

Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Parish Magazine



March 2026

FREE

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

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Churchill Methodist, Minister Pastor	Reverend Andrew Bell Ken Young	01934 852314 01934 852686
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Sidcot Quakers Meeting House	Oakridge Lane, Sidcot, BS25 1LT	01934 843065
Roman Catholics	Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar	01934 709224

How To Find Our Churches - If you need directions to:

- St James the Great Church, Church Lane, Winscombe, BS25 1BX
- All Saints Church, Hill Road, Sandford, BS25 5NY
- St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane, Churchill, BS25 5QW
- Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA

Please use your Satnav with the postcodes, or visit the website www.achurchnearyou.com

This magazine is one of the ways we are fulfilling our Vision

reachHing
wElcoming
cARing 
seRving
Teaching

Putting the love of Christ in the heart of our community.



It has been wonderful to move down to this beautiful part of the world, and I have felt very humbled by the kind welcome from everyone. It takes a while to settle in when you move, but we are getting there! And I am looking forward to getting out and about on foot more to explore our villages and surrounding countryside, well once it gets a little drier, because as I pen this in mid-February, we have hardly had a dry day yet!

As you can probably imagine, in a very short space of time I have met lots of people across the three churches and villages of Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill. It has been lovely to meet so many of you and hear what you do for your church and community. In meeting people as a clergyman, what I come across quite often is that people say something like, *'I just help with the coffees'* or *'I just help set up communion'* or *'I just help out with the cleaning'* - that type of thing. If that sounds even a bit like you, then I want to encourage you - there is really no such thing as *'just'* when it comes to Jesus. In scripture, well Mark 12: 41-44 to be exact, we read how Jesus commends a widow with very little money, for putting in *'two very small copper coins'* to the temple funds, rather than the rich who *'threw in large amounts'*. Jesus knew she had little, but that she wanted to honour God with it.

And I am certain that God has the same viewpoint with regard to how we use our time and abilities, no matter what they are. It's not who we are or what we have, it is what we do with it that matters. With God there is no such thing as *'just'* helping with teas and coffees or *'just'* doing some cleaning or *'just'* helping with the kids' corner. Because having a clean space in which to meet together or having the comfort of a hot drink to commune with others, are no small matters. They are as vital a part of the jigsaw which completes our church picture, as those who look after the accounts, spend time in our schools, visit the housebound and yes, those like myself who lead the services. We all bring what we can to the Lord and He will use what we have to serve Him and others. All that we give, no matter how much or how little, is valued and blessed in the sight of God. Blessings to you.

Revd Dr Julian Davies

Signpost - The Parish Magazine

Welcome to March's edition of Signpost. The magazine aims to serve and reach out to the local village communities of Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill and in doing so, provide opportunities for the residents to become more aware of activities across all Christian denominations and within our villages. We hope you enjoy reading this month's edition.

Next Month's Magazine

The deadline for April's edition is Sunday 15th March. Please submit items, which should be no longer than 400 words, as Word documents to parishmag2@gmail.com. If you include photographs, please ensure that you have the permission of anyone appearing in the photograph for them to be published in this magazine. Please supply high resolution photographs as jpegs.

The Editorial Team reserves the right to amend and/ or reformat submitted articles.

Signpost – paper copy

We produce a limited number of black and white printed copies of Signpost that are available from some local shops, each of our churches and the Church Centre.

Signpost – via email

We encourage as many people as possible to receive their full colour copy of Signpost via email. If you would like to receive future editions by email, please send your email address to parishmag2@gmail.com. If you are unable to receive your copy via email, please contact one of the Churchwardens giving your full name and address.

Our website: www.winsandchurches.org.uk

Our website is the 'go to place' for information about our Churches and activities. It is regularly updated with the latest news and information.

- ❖ Home Page: latest news, monthly service plan
- ❖ Our Vision: find out about our plans for the future
- ❖ Church Life: our activities and groups
- ❖ Our Podcasts and Videos: a library of Church services to watch or listen to
- ❖ Signpost Magazine: download the latest copy and find out how to contribute
- ❖ Hire A Venue: how to hire our Church Centre, Churches and meeting rooms

SIGNPOST - DONATIONS WELCOME

It costs approximately £600 per annum to produce the magazine, based on current prices for materials and ink. Volunteers give their time freely to distribute the magazine.

We are always grateful to supporters who choose to make a donation, and those that place a paid for advert, towards the on-going costs of the magazine. Donations can be placed in an envelope marked 'Signpost Donation' and posted in the letterbox at the Church Centre in Winscombe.

If you wish to place an advert, please contact the Editorial Team at parishmag2@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all those who have already made a donation; your generosity is very much appreciated.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

“I will give you rest, come”

Matthew 11: 28-30

Friday 6th March 2026

**Everyone is welcome to join us at the
Lynch Chapel, Winscombe ~ 2 pm**

The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. This year, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences, in a world filled with struggles and anxieties. We give thanks to the Christian women of Nigeria for this service and pray that their stories will encourage and inspire women throughout the world to unite as one people in both prayer and action.

This year’s artwork has been created by Gift Amarachi Ottah, a final-year Mass Communication student at Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike in Ebonyi State, and draws inspiration from her home state of Abia in Nigeria.

Gift’s artwork depicts the daily reality of rural Nigerian women whose lives are marked by endless labour from sunrise to sunset. These women traverse treacherous paths to their farms, often carrying both their harvest and their children – a toddler strapped to their back, a heavy load balanced on their head while guiding other children along unmaintained roads through thick bush.



The artwork also shows three women sitting together, their different traditional attire representing Nigeria’s diverse cultures. Though they come from different ethnic groups, their shared experiences unite them. To meet their basic survival needs, these women carry burdens and traumas that are physical, emotional and spiritual.

Yet these burdens become bearable when we respond to Jesus’ invitation to come and find rest in him. When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey.

For further details visit: <https://wwdp.org.uk> .



Supporting Your Local Foodbanks



Our churches support the **Cheddar Valley Foodbank** and the Foodbank based at the **For All Healthy Living Centre** in Bournville, Weston-Super-Mare.

We are pleased to be able to deliver non-perishable foods to the Foodbanks and continue to make a significant contribution.

There are collection baskets for each village in each of the Churches and at the Church Centre.

The foodbanks also appreciate cash donations which can be used to buy items in particular need or provide vouchers that can be spent on food in local supermarkets.

Cash donations can be placed in the post box at the Church Centre in Winscombe. Please label to show whether your donation is for the Cheddar Foodbank or the For All Healthy Living Centre.

These are some of the items that can be donated and are always gratefully received.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ❖ Soup – packet and tinned | ❖ Tinned vegetables |
| ❖ Instant mashed potato | ❖ Tinned fish |
| ❖ Cereals | ❖ UHT milk |
| ❖ Sauces – tins and jars of pasta sauce | ❖ Main meals in tins (not Fray Bentos pies please) |
| ❖ Custard – tinned or instant | ❖ Squash |
| ❖ Long life fruit juices | ❖ Paper goods – toilet roll, kitchen roll etc. |
| ❖ Desserts – tinned fruit, rice pudding, sponge | ❖ Tinned cold meats – corned beef, spam |
| ❖ Pasta, rice, instant noodles | ❖ Tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate |
| ❖ Sugar | ❖ Biscuits |
| ❖ Personal items – soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste | ❖ Men’s and ladies’ toiletries |
| ❖ Confectionery | ❖ Snack bars and crisps |

Safeguarding

Our churches are committed to promoting a safe environment and culture. The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is a priority. Further information about our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures can be found on our website <https://winsandchurches.org.uk/safeguarding/>.

Details of how to contact one of our Parish Safeguarding Officers can be found on page 2 of this magazine.



CHURCHES TOGETHER

LENT LUNCHES 2026

Come and join us for our Friday Lent Lunches
with guest speakers at the Church Centre, Winscombe (except 27th March)
12.30 – 2 pm

FRIDAY 6th MARCH	World Day of Prayer <i>(no Lent Lunch – see page 5 for full details)</i> Lynch Chapel, Winscombe, 2 pm
FRIDAY 13th MARCH	Read Easy hosted by Lynch Chapel
FRIDAY 20th MARCH	inHope Charity, Bristol hosted by All Saints, St James's and St John's
FRIDAY 27th MARCH	Guide Dogs for the Blind hosted by Cheddar Catholics at Cheddar Catholic Church, Tweentown, Cheddar

Donations for each charity will be most welcome



Friendship Lunch

in the

Pullman Café

Sandford Station Retirement Village

on

Friday 6th March 2026

at 12:45pm



The residents of Sandford Station would like to invite those who live on their own or who can't get out much to join us for lunch.
(Everyone to pay for themselves)

Transport to/from home provided by the Churchill & Langford Minibus. To book, please call Jai Logan Gallen on **07946 182338**

News from the Tuesday Coffee Morning

Tuesday 10th February was a special day as it was the **100th birthday** of one of our regulars, Tom Hall.

We were delighted to celebrate this occasion with coffee and cake and were so pleased to join with Tom on his special day, before he was taken out to lunch with another group of friends. He shared with us the lovely card he had received from the King and Queen.

So, congratulations Tom and best wishes from all your friends at the Coffee Morning, we love having you.



COFFEE MORNING



Every Tuesday at 10.30 am
Church Centre, Winscombe
All Welcome

Whatever your age, everyone is very welcome to come along to the Tuesday Coffee Morning at the Church Centre in Winscombe. Enjoy a cuppa, have a chat and meet new friends ~ we hope to see you soon.



You are all invited to our next breakfast, that is, on this occasion, ladies as well as gentlemen. It will take place on **Saturday 14th March** at 9 am at the Woodborough Inn. We are very pleased that Reverend Julian Davies has agreed to be our guest speaker. Along the lines of '*Desert Island Discs*', we look forward to hearing more of Julian's background, training, and experience of life in work and academia, before and after his ordination into the ministry. We can expect to hear tracks from his favourite music, perhaps including hymns and songs, as well as other aspects of his varied interests.

In time, we look forward to more members of the group relating aspects of their life, their interests and their faith. A free breakfast is on offer for any of our speakers.

Please do let me know at least a week in advance if you will be coming, as I will need to let the Woodborough Inn have an estimate of our numbers for the Saturday. As usual, I will send reminders to all on the mailing list. Do consider joining us if you have not been before, or invite friends too, as we have capacity for more at the Woodborough Inn.

The price of a small English breakfast is now £11.50. The vegetarian option is £10.50. Other breakfast options, including a bacon bap, or tea and toast, are available. All these *need to be pre-booked* so that the kitchen can order in the appropriate quantities.

To book your place for the March breakfast, contact Tim Harland on 01934 843248.



Shipham, Rowberrow & Star History Society

Next meeting date:

Tuesday 10th March

Speaker: Allan Middleton

**Talk entitled: *The Refurbished Axbridge Station*
at Shipham Village Hall, BS25 1SG**

Refreshments: 7.15 pm Members: £2, guests £4

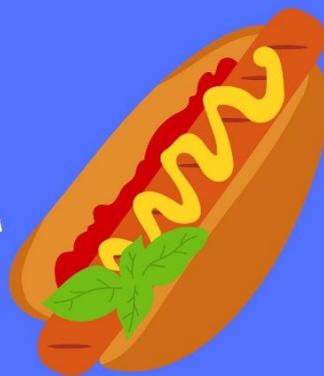
For further details contact: Jan Taylor 01934 260784

BINGO & BANGERS!

For all ages



&



**Saturday 14th March 2026 at 6.30pm
at The Church Centre, Winscombe**

An evening of fun for all ages.

Prize Bingo with expert caller & other games.

Hot Dog , side nibbles & dessert.
(pork sausage or vegan)

TICKETS £8

(including prize bingo books & supper)

From Church Office 01934 352696
and Post Office

30

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44

All Saints Church Community Café

February's café raised an amazing £345.00 (including Gift Aid),
towards Church funds

We have 2 cafés in March, the dates are:

SATURDAY 7th and 28th MARCH 2026

No café in April ~ it's Easter Saturday

10.30 am – 12.30 pm

All Saints Church, Sandford



A variety of coffee, teas and soft drinks along with
homemade cakes, biscuits and soup is served

We look forward to seeing you ~ **EVERYONE WELCOME**



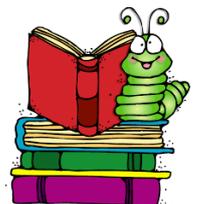
Churchill Reading Room

Saturday mornings 10 am - midday

Come and join us for a friendly chat over coffee at the
Reading Room on Front Street
(just behind the Clock Tower)

We have a lending library and jigsaw exchange plus
tea, coffee, cake and bacon baps on offer.

*A chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.
Hope to see you there!*



What's Your Favourite Hymn?

What's the Sing Along about? Singing is good for you, this is an undisputed fact, supported by medical and scientific research. It can lift your mood or tap into key memories. Singing reaches into body, mind and soul, all at once.

An even greater feelgood factor is experienced by singing in a group. It's a strange phenomenon that even those of us who are not especially tuneful, can sound fantastic as part of a crowd – just think of all the Welsh rugby crowds singing 'Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah'.

Readers who belong to a choir, or can remember community singing in school assemblies, will remember the uplifting and empowering feeling of singing as a community, even decades later.

We can remember many culturally important songs, often word for word, that was relevant to a particular era, such as those by The Beatles or ABBA or more recent artists. Probably, the lyrics resonated with a stage of our life and how we felt.

Lyrics are so important. The important milestones of birth, marriage, funerals and thanksgivings for anniversaries, are often marked by well-known songs and great hymns. Many people stipulate which ones are to be sung at their funeral. 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling', has been sung at many celebrations.

Think too of great hymn lyrics associated with a festival like Christmas, which we call carols, 'Away in a Manger' and 'While Shepherds Watched' to name just a couple. Some have been sung over centuries because they express the bedrock of faith themes.

The Wesley brothers, John and Charles were both Anglican priests in the 1700s. They were prolific preachers and hymn writers, well known for travelling around rural and mining areas to preach the good news of God's love to people who felt they didn't agree with, or didn't belong to the existing church. Their hymns eloquently expressed the simple theology, that if we follow Jesus, then we will have a full and abundant life, full of God's unconditional love.

Tell us your favourite Wesley hymn! Email your choices (you can nominate 3, because there are so many to choose from), to churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com or message us on Facebook. Of course, we'd love you to join our Sing Along of their best hymns on **Saturday 7th March at 4pm** when we celebrate the 240th Anniversary of Rev John's visit to Churchill.

240th Anniversary
Rev John Wesley visit 11 March 1786

Come & Sing Along...

Wesley's Best Hymns
Saturday 7th March
4pm @Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG
Sing along to organ played by Paul Beechey
Buffet Tea in hall. FREE, donations welcome

Sunday 8th March **FREE**
11am Celebration Worship
Thanksgiving for Rev John Wesley's
preaching here 11th March 1786.

WELCOME

Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Facebook icon



OPEN DAY

Saturday 28th March - 10 am to 4 pm

Come and try out our wonderful tennis facilities - we have 6 floodlit all-weather courts, two of which can be booked by non-members on a 'Pay and Play' basis.



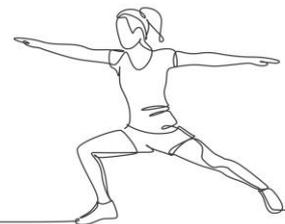
All ages and abilities welcome.

Sign up for a free session on the day with our enthusiastic new coach, Dom Stones: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/topspintenniscoaching> .

Find us behind the Cricket Club at the Rec, beyond the Lynch, BS25 1AP.



**Looking for a local venue for a regular class or group?
Church Centre, Winscombe could be just perfect**



- ✓ fully accessible – all on ground level
- ✓ spacious facilities
- ✓ free parking
- ✓ kitchen
- ✓ large fully equipped hall
- ✓ hourly rate from £12
- ✓ central to a thriving village

Interested in finding out more? Call: 01934 352696 or

Email: admin@winsandchurches.org.uk



ST JAMES'S EVENTS TEAM



Spring Fling

Table Top/Car Boot Sale

fling out your stuff and sell it

Book a table top or car boot space

01934 352696 or admin@winsandchurches.org.uk

or contribute unwanted new items for the Events Team Table

and

Community Lunch

fling yourself into lunch with friends

**Serving homemade soup and rolls,
hot and cold drinks and a selection of cakes**

**Children's
Easter Trail &
Crafts**

**Saturday 28th March
Church Centre
11.30am til 2.30pm**

**Plants
and Garden**



Local History Corner 26

800 years of history

The Parish has welcomed the New Year and also Reverend Dr Julian Davies who is the latest of a long line of vicars of Winscombe. A vicar was first appointed 800 years ago in 1226 by Bishop Jocelyn who had his private residence in Winscombe at what is now Winscombe Court.

A historian's description in F.A. Knight's *'Heart of Mendip'* (Bristol, Chatford House, 1915 [sic]):

The first incumbent whose name has been recorded as William de Kaynesham, was instituted in 1226. He is styled simply as 'persona', a word which, in classic Latin, meant first an actor's mask, then the actor himself, and finally any character or person whatsoever. In late or low Latin, it stood for 'a person of rank, a choirmaster, curate or parson'.

The manor of Winscombe was once held by the monks of Glastonbury but transferred to the Diocese of Bath and Wells after years of political wrangling. Eventually the manor house, now Winscombe Court, was given to Jocelyn by the Dean and Chapter on the occasion of his enthronement at Wells Cathedral in 1215. He used the title of Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury when he witnessed the signing of the Magna Carta that year.

It is not known, with any degree of certainty, what Winscombe Court looked like at that time, but it was probably originally a first-floor hall with an undercroft. Jocelyn would certainly have added a chapel and other buildings. There would, at this time, have been no other local place of worship. As the village expanded, Jocelyn probably would have wanted to keep the chapel for his personal use. Presumably, one of his primary concerns in 1226, would have been to provide a place of worship for the local inhabitants, but it was a further ten years before the money was raised and land acquired adjacent to the main north/south road through the valley. A church was built here on the site of the present chancel of our church. Some vestigial remains of this early building can still be seen, and the Dean and Chapter are still responsible for its upkeep after almost 800 years. An examination of old documents suggests a location for Jocelyn's chapel on the east side of a courtyard, north of the original manor, now entirely within the footprint of the present building.



John Matthews



BRANCH MEETING - MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

The second RAFA-MSB event of 2026 was a Branch Meeting on Monday 2nd February at Wells Golf Club. Our Branch President, Group Captain Dick Whittingham, gave a presentation; *'A Belgian Spitfire Pilot WW2 and after'*, which followed on from his January presentation that covered how Bobby Laumans joined the Belgian Air Force, trained to fly in France in 1940, and then transferred to the UK in the autumn of 1940 after Belgium and France surrendered. Bobby trained and became an RAF pilot flying a Spitfire Mk VB and flew with No. 74 Squadron and later No. 350 Free Belgian Squadron, on operations from July 1941 to June 1942. February's presentation began on 1st June 1942 when Bobby's Spitfire was hit by fire from two German Focke-Wulf 190 fighters, and he bailed out over the English Channel. Sadly, he was rescued by the German Navy and by 11th June he was a PoW in Stalag Luft III at Sagan in Silesia Poland (famous for the *'Wooden Horse'* and the *'Great Escape'*). Bobby (far left in the photograph taken at Stalag Luft III), remained a PoW for 3 years and was a major force in the production of the camp's shows, designing and producing the sets and costumes, while also acting as one of the female leads. In early 1945, the PoWs were moved back to Germany as part of the *'100km Winter March'*, before being released by the British Forces in April 1945. Bobby returned to the UK and during the summer and autumn of 1945, took part in a number of PoW review shows in London's West End along with the star of *'Maigret'*, Rupert Davies. Bobby was discharged from the RAF and travelled back to Belgium where he returned to flying with the Belgian airline Sabena as a Senior Boeing 747 Captain, until he retired. He became a member of the RAFA Brussels Branch, which is how and where he met our Branch President, Dick Whittingham.



FUTURE PROGRAMME

RAFA-MSB will hold its formal 2026 Branch AGM on Monday 2nd March at 11:00 am in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. The meeting will review the activities and accounts for 2025; Branch performance against 2025 objectives; appoint the Committee for 2026; consider the objectives for 2026 and outline the programme for the year. This will be an important meeting, so all members are requested to attend in order to share their comments, feedback and views on the way forward. There will be a raffle to raise funds and optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

The fourth event for 2026 will be a presentation and Branch meeting in Wells Golf Club on Monday 13th April. The presentation will be, 'They Bend 'Em, We Mend 'Em – The Nimrod Years', by Paul Ashmore. This will be followed by a short meeting with optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

RAFA-MSB covers BS25, BS26, BS27, BS28, BA4, BA5, BA6, BA16, TA10 and TA11 postal areas. The Committee welcomes RAFA members, current and Ex-RAF personnel and reserves, current and Ex-Commonwealth Air Forces personnel and reserves, members of the RAF family, and members of the public that support the RAFA's aims and purposes who live in this area, to join us for all our 2026 events.

For further information, contact the Branch via email at rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or telephone the Secretary on 01458 224057.

A promotional poster for a concert by Trinity Singers. The background is a scenic landscape with a lake, green hills, and mountains under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Trinity Singers
Registered Charity No 1202501

Conducted by Andrew Tyrrell
Accompanied by Lochrian Ensemble
with
Claire Alsop - Organ
Nick Perry - Trumpet
Jeremy Little - Percussion

My soul, there is a country

Choral music by Purcell, Parry and Vaughan Williams
about life here and hereafter.

Including Purcell's 'Funeral Sentences', Parry's 'I was glad' and
'Songs of Farewell' and Vaughan Williams 'Let all the world'.

Saturday March 14th 2026
7.30pm

All Saints Church
All Saints Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 2NL
www.trinitysingers.co.uk

Tickets £12.50
Accompanied under 18 free

we ♥

CREATE! Sunday

#FUN FOR FAMILIES & ALL AGES

Sundays 4-6pm

@Churchill Methodist Church, BS25 5NG

SAVE THESE!

- 22 February
- 22 March
- 19 April *
- 17 May*
- 28 June*
- 19 July*

Ready... Steady... Fun!

#QUALITY FAMILY TIME

#NATURE & CRAFT ACTIVITIES

#OUTDOOR OR INDOOR GAMES

#MEET LOCAL FAMILIES

#STORY & BUFFET TEA

**outdoor venues to be confirmed*

Churchill Methodist Church

Contact us:

churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

Free

Short
informal
Mid-Week
LYNCH CHAPEL
First Wednesday
every month
10.30am
followed by
tea & coffee
SERVICE
ALL AGES WELCOME TOY CORNER AVAILABLE

**NEXT DATES: 4TH MARCH
1ST APRIL**

LOVE BIRDS & BIG FUN
SUNDAY 22 MARCH
4-6pm
@Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG
Fun & Creative Activities for Families
we ♥ CREATE! Sunday
♥ FUN ACTIVITIES
♥ PLAY, CRAFTS & CHAT
♥ STORY & SONGS
♥ BUFFET TEA
FREE
Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

**If you love singing we'd love you to join us
WINSCOMBE COMMUNITY SINGERS**



**Rehearsals
Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.00pm**

**Winspace
Sandford Road, Winscombe BS25 1JA
Musical Director: Josh Newport**



Music, friendship, fun and laughter

For more information please contact
Simon Page 07900 693783



Wrighton Vale Rotary Club

Following on from our giving spree last month, we were delighted to present cheques to **Somewhere to Go** and **Weston Hospicecare**.



We were pleased to welcome Ellie Lloyd from **Somewhere to Go** who gave us an insight into their activities; their motto is: **'A hand up, not a hand out'**.

They provide day and night services, meals and clothes, 365 days a year, to help rough sleepers and disadvantaged, vulnerable adults. Typically giving over 40 lunches each day, alongside guidance and advice, this is a very successful organisation

providing essential support. Hopefully our cheque for £850 will help a little.

Maisy Bartlett from **Weston Hospicecare** gave us a profound insight into the organisation and its development over the years. Residents describe it as *'a place where life starts with love and hope'*. So many patients are supported outside the Hospice building. The overriding impression is of a positive environment where the individual needs of every person are catered for, to the best of the hospice's ability. A most worthwhile cause! We presented a cheque for £1,000 from our charitable funds and also the voluntarily collection of Christmas trees in our villages, making a contribution to the overall takings of nearly £20,000.



Don't forget our **Breakfast Meetings** from 8 to 9 am on the first Wednesday of every month at the Mendip Activity Centre. No need to book! You can buy a bacon bap if you arrive early! Last month's talk by Rachel Fayers from *'A Patch Wilder'* – which is a conservation project in the Mendip Hills, was fascinating.



NB: FROG RACING Saturday 28th February at Shipham Village Hall

Further information from Angie Biggs on 07790 400718.

March Quiz

This year, Sunday 15th March is Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day, so this month's quiz has the theme of mothers. The word 'mother' features in either the question or the answer.

- 1 By what name did Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu become known to the world?
- 2 What, according to the saying, is the 'mother of invention'?
- 3 What animal does a mule have for a mother?
- 4 In computer hardware what name is given to the main electronic circuit panel which all of the system hardware connects to?
- 5 In which classical pantomime is the title character about to be evicted before being saved by a bird named Priscilla?
- 6 Which American highway is amongst other nicknames known as the 'Mother Road'?
- 7 Hab SoSll Quch meaning 'your mother has a smooth forehead', is an insult in which fictional language?
- 8 After being ordained in 1999 which late Irish singer adopted the religious name Mother Bernadette Mary?
- 9 How is the 1871 oil painting 'Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1' much better known?
- 10 Which pop icon's fans call her, 'Mother Monster' while in exchange she often refers to them as 'Lit'?



The answers can be found on page 39



**Folk ... Yes, but all kinds of music and verse
Fourth Tuesday each month 7.30 to 10.30 – just £2**

Upstairs Bar, Winscombe Club, 7 Sandford Road - a quiet and respectful acoustic space for performers and audience.

Further information from Nigel Carson: 07551 197685 or winscombefolkclub@gmail.com - also on Facebook

Gardening Notes for March

Sow Seeds

Chillies, tomatoes and aubergines can be sown now in seed compost in 9cm pots by scattering 4 or 5 seeds into each pot, or alternatively, sow one or two seeds in smaller modules. Lightly cover the seeds with compost or vermiculite and place them in a heated propagator at 18 to 20 degrees centigrade or on a bright, well-lit windowsill. The seeds will take between 7 and 10 days to germinate. Once their leaves are large enough to handle, gently tip the whole potful out and replant each seedling into its own 8cm pot. If the seeds were sown in small modules, delay potting on until true leaves have formed. At this stage they will still need temperatures of around 15 degrees centigrade.

Plant Summer Flowering Bulbs

Summer flowering bulbs are not plants that you use instead of other perennials, they are an added extra, that light up a border in late summer. As the majority of summer flowering bulbs (this includes tubers, rhizomes and corms), are from sub-tropical climes, they need sun, warmth and well-drained soil. They can also be planted in containers using loamy compost with added grit to improve drainage, applying a high potash feed when flower buds begin to form. The following bulbs can be planted now, galtonias, ixias, crocosmias, pineapple lilies, lilies of all types, gladioli (smaller varieties include the nanus group]. Dahlias and begonias can be planted in containers and brought on in the greenhouse for planting out when the threat of frost has passed.



Take Basal Cuttings

Many herbaceous plants are beginning to sprout new shoots now that can be used as cuttings to produce new plants. These include dahlias, heleniums, asters, delphiniums and phlox. Cuttings will root quickly, with or without heat, and will be ready to plant out in the border this summer. Push a knife down into the soil to cut off a vigorous young shoot from the outside of the clump. Remove the lower leaves, cut any large leaves in half, and pinch out the growing tip. Plant the cuttings firmly into gritty multi-purpose compost and water well.

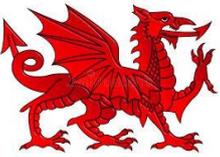
Care of Daffodils

To make sure daffodils flower well year after year, they need to have a good supply of water and nutrients during and after their flowering period. Next year's flowering buds are already developing in the bulb now, so apply a high potassium feed such as tomato fertiliser to bulbs in containers, and blood, fish and bone to those in borders. Remove flower heads as they fade and allow the foliage to die down naturally. If daffodils are growing in grass, delay mowing until the leaves die away sometime in June.



March Word Search

March begins with St David's Day. In celebration, this month's word search has a Welsh flavour. The hidden words are listed beneath the word search. Words can be found across, down, diagonally and backwards, and can overlap with each other. Circle the words in the word search as you find them.



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



BARA BRITH
CARDIFF
CASTLE
CATHEDRAL
COAL

CROESO
CYMRU
DAFFODIL
DAVID
DRAGON

LEEK
MINER
OFFAS DYKE
PATRON
RIVER SEVERN

RUGBY
SAINT
SHEEP
VALLEYS
WALES

The answers can be found on page 41

Post
Office

A reminder that the new opening hours for
Winscombe Post Office are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday ~ 9 am to 1 pm
Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday ~ closed



Aquinas Piano Trio

Sunday 22nd March 2026 ~ 3 – 6 pm
St John’s Church, Churchill

Three masterpieces performed by three world-class musicians; this will be an unforgettable concert of chamber music at its finest. A truly unmissable concert for all music lovers – *ticket details below.*



Programme of Events 2026

Artist	Venue	Date & Time	Price: Champions	Price: Non-Champions
Aquinas Piano Trio: Martin Cousin, Ruth Rogers & Katherine Jenkinson	St John’s Church, Churchill, BS25 5QW	Sunday 22 nd March at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
London Mozart Players	All Saints Church, Wrington, BS40 5LF	Sunday 26 th April at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
Royal Marines Association Concert Band	Churchill Recreation Field, Ladymead Lane, Churchill	Saturday 27 th June at 3pm	<i>Free</i>	<i>Free</i>

Website: <https://churchillmusic.org.uk/>

Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk OR holly@churchillmusic.org.uk

Call: Holly Greenwood-Roger on 07442 672805



Save the Children

*You can help children in distress
all around the world*

**SAVE the CHILDREN
LUNCHES**



Save the Children

Fridays 6th and 20th March - 12.30 pm in Shipham Village Hall

Everyone is welcome to join us for soup, locally baked bread, cheddar cheese, pickle, homemade biscuits, tea or coffee.

Children under 5 will be given a free lunch

£5.50 (pay at the door) - all profits support Save the Children

West Mendip Orchestra

John Johnson Director of Music

Helen Grey Leader



CONCERT

Farnham Festival Overture

Richard Rodney Bennett

Murder on the Orient Express
Waltz

Richard Rodney Bennett

Flute Concerto

Soloist Jolanta Modelska

Carl Reinecke

Little Suite No. 1

Malcolm Arnold

London Suite

Eric Coates

Friday 27th March 2026, 7:45pm
St Nicholas' Church, Uphill Road South,
Uphill, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4SD

Tickets £12 (concessions £10, students £2)

Available at the door (cash or card)



www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk

Charity no. 1041826

Supported by The Mortlock Memorial Fund

Supporting and Protecting Our Natural World

Keeping Our Feet Warm ... Say the Geese!

During the spell of very cold weather in January, there were frosts severe enough to freeze the goose pond and the drinking water for the poultry.

Though the chickens stayed firmly in their house, the geese were just as keen as always to get out and make for their pond. If the water was frozen, they would stand and even sit on the ice. As the ice thawed, they happily enjoyed a swim and then sat in the cold water. I wondered how they managed.

Geese have a unique circularity system in their legs called the countercurrent heat exchange, that prevents heat loss from the goose to the water so maintaining core body warmth, whilst allowing the feet to stay just above freezing. This is done by the arteries and veins running in contact with each other in the legs. Arteries bring warm blood down to the foot of the legs and then veins pick up and take cooler blood back to the core, but the warm arterial blood heats the colder blood in the veins before reaching the main body so preventing serious heat loss from the core.



Often, during cold weather, geese will stand on one leg. This reduces the surface area in contact with the cold ground so conserving heat. Another common practice is to tuck the head and beak deep into the downy feathers so preventing heat loss from the beak. This is a common daily practice too so that the goose can rest its neck and prevent moisture loss from breathing.

There's usually one keeping an eye out for danger!

As mentioned in the January edition of the RHS magazine, *'The Garden'*, Rachel de Thame, intends to make her garden a non-stop party for pollinators. Hopefully, many of us are planning the same. There is a huge choice of over 10,000 pollinator plants. The list has been thoroughly reviewed so that every plant reaches the strict criteria established by an expert team of scientists, entomologists, wildlife experts, botanists and horticulturalists.

Look out for the *'RHS Plants for Pollinators'* logo on the plant label.



The RHS is launching a new initiative for 2026 called, *'Bringing Nature Home'*. This includes tips for increasing biodiversity in the garden and emphasises how plants are the very foundation of life for all other creatures including us. This initiative is a response to the RHS State of Gardening Report 2025. Our gardens, up to 23 million of them, support over 50% of our butterfly, amphibian and reptile species and over 40% of mammal and bird species. More can be done bearing in mind 42% of our gardens have been paved over!

Even so, how sad to read that Britain is one of the least nature conscious countries in Europe ranking 55 out of 61.

To find out about these new initiatives go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife> or better still become a member!

Or visit the RHS Wisley Gardens in Surrey where monthly displays are on show to encourage gardeners to *'Bring Nature Home'*.



Mid-Winter Mystery Quiz



The Church Centre was packed with quiz teams for the St James's Events Team's *'Mid-Winter Mystery Quiz Evening'* on Friday 30th January. Once again, Hilary, Martin, Jo and Derrick hosted the quiz.

The Events Team quizzes have become known for being a little bit different! All the questions were illustrated and projected onto the big screen (to make the event as inclusive as possible), and included pictures, video clips and music as well as more traditional questions.

All the rounds were linked to the overall Mid-Winter and Mystery theme such as Frostbitten Facts, Deceptive Dishes, Crimes and Conundrums, Baffling Buildings and Who Dun-its. The music round featured pop songs that ask a question such as *'How Deep Is Your Love?'* and *'Why Does It Always Rain on Me?'* And the film round consisted of video clips of some of the best (and worst) murder mystery movies of all time. There was also a TV Detectives tabletop quiz for teams to puzzle over.

This sell-out evening was not only great fun but raised £500 for Church funds.

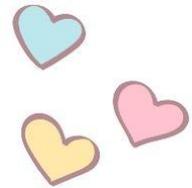
Thank you to all who came and supported us.

Watch this space later in the year as we may be back, by popular demand, with a pre-Christmas Quiz!



CHURCHILL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Try us for FREE!



PLAY, SING, CRAFT and CHAT!

Mondays 09.00-11.30
2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 March



@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

- ♥ Friendly group, easy parking
- ♥ Bright hall, lots of toys
- ♥ Yummy snacks; cuppa & cake



Churchill **Methodist** Church 

Contact us:

churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



SANDFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

We had a fascinating talk and slideshow, at our February meeting, from George Bethell who works at Secret World Wildlife Rescue Centre in Highbridge. Pauline and David Kidner started Secret World over 30 years ago with just 3 badger cubs, and it grew from there.

George told us that there are numerous animals and birds taken to the centre including badgers, foxes, hedgehogs, dormice, voles, rabbits, hares, polecats, weasels and bats. Amongst the birds are peregrines, owls, buzzards, swifts, swans and various fledglings. We were shown how the animals are cared for, and how they are rehabilitated so they can be released back into the wild.

Secret World has 50 members of staff and over 250 volunteers. They have 4 charity shops and rely on donations, legacies and fundraising to keep it all going.

They now have a special x-ray suite and a part-time vet so animals can be treated onsite, which is less stressful for the animals rather than having to transport them to a vet practice.

We were able to buy calendars, cards and various things from George. John thanked George for his talk, and also gave many thanks to Mandi, Pat and Mary for the refreshments and Pat who sourced the raffle.

Our next meeting dates are:

MEMBERS SPRING SHOW

SATURDAY 14th MARCH

11.15 am – 12.30 pm

Everybody is welcome to come and see all the wonderful spring flowers and to partake with coffee, tea and homemade cakes, it is always a lovely morning!

WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL

Talk entitled: 'Somerset's Wonderful Wildlife'

Speaker: Les Cloutman

*All our meetings are held in Sandford Village Hall -
visitors are always welcome*



DIARY – MARCH 2026

SUN 1	LENT 2	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
TUES 3	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 4	10.30am	Midweek Informal Service – Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s Church
THURS 5	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	10.00am	Communion in the Community – Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s Church
FRI 6	2.00pm	Service for World Day of Prayer – Lynch Chapel
SAT 7	10.30am	Community Café – All Saints Church
SUN 8	LENT 3	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
MON 9	7.00pm	Lent Reflections 1 – All Saints Church, Sandford
TUES 10	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 11	2.00pm	Knit & Natter – Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Winscombe WI – Community Centre
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s Church
THUR 12	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
FRI 13	12.30pm	Lent Lunch – Church Centre. Speaker: ReadEasy
SAT 14	9.30am	Refreshmen+ Mens Breakfast – Woodborough Inn
	6.30pm	Bingo & Bangers – Church Centre
SUN 15	LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
TUES 17	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning – Church Centre
WED 18	2.00pm	Lent Reflections 2 – Lynch Chapel
	2.45pm	Communion in the Community – Sewell House
THURS 19	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s Church
FRI 20	12.30pm	Lent Lunch – Church Centre. Speaker: inHope
SAT 21	7.00pm	All Saints Church Quiz – Sandford Village Hall
SUN 22	LENT 5	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
TUES 24	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room
WED 25	2.00pm	Knit & Natter – Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice – St James’s Church
THUR 26	9.30am	Scramblers – Church Centre
	11.00am	Communion in the Community – Winscombe Hall
	6.30pm	Lent Reflections 3 – Sidcot Quaker Meeting House (and on Zoom)
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing – St James’s Church
FRI 27	12.30pm	Lent Lunch – Cheddar Catholic Hall. Speaker: Guide Dogs for the Blind
SAT 28	10.30am	Community Café – All Saints Church
	11.30-2.30	Spring Fling – Church Centre
	2.30-4.00pm	Come for a Cuppa – Lynch Chapel
SUN 29	PALM SUNDAY	
	See opposite page for details of Services	
MON 30	7.00pm	Lent Reflections 4 – Ecumenical Stations of the Cross - Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Tweentown, Cheddar
TUES 31	10.00am	Midweek Communion – All Saints Church Room

Church Service Times - Opportunities to Worship in March

(only funerals are taking place at St James's Church due to issues with the heating)

Sunday 1st March	8.00 am	St John's	BCP Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Benefice Praise
Sunday 8th March	11.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
Monday 9th March	7.00 pm	All Saints	Lent Reflection
Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday	10.00 am	St John's	Morning Worship
	10.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Morning Worship
Sunday 22nd March	11.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday	10.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Holy Communion

Midweek Services

Every Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints

Special Services in March

Sunday 1st March 11.00 am Holy Communion at Sandford Station
 Thursday 5th March 10.00 am Holy Communion at Dunster Court
 Wednesday 18th March 2.45 pm Holy Communion at Sewell House
 Thursday 26th March 10.30 am Holy Communion at Winscombe Hall
 Sunday 29th March 11.00 am Palm Sunday Holy Communion at Sandford Station

We remember the families and friends of:

Joan Alen whose ashes were interred in the Churchyard of All Saints Church on Tuesday 3rd February.

Cecil Hale whose ashes were interred in the Churchyard of St James's Church on Tuesday 17th February.

Theo Kirstein whose funeral service took place at All Saints Church followed by his burial at Ilex Lane Cemetery on Tuesday 24th February.

Pamela Murphy whose ashes were interred in the Churchyard of All Saints Church on Wednesday 25th February.

BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

Sunday 1st March Genesis 12: 1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-17	Sunday 8th March Exodus 17: 1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-42	Sunday 15th March Exodus 2: 1-10 <i>or</i> Samuel 1: 20-end Psalm 34: 11-20 <i>or</i> 127:1-4 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 <i>or</i> Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 33-35 <i>or</i> John 19: 25b-27
Sunday 22nd March Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45	Palm Sunday 29th March Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21: 1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-end Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 31: 9-16 (<i>or</i> 9-18) Philippians 2: 5-11 Matthew 26: 14-end of 27 <i>or</i> Matthew 27: 11-54	



u3a **Winscombe District**

Monday 16th March 2026 starting at 2.30 pm

Main Event Hall, Winscombe Community Centre, Sandford Road, BS25 1JA

Speaker: Richard Stride

Talk entitled: 'The Hussar Miss: Memoirs of a young lady who joined the Russian Cavalry during the Napoleonic Wars

Doors open at 2 pm for refreshments

Members £2 ~ Visitors, very welcome £3.

Visitors are also welcome to join us for coffee mornings which take place at the same venue on the first Monday of the month from 10 am to 12 midday

Churchill and Langford Ladies Lunch Club

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month

at The Churchill Inn, Churchill at 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm

£17 per head for a 2-course lunch with coffee

Pre-booking is essential

Contact Margaret Avery on 07725 056051 for further details

Please note that the lunch is limited to residents of the two villages or those that have moved away but wish to stay in contact with friends

WINSCOMBE W.I.

Our next meeting is on:



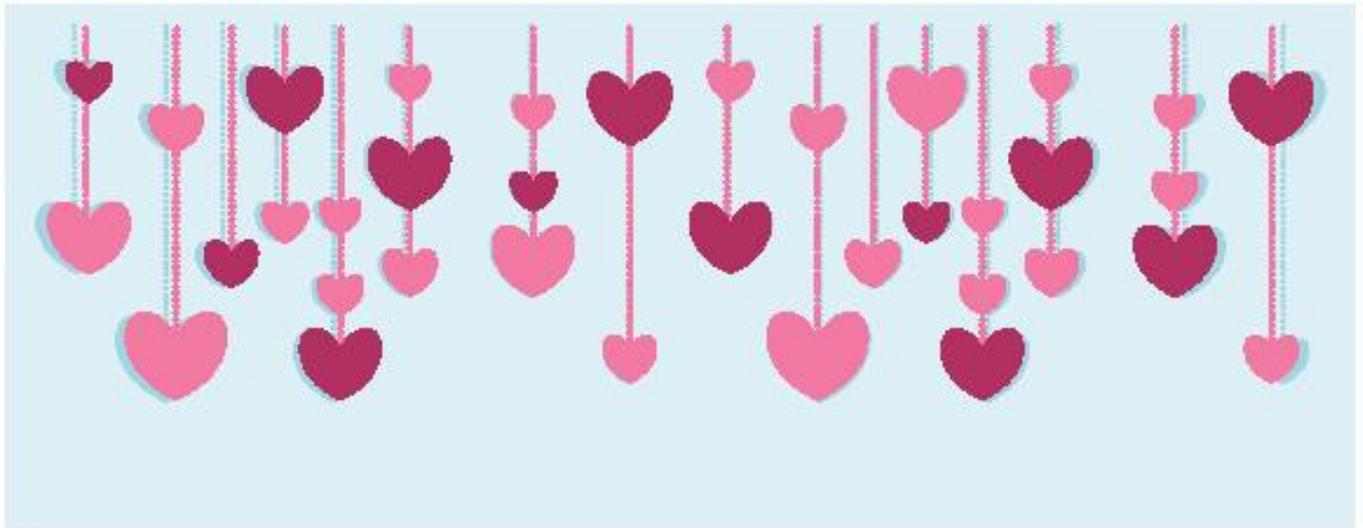
Wednesday 11th March 2026

at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start at a **NEW VENUE**

Community Centre (Meeting Room), 11 Sandford Road, BS25 1JA

Speaker: John Smith **Talk entitled:** 'The Roman Life on Mendip'

refreshments available - find us on Facebook



‘Posh & Pre-loved’ Clothes Event

‘Posh & Pre-loved Clothes for everyone – please join us from 6 p.m. in the new Community Centre. A lovely selection of ‘posh & pre-loved clothes’ for you to explore and buy. Bring your friends, enjoy a glass of wine or other refreshments. Any remaining items at the end of the evening will be moved to the foyer on the Tuesday morning so any Centre users, Mums, anyone would like to pop in, maybe have a coffee, and make a purchase.

MONDAY
16 MARCH



‘WINSFACE’
WINSCOMBE
COMMUNITY
CENTRE
SANDFORD RD.
WINSCOMBE BS26 1JA

**If anyone would like to help, become involved,
make friends, support the Community Centre in
any way we’d love to hear from you. More
information -**

**Please contact Jackie on 07811 292909
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1186290**

WELCOME

Thursday Lunches



5, 12, 19 & 26 March

12.30pm Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

Menu

*Bowl of Soup & Roll
Hot Pudding or Ice Cream
Tea or Coffee*

**Only
£5**

Bookings & Transport

churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com



churchillmethodist.org.uk
Churchill Methodist Church



Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill



It was fab to meet up with Martin and Eleanor Thatcher at the National Association of Cider Makers' event in Parliament. Martin is the NACM's Chair and he spoke passionately about the importance of cider-making and its contribution to the environment and the economy. Cider-makers need details of changes to labelling and recycling so they can prepare for the future, and I'll do what I can to press Ministers to explain what's wanted and by when.

Whilst the Government has partially reversed its disastrous Budget announcement on Business Rates rises for pubs and other hospitality venues, it's clear more support for the wider tourist industry is needed, so my colleagues and I will continue to raise this with Ministers.

Having received messages from local Childminders, I pressed the Treasury to reinstate the 10% wear and tear tax allowance for this group of workers. Their homes are put through their paces with children's potty training, learning to eat with a knife and fork, drinking from an open cup and indoor play. It's important that this allowance is reinstated, or an alternative put in place, for those who offer home-based childcare.

I'm honoured to have been elected Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on ME. Since becoming your MP, I've pressed the Government to reverse decades of neglect for sufferers. I'll work with colleagues cross Party so ME receives the long overdue investment into research it needs.

Thank you if you've written or spoken to me to share your views, concerns and to ask questions. I take the issues you raise with me to Westminster and press for changes wherever they're needed. As ever, if you have anything you'd like to raise with me, please contact me. A full list of my surgeries is available when you call or email me, but these are your most local:

Thursday 5th March from 12:30 to 13:30 at **The New Inn, Blagdon**

Friday 6th March from 10:00 to 11:00 at **The Market Kitchen Café, Churchill**

Saturday 7th March from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Lamb Inn, Axbridge**

Saturday 7th March from 14:00 to 15:00 at **The Coffee Bank, Winscombe**

Monday 16th March from 09:30 to 10:30 at **The Community Café, Congresbury**

Friday 20th March from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Langford Inn, Langford**

Friday 20th March from 18:00 to 19:00 at **The Brewer's Arms, Banwell**

Saturday 21st March from 11:00 to 12:00 at **The Frankie Howerd Café & Hub, Loxton**

No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

Thank you.

Tessa

You can contact me:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone outside office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won't need a stamp!)

To keep updated on my work as your MP, find me on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and LinkedIn.

You can also contact your North Somerset Councillor, Patrick Keating on 07584 674740 or email patrick.keating@n-somerset.gov.uk

BRANCH RESULTS FOR 2025

RNLI Mendip Branch is pleased to announce that the total profit raised in 2025 (after costs), was £16,881; the full accounts will be reported at the Annual Review Meeting on Thursday 12th March.

RNLI MENDIP BRANCH ANNUAL SUPER QUIZ

RNLI Mendip Branch Annual Super Quiz on Saturday 31st January in Shipham Village Hall, was a sell-out with 20 teams comprising of 120 enthusiastic quizzers who enjoyed 14 rounds of 6 questions plus a picture round (name the comedians), and a musical tie breaker based on music played, at the end of each round. After 7 rounds, the quiz halted so that the usual mega supper of ham, cheese, pates, continental meats, and a huge selection of salads with bread rolls and butter, could be enjoyed. The quiz resumed with 7 more rounds, prior to the final count-up, during which the 38 winning raffle tickets were drawn. Finally, the quizmasters announced the results in ascending order with each of the top 3 teams receiving a prize. The overall winners, *'We Thought This Was Speed Dating'*, received a bottle of wine each. The financial results are not yet finalised, but the profit will be around £1,800.

**RNLI MENDIP FOLK CONCERT FEATURING MARK WAISTELL**

In the Church Centre, Winscombe on Saturday 21st February, RNLI Mendip Branch presented a folk concert by the singer and musician, Mark Waistell. Mark returned to music after about 35 years away, during which he ran his own, Devon based, business. Mark started writing songs before lockdown, and in 2020 and 2022, produced his first two albums, he sold his business and took to the road performing at folk clubs and music venues, all over the UK. His music is folk acoustic based but draws on many influences including classical, traditional, ragtime and rock. Mark performed a selection of his songs (with the hall laid out in our intimate cafe style), to around 60 local folk addicts. James Barattini organised and compered the evening that was a resounding musical success. The Branch ran the usual bar selling beers, ciders, wine and soft drinks, plus a raffle in aid of the RNLI. Photos and results will be available in April's edition of Signpost.

RNLI MENDIP ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING – THURSDAY 12th MARCH

RNLI Mendip Branch will hold its Annual Review Meeting (previously called the AGM) on Thursday 12th March starting at 7:00 pm in Winscombe Community Hall; members of the public are welcome to attend. The Chairman will report on the 2025 Branch events; the Treasurer will report and present the 2025 accounts; the Chairman will then outline the programme for 2026, and there will be an opportunity for questions from the general public.

THE LAST MERSEY CLASS LIFEBOAT RETIRES

On 11th January, volunteers at the RNLI Newcastle Lifeboat Station in Northern Ireland, waved farewell to the last operational Mersey class lifeboat in the RNLI's fleet. Mersey Class Lifeboat '*Leonard Kent*' fleet number 12-20, launched at 12:20 pm precisely down the slipway, and for the last time, off to sea, escorted by the Newcastle inshore lifeboats. The Mersey was introduced into the RNLI fleet in 1988. Following a tradition of naming classes of lifeboats after rivers, this class was named after the River Mersey, which stretches for 70 miles from Stockport to Liverpool Bay. With a top speed of 17 knots, it was the last all-weather lifeboat not to have a 25-knot capability.

During their lifespan, Mersey class lifeboats have been located at 52 stations across Ireland and the UK, including Newcastle, Clogherhead, Wicklow, Kilmore Quay and Clifden in Ireland. In all, the Mersey launched over 11,800 times, with its volunteer crews went to the aid of 13,784 people, 1,254 of whom were lives saved.

JANUARY SHOUTS

In January, there were 8 'shouts' between three of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Minehead – 2, Portishead – 2, Weston-super-Mare – 4).

Portishead crew received their first call of 2026 at 6:37 am on 20th January as many were woken up, or on their way to work, when the pager sounded. A vessel was reported to be taking on water at the mouth of the River Avon. The crew made best speed as there were two people on board needing urgent help. On arrival at the scene, it was only possible to see the wheel house of the stricken vessel, as it was the only part of the boat that was above the water. The two crew members on board had made the quick decision to run the vessel up on to the bank to prevent it completely submerging, and awaited rescue. With a lot of experience on that stretch of water, the crew knew exactly what to do and were well equipped. The crew were then able to go alongside and take the casualties on to the RNLI Atlantic 85 lifeboat and drop them on to another vessel which was making way to come and help their colleagues that were in trouble. It was a great ending to a quickly moving shout. The RNLI crew believe the vessel is now being recovered as soon as it is possible.



Illustrated talk in aid of Christian Aid *'Winscombe to Delhi by Bike'*

Alysun and Tim gave us a riveting and amusing account of their adventures during an epic journey comprising several month-long stages between 2016 and 2024 across Western Europe, the Balkans, crossing the Caucasus Mountains of Georgia and Armenia, Iran and India. Tim's IT expertise was crucial in planning their cycling route and in avoiding most hazards from unpaved and dangerously congested roads. More informal modes of transport, included lifts in lorries, on taxi roof racks, and even tuk-tuks, up steep hills and mountains and across deserts. Hazards successfully overcome, or avoided, included local people whose motives seemed suspicious, although on closer acquaintance they were almost always found only to be keen to take photos, talk and often to offer food and accommodation. Packs of stray dogs and wild monkeys were more difficult to manage, but Alysun's expertise as a professional psychologist was no doubt useful. The audience was surprised to hear that security was more of an issue in the rich countries of western Europe than in the poorer countries, further south and east. Crossing Europe and the Caucasus Mountains, they camped where possible, sometimes in unusual places - once in an official site on a traffic roundabout, and another time on a site that became a local market early the next morning. All this was copiously illustrated by Tim's superb photographs.

Thank you, Alysun and Tim for a wonderful presentation and for allowing us to collect for Christian Aid.

In total we raised £471.78, which has been forwarded to Christian Aid.

Sandford Helpline

This is a car scheme offering transport to all Sandford residents who do not have family or friends to take them to health-related appointments including hospitals, dentists or opticians.



**We have a small pool of volunteer drivers
BUT URGENTLY NEED MORE!!**

Regular commitment is not necessary, and mileage allowance is paid - please contact: Chris Noble on 01934 903145 or email: mrs.noble@gmail.com

March Quiz Answers

Here are the answers to this month's quiz about mothers.

- 1 Mother Teresa
- 2 Necessity
- 3 Horse
- 4 Motherboard
- 5 Mother Goose
- 6 Route 66
- 7 Klingon (Star Trek)
- 8 Sinews O'Connor
- 9 Whistler's Mother
- 10 Lady Gaga



Come for a Cuppa!



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*LAST Saturday every month!
Toy Corner available*

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2.30pm - 4pm

NEXT: Saturday 28th March



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welcome.**

**Tea and coffee
provided.**



Knit & Natter!

**Second and fourth
Wednesday each
month**

2pm - 4pm

at LYNCH CHAPEL
(Just over the bridge on The Lynch)



**MARCH 11th & 25th
APRIL 8th & 22nd
MAY 13th & 27th**



Carer's Wellbeing Group in Winscombe

Join our FREE, welcoming group for carers. Our monthly sessions will include activities to boost wellbeing, plus info & guidance to support you in your role of being a carer.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid, regular help and support to a family member, friend, or neighbour who can't manage on their own.

Where: Old School, Winscombe Community Centre
Sandford Road, BS25 1JA

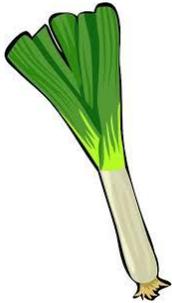
When: 2nd Monday of each month
10am to 12 noon

Contact us if you have any questions:
info@aliveactivities.org or 07861 385 543



aliveactivities.org | 07861 385 543 | Reg. Charity 1132708

March Word Search Answers



Pastoral Care Team



Do you know someone who is feeling lonely, isolated or in need, for any reason?

Or perhaps you have a prayer request?

If yes, please get in touch - our Pastoral Care Team is on hand to offer support.

If you do need support or would like further information,
please contact Reverend Pauline Nixon
07511 935860 or email revpolly@gmail.com

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- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

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21st April – 14th July 2026

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Draw Near This Lent



The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is, *'Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent'*. It's a very different way of thinking about the season. Often, we identify Lent as a time for prayer and fasting when we *'give things up'*. More recently, many have decided to adopt an opposite approach – of *'taking something up for Lent'*. *'Draw near'* has a much wider remit. Each week, it invites us to explore a different aspect of Christian discipleship – worshipping

together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

The *'Draw Near'* approach fits well with how Lent began. During the Church's earliest days, those wishing to become Christians were known as *'catechumens'*, people who were learning to live as disciples of Jesus. Preparation was intensive. It took place particularly in the 40 days before new Christians were baptised on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. Our season of Lent comes from this ancient practice.

When the Church began, it didn't have the trappings we're used to seeing around us such as buildings, hymn books, pews or paid ministers. Church wasn't an institution. It was known as, *'the Way'*. Christians met in each other's homes and sought to work out how to follow Jesus in their everyday lives. This wasn't so much about head knowledge or believing a particular set of doctrines. It was about the habits and practices that Christians constantly cultivated to help them draw nearer to God who is with us, in us, around us and beside us every moment of every day. *'Draw Near'* comes out of this heritage. It's an invitation to make Lent a journey that brings us closer to God.

I invite you to make use of *'Draw Near'* this Lent. It includes materials for adults, for families and for children, resources for schools and encouragement for churches. More information can be found at www.cofeio/DrawNear . As we approach Lent, let's draw near and join each other on the journey to God that is the Way.

Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells



Dementia Support Group in Winscombe

Join our FREE, friendly group for people living with dementia. Sessions include activities that support memory and wellbeing, plus information and guidance.

All are welcome, whether you have a dementia diagnosis, or are worried about your memory. Refreshments provided - we'd love to see you there!

Where: Old School, Winscombe Community Centre
Sandford Road, BS25 1JA

When: Mondays from 10am to 12 noon
(excluding bank holidays)

Contact us if you have any questions:
info@aliveactivities.org or 07861 385 543



aliveactivities.org | 07861 385 543 | Reg. Charity 1132708

DEFIBRILLATORS

Defibrillators can be found locally in the following locations:



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Winscombe Cricket Club
Winscombe Community Association
Woodborough Grange (Redrow Homes)

Sandford

Pullman Restaurant (Sandford Station Retirement Village)
Thatchers Cider (Main Reception and Hive Staff Office)
Railway Inn
Sandford Primary School

Churchill

Memorial Hall, Ladymead Lane
Pro-Heating, Langford Road
Touts Supermarket and Petrol, A38

Defibrillators are designed to be as easy as possible to use. The defibrillator will tell you how to use it, so even if you've never had the experience of using one before, you should try your best and give it a go - you could save someone's life.

Emergency Bleed Kit Now Available at Churchill Memorial Hall

We're pleased to share that a Bleed Control Kit is now installed at Churchill Memorial Hall, Ladymead Lane, Langford providing lifesaving equipment in case of a serious emergency.



These kits are designed to help control severe bleeding before emergency services arrive and can be the difference between life and death.

They are easy to use and accessible to the public in case of a critical situation.

Location: Churchill Memorial Hall - available 24/7



What's going on every week at St James's Church Centre?

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Thinking of setting up a class or club but not sure what you need from the Church Centre? Happy to discuss ~ give Sue a call



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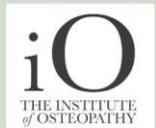


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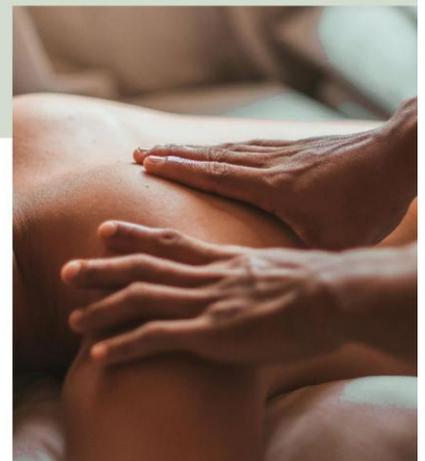


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