# The Village Magazine

## Backwell Chelvey Brockley

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Vol 93 No 4 Free In print On line April 2026

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| Backwell Village Club<br>01275 462387<br>backwellvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk | Brockley Parish Council<br>(also contact for Cleeve Parish Council)<br>Parish Clerk Andy Warren Tel 07932 191964<br>brockley pc@hotmail.co.uk www.brockleypc.org |
| North Somerset District Councillors<br>Cllr Bridget Petty, Backwell<br>Tel 07881320224 bridget.petty@n-somerset.gov.uk<br>Cllr Thomas Daw, Wrington<br>thomas.daw@n-somerset.gov.uk | Nailsea District Leg Club<br>Carole Brook<br>Tel 07954 302498 |
| Parish Hall Booking<br>Sarah Ould Tel 01275 541080<br>booking@backwellparishhall.org.uk | Wellspring Counselling<br>Tel 01275 810879<br>admin@wellspringcounselling.org.uk |
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The Village Magazine
Backwell Chelvey Brockley

**I think it is fairly safe to say that spring has definitely sprung!**

This is my second spring here in the Backwell area and I am glad to see that the sun does shine from time to time. During the last couple of months it has felt at times as if the rain would never stop and the dark nights would never end. But as I travel around I cannot help but see so many signs of spring: clusters of golden daffodils and brightly coloured tulips; catkins and new born lambs skipping in the fields; trees beginning to bud and, as I write, there is washing drying on the line. The world seems to be waking up and we cannot help but feel hopeful, feel that all is right with the world.

But we know that simply isn't true. Each day we hear and see the horror of the world in which we live. We see refugees fleeing from terror and fear; we hear of violence and hatred, children dying, poverty and disease. We ask ourselves, 'How will this all end?' It seems as if the bombing and injustice will never cease. We have no reason at all to be hopeful when things seem so hopeless.

Or do we? For me as a Christian the signs of spring, of new life, have a deeper meaning. In our churches will soon be travelling through Holy Week and the season of Easter, a season that lasts for 50 days, not just a bank holiday weekend! This season is filled with hope reflecting the joy of that first Easter morning when the disciples discovered that the tomb was empty and that Jesus was alive! What they has considered to be the end was really just the beginning, not just for them, but for all of humankind. In John's gospel we read that God's light can never be extinguished, no matter how dark it becomes. We understand that light to be Jesus. His resurrection demonstrates that the love God has for us cannot be put out. We can never be separated from his all-embracing, all-encompassing love.

So you may well ask, 'where is that God?'.

I believe he is there, amid the chaos, the pain and the suffering. Those who bring aid and care, love and support are the hands and feet of God doing his work. That feeling we have deep inside us that there must be something we can do. That impulse to help, that longing to offer comfort I understand as God working in and through us. It's an urge, a longing that should not be ignored even when we feel what we offer can never be enough. As I so often say, 'little things can make a big difference'. However small, an act of kindness can be understood as an act of love.

So perhaps in the same way we look for those signs of spring, signs of a new beginning, we might look for signs of God and his love at work in and through the lives of everyday people like you and me.

Revd Sally Ratcliffe
Minister for Backwell, Nailsea and Yatton Methodist Churches

***The Community Library (cover photo)***

*At one time many years ago we could find Telephone and Mail boxes scattered around our villages and towns. However, over time with the advent of more electronic, and many might say less personal methods of communication, these icons have fallen into disuse with the equipment being removed or the post box being blanked off. These repurposed phone box libraries usually contain a whole variety of material which includes fiction, non-fiction, travel, cookery and hobbies in both paper and hard back, all of which have been freely donated by the local community and passers-by.*

*As an active member of the Backwell Camera Club I have often photographed both these repurposed Telephone Boxes and the smaller Post Boxes for various competitions or discussions as I find there's something nostalgic about them. My wife frequents at least 3 of these resources on her travels around the local area swapping up to 5 books at a time whilst enjoying a walk or going for a coffee stop in the village. In that way the contents of these informal libraries changes regularly.*

*Can you guess where this one is or do you know of any others near you ?*

*Ken Hunt.*

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# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

**Planning** - Cllr Harland, Chair of Planning,
**Farleigh Fields East.** It is good to see some of the new homes now occupied. Persimmon Homes have been contacted regarding concerns raised by residents, the mud on the road, drainage concerns and the raised banks.
**Farleigh Fields West** (Dark Lane). Cllrs Harland and Horner are continuing to work through the Construction Management Plan (CTMP) and will present councillors with a draft response.
**Local Green Space.** Work continues to try to secure the space for the village. Councillors thanked Michael Pratt for all his hard work on this matter.
**Rodney Road.** There will be a road closure over the Easter Holidays. Cllr Harland hopes to meet with Taylor Wimpey representatives soon.
**Long Lane – Former BT station.** There are ongoing issues regarding highway and bridleway damage. The matters have been referred to North Somerset Council Enforcement who are now involved.
**Coles Quarry** – building of 15 light industrial units, monitoring of the site continues.
There were no further updates regarding the land to the East of Backwell or the land north of Farleigh Road.
**Local Plan** – There had been a strong response from Backwell residents whose responses represented 30% of the responses across North Somerset.
**Neighbourhood Plan** – The review is on hold until the next stage of the local plan is presented.
**Planning Applications** – Councillors, with one abstention, objected to a proposal to extend Yew Tree Cottage at The Batch. The proposals were thought to be disproportionate to the existing cottage.
**Bus Service** – Cllr Hatcher has requested information from NSC about the X1 service during the proposed drainage works and the associated costs. He had also asked why the work could not be carried out overnight to minimise disruption. Cllr Harland raised that there would be clashes with other road closures in Backwell at the same time, namely part of Rodney Road which had been agreed by NSC. Councillors were concerned that there appeared to be no 'joined up' thinking by NSC, as HGVs would not be able to access development sites safely if the A370 is closed. Cllr Harland told Councillors that the new pedestrian crossing planned by the Leisure Centre and school had been funded by Persimmon Homes, not the BSIP scheme.
DCllr Petty recognised the issues but hoped that the new bus stops and crossing would be welcomed by villagers.
**Highways** – Cllr Power told the meeting that work was progressing on the acquisition of two mobile Speed Indication Devices (Smileys) for use in the village. Further work is required to identify appropriate devices and obtain quotations. Cllr Power will meet with the Clerk to review the process for the potential use of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.
Councillors thanked BRA and in particular Chris Elliott for carrying out a pavement audit. Cllr Power confirmed that the audit will be reviewed by the working party and priority work requests will be sent to NSC for action.
**Digital Notice Board** – Cllr Harris informed members that a planning application is being prepared to locate the board on the land next to Spar.

***The April Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm in Backwell Parish Hall.***

**Annual Meeting of Electors – 23rd April**

*TO ALL ELECTORS OF BACKWELL - PARISH MEETING OF ELECTORS*

**Are you concerned about flooding in Backwell?** Cllr Paddy Horner has undertaken a great deal of research into this issue, particularly in relation to the new and proposed developments in Backwell and Nailsea. He will be giving a short presentation at the Annual Meeting and hearing what you have to say.
The Annual Meeting is YOUR opportunity to ask questions and give your views on the Parish Council's performance. Please pass your questions to The Clerk, by 16th April 2026 (1st Floor, 43 Rodney Road, Backwell, BS48 3HW, Email clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk (Tel 01275 464653).
The Chair, Cllr Ould, will report on what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, as well as looking to the future.
The meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 23rd April at 7.30pm
*Before the meeting, please join us to share light refreshments.*

Cllr Ould, Chair

## Bridget Petty for Backwell

April will see the start of some changes along the A370 and that means disruption and delays.
A major package of improvement works as part of North Somerset Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining and upgrading the road network. There are going to be six phases, with a number of different improvements being delivered. The most impactful will be the full road closure 7am til 7pm for one week 13-17th April, this is during the school holidays to minimise disruption of children travelling to school, and often parents have different commitments during the holidays. The rest of the time it will be temporary lights (in June there will be full overnight closures - more info then).
We all find it frustrating when temporary red lights pop up, and our journeys take longer, I know I do. I also understand that to fix issues, the staff need to be able to work safely. A new crossing near the leisure centre is supported by a new head teacher at Backwell School (this is paid for through the planning contribution from Farleigh Fields).

I support improved drainage, safer road markings and new bus stops. While I know the delays will be problematic I will ask people to remember it is so we can see improvements in our local area and it is temporary.

I aim to have updates for you and will post them on Facebook. I have spoken to council officers today to ask for regular comms to go out.

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# BACKWELL SCOUTS

**Monday Cubs**
Monday Cubs have been exploring space. We started with using apps and their own glow in the dark constellation plans to learn constellations. These will be taken outside on a clear night to stargaze. The Cubs have also discussed the life of astronauts on the International Space Station, and looked at comets, asteroids and satellites. The Scout Hut has been assessed for accessibility as part of Disability Awareness along with trying to use British Sign Language and considering how activities we enjoyed might be adapted to include someone with a disability.

Helen

**Tuesday Scouts**
This month we have been rotating our Scouts through three activities starting with our fantastic bird box building session. Watching the Scouts work together to create homes for our feathered friends was great fun and they all learned new skills in the process. You can expect to see these bird boxes going up in gardens all around the village and hopefully this is the kind of 'house building' which will be welcomed by everyone!
Our second activity was to tackle an escape room challenge as we turned the back rooms of the Scout Hut into an archaeological adventure. The thrill of solving puzzles and racing against the clock built teamwork and showcased the scouts' problem-solving skills (or not!). Did they find the other half of Dr Archie O'Logies magic crystal? I'm pleased to say all teams succeeded, one with only seconds to spare.
Finally the Scouts explored the village through an outdoor physical activity, where they found their way around the village and discovered what they did (and didn't) know about their neighbourhood.
We also had an evening out for the annual Jambowlree at a local ten pin bowling alley where some Scouts discovered that they weren't as good as they thought they were and others surprised themselves with hitherto unknown talents - but all told it was an evening of fun and laughter, so everyone was a winner really.
Looking ahead, we have even more exciting events lined up! Spring Camp is just around the corner, as we return to Cae Hopkin in South Wales which promises to be a fun weekend. We're also gearing up for a hill walking day that will challenge legs and navigation abilities as well as offer breathtaking views throughout (weather permitting!). Finally, summer camp begins to loom on the horizon, and we're looking at a new (to us) site in the White Peak area of Derbyshire. It will be good.
If you would like to be part of this fun and adventure let us know - new leaders, helpers and all sorts of assistance are always welcome and no previous experience is required - just a fun, positive attitude is all that is required.

Ian

**Thursday Beavers**
Last term the Beavers started looking at the Disability Awareness Badge , having had a brilliant insight into living with a disability with our guest speaker Becky, this will continue with games and tasks highlighting various conditions that affect day to day living for many people. Fun is on the agenda with Red Nose Day, making the colony laugh and playing silly games whilst learning about the origins of this event. Outside fun, weather permitting, takes over from Easter as the nights draw out, with activities planned for the Playing Fields and hikes to local landmarks.
If your child would like to join Beavers, please contact 1st Backwell on our website and fill in the on line form. Also if any adults would like to join the amazing teams of leaders across any of our sections please do get in touch. Without the leaders/helpers/behind the scenes roles 1st Backwell would struggle to provide the fantastic opportunities for our local young people. Come and see what we can offer you. You will be surprised on the variety of roles it takes to run 1st Backwell.

Gerry

**Explorers**
Following the half term break the Explorers returned and celebrated the Lunar New Year.
Working in groups, they were challenged to create a Chinese dragon in under two hours using just cardboard, crepe paper and sellotape! As usual, the unit got stuck into the task with their usual enthusiasm and vigour, producing some incredible designs fit for the occasion.
The following week and in preparation for the Monopoly Live event in London, the unit was tasked with creating its own Monopoly game. Working in small teams, they had to think of a theme and present to the rest of the unit the reasoning behind their theme and why it was the best. Current affairs was a popular topic along with a particularly good entry based on the Ten Tors challenge.
Highlight of the month was the ever-popular trip to London to take part in the Monopoly Live event.
Leaving on Friday, the unit stayed in a scout hut on the outskirts of Reading before getting up early on Saturday to make their way to Waterloo Station where the game began. With four teams from Barracuda Explorers taking part, they each played a separate game of Monopoly against five other teams. And just like the board game, they had to make their way, independently, across London to the named streets such as Bond Street, Vine Street or Piccadilly where they could either buy or get fined!
Lasting the whole day the game ended at 5.30pm with some teams faring better than others but everyone had a great time taking in the sights and landmarks of the capital.
As a unit we are always on the lookout for new ideas and challenges for our young people, so if anyone has an idea please do let us know by contacting iain@backwellscouts.org.uk

Laurence

**Friday Scouts**
Last term saw a number of our scouts complete the Cotswold Marathon night hike competition. Our older scouts completed the 20-mile silver course in an amazing 7 hours and 7 minutes! And our two bronze teams completed their 10 miles in a fantastic time too. One of our teams even won a boot trophy for 'fastest girls team'!
So far this term, we have enjoyed air rifle shooting, whittling and team-work challenges as well as a Winter Olympics-themed night of fun and games. We have also completed our fire safety badges - something that I feel is so very important.
We are looking forward to a skittles night at the Backwell Club and an up close and personal visit from some real-life owls!
We have started thinking ahead to plan an AirHop camp in June and our week-long summer camp. Exciting times!

Lorraine

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## Backwell School

Spring has brought a busy and vibrant start to the term at Backwell School, with plenty happening both in and beyond the classroom. Our school community reflects a rich diversity of cultures and traditions, and recent weeks have seen families marking a number of important celebrations, including Ramadan, Lunar New Year and the upcoming Purim. It is always a pleasure to recognise these moments with our students and families.

National Careers Week was a real highlight for us, with our annual Careers Fair welcoming more than 40 employers, training providers and industry professionals into school. Students in all year groups spoke with visitors about different career paths, apprenticeships and university routes. Local businesses, universities and organisations such as Thatchers Cider and CrossCountry Trains offered valuable insight and advice. It was wonderful to see students asking thoughtful questions and beginning to imagine the many opportunities open to them.

Beyond the classroom, students have enjoyed a range of memorable experiences. This week we were delighted to host French exchange partners from Collège François Broussais, giving our students the chance to share lessons and introduce their visitors to the region. The group explored local landmarks including the historic SS Great Britain, bringing language learning and cultural exchange to life.

Students have also been travelling further afield. Our Year 13 historians recently returned from an inspiring trip to Berlin, visiting major historical sites such as the Brandenburg Gate and the remains of the Berlin Wall to deepen their understanding of the topics they study at A Level.

Sport continues to thrive at Backwell. Our chess team recently won the Portishead Under-18 Rapid Play Chess Tournament, competing against over 130 entries, while the Year 10 girls' netball teams performed superbly at a county tournament hosted at the school, with the A team finishing 2nd and the B team 5th. We are also extremely proud of our Year 9 girls' football team, who reached the quarter-finals of the English Schools' Football Association Cup, placing them among the top eight school teams in the country. These achievements reflect our students' dedication, teamwork and resilience both on and off the court and pitch, and we continue to celebrate their success across a wide range of sports.

Finally, we are delighted and extremely proud to share that Emilia in Year 9 has been selected for the GB Junior Gymnastics team competing at the Luxembourg Open. Some of you may remember Emilia performing at the 2025 Sports Awards Evening. In April she will compete in four disciplines — floor, uneven bars, vault and beam — and we wish her every success in what is a fantastic achievement for both her and her family.

With spring now firmly in the air and our Spring Concert on the horizon on Tuesday 24th March, we look forward to the many opportunities the rest of the term will bring for our students and the wider Backwell community. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we ensure that 'we are Backwell'.

Will Penny, Headteacher

## Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7.30pm | Sung Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar | St Andrew's |
| 7.30pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper | St Francis, Nailsea |

Good Friday 3rd April

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|---|---|---|
| 10.00am | Good Friday Service | St Bridget's, Chelvey |
| 10.30am | Good Friday Reflective Service | Backwell Baptist |
| 11.00am | Family Way of the Cross, | St Francis |
| 11.30am | Walk of Witness from church to Rodney Road | St Andrew's |
| 12.00pm | Act of Worship, outside SPAR | |
| 1.30pm | Good Friday Solemn Liturgy | St Andrew's |
| 3.00pm | Liturgy of the Passion & Veneration of the Cross | St Francis |

Holy Saturday

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8.30pm | Easter Vigil | St Francis |

Easter Day

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5.30am | Easter Dawn Liturgy | St Andrew's |
| 6.30am | 'The Rising of the Son' Communion | Backwell Lake |
| 9.15am | Easter Holy Communion | St Bridget's |
| 10.30am | Easter Communion Service | West Town Methodist |
| 10.30am | Easter Family Service-The Missing Piece? | Backwell Baptist |
| 11.00am | Easter Eucharist | St Andrew's |
| 11.00am | Easter Sunday Mass | St Francis |

## Backwell C Of E Junior School

**Y4 Writing Unit – Evolution**
Year 4 began a new writing unit last term. The children were given an envelope that said 'Top Secret' on it which they later found contained the pieces to a puzzle. The finished puzzle showed them an exciting image of Stone Age people, dinosaurs, meteors, volcanoes and so much more. Following this, the children were put into groups of 3 where they were given a piece of paper that had a point of the evolution of the Earth on it. They could choose to either create a piece of art inspired by this OR create a news report style video. Miss Wheeler and Mrs Barnard were very impressed with the children's creativity. There were some beautiful pieces of art and some very gripping news reports about the first humans, the Ice Age, the first oceans, the first cells of life, the first plants, volcanic Earth, the age of the dinosaurs, the extinction of the dinosaurs and the very, very beginning of life on Earth.

**Y5 Virtual Reality (VR) Space Workshop**
On VR Day we started when the visitor arrived with all the VRs. After assembly we sat next to a VR and the visitor told us how they work. Once he had finished talking, we turned them on and started our journey through the solar system. First, we visited Mercury, which is the closest planet to the sun, and has the most craters. Next stop was Venus, which is the hottest planet - it's got more volcanoes than any other planet! The third was Earth, the most beautiful and the one we know most about. After that, was our neighbour planet Mars with its surface covered in rusted iron dust. Jupiter, the biggest planet, is a gas giant that has a spinning red spot. Finally, there's Saturn surrounded by moons and a ring. We had fun learning all about the solar system. Luckily, we also had time to get the bonus asteroid belt video to make up for Uranus and Neptune! **Written by Ezra 5C**

**Year 6 French Café**
Last term, Y6 held a French Cafe as the children had been learning how to order food and drink in their French lessons. In lessons over the term, children learnt the French names for different foods, such as chocolate cake, ham sandwich, pastries and more. They also learnt how to say different drinks in French, such as hot chocolate, orange juice and lemonade.
Once they knew how to say the items, children then learnt how to ask for the different items as if they were in a cafe. Having mastered that, children then practised a short conversation between a waiter and a customer in a cafe, ready to attend our own.
On the day of our event, French music was heard in the classrooms and the food and drink was prepared. The classes were split into waiters and customers and we began. The waiters had to ask what the customer would require and the customer had to ask for food and drink. The children then swapped roles. By the time the cafe closed, all were full of sandwiches, cake and drink! A perfect end to a term of French speaking and listening. Maybe one day, if the children get the chance to visit France, they will remember their cafe language and be able to order for themselves and their families!!

## West Leigh Infant School
**Rabbit Class – Year 1 aged 5-6**

Rabbit Class has enjoyed Term 3, taking part in a variety of activities.

Our computer work has focused on word processing skills. The children have been improving their keyboard skills and creating their own Word documents. They had the challenge of creating a missing poster for a lost Teddy. They soon became familiar with how to make the text look larger, use different fonts and underline words.

In football the children have improved their skills and played football related games. Skills have included ball control, looking for and using space, push passing and target practice. We are aiming to make them all "champions.

West Leigh PTA
Fundraising Grand Total Drum roll please! After totting up all the proceeds from the Christmas fair, raffle, secret shop, nativity recordings and Christmas cards we can reveal that WL PTA raised a whopping £3,747! THANK YOU!

All the funds will go directly towards resources and activities for the children, and huge thanks to all the volunteers who make the magic happen.

## Backwell Climate Action

Good to report that the litter pick in February had more volunteers and less collected. Thank you to the Scouts for doing the March collection, and to others who gave of their time. For the future we will start weighing the amount gathered on the routes. Do consider doing a pick when on a beach it makes a difference and encourages others.

Make Do and Mend event at the Scout Hut will be on Saturday 18th April. Look out for more details on posters. There will be a variety of stalls to encourage Reuse, Recycle (and up cycle), Repair and Share activities. Please contact jajo37@icloud.com if you wish to share your expertise.

We are at Fair Trade cafe each month to discuss how you can repair, reuse, recycle, resist, revive and be involved locally.

## Backwell's Second Saturday April Fair Trade Café

**April 11th Backwell Parish Hall 10 am to 12 noon**

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

As usual this month the bulk-buy Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service. Here you can join and buy all kinds of food stuffs in bulk, The range includes many fair trade and organic items, you can peruse the catalogue at the cafe or at http://www.essential-trading.co.uk. Why not come along, join the club and place an order for what you need. You can also buy from the range of goods on display without joining or ordering. If you are interested in environmental issues one or more of Backwell's energetic groups such as Sustainable Backwell or Action for Climate Change may well be in attendance to discuss and advise.

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

Our District Councillor Bridget Petty intends to be present to discuss local affairs with any concerned resident.

**The Village Magazine committee invites all our readers, advertisers and contributors to its Annual Meeting. We will review our finances, advertising, distribution and content with all attendees. We hope to see you all on Monday 20th of April 2026 at 7pm in the Church House. See you soon!**

## The Meeting Point

As always, pop in when the yellow flags are flying (on Tuesdays) for a warm welcome, enjoy tea/coffee and delicious home made cake.

We welcomed Rev Tim Crossley to our band of Backwell ministers who lead a short communion service prior to our soup lunch on the first Tuesday in February. Our two course lunch on third Tuesday, and especially Scotty's legendary cheesecake, was much appreciated by 36 happy diners.

We gave notice at the February lunches that due to rising costs the suggested donation for two course meal would increase from March. The donation for soup lunch will remain at £5 lunch + £1 coffee/tea but the cost of the cooked lunch will now be £8+£1 coffee/tea to reflect rising food prices and the fee we pay Scotty, our amazing cook.

We welcomed school holiday crafters and their parents for a busy and productive morning during half term. I am very sorry to have to say that we are unable to offer children's craft activities during the Easter school holiday due to non availability of key volunteers; however, as usual we will be holding our usual programme of children's activities during the school summer holiday.

Calendar

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| April 7th | No Yoga. | 12.15- 12.45<br>1.00 | Simple communion service.<br>Soup lunch suggested donation £6 |
| April 14th | No Yoga | 10.30 - 12-30 | Drop in for coffee and cake. |
| April 21st. | | 11.0-12.00<br>1.00. | Sittingfit yoga with Nina. Coffee 10.30<br>2 course lunch suggested donation £9 |
| April 28th. | | 11.0-12.00. | Sittingfit yoga with Nina coffee 1 |

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## Backwell and Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 1st April 2026
at the WI Hall in Backwell from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm
Speaker: Mrs Gina Merrett-Smith
Subject: Charles Worth - Edwardian Dress Designer
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 are always welcome, any age or gender. Look forward to seeing you.
Beverley, Carol, Cath, Chris and Mel (Volunteers)

## Nailsea District Leg Club

Leg Club clinic is every Wednesday 9.00 – 11.30 a.m. at Nailsea Tithe Barn, where expert advice and treatment is provided by Lead Nurse Rachel Tanner and her team from Tyntesfield Medical Group. No appointment is necessary, but ideally in order to be seen, you need to be there by 10.30 a.m. If the morning slots are already full, your details will be taken and you'll receive a call from one of the team by the end of the next working day. They work hard and on average usually see around 18 patients each morning. They're ably assisted by nurse support volunteers, and at the 'social end' volunteers provide refreshments and chat! Additionally volunteers can transport those who are unable to bring themselves, though the patient must be able to walk from their front door to the car unaided, (donations appreciated).
Handbag sale, Saturday 16 May – 'donation station' at 65 High Street. Think of us when sorting out unwanted handbags, purses, backpacks. PLEASE check they're clean, empty, and in good condition, we'd rather benefit from your donation, not the tip! Sorry no suitcases or holdalls.
For patient or volunteer information call Carole Brooke on 07954 302498.

## Parkinson's UK NW Somerset Local Support Group

World Parkinson's Day is on Saturday 11 April, which is also the date of our local Support Group meeting this month. We welcome all those with Parkinson's as well as family members and carers. Do join us for an informal coffee morning at St Francis' Church Hall, Nailsea, BS48 2LP, from 10.30am to 12.15pm, with entertainment from UKeBox (ukulele band) and a short talk by Nailsea Shedders.

Come to visit our own celebration of World Parkinson's Day on Thursday 23rd April, 10.30am-12.30pm, at the Somerset Hall, Portishead BS20 6AH, showcasing the support we can give you.

Singalong
Singing helps voice loss due to Parkinson's. Join our friendly group for a Singalong (no skill required!) to sing popular songs and old favourites. We meet at St Francis' Church Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 2.30-4pm, with a break for tea and biscuits and time to get to know our fellow singers.

## Patient Participation Group

Documentation for February's Annual General Meeting can be found on our web page: https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1.
The terms of reference were amended to allow non-voting Associate Members; this covers the NTC Wellbeing Officer and selected VI form students from Nailsea & Backwell Schools. The Committee stays in post for another year.
Now working more closely with the NTC Wellbeing Officer, TMG are working on a joint Calendar of Health and Wellbeing events some of which they are keen to hold in Backwell and Long Ashton.
The Friends & Family Satisfaction Survey is sent by text to 90% of patients who have had an appointment; to reach all patients; those without a mobile phone can complete a paper Feedback form which can be found in each waiting room and can also online.
The PPG is making the 'Suggestion Box' process more rigorous. Patients' comments or suggestions for improvements are collected and discussed at the next PPG meeting. You'll find Suggestion Boxes in all waiting rooms and an online form on the Patient Involvement web page. Please do not use this process to make complaints, these must be sent directly to TMG.

## Backwell Senior Club (BSC)

Good afternoon All. Today the sun is shining and we cut the lawns. Looks much tidier now and the hyacinths and Daffs are beautiful.
At Senior Club in Feb we had a very entertaining CAFE/DIY meeting with 8 items making up an eclectic programme of poems, sketches and audience involvement with one liner jokes, singalongs and a Brain of Backwell quiz which WALLY won, just beating two other finalists. I think he was "more than a bit lucky"!! Such talent was appreciated by the audience and we had fun.
By the time you read this we will have celebrated our 70th Anniversary 1956 – 2026 which I will report on next month. Although there is no historical evidence to support that Queen Marie Antoinette said "Let them eat Cake" us seniors will have eaten a Chocolate Celebration Cake ++ on our Anniversary.
All seniors LADIES and GENTS will be welcome to join us on the 3rd Friday of the month when we meet at the West Town Methodist Church, 2.00pm for 2.30 start. Entertainment, tea and biscuits and time to chat.
Transport may be arranged with Mair on 01275 463736.
Further information from Sue. Tel 01275 461231.
SEE YOU THERE

## North Somerset Quilters

Friday April 24th at 7.30pm at Backwell W.I. Hall, Station Rd., Backwell BS48 3QW
Jonquil Brooks "Ups and Downs of the Fashion Industry". Visitors are welcome at a cost of £7
For more information Tel Karen 01275 463119

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## West Town & Backwell WI

Wednesday 15th April - Tanya Alsop, Pressed Flower Artist

Join our friendly group of women for their April meet-up at Backwell WI Hall. Doors open at 7:30pm. New faces are warmly welcomed; the first taster session is free! This month, we will be joined by Tanya Alsop, Pressed Flower Artist, for an evening of creativity, relaxation, and mindfulness. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in a short flower pressing session designed for all abilities, and to ask Tanya questions about this art form. We will also be having a seed swap! For more information, email BackwellWI@gmail.com or find us on Facebook or www.backwellwi.org.uk

Saturday 13th June - Table Top Sale
Please support our WI Hall Roof Fundraising Event by coming along to our Table Top Sale at Backwell WI Hall 12:00-3:00pm Entry is FREE. Our tables will be adorned with a range of crafts, jewellery and plants. If you would like to book a table for £10, email BackwellWI@gmail.com

## West Backwell Bowling Club

Our Opening Bowls Drive is on Sunday, 12th April, at 2.30pm.
Every Friday from 6.15 we have Club Night, when the bar is open and usually a monthly BBQ. Do come along and meet the members.
Coaching is available, also on Tuesday evenings.
New members, full and social, are always welcome.
There will be an Open Recruitment Day on Sunday 10th May.
The social committee has planned summer events, including the popular Sunday lunches.
If you are interested, and would like more information please contact the Secretary, on WBBCSecretaryinternal@outlook.com

## Backwell Garden Club

The Garden Club in April has Derek Dexter giving a talk "Fuchsias My Way". The Club meeting on the 15th at 1.45pm for 2pm is in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. BS48 3QW.
The Club meets every 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month and is always pleased to welcome visitors and potential new members. Just come along to the meeting.
For further information about the Club please contact Robin Langford on either 01275 855822 or email rclangford64@gmail.com

## Backwell Probus Club Report

Since our last report, we have had two meetings, the first was called “Baby Eating of Bath“ by John Page. The title was a joke from the days of Blackadder, so the talk was really about the establishment of a Bishop for Bath and Wells which previously had been separate. The first Bishop of Bath Savaric to try was well travelled, spending his early years around the Mediterranean, but he failed and then Jocelyn tried, even trying to tie in Glastonbury as well. It wasn’t until 1245 that it was achieved under the Bishopric of Roger (1244-1247). An interesting story involving Kings and the crusades and showing us some old pictures from the past. At our next meeting, we heard a talk called "Madame Andree Peel, French resistance fighter in WW2". The lady lived for many years in Long Ashton, when she was encouraged to make a video of her story at the age of 95. It seems she was born in Paris 1905 and when the Germans overran France she became a Resistance fighter. She wasn’t apprehended until 1944 and ended up in a concentration camp, being released by Americans and returned to Paris where she met an Englishman, John Peel. They married and settled in Long Ashton, due to his job at the then Royal Naval Auxiliary Hospital at Barrow Gurney.

For our next meetings in April, we can look forward to talks on “From Mars via Kazakhstan” and “Travels in Japan”. We meet 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

## St Andrews Mothers’ Union

2026 is a landmark year for Mothers’ Union as we celebrate 150 years of faith in action since the organisation was founded by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife from a small parish in Hampshire. There are now 4 million members across 84 countries.
At our February meeting Rev Ian Bowley spoke to us about The House of Grace in Thailand, a home for abandoned children with AIDS. Rev Bowley showed us many photographs of the buildings where the children live and are educated. The good news is that owing to the advancement in drugs which are now so effective in treating AIDS families no longer abandon their relatives and are willing to take care of them themselves. Rev Bowley also produced some beautiful cards of the many colourful flowers in Thailand which we were able to purchase.
There is always a warm welcome for members and visitors. Tea/coffee and biscuits at a cost of £1 are served at each meeting. We meet on the 4th Tuesday each month at 2.15 in Church House.
Marie Bale

## Save Felton Common
## - Save the date -
## Sunday 19th April 11-14.30!

SFC understands that Bristol Airport's long awaited planning application for their next airport expansion (expected to include putting landing lights on the common) will be lodged with North Somerset Council by the end of March.

SFC is organising an Action Day on the common on Sunday 19 th April from 11.00 to 14.30 and the lights, columns and fencing will be marked showing the impact on the common. We would ask as many people as possible to congregate on the common by the existing lights for a group photograph at 12.30. Felton Village Hall and the carpark will also be open for information on how you can respond to the application and oppose the proposal and a range of activities and refreshments will be available.

Please consider car sharing, walking or cycling to the event as carparking is limited. With the kind permission of the George & Dragon, Felton their field can be used for overflow parking if the ground is dry on the understanding that their carpark is not used or obstructed.

Please put this important date in your diary and if you have not already done so join us by contacting savefeltoncommon@gmail.com or join us on Facebook.

Debbie Johnson SFC Chairperson

## Nailsea and District Croquet Club

The croquet season has started, and your local croquet club would be delighted to see you at its Open Day on 18th April. It will be a fun day, where you can play a game or learn some techniques. Trial membership is just £20 for 6 weeks, including coaching in basic skills and introductions to both Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. The club, which has four lawns open for play or practice during all day-light hours, is just off Avening Close, Nailsea (what3words: pose.lame.former). Further details can be found at https://www.nailsea-croquet.org.uk/ or contact Erica on ericacroquet@gmail.com (07754 092800).

## Nailsea & District Gardeners Association

A non-profit making association, aiming to assist Gardeners in Nailsea & the surrounding district by providing Fertilisers, Composts and other Gardening Sundries @ wholesale prices. Membership is available to anyone in the area & costs £1 per year. The store is situated at the Shed Wareham Close entrance Whitesfield Road Allotments Nailsea.

***Next open days:***

- March 14th & 28th Saturday 10 -12pm
- April 11th & 25th Saturday 10 – 12pm
- May 9th & 30th Saturday 9.30 -12pm
- May 16th – Plant Sale Saturday 9:30am

If you wish to join, please attend at any of the above dates everyone welcome only requirement is an interest in gardening

Contact: Secretary - Bev Ballagher
Email: nailsea.gardeners@gmail.com


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## Backwell Playhouse

April sees the return of the adventures of Ken Fletcher to Backwell Playhouse, as we present the play "Fletcher's Waterbed Dreams" by Dee Parker.
Running from Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th April, tickets are £12 (£10 Members) and available by calling John 0117 963 3586 or Jon 0797 422 3081 or online at www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk.

A failed carpet business. Separated. Bald. Ken Fletcher just cannot catch a break. But you can't keep a good salesman down. He is soon presented with a new opportunity for success thanks to a chance meeting with a photographer, a sassy new female friend, and his ever faithful employee, Costas.
Can Ken turn his life around with his new business venture?

Backwell Playhouse returns to groovy 70's London for the follow up to 2025's "Fletcher's Carpet Promotion" in the World Premiere of this sitcom-style comedy.
This production is suitable for ages 14+. You don't need to have seen "Fletcher's Carpet Promotion" to enjoy his "Waterbed Dreams", but you can watch it now at www.Youtube.com/BackwellPlayhouse.

Tickets are also on sale for our May events, with National Theatre Live presenting All My Sons, starring Bryan Cranston on Friday 15th May, followed by a Comedy Night, featuring Samantha Day, on Saturday 16th May.

## St Andrew's Art Group

St Andrew's Art Group have moved their Open Exhibition at Backwell Parish Hall from the summer to springtime. This year's chosen charity is St Peter's Hospice.
Opening Evening from 7:30pm on Friday 22nd May
10am-6pm on Saturday 23rd May
10am-4pm on Sunday 24th May.
Free entry to view affordable original art by local artists with delicious homemade refreshments available. For any artists who wish to participate please contact Lindsey for an entry form by emailing rtscribbler88@gmail.com

## St. Andrew's Ladies Group

Our March meeting was worrying for the committee as the booked speaker was unable to join us due to illness, so we had to think of a replacement at the last minute. We were very fortunate in knowing Ruth Jolly and her reputation for having a beautifully clear and sonorous voice. Ruth is a reader at Trinity church Nailsea and also is a publisher of children's books. She offered to talk to ladies about children's books and she introduced her talk as "The Books that Changed our Lives".
Ruth's knowledge of children's books was extraordinary and also her enthusiasm for encouraging young children to spend time, not always in front of a screen, but reading a book or being read to by an adult, she accepted the fact that this is not always so easy for the parents of young children today.
Our meeting on 13th April will be a talk at the outdoor Minack Theatre near Lands End in Cornwall. We are running a charity quiz on May11th and our final date for your diaries will be a visit to Exmouth on Tuesday June 9th. New members are always welcome.
Gillian Vasey.

## Backwell and Nailsea Ladies Choir

After Easter the choir invite you to Come and Sing with us on Thursday afternoons for a period of 5 weeks from 23rd April to 21st May. This will be singing for fun using our extensive collection of sheet music, followed by tea and biscuits, and will take place at the WI Hall, Backwell from 1.15pm to 2.45pm. The cost for 5 weeks will be £30. For further information please call or text Mandy Collinson on 07722703956.

## Yatton Local History Society

Tuesday April 7th
Yatton Local History Society talk by Steve Ryan on Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School
7.30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW.
Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

## Nailsea & District Local History Society

The N&DLHS meeting will be on Monday 13th April in the Green Lecture room at Nailsea School starting at 7.45pm when Dr Michael Whitfield will be presenting "Dr William Logan and his Case Histories in Bristol in 1715". Members free and visitors most welcome £3pp. Further info from 01275 463479.

## BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

3rd April (Good Friday & Communion)
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Theme: The Death of Jesus
Passages: Mark 14 & 15

5th April
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Theme: Easter Sunday Family Service: The Missing Piece?
Passage: Mark 16

12th April
Preacher: Anne Nicklen
Service Leader: Ruth Ham
Theme: Preparing for the Promised Land
Passage: Exodus 34

19th April
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Theme: The Tabernacle: The Glory & Presence of the Lord
Passage: Exodus 40

26th April
Preacher: Matt Bradley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Theme & Passage: TBC

**Photos taken of the 'Open the Book' team, which is made up of people from the local churches, who go into the infant and junior schools to act out Bible stories.**

## WEST TOWN METHODIST CHURCH

West Town Methodist Church
Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

April * 5th Revd Michael Pullan Easter Day Communion
12th Jim Richards
19th Heather Bentley
26th Wendy Mirams
*6.30am Easter Day 'The Rising of the Son' at Backwell Lake
.
The 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 projects, etc., or simply enjoy the conversation! Recently we supported the Big Brew fortnight which is part of transform-trade, and received £148 in donations.Any info, please contact Ann Pullan Email: ann.pullan@btinternet.com or Shirley Edwards: tsmce12@gmail.com

Ready Teddy Sing – our babies and toddler group. Every Tuesday
10.00 – 12.00 during term time

Knitting Group – Tuesday evenings, in the schoolroom.

Art Group – Wednesday mornings in schoolroom

Wednesday Fellowship Group
8th and 22nd April, 2.30pm, at 2 St Andrew's Road

Thursday Fellowship Group
2nd and 16th, 10.30 for 11.00 venue tba

'A different kind of evening service'
Mike Craske and Ellis Johns gave us a wonderful gospel-type musical service last month, led by Heather Bentley. Donations were received of £150 to go to Turnaround Bristol, a charity helping the homeless.

World Day of Prayer
This lovely service, prepared by the women of Nigeria, took place on 6 March at West Town, and we raised £68.50 in donations. Thanks to all those who took part, and/or supported this wonderful annual event.

Hire of building
West Town Methodist Church is in the centre of the village and provides ample comfortable space for small gatherings, meetings, children's parties etc.For details please contact Julie on Email: ratcliffedj@btinternet.com

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

On Sunday 26th April we have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at St Andrew's at which we will hear reports from the calendar year of 2025 and elect Church Officers and PCC Members for the year ahead. All are welcome to attend the meeting although only those who are on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. In order to accommodate this meeting there will be no 9.30am Café Church on this date and the Eucharist will be held at the earlier time of 10.00am, followed by the APCM.

## Services in April

***St Andrew's Church***

Thursday 2nd Maundy Thursday
7.30pm Sung Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

Friday 3rd Good Friday
11.30am Walk of Witness & worship outside Spar at 12pm
1.30pm Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday

Sunday 5th Easter Sunday
5.30am Dawn Liturgy
11.00am Easter Eucharist

Sunday 12th 1st Sunday after Easter
11.00am Sung Eucharist
5.00pm Said Evening Prayer

Sunday 19th 2nd Sunday after Easter
9.30am Café Church
11.00am Sung Eucharist
5.00pm Said Evening Prayer

Sunday 26th 3rd Sunday after Easter
10.00am Sung Eucharist
5.00pm Said Evening Prayer

***St Bridget's Church***

Friday 3rd Good Friday
10.00am Good Friday service

Sunday 5th Easter Sunday
9.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th 1st Sunday after Easter
9.15am Morning Prayer

Sunday 19th 2nd Sunday after Easter
9.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th 3rd Sunday after Easter
9.15am Morning Worship

## St Bridget's Church

As Spring arrives in Chelvey and Brockley, St. Bridget's Church continues to offer a warm welcome to everyone in our community. We are grateful for the support shown at recent services and events, and we hope that April will provide even more opportunities for people to visit and enjoy our beautiful 12th-century church, which has been a place of worship for almost nine hundred years.

Our first Coffee Morning of the year will be held on Holy Saturday, 4th April, from 10am to 12 noon. If the weather is dry, this friendly gathering will take place on the lawn, and there will be a plant and cake stall, as well as the chance to look around the church. This Coffee Morning begins our regular first-Saturday-of-the-month gatherings, which run from April through to October.

St. Bridget's now holds services every Sunday at 9.15am, along with Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9am, and we are always pleased to welcome new faces. The church's rich history, from its Norman doorway to the 15th-century tower and the Tynte family pew, remains a source of interest for visitors. Looking ahead, we also invite you to save the dates for our Summer Cream Tea (27th June), our Antiques Evening (10th September), and our Christmas Fayre (5th-6th December).

Please do visit our website www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk for more information.

## St Francis

This month sees the start of Holy Week which began at the end of March with Palm Sunday with Mass at 11:00am. Masses for Holy Week are as follows:

- Maundy Thursday (2nd April) at 7:30pm, The Mass of the Lord's Supper.
- Good Friday morning at 11:00am, Family Way of the Cross followed by hot cross buns.
- Good Friday afternoon at 3:00pm, Passion & Veneration of the Cross.
- Holy Saturday evening at 8:30pm, The Easter Vigil.
- Easter Sunday, Mass at 11:00am.

May the Parishioners of St Francis wish everyone a happy and peaceful Easter holiday.

## Christians Together In & around Backwell

Open the Book – Wednesday 1st and 29th April at West Leigh Infants School
Thursday 23rd April at Backwell Junior School

Prayer Watch – Monday 13th April, at the Baptist Church
Please note new start time. 7.15 for 7.30pm

Lent Lunch
This took place last month in aid of Turnaround, Bristol, a charity helping the homeless. Details of amount raised tba.

## St. Andrew's

Rector: Rev'd Sam Norton revsamnorton@gmail.com Tel 07771349319 (Day off: Friday)

Reader: David George Tel 07532202786

Benefice Office: admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk Tel 01275 463469 (Open Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30-12.30)

Church Wardens: Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075 leakefamily1@hotmail.com / Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158

Bell Ringers: Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416

Organist & Choir Master: Vacant - contact via Benefice Office

PCC Secretary: Vacant- contact via Church Wardens

PCC Treasurer: Lesley Barratt Tel 07929 093888

Mothers' Union: Co-ordinator Marie Bale Tel 01275 269246

Ladies Group: Leader Gillian Vasey Tel:07892004836

St Andrew's Art Group: Lindsey Busby Tel 01275 852348

Children's Worker: Timi Booy currently on maternity leave

## Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

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

## St Bridget's

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

## Roman Catholic Church of St Francis

Parish Priest
Father Frank Wainwright
Tel 01275 851530
www.josephfrancis.org

## West Town Methodist Church

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

- Minister
  - Revd Sally Ratcliffe- 01275 852473
- Church Stewards
  - Brian Kemmish
  - Heather Bentley
  - Julie Ratcliffe
  - May Vivian
  - Pam Marchant
  - Sarah Ould
  - Shirley Edwards
  - Val Sowerby
- Treasurer
  - Nigel Hardman - 01275 851581

## Backwell Baptist Church

Chapel Hill, BS48 3PW

Minister Rev'd. Tim Crossley

Children / Toddler Activities (& DSL) - Sarah Crossley

Website: www.backwellbaptist.co.uk/contact

Email: backwellbaptist@gmail.com

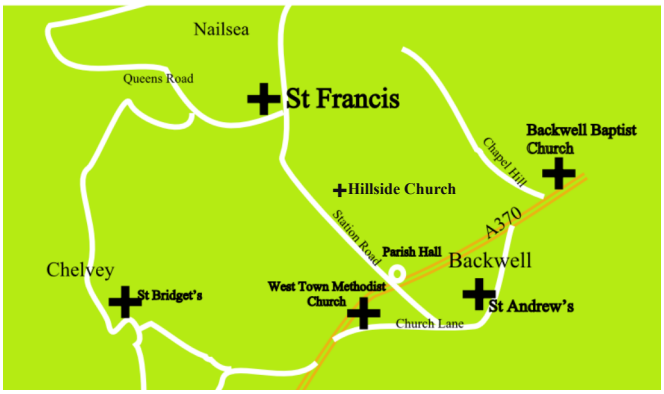
Phone: 07521 787115

Facebook: www.facebook.com/backwellbaptistchurch/

## Hillside Church, part of Woodlands Church Family

Meeting every Sunday 11am
Backwell School Sixth Form Centre
Church Leader: Zoe Germain

For more details email: hillside@woodlandschurch.net

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