

*Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community*



# ***Signpost***

## ***Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Parish Magazine***



**April 2026**

**FREE**

## Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

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<b>Churchill Methodist, Minister Pastor</b>	Reverend Andrew Bell Ken Young	01934 852314 01934 852686
<b>Lynch Chapel Pastor/Minister</b>	David Jewell The Lynch, Winscombe, BS25 1AR davidjewells@aol.com	07443 907454
<b>Sidcot Quakers Meeting House</b>	Oakridge Lane, Sidcot, BS25 1LT	01934 843065
<b>Roman Catholics</b>	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](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

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

reacHing  
wElcoming  
cARing   
seRving  
Teaching

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



As we witness alarming news event after news event, it is very easy to fall into an attitude of cynicism and distrust in relation to our politicians. Many I'm sure would nod their heads in agreement at this quote; *'politicians are a lot like diapers, they should be changed frequently, and for the same reasons'*.

This quote is not from a modern comedian, it comes from American writer Mark Twain (1835-1910); it would seem cynicism and distrust in our public life was nothing new then. Yet the Bible calls us to have a different perspective, one

where we bring all the things of life, personal and public, to God in prayer. We see this reflected in a letter of St Paul who urged worshippers to pray for all people including *'kings and all those in authority'* (1 Timothy 2:2). Now if anyone had reason to distrust public leaders, it was Paul and the early Christians; they had seen Jesus die the painful death of a common criminal when he was nailed to the cross, they had seen many of their group persecuted and killed for their faith, all at the hands of the very people in authority that Paul had asked Christ's followers to pray for.

So why did Paul write those words? Well Paul says, *'it's so God's people may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness'*. Ultimately it was because of Easter, the hope of Easter, because at Easter we remember that Jesus died for our sins, yes, our own sins, not just those we think of as being in the wrong, but our own wrongdoing and failings. God calls us to pray for the world including our leaders, rather than sitting in cynical judgment. Christians are therefore called to be Easter people, having hope that things can, and will, be better, not just in heaven but here today. Whether it's our personal situation, or matters of global politics, Jesus' death and resurrection bring us hope. The hope that life is stronger than death, that the light of God can shine through any darkness or injustice. This is our great hope, it's the hope of Easter and I pray it is yours too this Easter time.

Easter Blessings to you all.

**Reverend Dr Julian Davies**

## **Signpost - The Parish Magazine**

Welcome to April'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 May's edition is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April.* Please submit items, which should be no longer than 400 words, as Word documents to [parishmag2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:parishmag2@gmail.com) .

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

**2026 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)  
of St James's Church, Winscombe and All Saints Church, Sandford**

The APCM will be held on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April** at 11.15 am in the Church Centre (immediately following the 10.00 am service); you are most welcome to attend. However, only those on either St James's or All Saints Electoral Roll are entitled to vote on any matter. If you would like to be added to the electoral roll, please complete an Application Form and pop it into the Church Office before 12<sup>th</sup> April. Forms can be found in the lobby of the Church Centre or in the churches.

**Sarah Gunn, Electoral Roll Officer**



## 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                            |



We were delighted to welcome Rev Julian Davies as our guest speaker for our mid-March breakfast meeting at the Woodborough Inn. This was an open meeting and attracted 36 for breakfast, a new record, such was the expectation of hearing what Julian had to share with us. He has come to us with a wealth of experience (before his Ordination relatively recently), both in work with Bristol City Council, as well as in studying for a BA and then a doctorate. Music had certainly been a feature of his family home, and he was not short of tracks with which to break up his talk. His leap of faith from a non-Christian background to following Christ, his passion for Plymouth Argyle Football Club and his love of walking were just some of the facets in his life story that were all new to us. We look forward to much more of his ministry in the years to come in this, the next chapter of life, for Julian and his family.

For the future, we look forward to more members of the group relating aspects of their life, their interests and their faith, in time to come. A free breakfast is on offer for any of our speakers. There will be no meeting in April, but we look forward to the next breakfast meeting on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**.

The price of a small English breakfast is £11.50. The vegetarian option is £10.50. Other breakfast options including a bacon bap, or tea and toast, are available. All these do *need to be pre-booked* so that the kitchen can order in the appropriate quantities, For further details or enquiries, please contact Tim Harland on 01934 843248.



# All Saints Church Community Café

7<sup>th</sup> March Café raised £356.35 (including Gift Aid),  
towards Church funds – thanks to everyone who came along

The next café dates are:

**SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2026**

(there is no café on Easter Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April)

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**



## **All Saints Church ~ Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Holy Communion will be taking place at All Saints Church, Sandford on Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April starting at 10 am. As in the past, there will be a display of lilies in remembrance of those who are no longer with us.



If you wish to donate a lily stem or contribute towards the display in memory of a loved one, please contact Angela Morris on 01934 852327. 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!*



**Save the  
Children**

*You can help children in distress around the  
world and enjoy a lovely lunch with friends*

## **SAVE the CHILDREN LUNCHES**



**Save the  
Children**

**GOOD FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL at midday**

*Please join us for soup, locally baked bread,  
cheddar cheese, pickle, hot cross buns, tea or coffee - £6*

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL at 12.30 pm**

*Everyone is welcome to join us for soup, locally baked bread,  
cheddar cheese, pickle, homemade biscuits, tea or coffee - £5.50*

**Children under 5 will be given a free lunch**

Lunches are held in Shipham Village Hall, BS25 1SG with all profits  
supporting the Save the Children Charity No. 213890

## April Quiz



Hopefully by the time you read this, some spring weather will be with us. This month's quiz features the word 'spring' as its theme, but not all the questions are necessarily seasonal!

- 1 Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park, is a type of what geological phenomenon; a rare type of hot spring that is under pressure and erupts, sending its water and steam into the air?
- 2 Although recipes vary, what are spring rolls traditionally filled with?
- 3 Whose solo career began in 1963 and included hits such as, 'I Only Want to Be With You'?
- 4 Which national rugby team are nicknamed the Springboks, after an animal native to the country?
- 5 The 'Rite of Spring' is a ballet and orchestral work by which Russian composer?
- 6 Which Jewish spring festival celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt?
- 7 'Springtime for Hitler' is a song from which 1967 musical?
- 8 Which spring flower has varieties that include fosteriana, fringed and parrot?
- 9 Which series of protests spread across much of North Africa in the 2010s?
- 10 After topping the charts as part of a husband and wife duo, which singer later became Mayor of Palm Springs in California in 1988?

**Answers can be found on page 32.**

### Update on recent events:

The **Quiz Night** organised by members of All Saints Church on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February in Sandford Village Hall, raised £322 towards their building fund. A very enjoyable evening was had by everyone.

St James's Events Team organised another successful event - **Bingo and Bangers** took place at the Church Centre on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March and once again it was a great family event – "*Lots of fun and a lovely social occasion*" and "*A great night*" were just two of the comments from those who came along. The evening raised £339 towards St James's Church funds.

## Supporting and Protecting Our Natural World

### **SLUGS! FRIEND OR FOE?**



Most of us grumble about them and want to ban them from our gardens forever, especially at this time of year when they devour seedlings and young foliage which may be tender and sappy. We need to reconsider!

The RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) annually sets up a list of the 10 most frustrating pests; slugs and snails invariably top the list.

Bear in mind that there are 40 species of slug in the UK but only 9 are garden pests, though that seems enough. Slugs have evolved to eat plants and have thousands of teeth that fit onto a ribbon-like tongue called a radula. With this tool they rasp away food at speed *AND* can replace their teeth continuously.

Slugs are vital to our ecosystems, so maybe we should be prepared to live with them, tolerating damage whilst finding other ways of minimising their impact. For example, using biological and physical controls rather than using devastating chemicals that have a knock-on effect on other harmless organisms.

Slugs, together with other organisms, clean up the environment. They are decomposers and can break down compost, fallen leaves, dead plants, dung and even carrion. Once broken down, minerals are recycled into the soil so improving fertility.

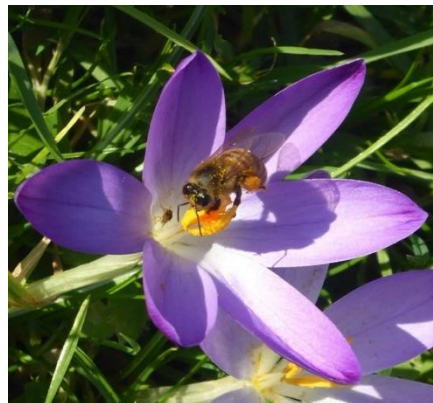
Slugs are vital food for birds especially thrushes and blackbirds, mammals such as hedgehogs, foxes, shrews and newts, amphibians and reptiles such as frogs, toads, newts and slow worms, and invertebrates such as ground beetles and centipedes. Encouraging these creatures would give gardeners help in reducing slug populations while at the same time making a more diverse, interesting and welcoming garden. Burrowing slugs benefit soils by aerating them, plus improve drainage.

There are physical controls that a gardener may use. I seldom plant seeds directly into the ground but sow them in pots and keep them in a greenhouse, cold frame or windowsill until growing strongly. Since slugs are nocturnal, it is best to water plants early in the morning rather than at night, and to avoid high nitrogen feed in spring to prevent soft sappy growth. Organic practice is to feed the soil not the plant. If inclined, go out at dusk and physically remove slugs from plants!

Various barriers are available such as copper bands around plants, sharp fine grit and sheep's wool pellets. The latter seem to work well since they get moist and sticky. They also rot back down into the soil providing nutrients.

Slug slime now has medical uses with the development of super sticky surgical adhesives that can help with closing wounds and tissue regeneration.

Finally, in my garden recently, early spring flowers for pollinators, were so welcome.



An early bee enjoying nectar and pollen that is so easily accessible in this crocus. There were hundreds out in mid-January and February too. The only deterrent for the bees was the wet weather, so every interval of sunshine was exploited. Look at the amount of pollen this bee has collected on its hind legs – the pollen basket!



**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

# COFFEE MORNING



Every Tuesday at 10.30 am  
Church Centre, Winscombe  
All Welcome

Come along, have a chat over a cuppa and meet new friends

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:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY**



**Knit, crochet, macramé,  
sew or simply natter!**  
**Any age and all abilities  
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)**



**APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**MAY 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

**JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**JULY 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

## **New Volunteers needed for Winscombe Library: Can you help?**

North Somerset Council has decided that, in order to cut costs, Winscombe Library will close at the end of March 2027. The only option to maintain this valuable amenity in the heart of our village, is if it becomes community led. Joe Tristram, our North Somerset Councillor, and the Parish Council are in negotiations with North Somerset Council about how this can work. They will only consider this if there is clearly enough community support from volunteers to help with the library during opening hours. It is expected that North Somerset Council will support the community through the County Library Service and their professional librarians. Current North Somerset Library Volunteering Guidance suggests that they **hope volunteers will offer a minimum of 2 shifts per month (mornings or afternoons)**. If you're interested, you are asked to attend a '*volunteer information hour*', held once a month, forthcoming dates as follows:

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April – 10 am to 11 am - Yatton Library
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May - 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm - Weston Library
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June – 10 am to 11 am - Yatton Library

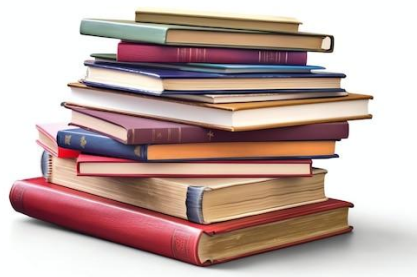
This gives people the opportunity to find out more about volunteering and ask any questions, before completing the online registration form – if you wish to proceed, you'll be given a link to the registration form. Once your registration form has been processed, and your references received, further training will be offered.

You can find details on how to book onto the process at:

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/libraries-leisure-open-spaces/libraries/library-volunteering/about-volunteering-library-service>

Or if you need assistance with the booking either email: [library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk) or call 01275 888864.

**If you do decide to proceed with the process, and attend the information hour, our Parish Clerk, Lynne Rampton would like to know so that the Parish Council can gauge the amount of interest in supporting this project. Please email her on [clerk@winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk).**



## April Word Search

'April showers bring May flowers'; all the words this month relate to rainy weather. The hidden words are listed beneath the word search. Circle the words in the word search as you find them. They can be found across, down, diagonally and backwards, and can overlap with each other. The answers are on page 36.



APRIL  
BREEZE  
CLOUDS  
DAMP  
DOWNPOUR

DRENCH  
DRIPS  
DRIZZLE  
DROPLETS  
FORECAST

PUDDLE  
RAINBOW  
RAINCOAT  
RAINDROP  
SHOWERS

SPLASH  
SPRINKLE  
STORM  
UMBRELLA  
WELLIES



### Date for your diary ...

On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**, the **Mendip Consort** will be performing a concert, solely featuring an amazing collection of recorders starting at 2.30 pm in St James's Church, Winscombe – **FREE** donations welcome ~ full details in next month's Signpost.

## Local History Corner No: 27

### The Vale of Winscombe (part 1)

At least from the end of the last Ice Age over 12,000 years ago, a land bridge was formed between inland areas and the Severn Estuary and used, not only for the herbivore spring and autumn migrations, but also for the first modern man coming into the area. The fortuitous location of lead ore and access to seaborne transport, made the area of prime importance to the much later Roman invaders who, from the first century, made use of the mining activities of earlier traders. The Romans constructed a number of roads to facilitate the transportation of lead from Charterhouse to a harbour on the River Lox Yeo\*. It is suggested that there may have been a waterway connection between this harbour and the settlement below Wint Hill. Unfortunately, the Great Flood of 1607 buried much archaeology in this area below a very considerable depth of alluvium. The administrative centre for the area may have been located in the centre of the modern village of Winscombe. The Brae Road estate was constructed over high status Roman features and also a fortlet. Historic aerial photography suggests a Roman camp in the area of Southleaze. A road once led from Yadley Way across, what is now, The Chestnuts to Southleaze, and is shown on a map of 1799 as Knollis's Way.

Defence of this area was achieved by the construction of a fortlet at each access point into the valley. A number have been possibly identified: in Sandford, east of Mead Lane, a small rectangular field known as Blacklands adjacent to the line of a major Roman road; at Laurel Farm, Churchill Rocks, where Roman earthworks have been identified and pottery found; a square feature in a field adjacent to Winterhead Farm, again near to a probable Roman road; a probable feature on Stonehips Farm at Shipham, close to the location of a hoard of Roman coins and the line of a road identified by the Rev. John Skinner in 1830. Construction of the toll road in the 18th century, and of the railway in the 19<sup>th</sup>, most likely destroyed any fort at Shute Shelf, although Roman coins have been found there and finally, a clear outline of a fortlet on Winscombe Hill where many coins have been found. Roman tiles found at Hill Farm on the line of the ancient road between Winscombe and Rackley, may possibly indicate another.



All this activity suggests that the Vale of Winscombe was, at one time, of major importance to the Roman invaders, and great pains were taken to defend it.

**John Matthews**

*(\* part 2 will discuss the Roman Harbour)*



## **BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH**

RAFA-MSB held its formal 2026 Branch AGM on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 11:00 am in Wells Golf Club. The President introduced the meeting and welcomed Members before passing the baton to the Chairman who delivered his Annual Report in the form of a powerpoint presentation. The Committee organised and ran 17 events that included:- 4 Committee Meetings, an AGM, 6 Branch Meetings, a Games Day, 2 formal lunches, a visit to the Ad Astra Cider Farm, a barbecue at the Ad Astra Cider Farm and a Battle of Britain Service. In addition, the Branch took part in a number of events in the mid-Somerset area:- 3 fundraising events for the RAFA Wings' Appeal (raising £1,269), Remembrance Day services and wreath laying at 9 locations.

The Treasurer presented the 2025 accounts that had been examined by an independent examiner, and these were approved; the funds are showing a healthy start to 2026. The Welfare Officer presented her report, after which the Chairman reviewed 2025 performance against the year's objectives, most of which were achieved. The Members elected the Committee for 2026 that included a new Branch Secretary, after which the President outlined the Committee plans for the 2026 Area and Association Conferences. The Chairman then presented the Branch objectives for 2026, followed by an overview of the finalised 2026 Branch programme that includes 18 events. Following two items of any other business, Members then enjoyed lunch and drinks from the golf club's menu and bar.

## **FUTURE PROGRAMME**

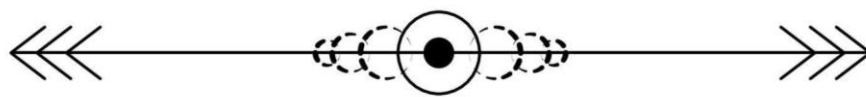
The fourth event for 2026 will be a presentation and Branch Meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April in Wells Golf Club. The presentation will be '*They Bend 'Em, We Mend 'Em - The Nimrod Years*' by Paul Ashmore outlining his time as an Engineering Officer at RAF St Mawgan and at HQ Strike Command. This will be followed by a short meeting including a review and feedback on the outcomes from the March AGM and March Committee Meeting, plus optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.



The RAFA-MSB May event will be a presentation and Branch Meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May in Wells Golf Club. The speaker and presentation has yet to be confirmed but will be followed by the usual optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

RAFA-MSB covers BS25, BS26, BS27, BS28, BS29, BS40, BA4, BA5, BA6, BA11, BA16, TA1, TA10, TA11 and TA21 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 RAFA aims and purposes living in these areas, to join us for all our 2026 events.

Please contact the Branch via email [rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com) or telephone the Secretary on 01458 224057 for further information.



**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](mailto:admin@winsandchurches.org.uk)**

# Come to Scramblers

A friendly,  
church toddler group for children  
from birth to 4 years  
and their parents/carers

Toys

Drinks &  
Snacks

Stories  
Both Bible &  
traditional

Singing

Craft Activities

Games

Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am  
(term time only)

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

*BREAK FOR EASTER - THEN*

April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

all at the Church Centre

The Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe. BS25 1BA



**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

we ♥  
**CREATE! Sunday**

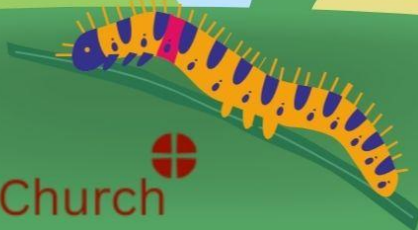
# SEEDS MINIBEASTS & MEGA FUN

**SUNDAY 19 APRIL  
4-6PM**

**FREE**

@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

- ♥ Fun for Families Tots to Teens
- ♥ Play, Crafts & Fun Activities
- ♥ Story and Picnic Tea
- ♥ All ages welcome



Churchill **Methodist** Church

[churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk)

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

## Sandford & District Gardening Club

John Dunster welcomed three new members to the Club. He then introduced the speaker for the evening, Mrs Gill Hazel who gave a wonderful talk on 'Rare and Unusual Bulbs'.

Gill told us that along with her husband they decided to set up a mail order business selling Dutch bulbs. They went to Holland to see the bulb fields and also to Horus Bulboroms, the Living and Growing Museum which grows many species of tulips from old to new. On their return to England, they bought a tractor and plough as a very kind offer from a farmer who let them have a field.

We were shown some beautiful slides of many varieties of tulips, narcissus, fritillaries, amaryllis and alliums, plus many other very unusual bulbs.

John thanked Gill for her talk and also Jean, Becky and Nita for the refreshments.

The **Spring Show** was well attended; everyone enjoyed the beautiful array of spring flowers.

The Cup winners were:

<b>Hyacinth Trophy</b>	Pat Jones and Chris Owen
<b>Willet Trophy</b>	Sarah Babajee
<b>Pitchbury Cup</b>	Gill Pitterway, Steve Thresher, Ann Ford and Gill Cleverly
<b>WI Spring Trophy</b>	Pat Wells
<b>Spring Plants Cup</b>	Gill Cleverly
<b>Pot Plant Trophy</b>	Christine Byles
<b>Floral Art Cup</b>	Sarah Babajee
<b>Keeble Trophy</b>	Sue Simmons

**Best in Show** was won by Sarah Babajee

Many thanks to everyone who donated the homemade cakes and helped in the kitchen. Also, everyone who came to the Show.

All meetings are held in Sandford Village Hall – the next meeting dates are:

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30.pm**

**Speaker:** Les Cloutman

**Talk entitled:** 'Somerset's Wonderful Wildlife'

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7. 30.pm**

**Speaker:** John Addison

**Talk entitled:** 'Pruning Shrubs and Fruit'



Don't forget our **May Plant Sale** in Sandford Village Hall on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** at 10.30 am till 11.30 am. There will be perennials, bedding plants and tomato plants at very reasonable prices - come early to avoid disappointment as we sell out quickly.



**All proceeds towards our NEW  
Winscombe Community Centre**

**Enjoy a great  
quiz night  
Bring your  
friends**

# **Quiz Night**

## **Saturday 18 April**

**Winscombe NEW Community Centre,  
Sandford Road**

**7.00 for 7.30 p.m. start**

**Tables of 6 (Max)**

**£10 per person**

**Including buffet supper**

**Bar available**

**To book a table please telephone 01934 844357**

**Registered Charity No. 1186290**

# Churchill Music



## Programme of Events 2026

Artist	Venue	Date & Time	Price: Champions	Price: Non-Champions
<b>London Mozart Players</b>	All Saints Church, Wrington, BS40 5LF	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April at 3pm	£15.50 Under 18 £1.00	£19.50 Under 18 £1.00
<b>Royal Marines Association Concert Band</b>	Churchill Recreation Field, Ladymead Lane, Churchill	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June at 3pm	<i>Free</i>	<i>Free</i>

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

**Tickets:** [ticketsource.co.uk](https://ticketsource.co.uk) OR [holly@churchillmusic.org.uk](mailto:holly@churchillmusic.org.uk)

**Call:** Holly Greenwood-Roger on 07442 672805

# u3a Winscombe District

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 starting at 2.30 pm**

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

**Speaker local astronomer:** Jo Richardson

**Talk entitled:** 'In the Night Sky'

Refreshments from 2 pm

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



## WINSCOMBE W.I.

Our next meeting is on:

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

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

**Speaker:** Ian Caskie **Talk entitled:** 'SS Great Britain'

*refreshments available - find us on Facebook*

**Thursday Lunches**

**HAPPY EASTER**

**2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 April**  
 12.30pm Churchill Methodist  
 BS25 5NG

**Menu**  
 Bowl of Soup & Roll  
 Hot pudding or Cold Dessert  
 Tea or Coffee

**Only £5**

**Bookings & Transport**  
[churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com)  
[churchillmethodist.org.uk](http://churchillmethodist.org.uk)  
 Churchill Methodist Church

**Shipham, Rowberrow & Star History Society**

*Next meeting date:*

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**Speaker:** *Gina Merrett-Smith*

**Talk entitled:** *The Intrepid Marianne North*  
 at Shipham Village Hall, BS25 1SG

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

**For further details contact:** Jan Taylor 01934 260784

## Winscombe Contact Scheme

Voluntary transport to medical appointments

**We urgently need volunteer drivers – could you help the Winscombe community?**

- ❖ Volunteer drivers are urgently needed to take Winscombe residents to medical appointments
- ❖ Drivers use their own vehicle
- ❖ Expenses are fully reimbursed
- ❖ No regular commitment necessary
- ❖ Such a rewarding and worthwhile way of spending your free time

This valued scheme has been taking Winscombe residents to medical appointments since 1974.

**Interested in finding out more?**

Email Lottie Enser: [enser@btinternet.com](mailto:enser@btinternet.com)



## 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

£18 per head for a 2-course lunch

**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*



## Wroughton Vale Rotary Club

### The Rotary Frog Race generated over £2,000 for local charities

Eighty people enjoyed a very lively evening at Shipham Village Hall, with some people getting very excited as the evening moved towards the final.

The 'frogs' (plywood cut-outs on a string), were coaxed along by a 'jockey'. The event is run in horse-racing style with a tote. There are five races and then a final of the winners; is a lot more difficult than it looks!

Proceedings were helped along by delicious pig roast baps provided by Murray Catering, and lubrication by Thatchers Cider – both provided at cost.

The auctioneer, John Thatcher, in his usual flamboyant style, persuaded the punters to bid for their favourites. John Alvis kept order as Master of Ceremonies and Tote Manager, Lynda Pearce ensured financial probity.

The Vincent family cleaned up! Roger Vincent, the winning owner and his daughter Catherine (the winning jockey), were each presented with a bottle of Aldwick Jubilate Wine, kindly donated by the Aldwick Estate.



*The winning owner, Roger Vincent and winning jockey, Catherine Hancock with President Nigel Oakley*



*Jockeys in action – such concentration!*

**Next Breakfast Meeting:** A fascinating talk entitled, '**Critical Minerals and Greenland**' will take place on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** at the Mendip Activity Centre, BS25 5BQ from 8 to 9 am - no booking required, but you are welcome to arrive a bit earlier, have a chat and a bacon bap. For further information contact Angie Biggs on 07790 400718.

## DIARY – APRIL 2026

WED 1	10.30am	Midweek Informal Service - Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
<b>THURS 2</b>		<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>
		<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>
	9.30am	Scramblers - Church Centre
	10.00am	Communion in the Community - Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
<b>FRI 3</b>		<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
		<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>
<b>SUN 5</b>		<b>EASTER DAY</b>
		<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>
TUES 7	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 8	2.00pm	Knit & Natter - Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Winscombe WI - Community Centre
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THURS 9	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
<b>SUN 12</b>		<b>EASTER 2</b>
		<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>
TUES 14	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 15	2.45pm	Communion in the Community - Sewell House
THURS 16	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
<b>SUN 19</b>		<b>EASTER 3</b>
		<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>
TUES 21	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 22	2.00pm	Knit & Natter - Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THUR 23	9.30am	Scramblers - Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
SAT 25	2.30-4.00pm	Come for a Cuppa - Lynch Chapel
<b>SUN 26</b>		<b>EASTER 4</b>
		<b>See opposite page for details of Services</b>
TUES 28	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 29	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THURS 30	11.00am	Communion in the Community - Winscombe Hall

### Church Services from April from Reverend Julian

This is to let everyone know that from April church services in the three villages of our benefice will follow this pattern for the foreseeable future.

#### **Benefice Services**

1st Sunday – 10 am - Benefice Praise, Church Centre

3rd Sunday – 10 am - Holy Communion (rotated between all three churches)

#### **Other Sundays** (2nd, 4th, 5th)

10.30 am - Holy Communion or Morning Worship in two of our churches

#### **Special Sundays** (e.g. Easter Day, Pentecost)

10 am - services in all three churches

#### **BCP Communion**

There will also continue to be a Book of Common Prayer Communion service at 8 am on the first Sunday of each month at St John's, Churchill (with the exception of Easter Sunday).

## Church Service Times - Opportunities to Worship in April

<b>Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	7.00 pm	All Saints	Holy Communion
<b>Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	10.00 am 10.00 am	St John's Church Centre	Walk of Witness with Churchill Methodists Service & Walk of Witness – Churches Together
<b>Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	St John's All Saints St James's	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30 am 10.30 am	St John's St James's	Morning Worship Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00 am	Church Centre	Benefice Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30 am 10.30 am	St John's All Saints	Holy Communion Morning Worship

### Midweek Services

Every Tuesday                      10.00 am      Holy Communion at All Saints

### Special Services in April

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April                      10.00 am      Holy Communion at Dunster Court  
 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April                          11.00 am      Holy Communion at Sandford Station  
 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April                  2.45 pm      Holy Communion at Sewell House  
 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April                      11.00 am      Holy Communion at Winscombe Hall

### ***We remember the families and friends of:***

**Ann Johnson** whose cremation took place at Weston Crematorium followed by a Thanksgiving Service in St John's Church, Churchill on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Christine Roberts** whose ashes were interred in the Garden of Remembrance in St James's Churchyard, Winscombe on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**David Lister** whose funeral service took place at St James's Church, Winscombe followed by his cremation on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Paul Wanstall** whose ashes were interred in St James's Churchyard, Winscombe on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**Betty Jones** whose funeral service and cremation took place at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

### **BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL**

<p><b>Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>                  Acts 10: 34-43 or Jeremiah 31: 1-6                  Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24                  Colossians 3: 1-4 or Acts 10: 34-43                  John 20: 1-28 or Matthew 28: 1-10</p>	<p><b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>                  Acts 2: 14a, 22-32                  Psalm 16                  1 Peter 1: 3-9                  John 20: 19-end</p>
<p><b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>                  Acts 2: 14a, 36-41                  Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-end or 116: 1-10                  1 Peter 1: 17-23                  John 10: 1-10</p>	<p><b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>                  Acts 2: 42-end                  Osakn 23                  1 Peter 2: 19-end                  John 10: 1-10</p>



HAPPY  
EASTER

# CHURCHILL

# BABY &

# TODDLER

# GROUP

Try us for FREE!

PLAY, SING, CRAFT and CHAT!

@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

**Mondays 09.00-11.30**  
**20 & 27 April**

♥ Friendly group, easy parking

♥ Bright hall, lots of toys

♥ Yummy snacks; cuppa & cake



Churchill Methodist Church 

Contact us:

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

[churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk)



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



Thank you - many of you wrote to me about banning social media for the under 16s, which is beyond party politics. Government must do far more to hold social media companies to account for protecting our children and young people, whose health and welfare should come before these giants' mega-profits.

Here in Somerset, I joined a South West Ambulance Service crew on shift. It was humbling to spend time with this dedicated team, and I learned a lot about their jobs. The Health Secretary praised our Ambulance Service in Parliament for its improved response times in December.

In Parliament, I've asked the Cancer Minister about collecting data, so we understand cancer treatment waiting times better – often radiotherapy is followed by surgery or by a course of drugs, but only the first treatment target is measured, which distorts the statistics for response times.

I voiced my dismay at yet another Government apology for WASPI women, as Ministers decided not to pay a penny in compensation for the mistreatment of this group. At £1,000 to £2,950 for each woman affected, it's hardly a high cost for justice.

I've also asked about:

- \* building on flood plains and the risk to future insurance cover for homes
- \* Parole Board hearings, an alleged leak of Court reporting data, planned reductions in jury trials
- \* freehold and leasehold changes for residents in care-led retirement living apartments
- \* MPs' votes on the Gibraltar Treaty
- \* treatment for those with severe and very severe ME
- \* releasing the records relating to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's appointment as a UK Trade Envoy
- \* ceasing Bereavement Support Payments after 18 months for widowed parents, especially those with very young children.

If you'd like to raise concerns or questions, please contact me or come to a 'surgery'. Your most local venues are below, but if you call me, you can have the full list:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** from 15:00 to 16:00 at **The Swan Inn, Rowberrow**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** from 09:30 to 10:30 at **The Market Kitchen Café, Churchill**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April** from 11:30 to 12:30 at **The Lamb Inn, Axbridge**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** from 14:30 to 15:30 at **The Coffee Bank, Winscombe**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April** from 18:00 to 19:00 at **The Bell Inn, Banwell**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April** from 09:30 to 10:30 at **The Community Café, Congresbury**

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](mailto: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:**

07584 674740 or [patrick.keating@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.keating@n-somerset.gov.uk)



## 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
10am to 12 noon

Contact us if you have any questions:  
[info@aliveactivities.org](mailto:info@aliveactivities.org) or 07861 385 543



[aliveactivities.org](http://aliveactivities.org) | 07861 385 543 | Reg. Charity 1132708

## 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](mailto:revpolly@gmail.com)

Grief is hard.  
Death can impact  
all of life.

The Bereavement  
*Journey*  
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films  
and discussion  
**for anyone bereaved anytime**

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:  
**[thebereavementjourney.org](http://thebereavementjourney.org)**

Running soon:

Alternate Tuesday Afternoons

2pm-4pm

21st April – 14th July 2026

Darlisette House, Sandford  
Station Retirement Village

To book your place, email:

[christine.ramshaw@stmonicastrust.org.uk](mailto:christine.ramshaw@stmonicastrust.org.uk)  
or leave a message on

07494 860597

Cost: £5 for participant's manual

## 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.

## April Quiz Answers

Here are the answers to this month's 'spring' quiz.

- 1 Geyser
- 2 Vegetables
- 3 Dusty Springfield
- 4 South Africa
- 5 Igor Stravinsky
- 6 Passover
- 7 The Producers
- 8 Tulip
- 9 Arab Spring
- 10 Sonny Bono (Sonny & Cher)



**Come for a Cuppa!**



**Tea and Cake  
in the afternoon**

*LAST Saturday every month!  
Toy Corner available*

**LYNCH CHAPEL**

**2.30pm - 4pm**

NEXT: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May

**Come for a Cuppa!**

## Gardening Notes for April

### Pruning

April is a good month for pruning evergreen shrubs, this will help to maintain their shape and size. Plants like photinia, grown for their coloured foliage, should be pruned during April and May to allow a whole growing season for new growth to develop. Pieris should be pruned after flowering, very often removing dead flower heads, would be adequate. Camelias, which are also grown for their flowers, should be lightly pruned after flowering, cutting back to well-placed sideshoots, this will give them time to produce new flowering shoots for next year. Mahonia can become very tall, with very little growth lower down. This shrub will tolerate hard pruning, cutting out some of the older wood low down to a young shoot.



### Hydrangea macrophylla

This shrub produces the best blooms at the top of strong stems, if left unpruned, they can take up a lot of space and produce very little in the way of flowers. This is the month when their big buds start into growth. To get the best from your plant, take out the thinnest and oldest flowered stems now. Remove the old flower heads that have protected the plant over winter, cutting back to a second pair of buds below the flower.

### The Lawn

Carrying out a little lawn care now can make a difference to the season ahead. Make sure your mower blades are sharp and mow on a high setting, lowering it gradually over the next few cuts. Remove dead grass and moss using a wire toothed rake or powered scarifier. Where lawns have become compacted and waterlogged, aerate with a fork or hollow tined aerator. Tidy up the edges using a half-moon edging tool, (a spade will always have a curve which makes it tricky). To aid recovery, apply a dressing of blood, fish and bone, or general fertiliser.



### Vegetables

Plant early potatoes at the beginning of the month and main crop a little later. Continue sowing carrots, parsnips and summer cauliflower. Sow seeds of cucumbers, marrows and squashes in pots in the greenhouse, they will be ready for planting out in the garden during May but will need protection from frost. Pot on tomato plants, regularly encouraging new roots by burying the stem up to the pair of seedling leaves.

### Sawfly

Keep an eye open for the larva of sawfly on currants and gooseberries. You can either remove them by hand, or cut off the leaves affected by colonies, and destroy them.

**BRANCH RESULTS THIS YEAR SO FAR**

At the Committee Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February, the Treasurer reported that he has banked £2,472 that included £1,893 from the RNLI Super Quiz in January, cash from bulb sales, the Thursday Market stall, collection boxes and 'Betty's Pots'. However, this figure did not include the results from the Folk Night reported below.

**RNLI MENDIP FOLK CONCERT FEATURING MARK WAISTELL - SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY**

Last month we reported on a folk concert in St James's Church Centre by the singer and musician, Mark Waistell.

The concert was well attended by over 70 '*folkies*' and with the hall laid out in '*cafe style*', Mark's performance was a resounding success.

The combination of profit from ticket sales, bar takings and the raffle, produced the grand sum of £826.

**RNLI MENDIP ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING – THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

This meeting was postponed and will form part of a future Committee meeting.

**COLLECTION AT WELLS TESCO – SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

RNLI Mendip Branch is pleased to announce that TESCO, Wells is supporting the RNLI by authorising a bucket collection in their Wells store on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Look out for our team in yellow tabards with '*rescue buckets*' deployed and card reader engaged at '*full throttle*' between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm - '*Stormy Stan*' and '*Stormy Sonny*' will be in attendance. The team will be smiling sweetly, and happy to talk about the RNLI in general, and our Branch role in supporting '*Saving Lives at Sea*'.

**BETTY'S POTS UPDATE**

Betty's Pots are small individual jars used for jams and marmalades at cafes and hotels etc., that are cleaned and given to people, including children, to enable them to collect their 5p or 20p coins for the RNLI. Betty's Pots may be found in shops and retail outlets across our area; Tina Joyce is our Branch Coordinator for the Winscombe area and John Calder is the Coordinator for the Wrington, Congresbury and Churchill areas. So far this year, Tina has recovered £94 and John has banked £110; John's total (since starting in 2025), now stands at £330. If you can help, then please contact Tina by email [meejlfh@gmail.com](mailto:meejlfh@gmail.com) or telephone 01934 842304, or John by email [john@cummingcalder.co.uk](mailto:john@cummingcalder.co.uk) or telephone 01934 910001.

## **MAYDAY! MAYDAY! MAYDAY! RNLI MENDIP BRANCH PLANT AND GARDEN SALE - SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY**

The first of the RNLI's nationwide 'big four' events is the 'Mayday Appeal' throughout the month of May. Once again, RNLI Mendip Branch will hold a 'Mayday!' Plant and Garden Sale on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May starting at 10:00 am at Winscombe Community Centre, Sandford Road, Winscombe, BS25 1HP. Stalls will include greenhouse plants, French and runner beans, courgettes, bedding plants, garden fillers, shrubs, garden items, garden and domestic tools, plus guest stalls, all at 'give-away' prices. Our chief grower, Christa Loughrey has already filled her greenhouses with seedlings and items will appear soon on 'Mike's Table' outside April Cottage in Jubilee Road, Axbridge, for early buyers. For more information or offers of items, please contact Tina Joyce by email [meejlfh@gmail.com](mailto:meejlfh@gmail.com).

## **25 YEARS OF RNLI LIFEGUARDS ON BEACHES**



RNLI Lifeguards were introduced on UK and Irish beaches in 2001, so this year is the RNLI Lifeguards Silver Anniversary. The special anniversary campaign will be launched on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April ahead of the lifeguard summer season and will encompass, 'World Drowning Prevention Day' on 25<sup>th</sup> July, culminating in, 'Lifeguard Appreciation Day' on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

The Lifeguard statistics over those 25 years tell an important story:

- over 48 million preventative actions carried out
- over 440,000 people aided
- over 330,000 incidents attended
- over 2,000 lives saved!

RNLI Mendip Branch will be supporting this initiative throughout the year. Lifeguards will return to Brean and Burnham beaches from 4<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> September.

## **TRAFALGAR NIGHT DINNER 2026**

RNLI Mendip Branch has begun preparations for its second Trafalgar Night celebration that will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Batch Country House; further details will be issued shortly.

## FEBRUARY SHOUTS

In February, there were 7 ‘shouts’ between two of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Portishead – 3, Weston-super-Mare – 4).

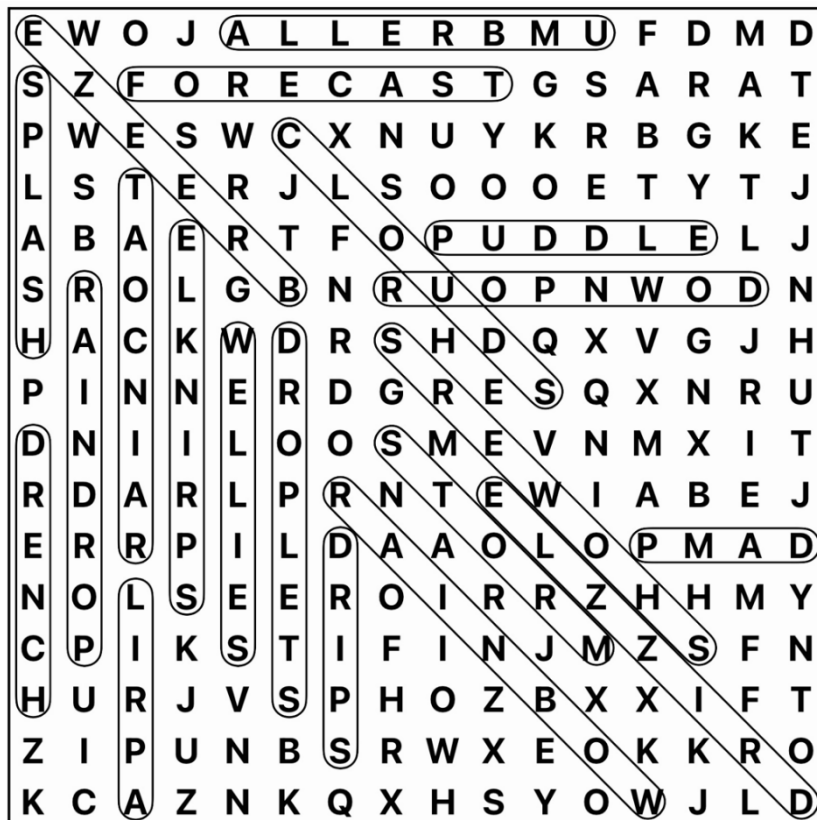
On 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 11:54 am, just as the Portishead crew were finishing their morning training session, the pager sounded. The crew were tasked by HM Coastguard to investigate an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon), activation reported between Middle Grounds and Chepstow in the Bristol Channel. While SAR (Search and Rescue) assets were actively searching, RNLI Portishead crew were re-tasked following reports from walkers of a person seen in the water near Walton Bay. As other emergency vessels continued the EPIRB search, the lifeboat crew immediately diverted and made best speed to the new location back towards Portishead.

On arrival at Walton Bay, the casualty was located by the crew on rocks close to the shoreline. One of the crew swam ashore to help and was soon joined by the Police, Portishead Coastguard Rescue Team and Coastguard Rescue Helicopter 387 from St Athan. The person (sadly, deceased) was recovered from the rocks by land.



### April Word Search Answers

Hope you found all the words and didn't get caught in too many showers!





# 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



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## 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](mailto:mrs.noble@gmail.com)

## Grace, Truth, Love and Courage



Guilt, shame, mercy, and forgiveness. Four words all linked with Easter, which we shall celebrate this month.

The last two of those seem to be in short supply at the moment. The ‘gods’ of social media are ready instantly to punish all offenders, now and in the future.

People often offer George Orwell’s nightmare vision of Big Brother, as a way to understand our times. I’m more drawn to the image of Jeremy Bentham’s Panopticon – a building where a watchman could observe all the inhabitants at all times but without the inhabitants knowing whether or not they’re being watched, which ensured compliance. When we hear about online data harvesting, it can feel as if everything you say, or do, can be recorded and held against you, ready to be brought out and used if needed.

Where’s the mercy or the forgiveness in that? Where’s the grace that understands we all make mistakes and need second chances? There’s no possibility of wiping the slate clean and beginning again.

Which is where the astounding grace and mercy we celebrate on Good Friday and Easter Day comes in.

Mark Greene of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity highlights how the wonder of Easter speaks words of grace and hope to our unmerciful world: All this judgement serves to highlight the majestic, counter-cultural grace of the Christian gospel. Yes, God is a God of justice, opposed to the degrading of any human on any grounds. Yes, he has seen our every furtive action, picked up every sly whisper, logged every darkling thought ... yet his mercy flows from the cross like an ocean, drenching the universe. As today’s media Pharisees rage, God’s offer is ‘mercy, mercy, mercy’ to all who would repent and receive him. And our watchwords: grace, truth, love, and courage.

May this encourage us all as we continue through Lent, experience Holy Week, and finally reach the joy of Easter.

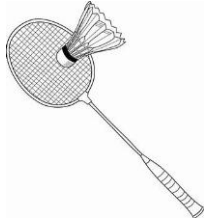
**Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton**



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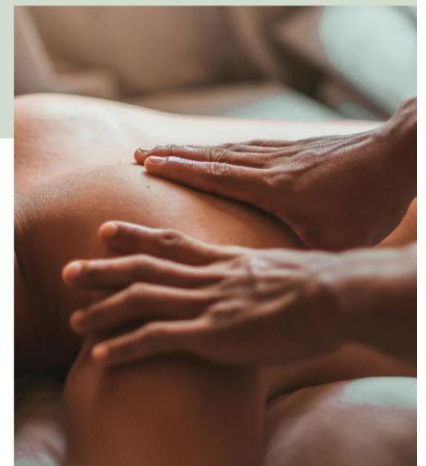
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## ***Reminder notes***

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## Useful Telephone Numbers

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<b>Fire</b>	non-emergency	01179 262061
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