students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be either attending school camps, or doing trips plus activities at school. Year 10 students will be undertaking a week of work experience, learning new skills with local businesses. Our Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be starting their exams and continuing with study.

### Sporting Success

The Backwell School Equestrian team came second in the British Showjumping Schools Championships. Huge congratulations to the team of Holly (Year 7) and Briony, Hattie & Leah (Year 8).

Congratulations to Year 9 student Mariella, who recently became the Avon Golf Winner in the Under 19 Golfing tournament. What an incredible achievement!

We are crossing our fingers for sunshine and a brighter spring/summer season, to allow many sporting fixtures to go ahead, along with our famous Backwell School Sports Day later in Term 6. Good luck to all our competitors.

*Clair Gardner- Headteacher's PA*

## Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School West Leigh Infant School

### Reception (aged 5)

The children had a great time before the Easter holiday learning about African culture and art. We started the week by jet setting off to Africa on our class airline and looked at the globe of the world to find out where we were heading. We created beautiful silhouette pictures, inspired by safari sunsets, using special dyes to create a background and then cut out animals in black sugar paper to showcase the wildlife. We looked at a video of Maasai Mara children living in Kenya and had the chance to wear a real Maasai necklace that was lent to us by Mrs Bowden-Green, who lived in Africa. We used a paper plate to make our own necklaces and added paint, sticks, straws and pipe cleaners to create the bead patterns on the original. We were able to learn a special African dance with a dance instructor and move like a lion. A specialist music teacher also taught us an African song called Kye Kye Kule and let us explore the sounds of African instruments.

### Year 1 (aged 6)

Rabbit and Owl Classes enjoyed exploring the many art and craft activities inspired by the vibrant continent of Africa. Some of their favourite art work included Giraffe drawings with added Adinkra Symbols for a background. Sunsets across African savannahs were the inspiration for all year groups to practice their colour mixing skills. The Year 1 classes started with yellow paint and gradually mixed in varying amounts of red paint to create these amazing coloured skies. The children cut out some silhouettes of African animals to complete the African sunset scene. Rabbit and Owl Classes also learned about Ndebele Art and how bold geometric patterns can be used to decorate houses and buildings. We made houses out of cardboard and decorated them with our own colourful Ndebele patterns



As well as lots of arts

and craft activities, we also enjoyed taking part in African drumming and dance workshops. A great time was had by all.

### Year 2 (Aged 7)

Year 2 had a brilliant week learning about Africa. We found out about the continent and countries of Africa, and the Egyptian Pyramids. We researched different African animals, and mixed primary colours to create pink and orange shades to create a sunset background. We chose



our favourite animals to sketch, copied them onto black paper and cut them out to create silhouettes against the sunsets. Some of us added Baobab and Acacia tree silhouettes to our pictures.

We had a drumming workshop and took part in a Lion King inspired dance workshop. We really enjoyed our music and dance.



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## Stephanie Gilbert (flute) & Helen Reid (piano) at St Mary's, Yatton, 18<sup>th</sup> May

This concert by brilliant Bristol based musicians will be the final concert of the Yatton Music Society's Spring season. Stephanie is an alumna of Millfield school, the RNCM and Guildhall School of Music. She performs regularly with ensembles and has played concertos in prestigious venues as well as giving solo performances and recording soundtracks for films. Her accompanist is Helen Reid who was a keyboard finalist in the BBC Young Musician competition. As a recitalist, Helen has performed internationally across the UK and Europe and gives masterclasses at several universities and the Dartington Summer School. Both Stephanie and Helen teach at Bristol University and are regular performers with the Bristol Ensemble.

For our concert their programme will include a varied selection of beautiful music that will appeal to everyone.

The concert starts at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, tickets price £10, half price for students over 16, children free. Details of this concert and future events can be found on Yatton Music Society's website [www.yms.org.uk](http://www.yms.org.uk)

**Saturday, May, 18<sup>th</sup>**

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Stephanie Gilbert

## Backwell Scout News

### Monday Cubs

Before Easter, despite the rain on several Mondays, we were outside a fair bit. A muddy night hike over the common, a fire lighting challenge with some cooking and an Easter egg treasure hunt were all blessed with dry evenings. On inside evenings the Cubs made paracord survival bands, analysed the suitability of a range of biscuits for dunking in hot drinks and gained knowledge and confidence to be safe online.

Helen

### Thursday Cubs

We finished last term with some campfire cooking under cover and a night hike. Despite the wet weather the cubs had a great time.

This term we have planned, with lighter evenings, more hikes, and outdoor activities such as pond dipping for little beasts and nature scavenger hunts, along with some team building games and a chance for the cubs to learn more about bicycle maintenance and a chance to ride along the Strawberry Line.

Tony, Section Leader

### Tuesday Beavers.

Now the brighter and warmer weather is upon us, we started to venture out of the Scout Hut by doing a litter pick on Backwell Playing Fields and the surrounding area.

The Beavers were very excited to go and clear up the community and managed to fill a number of large black sacks.

As we couldn't use the Scout Hut temporarily, we had a session in the Parish Hall for a week where the Beavers designed their own chocolate/sweet machine following a reading from a paragraph of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Following the Easter break, we are looking forward to building our machines and also spending more time outside of the Scout Hut.

If your child is interested in joining Tuesday Beavers, please email [tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com](mailto:tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com) to join the waiting list.

Sarah



## Wednesday Explorers & Ten Tors training

In March our **Explorers** learned how to make Polish Dumplings (pierogi), visited Laser Fusion for some fun action, and took long exposure photos of wire wool on fire which resulted in some great pictures. We also checked out Planet Ice for some ice skating. On 16<sup>th</sup> March we entered 2 teams in the annual Rickard Shield night hike competition which saw over 50 teams taking part. It was a very, very wet and windy night with our teams finishing by 2.00am, and we were very pleased with our final positions of fourth and fifth.

Our **Ten Tors** preparation will come to an end with one training weekend left before the event on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May. At the end of March all of our 35, 45 and 55 mile participants completed their penultimate training hike on Dartmoor, experiencing a real mixed bag of weather and a pretty chilly night of wild camping. Everyone did well and looked good for their respective challenges.

Good luck to all the following:

### 35-mile Challenge

Alex, Cillian, Doug, Hannah, James, Jasper, Lukas, Monty, Nathaniel & Olive

### 45-mile Challenge

Barnaby, Ellis, Ilyana, Kitty, Noah, Phoebe, George, Oliver, Sam, Alex & Angus

### 55-mile Challenge

Freya, Georgia, Hannah, Rosie, Ruby & Peter

Iain (Explorer and Tens Tors leader)

**BACKWELL WALKING CARNIVAL**

**Sunday 30th June 2024**

Walking Together Towards a Sustainable Future

Backwell Climate Action Group - Walking Carnival - Entry Submission

QR Code

Finish: by Scout Hut

Start: Spar

WALK 2PM-3:30PM  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS AT THE SCOUT HUT

Email: [backwellclimateactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:backwellclimateactiongroup@gmail.com)

Sponsored by: Sustainable Backwell

More about Backwell Walking Carnival on page 16

Morley Plants and Gardens,  
will be having a plant sale at the Fair Trade Café on 11 May.  
As usual we will be selling a range of bedding,  
perennial, herbs and veggies

### Backwell's Second Saturday Fair Trade Café

May 11<sup>th</sup> Backwell Parish Hall 10.00am to 12.00 noon

You are invited to Backwell's Monthly Community Café to enjoy the excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea and some delicious home baked pastries and biscuits.

This month there will also be a grand plant sale on the Car Park.

As usual the bulk-buy Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service. Here you can join and buy all kinds of food stuffs in bulk including many different types of flour, a wide range of cereals, nuts, seeds and spices as well as all kinds of tinned fruit and vegetables, various coffees, teas, beverages, chocolates, biscuits and much more. The range includes many fair trade and organic items. Come and peruse the catalogue or go to <http://www.essential-trading.co.uk>, join the Club and place an order.

You can also buy from the wide range of goods on display without joining or ordering.

Move from recycling to re-using by bringing your own container to fill (or better refill) with all kinds of Ecover /Bio D detergents and cleaning fluids on our refill stall.

As usual Backwell's Climate Action Group will be with us and will have a stall on the theme of Water. Alistair Ireland will lead and with any luck he will have someone from Bristol Water with him.

Our District Councillor Bridget Petty intends to be present again to discuss the many local affairs which are concerning residents.



### Repair Café: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Can we repair something for you? Bring your broken things for us to try and repair, so that they don't go to landfill. In the past we have repaired chairs, coats, shopping bags, a strimmer, table lamps, rucksacks, umbrellas, a food mixer, secateurs, bikes, cuddly toys ... AND costume jewellery (a new volunteer who came for the first time in October is a specialist in this). We can also sharpen garden tools, knives and scissors. Sustainable Backwell volunteers will be running their Repair Café alongside the Fairtrade Café on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am-12.00noon, at the Parish Hall ... which means you can enjoy a mug of Fairtrade tea or coffee while you wait. Oh, and please turn up early with your repairs - they take time to do.

### Litterpickers available to borrow.

Do you know of places around Backwell that need cleaning up? Hedges full of cans and bottles or verges dotted with sweet wrappers? All Backwell residents are very welcome to borrow litterpickers from Sustainable Backwell. Litterpickers can be collected from Backwell's Fairtrade Cafe, on the second Saturday of every month from 10.00am-12.00noon, used for a month and returned at the next cafe.

## Reduce Water usage and Save Money

### Event

Please come to a free information stand at the Backwell Fairtrade Café in the Backwell Parish Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> May between 10.00am and 12.00 midday and find out how to save money on your water bill and also reduce your carbon footprint.

There will be free water saving devices including water tap aerators, shower timers, children's "toothy timers", Buffalo Cistern bags and for the garden, plant saving water gel.

Water, we all need it and use it. We can turn on a tap and get clean water and we know what it costs in pounds and pence to us each year from our bills.

There is also another cost of water that is not so obvious, the impact on the UK Carbon emissions.

Treating and distributing water contributes to almost 1% of total UK carbon emissions. To put that in context, that is the equivalent to the emissions of about one million cars.

With all the rain we have had this winter, our gardens are sodden, but in a few months we may be complaining of it being too hot and dry. Water Butts and water saving tips and tricks in the garden can dramatically reduce the need to use mains water to irrigate your garden. Harvested rainwater is better for your garden than mains water, and you can save a surprising amount of mains water use over a year by a few cheap and easy changes in the garden.

We hope to see you at the Fairtrade Café on 11<sup>th</sup> May between 10.00 and 12.00 at the Parish Hall.

Alistair Ireland:  
Member of Backwell  
Climate Action Group

## Christian Aid Week 2024 – May 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>.

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference.

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from May 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70% of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay.

Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. This is a plan and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever."

This Christian Aid Week – from May 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> – supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives.

There are seven days and so many ways to make a difference – whether that's church services, special collections, Christian Aid Big Brekkies, or even a Bible readathon. For those who like a physical challenge there's a new option for 2024 with the chance to take part in 70k in May. You can cover the distance in any way you like, take part by yourself or with a group, and share your progress on a dedicated Facebook page. Find out all the ways you can support Christian Aid Week by visiting the Christian Aid website.

### Costings:

#### What could your donations buy?

£5 could buy a savings book for a member of a VSLA, setting them up to start their own small business and become financially independent. £30 would help a family buy two Jerrycans to collect water from the river to carry back to their farm. Jerrycans provide irrigation to crops, especially during the dry season, maintaining food production for the family. £50 would mean a vulnerable family can purchase a water storage tank. Water can then be stored for a few days rather than travelling to the communal water point, allowing instant access to water for washing, cleaning and cooking. £100 could help a woman set up her own small business with a starter kit; including money to purchase her first few items to sell. This means she could supply local grocery shops or restaurants with vegetables, set up a roadside shop, or buy maize to sell in bigger markets like Bujumbura. £100 could also help buy a family a bicycle meaning easier transport to school, quicker access to medical treatment in emergencies or support carrying produce from farm to market.

## What is happening locally to Support Christian Aid Week? Together we can push back against the inhumanity of extreme poverty

Poverty is an outrage and robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.

You have read about Aline Nibogora, a determined mother in Burundi who was pushed to the brink of survival by poverty. She suffered abuse at the hands of her violent husband and was forced to flee. He turned the community against her, and she lost almost everything. Separated from her six children, she had to sleep on the streets. She told Christian Aid, 'People forgot I was human'. With Christian Aid help, Aline turned her life around. Christian Aid has worked in Burundi for nearly 30 years and provides community-based training so families can come together to set up small businesses, bringing them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience and hope.

This year, we are not delivering envelopes to every household. However, there will be a supply of envelopes in **each church** in our area, also at **Parker's Estate Agents**, who will act as a **Collection Point**.

There will also be envelopes and an opportunity to donate at the **The Meeting Point** on Tuesday, **14<sup>th</sup> May**.

Please use the Christian Aid website, if you wish to give on-line. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

To help more people like Aline (pictured below)

### PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Thank you. *Julie Ratcliffe, Backwell Area Co-ordinator*



## An Exciting Day at the Allotments – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

This day is an example of the power of a community helping itself- in this case the 85 Backwell ploholders who carry out much of the work on the allotment field, with a small committee. We are very proud of the attractive entrance to the field with wildflowers. White honesty flowers currently replace a derelict rubbish area, after transformation by the allotments team. Do use the footpaths through the field if you have the opportunity.



### Car park, tracks and chippings

Our field has several areas where cars park, connected by tracks to enable access to plots for allotmenters and for maintenance. The tracks are simply stone chippings on grass, which require additional chippings every so often to prevent them becoming muddy ruts. The allotments committee has no finance. When we require money for a notice board, new taps etc, Backwell Parish Council (BPC) pays, but we try to do as much as we can without depleting Council funds.

Within Backwell Parish, Tarmac owns the extensive quarry up Stancombe Lane, in Flax Bourton. It produces around 1 million tonnes of material every year. As part of a Section 106 agreement when planning permission was given, a community fund receives 2p for every tonne produced. The fund is shared between Backwell, Flax Bourton and Barrow Gurney. Twice a year a committee allocates the money, which goes to worthy causes. The allotments committee applied for 26 tonnes of stone chippings, via BPC, and our request was granted, for which we were most grateful. One of our team understands the world of chippings and we made sure we had Type 1, which has a mixture of stones and fine material giving a smoother finish.



### The Kit

Access to the allotment field is tight and we could not cope with a big lorry of the type that frequents the A370, so we had to use a big tractor and trailer to make three journeys to collect the pile of chippings.

By great good fortune, one of our ploholders is in the world of earth moving, and he provided and drove his digger, and also a small orange dumper from a friend in Backwell, who was happy to lend it out for the day. No charge was made, which is extremely generous. (I did give him some surplus rhubarb after the event as a token of our appreciation!)

### Spreading

26 tonnes are a huge pile and spreading this thinly on the tracks and car park represented a big job to be done. A team of seven ploholders came, with rakes, at very short notice; this proved to be a perfect number to complete the task.

Using his digger, the driver filled the bucket of the dumper, which he drove to whichever track needed chippings. He then moved very slowly backwards with the bucket tilting to allow the chippings to fall. This converted a bucket load into a line of chippings some 20 metres long. The rakers did two jobs; working to encourage the chippings to fall evenly, and finally smoothing the line of fallen chippings.



### Conclusion

The job was completed around 12.30pm, which was only possible by having the right kit, a skilled driver, and a willing team. I thanked the rakers for giving their time and energy to the project, which was mainly achieved in sunshine. One said, "I have had a great time with lots of fresh air and exercise and I have met a few new ploholders". The allotments are good for mental health as a result of growing food and flowers, and participating in a community activity for the field was also a great win/win activity.

At the moment, the waiting list for an allotment is short after a very wet winter. Please contact the Parish Council to register your interest, 01275 464653 or [clerk@backwell.pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@backwell.pc.gov.uk), or Geoff on 01275 462627, to find out more.

*Geoff Wells, Allotments Committee*



## Nailsea Charity Walks & Runs

The year 2024 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> annual charity Walks and Runs organised by Rotary Nailsea and Backwell. The popular event will take place on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June** and there really is something for everyone to enjoy. Rotary's Nailsea Charity Walks and Runs affords the opportunity for people to get together, enjoy the glorious local countryside with friends and family and raise money for your favourite local good causes. It's also a way for local charities, schools, sports clubs and the like to raise money for themselves via a sponsored walk or run and to have fun whilst doing it.

There are three routes, all clearly marked, and no-one has yet got lost! They are 5k 'stroll' which is also suitable for disability vehicles and pushchairs/strollers, a 10k for those who prefer a slightly more challenging route and a 20k for the more experienced walker who is fit and enjoys even more of a challenge. The really fit are challenged to run the routes.

The event is based at the Scotch Horn Centre in Nailsea where all routes start and finish.

If the 9<sup>th</sup> June is not convenient for you, you can do your walk or run at any time until the end of July and maps etc will be available to you.

The event is now a firmly established entry in the local diary and has raised in excess of £250,000 since 2011.

Charities are struggling in these difficult times and desperately need our support so we are challenging the local community to put out another record number of participants in 2024 and to raise another record amount of money.

For full details, including how to register to take part, go to <https://bit.ly/nailseawalks24>. Any queries can be addressed to Bob Keightley at [RotaryNailseaWalks@outlook.com](mailto:RotaryNailseaWalks@outlook.com). We'll see you there.

**13th Year**

**Rotary**  
Nailsea & Backwell

**NAILSEA CHARITY WALKS & RUNS 2024**

**YOU can make a difference!!**

**Raise money for the charity of YOUR choice**

**Walk or Run 5k, 10k or 20k**

**Sunday, 9th June 2024**  
or any day of your choice up to 31st July  
Start and finish at Scotch Horn Centre, Nailsea  
Full details at [bit.ly/nailseawalks24](https://bit.ly/nailseawalks24)

**Over £250,000 raised over 12 Years**

**Age UK Somerset** is looking for friendly people in our area who would like to get involved with making life happier for local older people.

As we get older those that live alone, perhaps through losing a partner, can lose the confidence or mobility to get out of the house, and find themselves feeling low and very lonely and isolated. To make life better in this area the charity provides two popular and free services which matches local volunteers with older people to share companionship. The Walk and Talk service involves spending time together each week having a gentle walk and chat together, and the Wellbeing Friends service provides a volunteer home visitor each week to offer some friendly company and a window to the outside world. Both services have been shown to improve quality of life and general wellbeing and visits can bring joy, laughter and a renewed sense of belonging and purpose for both the older person and their volunteer.

However, they are desperate for volunteers to lend a hand and be matched with the older people they have on their waiting lists for both services.

If you can spare an hour a week (flexible) and would like to feel like you are making a difference in your community they would be delighted to hear from you! Please contact them - [volunteer-s@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:volunteer-s@ageuksomerset.org.uk) or 01823 345627.

**North Somerset Arts  
Members' Exhibition 2024  
17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> May**

North Somerset Arts are excited to showcase the wonderful creativity of our artists at our biennial Members' Exhibition on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Failand Village Hall. North Somerset Arts represents over eighty artists and creatives throughout the county who work with a wide variety of media from ceramics to textiles, painting to sculpture - there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Over the weekend we will have talks and demonstrations from some of our members. This is a great opportunity to meet local artists and find out more about their process and inspiration. A full programme will be published on our website [www.northsomersetarts.org](http://www.northsomersetarts.org) and on our social media @northsomersetarts.

For our younger visitors, we have some fun craft activities as well as a new children's pocket money stall. We want to encourage the next generation of creatives to begin developing their own appreciation for art, so all the pieces on this stall will be available exclusively for children to choose and all priced under £15.

We will also have a tempting selection of homemade cakes and refreshments.

Entry is free and our opening times are:

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May preview 6.00pm-8.00pm**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am-6.00pm**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am-3.00pm**

Join us to support your local artists and discover the beautiful work they have to offer.

Lianne Stevenson is one of a number of local Backwell artists displaying their work at the North Somerset Arts Members Exhibition.



© Lianne Stevenson

Backwell Climate Action Group and Sustainable Backwell are planning a Walking Carnival, and we'd like to invite you to join in!

Our theme is 'Community and Sustainability', and the aim is to have fun, spread the word about our group and yours, and celebrate our environment.

WHEN? Sunday 30th June 2024 2pm - 5pm

The marshalled procession route will be on pavements, starting at the Spar shop (2pm), via Rodney Rd, Westfield Rd, Moorfield Rd, Longthorn Park, and back to the Scout Hut on the Playing Fields (3.30pm approx.). There will be a static celebration with refreshments and musical entertainment; the refreshments will be provided by 1st Backwell Scout Group and sold in aid of their minibus fund.

Please design and construct a 'float' that...

- Reflects your take on the dual themes of 'Community and Sustainability';
- Tells us about your group;
- Can be carried, worn, pulled, pushed or wheeled (no horses or similar, please);
- Embraces the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (carbon-neutral and zero waste);
- Is up to 1m wide (maximum).

And now, please...

- Sign-up via the QR code, or link: <https://forms.office.com/r/B24j9zJ0Hw?origin=lpriLink>
- Get creative;
- Spread the word!

LAUNCH OF A NEW **FREE**  
**KIDS CLUB FOR  
BACKWELL**

FOR YEAR 3 - 6 CHILDREN  
**SAT 25 MAY 10AM - 12NOON**

**CARNIVAL GAMES | MESSY FUN | PRIZES**  
**AT BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH, CHAPEL HILL, BS48 3PW**  
**BLAZE WILL BE BI-WEEKLY ON A WED STARTING ON 29 MAY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP SCAN QR CODE**

**OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[WWW.BACKWELLBAPTIST.CO.UK](http://WWW.BACKWELLBAPTIST.CO.UK)



## May 18<sup>th</sup>, Bristol Ensemble Concert, St. Andrew's Church

The evocative and atmospheric nature-inspired music of Einaudi and Vaughan Williams come together in this stunning Spring concert.

*The Lark Ascending* is one of Britain's best-loved pieces of classical music, capturing the character of the English countryside inhabited by the sky lark.

The natural world is also beautifully depicted by the works of Ludovico Einaudi as he takes us through *Spring*, the evocative *Petricor* (smell of rain), and *I Giorni* – 'In the Days, Our Life'.

Max Richter's hauntingly beautiful *On the Nature of Daylight* and Astor Piazzolla's pulsating tango *Summer* conclude a fascinating emotional and uplifting programme of music.

**Vaughan Williams** *The Lark Ascending, Greensleeves*  
**Ludovico Einaudi** *Primavera, Petricor, Devenire, I Giorni*  
**Max Richter** *On the Nature of Daylight*  
**Astor Piazzolla** *Summer*

Tickets £20 for adults, £10 for under 25 year olds, available online at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/einaudi-meets-vaughan-williams-tickets-870900846877](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/einaudi-meets-vaughan-williams-tickets-870900846877).

The concert starts at 7.30pm.

*Simon Kodurand - Artistic Director, Bristol Ensemble*  
Tel: 0044 (0)7813 043809  
<https://www.bristolensemble.com>



## St Andrew's Summer Event\*

"Four Hundred and eighty years ago, a movement began which transformed every aspect of English life ... whatever its political, social and cultural consequences, the English Reformation was essentially, a religious movement." Derek Wilson in the Prologue to *A Brief History of The English Reformation* © 2012.

So how was Backwell affected? The local centre of this nation shaking change is still standing, your local Parish Church, St Andrew's. Come and learn more on **16<sup>th</sup> June**. Starting at 3.00pm, Sir Paul Britton will give a talk on St Andrew's (which he describes as "architecturally, one of the most interesting in Somerset"). This will be followed at 4.00pm by a scrumptious tea. Then at 5.00pm you can immerse yourself in the words and music of the Reformation by joining in sung Evensong led by St Andrew's choir.

The talk and the tea are ticketed events, Evensong is a free bonus.

Families will be very welcome. Under 16 years attend free and there will be a children's activity provided alongside the talk. Details about buying tickets will be in the June edition of The Village Magazine.

\*This is not a zingy title; send your much better suggestions and any queries to [jfcanning@btinternet.com](mailto:jfcanning@btinternet.com).



## The Meeting Point

Our full 2-course lunch will be served on **21<sup>st</sup> May at 1.00pm**, with some of our lovely volunteers standing in for Scotty who's on holiday. We do ask for bookings for this one by 14<sup>th</sup> May please, as this is always a popular meal, and we want to ensure we have catered for you. Our soup-makers are ready to serve up something deliciously home-made, followed by bread and cheese with fruit etc on **7<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm**. There's no need to book for this meal; just come and enjoy the food and the company.

The amazingly popular Sitting Fit Yoga sessions are one of the activities we host, with each session running from **11.00 to 12.00** on a Tuesday (except school holidays) in the Parish Hall. It's especially helpful exercise for the upper body, so give it a try. There are always refreshments from 10.30 with coffee and cake, making this a social time before the exercise begins.

Half term holiday will soon be upon us, which means Tuesday Break. This month it will be on **28<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00 to 12.00** and will have a creative theme. Look out for further details nearer the time. Younger siblings are always welcome, and parents can relax with coffee and home-made cake before deciding whether to join in. As ever, a warm welcome awaits on Tuesdays between 10.30am and 4.30pm, especially if you want some after school refreshment. This month our **Communion** service will be held on **7<sup>th</sup> May at 12.15**, also in the Parish Hall. All are welcome as we break bread together before enjoying the soup lunch.

If you have comments or suggestions, especially ideas for holiday activities, or if you'd like to volunteer with us, please do get in touch.

**Contact:** e-mail or phone: [backwell.life@gmail.com](mailto:backwell.life@gmail.com) or call/text on 07851 438530. Or visit our website at [www.themeetingpointbackwell.co.uk](http://www.themeetingpointbackwell.co.uk)

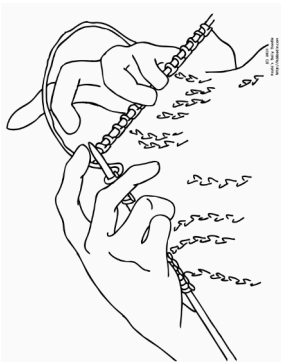
## West Town & Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** from 7:30pm in the WI Hall.

We will hear from Big Nath's BBQ - an award-winning Backwell business that is currently creating a BBQ school. Learn about the art of barbecue and enjoy some tasty samples.

New members welcome

Email [BackwellWI@gmail.com](mailto:BackwellWI@gmail.com) for more information or find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter



## Let's Knit at West Town Methodist Church

Tuesday nights at 7:30pm **May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. Free. Email [familiesworker@gmail.com](mailto:familiesworker@gmail.com) so we have enough yarn, needles and coffee. We have had eight people thus far. This chance to learn to knit is finishing in June, so don't miss it.

## Bridget for Backwell

Two good news stories I heard last month - The council had successfully secured funding for, firstly, major route buses to go Electric; it is expected to include the X1 which should reduce pollution and noise on our busy road. Secondly, the council has won funding for an Electric Mobile Library vehicle which is so important for our community - the current vehicle is old and not as reliable as it once was. This really matters as the cuts facing the whole council had this service at risk but now it won't be.

There are two consultations open on the council website. One about parking charges in the council owned car parks. The other is linked to the waste strategy and asking attitudes around a black bin collection every three or four weeks. Collections for recycling and food waste would continue to be weekly. There are exceptions such as nappies and those with medical needs. The consultations both close on **7<sup>th</sup> May**, the questions are clear and the council is open to hearing the views of all residents.

I understand the Backwell Climate Action Group organised a seed swap at the Fairtrade Cafe and it went down well. A lovely way to share seedlings and seeds at this time of year. *Best wishes Bridget Petty*



## Nailsea District Leg Club

**Event alert** – handbag sale Saturday morning **18<sup>th</sup> May**, outside Waitrose. Lots of bargains among the bags on sale from £5.00, including famous names, (cash only please).

Leg Club drop-in clinic is open to anyone registered with Tyntesfield Medical Group and runs each Wednesday 9.00 – 11.30am at the Tithe Barn, no appointment necessary. Nurses are on hand to offer advice and treatment on lower leg problems, and also Dopplers too, though appointments may be necessary for these. For those who don't know what a Doppler is, it's a non-invasive test to detect blood flow/pressure to diagnose or help manage conditions such as peripheral arterial disease or a diabetic foot ulcer. If you have a concern or have a family member or friend with such issues who would benefit from a visit to our drop-in clinic, please don't hesitate to come. There are volunteer drivers available for those without transport, but they must be able to walk from their front door unaided to a car.

Added to the above there are wonderful refreshments on offer, tea/coffee and plenty of cake, and lots of chat too. Occasionally we get to 'party', recently for Easter, when the bonnets came out and chocolate and hot cross buns were enjoyed.

For more information on any of the above, including the handbag sale or transport, please contact Carole Brooke on 07954 302498.

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[Info@aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk](mailto:Info@aspectpropertymaintenance.co.uk)  
Emergency Call Out 07741439022

## Senior Club

In March, Yvonne Bell gave us a most entertaining talk entitled "Edwardian Occasions", which included the Coronation of Edward VIth and many more interesting occurrences, which brought back many memories.

Diary Dates:

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** - Roy Ackrill will be bringing us more of his "Digital Miscellany" – a mixture of amusing, picturesque and local sequences.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>** - Garden Party (probably inside for obvious reasons) at 104 Church Lane starting at 2.30pm with entertainment from Sheila and Tim followed by afternoon tea.

Senior Club was started 69 years ago in October 1955 by some members of the Anglican, Methodist and Baptist churches as a meeting place for the more elderly members of the village. I need to step down now from organising the club and, unfortunately, have had no response to my appeal last month from anyone willing to step forward and keep this very worthwhile group going. It will be a sad day if we are forced to close. Please contact me if you would like any more information about our activities and our monthly meetings.

*Nancy Lewis 01275 790555*

## St Andrew's Art Group Open Evening, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June: An Antiques Roadshow

The art group is holding a fundraising evening on Thursday **20<sup>th</sup> June** in Church House, St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Backwell at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Chris Yeo from Clevedon Salesrooms will be hosting an Antiques Roadshow. Chris specialises in ceramics, glass and modern design (not jewellery or clocks) and will talk about each item before giving a valuation.

Our charities for this year are St Mungo's and the Nailsea Foodbank.

Tickets are £8 each to include a glass of wine or soft drink and can be obtained from Art Group members or Jayne on 07943 569995. There will be a raffle and Art Group members' paintings on display. Please support these worthy charities.

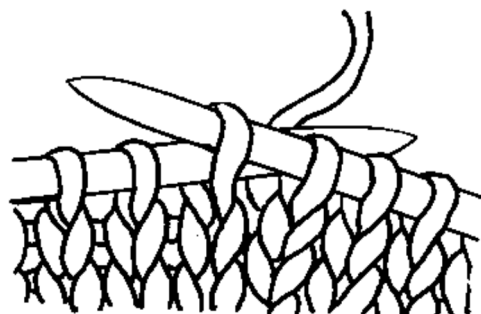
## St Andrew's Ladies Group.

Our speaker last month was Pat South, a very talented and experienced flower arranger. Pat created four lovely displays, ranging from a very simple one consisting of a few daffodils and a touch of greenery to a very elaborate one using all manner of cuttings from her garden together with roses, alstroemeria and alyssum. Pat explained how she always thinks of the colour combinations in her displays, stressing that the colours should either tone or be colour opposites. She gave us all sorts of tips as to how to extend the life of cut flowers and about thinking of the shape of a display as well as the plants to be included. Four lucky raffle winners took the creations home.

On Monday **May 13<sup>th</sup>** we are holding a quiz supporting our chosen charity The Memory Cafe, this will be held at St Andrew's Church House and nonmembers are most welcome. There are still tickets available, if you would like a single ticket or several, everyone can be slotted into a team. For tickets please phone Gillian Vasey on 07392 004836 or Val Lamb on 01275 463160. *Gillian Vasey.*

## Backwell Bridge Club

The Club meets every Wednesday evening at 6.45pm for a prompt start at 7.00pm in the St. Andrew's Church House (the modern annex at the back of the church), Backwell. The Club is always pleased to welcome new members both beginners and experienced players. For further details please contact Robin Langford on either 01275 855822 or email [rclangford64@gmail.com](mailto:rclangford64@gmail.com)



## Knitting for Others

Thank you to all who helped fill several bags of knitted garments for families, blankets for cold knees and babies' cots and prams. Also, hats and dickies for seafarers and (for them to take home) small toys for a growing toddler or their new baby that they have not yet met.

Many donations were brought to my home and left, with the name and telephone number so I could say thank you. If you are able to come, just do that on the second Monday of any month or phone me to arrange a time to visit so I can enjoy your company when you bring your donations. All the donations have been distributed to those who needed them. For the month of May, the second Monday is **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** from 10.30am when coffee and tea with a warm welcome will be at 18 Karen Close

*Barbara Paige 01275 463131*

## Film Club

Our last offering for this season is *Elvis*, which not surprisingly is all about the life of American music icon Elvis Presley, from his childhood to becoming a rock and movie star in the 1950s while maintaining a complex relationship with his manager, Colonel Tom Parker. Austin Butler takes the role of Elvis, Tom Hanks plays the colonel and the film shows from

**May 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.**

More information about membership and the films that our current members have selected to be shown over the next season, which starts as usual in October, will be given in next month's magazine.





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### **Backwell & Nailsea Support Group for Carers**

Inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at the WI Hall, Backwell from 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Speaker: Ms Yvonne Bell

Subject: "Edwardian Occasions"

Come and join us for support, friendship, entertainment and a short respite from your caring role.

The afternoon includes a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and a warm welcome – all free of charge.

New carers, any age or gender, always welcome.

Look forward to seeing you.

*Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris, Chris and Mel  
(Volunteers)*

### **Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support**

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, we shall be entertained by Tim Lewis and Sheila Furneaux with "Harmonious Gardens". Do come, everybody welcome. We meet at 1.30pm at Backwell W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell. An eye problem is not required to attend. Further information from Sheila on 01275 462107.



## **Mothers' UNION**

Christian care for families

### **St Andrew's MU**

We were pleased to be able to support the following Mothers' Union projects around the world with money raised from our fund raising. These were all associated with the Mothers' Union A Gift of Dignity Appeal.

1. Flourishing Families; Helping families support each other and develop their relationships. Help women build a better life for their children.
2. A Powerful Voice; Help enable women in Papua New Guinea and others lift themselves out of poverty.
3. Money Matters; Help enable women to improve their families well being, like Jeanne in Burundi.
4. Tackling Gender Based Violence; Help more women and girls live in safety and respect, especially in Uganda.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May** 2.15pm Church House  
Members afternoon - informal meeting, all welcome.

### **Nailsea & District Local History Society**

"The Mendip Hills Through a Time Tunnel" a paper being given by Les Davies on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.45pm in the Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School. Visitors most welcome £3. Further information 01275 463479.

### **North Somerset Quilters**

will be holding their May meeting at 7.30pm on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** at the W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell BS48 3QW.

Our speaker will be Sally Ablett with her talk "From Fabric to Quilts". Sally will also be Our Trader for the evening.

Visitors welcome at a cost of £7.

For more information please Tel Karen **01275 463119**

### **Backwell Probus Club Report**

During late March we heard a talk entitled "Local dialect and language issues" given by Professor Richard Coates from West of England University. It was very entertaining since he, having dealt with Bristol area, proceeded to link some of the word changes to other parts of England. It was an extremely detailed talk. At our second meeting, we heard a talk by member Chris Perry on "The Zimmerman Telegram, which brought the USA into the WW1". We heard the whole history of the WW1, explaining how German saboteurs were damaging arms and shipping in the USA and the reluctance of the President to get his country involved. The specific telegram from Arthur Zimmerman, German Foreign Secretary forced his hand when it revealed that Germany was prepared to support Mexico in their war with the USA over the new boundaries.

In May we will be hearing talks on "Taranto, a City in Italy" and "Marie Antoinette's Guide to Farming", which sounds extra-ordinary! So do come along on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10.00am for coffee followed by a 10.30am talk in the Bowls Pavilion. Any retired men are welcome to join us for convivial conversation before and after the talk.

*Peter Lamb Tel : 01275 463160*


### **Backwell Garden Club**


The May meeting of the Club is on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>** at 1.45pm for 2.00pm start. Margi Hoffnung will be talking on "Rosemary Verey. Her contribution and Legacy to 20th Century Gardening". The Club meets every third Wednesday of the month in the WI Hall, Backwell at 1.45pm. June, however, the Club outing takes place with a visit to Hidcote and Kiftsgate Gardens in the Cotswolds. Tickets are priced at £49 or £35 for National Trust Members. If you would like to join us on the visit please contact the Chairman for further details.


We are always pleased to welcome new Members or Visitors to our meetings. For further information please contact Robin Langford on 01275 855822 or email [rclangford64@gmail.com](mailto:rclangford64@gmail.com)



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## Backwell Baptist Church

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### Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am

Services start - 10:30am

#### 5<sup>th</sup> May

Preacher: Neil Mobbs

Service Leader: Sheila Whiting

Passage: John 14:15-27

Theme: Holy Spirit: Teacher and Comforter

#### 12<sup>th</sup> May (Communion)

Preacher: Gary Woodall

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Passage: 1 Cor 12:1-10

Theme: Holy Spirit: Spiritual Gifts

#### 19<sup>th</sup> May (Together service with NBC at Kingshill School)

Preachers: Tim Crossey and Peter Burns

Passage: Acts 2:1-21

Theme: Pentecost Sunday: Holy Spirit Poured Out

#### 26<sup>th</sup> May

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Dave Nicklen

Passages: Romans 8:1-17

Theme: Holy Spirit: Life and Freedom

## News from St Francis

The Season of Easter continues throughout the month moving towards Ascension Day and Pentecost. As Ascension Day is on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** we celebrate Jesus Christ's Ascension into Heaven at all our Masses on the following Sunday. Towards the end of the month we celebrate Pentecost on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** which always falls 50 days after Easter.

The month of May is dedicated to Mary the mother of Christ. We remember her in all our Masses. Please see website [www.josephfrancis.org](http://www.josephfrancis.org) for all Mass times and Livestreaming .



## Christians Together In & Around Backwell Open the Book

Sharing a bible story in a fun and interactive way with the children of West Leigh Infants School on Wednesdays **1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May** at 10.00 am.

### Prayer Watch

Monday, **6<sup>th</sup> May**, 7.45pm at St Andrew's Church, Backwell

**Wellspring Counselling Service Family Fun Day** on Bank Holiday **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May**, starts at 1.00pm at Holy Trinity, Nailsea.

25 people abseiling down the tower for charity!

Pizza, ice cream & cake, music & dancing & bar. Raising money and awareness for Wellspring Counselling and Holy Trinity outreach. Donate any money, even if its just £1, at [justgiving.com/team/htabseil](http://justgiving.com/team/htabseil). Thank you

## West Town Methodist Church

May Sunday Services, at 10.30am

5<sup>th</sup> Heather Bentley

12<sup>th</sup> Revd Deborah Mallett **Communion**

19<sup>th</sup> Revd Deborah Mallett **Café Pentecost**

26<sup>th</sup> Revd Ian Bowley

**New appointment** - we are delighted to report that our next Minister will be the Revd Sally Ratcliffe, who is currently based in the National Forest East Circuit in the East Midlands.

**The Welcome Hub** - Monday mornings 10.00 to 12.00, where a warm welcome awaits you for a cuppa and a chat. Feel free to bring along knitting, crocheting, puzzles, craft project etc., or simply enjoy the conversation. Any information, please contact Ann Pullan email: [nailseagirl@virginmedia.com](mailto:nailseagirl@virginmedia.com) or Shirley Edwards: [tsmce12@gmail.com](mailto:tsmce12@gmail.com)

**Ready Teddy Sing** - every Tuesday 10-00 – 12.00 noon, in term time. Play, story, songs, craft and café at our babies and toddlers group led by Patty Lou, our Families Worker, with May Vivian and a team of volunteers.

### Pastures new for Patty Lou!

Patty Lou will be leaving us on **14<sup>th</sup> July** to take on a new post as Lead Community Worker for Holy Trinity, Hurdsfield Church in Macclesfield. We send our sincere congratulations on this exciting appointment and recognise God's hand in this next step! We are looking at creative ways to sustain our families ministry whilst we await the arrival of our new minister.

**Fellowship Group** 10.30am for 11.00, on Wednesday **3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April** at 53 Oakleigh Close.

### Hire of building

West Town Methodist Church is in the centre of the village and provides ample comfortable space for small gatherings, meetings, rehearsals, children's parties, etc. Do look at the pictures on the Church website. We have a large wall-mounted TV screen for audio visual presentations by agreement. Contact Julie Ratcliffe on email:

[ratcliffedj@btinternet.com](mailto:ratcliffedj@btinternet.com) or 01275 463123

## St Bridget's Church

Having held our Spring Coffee Morning in mid-April, the Church will continue with Coffee and Cake Mornings on the first Saturday of each month until October from 10.00am until Midday. We have listed this information in our leaflet

which has been delivered around the Parish. This also includes news of a two-day Autumn Fair which will be held in the Church in late October. Full information about all aspects of the church services and events can be found on our website [stbridgetschelvey.co.uk](http://stbridgetschelvey.co.uk).





## The Benefice of Backwell with Chelvey and Brockley St Andrew's Backwell, St Bridget's Chelvey and St Nicholas, Brockley

This month, as we head towards the end of the Easter season, we celebrate Jesus' Ascension on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May with Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm at St Bridget's. Pentecost is often considered to be the birthday of the church and there are three services across the benefice celebrating this day in three different styles at the end of Easter.

At the start of the month, on Rogation Sunday, we welcome Richard Lancaster of Greenpeace to speak at both churches on caring for God's creation. Richard is an experienced speaker, a member of Nailsea Methodist Church and has given talks at a number of churches in the area.

Another important date this month is St Andrew's APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) at which members of the community are welcome to hear reports on how and what the church is doing as well as voting on important issues of church governance. The meeting gathers at 12.00 noon for a 12.15 start.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May, we will also be celebrating the addition of a new member to God's church through Baptism, and appropriately hearing Jesus' tell Nicodemus that he needs to be born again. As a church community, we come together to affirm our support for the parents in their journey ahead together.

*With warm greetings, Martin Canning*

### Sundays in May

#### St Andrew's Church

**5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Rogation**  
9.00am Little Lambs  
10.45am Informal Worship and Word

**12<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
10.45am Sung Eucharist & APCM

**19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**  
10.45am Informal Worship with Communion  
5.00pm Evensong

**26<sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday**  
9.15am Sung Eucharist with Baptism  
10.45am Informal Worship

#### St Bridget's Church

**5<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
9.15am Holy Communion

**9<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) Ascension**  
7.30pm Sung Eucharist

**12<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
9.15am Morning Worship

**19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**  
9.15am Morning Prayer

**Benefice Register of Baptisms,  
Marriages & Funerals in March**

**25<sup>th</sup> Funeral of Sheila Williams  
28<sup>th</sup> Burial of ashes of Michael Chinn**

As part of our church services and in private prayer, we remember people in our community. To help focus our thoughts and prayers, we identify people by the roads in our benefice where they live and work. Thus, the whole area is covered over the course of 18 months, a few roads at a time

**In May we shall be praying for**

**Backwell Hill  
Road, Chapel Hill,  
Fairfield Close,  
Fairfield Mead,  
George Close,  
Uncombe Close**

### St Andrew's Charity for April, May & June CONNECT

In the February edition of The Village Magazine, Peter Burns wrote

#### **"Celebrating 10 years of 'CONNECT'ing**

A hugely successful support project at work in Nailsea School is at risk of having to close due to lack of funding.

10 years ago, in a small church hall in Nailsea, a vision to offer pastoral care and support the community of Nailsea School was birthed, and local churches agreed to employ, and gift to the school, a part time youth professional as 'an extra pair of hands'. Neil Wylie was given a limited term contract, a part time salary and a brief to get to know the needs of the school and support staff there to help young people."

Knowing Neil, the great work he is doing and the role model he provides, St Andrew's Mission and Outreach Committee have chosen CONNECT as the local charity we are supporting during the second quarter of this year.



# Christians Together In & around Backwell

## Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

<https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.org.uk/>

### St Andrew's

Rector	Vacancy Any inquiries please contact the office
Readers	Martin Canning Tel 01275 790309 David George Tel 07532202786
Benefice Office	Tel 01275 463469 <a href="mailto:admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>
Church Wardens	Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075 <a href="mailto:leakefamily1@hotmail.com">leakefamily1@hotmail.com</a> Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158
Bell Ringers	Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416
Organist and Choir Master	Andrew Colley <a href="mailto:music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>
PCC Secretary	Jane Canning Tel 01275 790309
PCC Treasurer	Lesley Barratt Tel 01275 857899
Mothers' Union	Co-ordinator Marie Bale Tel 01275 269246
Ladies Group	Leader Elizabeth Webb
St Andrew's Art Group	Chair - Jayne Smart Tel 07943 569995
Sunday Club and Little Lambs	Timi Booy <a href="mailto:childrenworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">childrenworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>

### St Bridget's

Church Wardens	Roger Watson 01275 462821 Sue Bougourd 01275 853879
PCC Secretary	J Britton 01275 462007
PCC Treasurer	Marcus Merry

Diaries of Church Services and activities can be found on pages 20 and 21

## West Town Methodist Church

<https://sites.google.com/view/westtownmethodist/>

Minister	Rev'd Deborah Mallett Tel 01275 852473
Church Stewards	Mrs H Bentley, B Brice, Mrs S Edwards, B Kemmish, Mrs P Marchant, Mrs J Ratcliffe, Mrs V Sowerby, Mrs M Vivian
Treasurer	Mr Nigel Hardman 01275 851581
Organist	Mrs V Sowerby Tel 01275 462708

## Backwell Baptist Church, Chapel Hill

<https://backwellbaptist.co.uk/>

Pastor	Timothy Crossley	Tel 07521 787115
Secretary	David Nicklen	Tel 01934 876842
Treasurer	Ruth Ham	

## Roman Catholic Church of St Francis Ash Hayes Road, Nailsea

Parish Priest	Father Richard Elson Tel 01275 851530
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## Woodies Local at Backwell Fairfield School, Backwell BS48 3PD

Rural Minister	Zoe Germain <a href="mailto:zoe.germain@woodlandschurch.net">zoe.germain@woodlandschurch.net</a>
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