

Putting the Love of Christ in the Heart of our Community



Signpost

Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Parish Magazine



May 2026

FREE

Who's Who in Winscombe, Sandford and Churchill Churches

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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.



'In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you' (Matthew 7:12)

This teaching of Jesus is one of the Lord's teachings which at first appears quite straightforward, simply treat people how you would like to be treated, but is it really that easy I wonder?

We could interpret this as being courteous to others, but what if others do not repay that courtesy? If I was to ask you, do you think we live in a more or less courteous society than say 20, 40, 60 years ago, I wonder how you would answer? I think I can guess. It's easier to be courteous when we have received the courtesy of others, yet Jesus is telling us to think of others, regardless of whether we receive anything back or not.

As we move through spring, with summer ahead and hopefully more sunny days for day trips and holidays, our local, already busy road networks, will become even busier. Roads and how people behave on them, are for me a fascinating insight into the measure of courtesy these days. I only started driving myself in my mid-30s, yet in those 20 years I have noted, even in that time, quite a change in behaviour on our roads. We all no doubt have our own bugbear with regards to driving; mine are people tailgating me, pulling out suddenly from a side road even in quiet traffic, and drivers not pulling over to allow emergency vehicles to pass. I am sure you have your own too!

I often ponder why this is. More busy and stressful lives perhaps? The sheer busyness of traffic these days maybe? Of course, ensconced in the private space of our cars, it can be far more convenient to overlook others trying to join a busy road, far easier to follow that stream of cars already passing through Banwell High Street, than giving way to others. Conversely though in very slow moving congested traffic, when we can see each other's faces, I find we are actually more courteous, people do give way to their fellow motorist.

So, what is to be done? Well, when we are courteous to others, on the roads or anywhere else for that matter, I believe we feel better about ourselves. Perhaps if we all practice more courtesy it will beget more courtesy. Perhaps that driver you let out from a side road, who has been waiting for a non-existent gap in the traffic, will also, somewhere down the way, let someone else out. But in showing courtesy, we show others a glimpse of Jesus that there is a better way of getting from A to B, a way of consideration that, if we all adopted, what nicer and less stressful journeys we would all have. *Amen.*

Reverend Dr Julian Davies

Signpost - The Parish Magazine

Welcome to May'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 June's edition is Sunday 17th May. 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 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.

2026 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of St John the Baptist Church, Churchill

The APCM will be held on **Sunday 24th May** at 11.15 am in the church (immediately following the 10.00 am service); you are most welcome to attend. However, only those on St John's 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 hand it to either Emma Stocks or Tricia Avery before 1st May. Forms can be found in the church.

Emma Stocks, 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 |



A free breakfast is on offer to any gentlemen joining us for the first time and who are happy to be included on the mailing list for the monthly reminder of breakfast meetings. So, if you had thought of coming along, now is a good opportunity to join us for breakfast for the first time. For the rest of us, do let your friends know of the offer and bring them along. The offer is for a limited season and only while our funds can sustain the cost. There would be no commitment to coming again, but we are always pleased to welcome newcomers. There is a great sense of loyalty within the group such that you would probably want to come again. There are around 30 members on our mailing list of which around 20 may be likely to come at any one time. Our next meeting, for men only this time, will take place on **Saturday 9th May** at 9 am in the Woodborough Inn.

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

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

All Saints Church Community Café

28th March café raised £455.00 (including Gift Aid),
towards Church funds – thanks to everyone who came along

The next café date is:

SATURDAY 2nd MAY 2026

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!



The Mendip Consort of Recorders

directed by Joyce Rudall

Ave Maria

a mixed selection



**FREE
ENTRY**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

Sunday June 7th @ 2.30pm

St James the Great Church,

Winscombe, BS25 1BX

Free entry and light refreshments;

a donation to the church would be appreciated.

For further concert information call 01934 352696 or

email admin@winsandchurches.org.uk

Final concert of this season:

June 28th Church of St Peter Draycott BS27 3SF @ 12midday

May Quiz

May is the month in which two Bank Holidays fall in the UK; May Day on the first Monday of the month and the May Bank Holiday on the last Monday. This month's quiz is all about public holidays.

- 1 Saint Stephen's Day, falls on the same day as which UK public holiday?
- 2 The last one-off public holiday in the UK was on Monday 8th May 2023. What was the reason for the holiday?
- 3 Due to its supposedly revelrous nature, festivities for which springtime holiday all but vanished following the English Civil War?
- 4 Celebrated on the first Monday of September, which American public holiday is often referred to as 'the unofficial end of summer'?
- 5 Which day became a public holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for the first time in 1974?
- 6 Which European country celebrates the 'First Day of Summer' as a public holiday on the first Thursday after 18th April each year, after which six months of largely night less days will follow?
- 7 'Twelfth' or 'Orangemen's Day' held in Northern Ireland on 12th July, celebrates which Protestant King's victory over Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne?
- 8 Celebrated on 3rd October, Unity Day has been a public holiday in which European country since 1990?
- 9 Which country has the most public holidays in the world?
- 10 In 1640 the Scottish parliament made celebrating which day illegal, a date which did not become a public holiday again until 1958?



Answers can be found on page 29

Sandford & District Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday May 6th in Sandford Village Hall at 7.30 pm. There will be a talk by John Addison entitled 'Pruning Shrubs and Fruit'.

Dates for your Diary:

Our **May Plant Sale** will be held on **Saturday 9th May** in Sandford Village Hall. The doors open at 10.30 am to 11.30 am. We have bedding plants, beautiful perennials, tomato plants and sweet peas. Anyone that has been before will know that they are very reasonably priced, so come early to avoid disappointment!

On **Wednesday 3rd June** there will be a '**Floristry Demonstration**' by Angie Blackwell who is a brilliant flower arranger! Don't forget our competition, so bring your Best Single Flower in a Vase! You may just win!

All our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in Sandford Village Hall – there are refreshments and a raffle. New members are always most welcome or



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



Save the Children

**SAVE the CHILDREN
LUNCHES**



Save the Children

Dates of future lunches:

1st, 15th & 29th May and 12th June at 12.30 pm

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

[After the June lunch there will be a summer break - returning on Friday 18th September - same place, same time, same cost!]

Come to Scramblers

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



Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am
(term time only)

May 7th, 14th & 21st
June 4th: Scramblers at Lynch Chapel
June 11th, 18th & 25th

All, apart from June 4th, at the Church Centre
The Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe. BS25 1BA



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

Supporting and Protecting Our Natural World

Grow and Share

This month, it seems appropriate to look at growing and/ or propagating many of our own flowers, fruit and vegetables, with enough to share.

Why? This is one way to live sustainably, so contributing to lessening the effects of global warming and the depletion of our environment. This way, we can help save the cost of very expensive heating and lighting since many plants are grown in huge nurseries, under cover and then carried long distances by lorries from other parts of the country and abroad, to individual garden centres, thus piling on the food miles and the emission of greenhouse gases.

Most of these plants were previously grown in peat, thus destroying vital peat bogs that store huge amounts of carbon. Garden centres in England are facing a phased ban on peat, with a total ban on all peat-based gardening products now scheduled for **2030**.

It is possible to reduce waste at home by growing plants when needed. Plastic pots can be recycled many times, or other containers can be used such as yogurt pots (with drainage holes), or homemade pots from newspaper that can be planted directly into the soil.

Somerset has a thriving network of voluntarily run Repair Cafés where experts have the skills to repair items that might otherwise be discarded, even electrical goods such as drills and propagators. Our local Repair Café is in Cheddar at the Methodist Church Hall on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am to 12 noon.

By propagating our own plants, several new ones can be produced not only to add to our own borders and pots but also to share with others. All are cost free and it is very enjoyable waiting to see how the new plants thrive by our own efforts.

At this time of year, almost any herbaceous perennials and grasses can be lifted, divided and replanted as young, vigorous plants.



First, lift the plant including as much of the root system as possible. Some can then be pulled apart by hand into small plants while others are tougher and need to be prized apart with a sharp spade or pulled apart with 2 forks in the middle, back to back. The centre part of the old plant is probably ‘tired’ and can be discarded. The outer edges will be more vigorous and faster growing and are suitable for replanting, swapping with a neighbour, or even selling for yourself or a charity.

Softwood cuttings are a highly effective, low-cost method for propagating including herbs, shrubs, and climbers using soft, flexible young shoot tips taken in the morning in spring to early summer.



First cut a 5 to 10 centimetre cutting from a non-flowering side shoot. Make a horizontal cut below a node at the foot of the cutting and a sloping one at the top. Remove most of the leaves. Push the cutting about two-thirds of its length into moist, gritty compost. Add a label! Perhaps cover with polythene to prevent too much moisture loss.

Some growers may be interested in the Heritage Seed Library run by Garden Organic at their centre in Ryton near Coventry. The HSL has the national collection of heritage vegetable seeds that are not widely available. There is a list of 800 varieties of such seeds that members can swap and share. Seeds are donated by other HSL members, the public, and seed companies that no longer grow them as these companies have much tighter regulations to follow, e.g. they need a passport, so they stick to the tried and tested plants to save costs.

Growing your own plants is not only satisfying, but you have the choice of varieties, and therefore taste, and also whether to be an organic grower and avoid using toxic chemicals, particularly on edible fruit and vegetables.



Growing in the ways I have described benefits nature overall, such as this little friend that comes to the feeder on my kitchen window.

* * * * *

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

CREATE! *we ♥* **Sunday**
Tractor, Animals & Craft

Free


fun for families!
Sun 17 May 4-6pm

@Fenswood Farm
BS40 5DZ

If wet, @Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG

fun & play
craft & activities
buffet tea, story
all ages welcome



Churchill Methodist Church 
Contact us:
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

May Word Search

World Bee Day 2026 will be celebrated on **Wednesday 20th May** to raise global awareness of the crucial role bees and other pollinators play in ecosystems and food security. Established by the United Nations on the birthday of pioneer beekeeper Anton Janša, the day highlights the need to protect pollinators from threats. So, all the words this month are associated with the world of bees.

The hidden words are listed beneath the word search. Circle the words in the word search as you find them across, down, diagonally and backwards, and they can overlap with each other. Answers can be found on page 35.

World Bee Day



APIARY	DRONE	MASON	ROYAL JELLY
BEEKEEPER	HIVE	NECTAR	SWARM
BUMBLEBEE	HONEY	POLLEN	WAGGLE DANCE
CELL	HONEYCOMB	POLLINATOR	WAX
COLONY	LEAFCUTTER	QUEEN	WORKER

RNLI MENDIP COLLECTION COORDINATOR

For the last three years (2023 – 2025), our Branch Secretary, Mary Wallace has also acted as the Coordinator and Manager of all our large bucket collections in supermarkets and garden centres. Over that period, Mary has organised collections at 17 venues (mostly branches of Tesco), that have raised £14,431; a brilliant effort and result. Mary is continuing as Branch Secretary, but the Committee thanks her for her fundraising success over those three years.

COLLECTION AT WELLS TESCO – SATURDAY 25th APRIL

Caroline Bullen and Julie Barber have now taken over as the Branch's Collection Coordinators and made a successful start with a RNLI bucket collection at Tesco in Wells from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday 25th April. The team, wearing yellow tabards, made *'best speed'* to Wells and *'anchored'* at the store entrance, deploying their *'rescue buckets'* and *'card reader'* among the Saturday shoppers. The team smiled sweetly and engaged with anybody and everybody, talking about the RNLI in general, local lifeboat stations, and our Branch role in supporting *'Saving Lives at Sea'*. Results and photographs will appear in June's Signpost magazine.

EARLY BIRD GARDEN SALES AT MIKE'S TABLE IN AXBRIDGE

Our chief grower, Christa Loughrey has already supplied early plants and seedlings on *'Mike's Table'* outside April Cottage in Jubilee Road, Axbridge where business is great. Stock is selling at a rapid rate, and she has already raised several hundred pounds. If you want to be ahead of the *'Mayday! RNLI Plant & Garden Sale'* on the 9th May, why not pop down to Axbridge and take a look!



MAYDAY! MAYDAY! MAYDAY! – FINAL CALL FOR RNLI MENDIP BRANCH PLANT & GARDEN SALE - SATURDAY 9th MAY

RNLI Mendip Branch will hold the annual ‘*Mayday! Plant & Garden Sale*’ starting at 10.00 am on Saturday 9th May at Winscombe Community Centre, Sandford Road, Winscombe, BS25 1HP. Stalls will include greenhouse plants, runner and French beans, courgettes, bedding plants, garden fillers, shrubs, garden items, garden and domestic tools, and guest stalls all at ‘*give-away*’ prices. There will be refreshments and drinks available. Come and join us for some great value garden and greenhouse items. Contact either Tina or Mary for more details:

Tina Joyce via email meejlfh@gmail.com or telephone 01934 842304

Mary Wallace via email mary.wallace@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01934 842075

RNLI LIFEGUARDS ON BEACHES – SILVER ANNIVERSARY

RNLI Lifeguards were introduced on UK and Irish beaches in 2001, so this year is the RNLI Lifeguards’ Silver Anniversary. The special anniversary campaign, launched on Saturday 4th April, ahead of the lifeguard summer season and will encompass ‘*World Drowning Prevention Day*’ on 25th July and culminate in ‘*Lifeguard Appreciation Day*’ on the 31st July. In 2024, they carried out over 2 million (2,349,150) preventative actions. In addition, they attended 13,135 incidents, helped 17,068 people, and saved 85 lives. More information about special events will be provided in future magazines. Lifeguards will be on duty at Brean and Burnham beaches from 4th July to 7th September.

TRAFALGAR NIGHT DINNER 2026

Preparations are well under way for the second RNLI Mendip Branch Trafalgar Night Celebration that will be on Saturday 24th October at the Batch Country House, Lympsham, BS24 0EX. The evening will begin at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:15 pm followed by dancing and end with carriages at midnight. There will be a guest speaker and the customary Trafalgar Toasts plus some extra highlights. Further details will be available in the June magazine.

RNLI LIFEBOAT DAY – SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER

This year, the RNLI is planning to hold a nationwide ‘*Lifeboat Day*’ on Saturday 10th October and Mendip Branch will be organising a collection at one of our usual collection venues.

MARCH SHOUTS

In March, there were 8 ‘*shouts*’ between our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham – 3, Minehead – 1, Portishead – 2, Weston-super-Mare – 2).

Weston Lifeboat crew were paged at 4 pm on Mother’s Day (15th March) by the HM Coastguard to assist with an incident at Sand Bay. Despite it being Mother’s Day, when the page came in, mum and boat crew member Laura, dropped everything and headed straight to the station. Consequently, Laura went out as support crew on the D Class Lifeboat. Both lifeboats sat back, off the beach on standby, whilst emergency services supported the casualty on the beach.

CREATIVE POTTERY

GOOD
VIBES

EVENING

time

THURSDAY 21 MAY

7-9pm @Churchill Methodist Hall, BS25 5NG

Paint-own-Pottery

with friendly tutor Elaine

WELCOME



- Great quality glazed pots for personal gifts and keepsakes. Ready 1 June
- Chat & try new skills: beginners & all levels welcome!
- Wide choice blank pots. Pay cash, card, mob
- Tix £6. inc cuppa, soft drink & nibbles
- Reserve your place by email please.
Pay cash for tix on evening.

relax



Churchill Methodist Church

Contact us:

churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



u3a Winscombe District

Monday 18th May starting at 2.30 pm

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

Speaker: Paul Ralph of Ad Astra Cider Limited

Talk entitled: 'The Air Force to Apples'

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

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

Shipham, Rowberrow & Star History Society

Next meeting date:

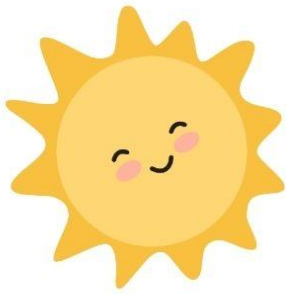
Tuesday 12th May

Show and Tell: *A chance for members and guests to bring along a bit of their own history!*

at Shipham Village Hall, BS25 1SG

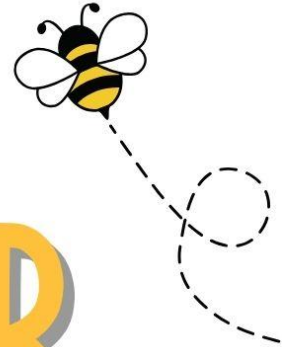
Refreshments: 7.15 pm **Members:** £2, guests £4

For further details contact: Jan Taylor 01934 260784



CHURCHILL

BABY &



TODDLER

GROUP



Try us for FREE!

PLAY, SING, CRAFT and CHAT!

@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

Mondays 09.00-11.30

11 & 18 May

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



Churchill **Methodist** Church 

Contact us:

churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk



Gardening Notes for May

The Chelsea Chop

This technique is so-called because it is done around the time of The Chelsea Flower Show. It is the process of cutting back herbaceous perennials once the growing season is in full swing. Doing it now will help to delay and extend the flowering season and also encourage more compact growth, thus reducing the need for staking. The Chelsea Chop involves cutting back the stems by a third and works best with herbaceous perennials that are naturally branching, such as phlox, penstemons, salvias, sedum, gaura, echinaceas and heleniums. This technique isn't suitable for non-branching plants like irises, lupins, peonies and delphiniums. With large clumps of perennials, you can create a more naturalistic effect by cutting back only some stems and leaving others untouched.

Staking Perennials

Push plant supports into the soil around the edge of clumps of perennials to keep them standing upright. The best time to stake or support is before the plant shows any signs of needing it as it becomes difficult to support them once they start to flop. Various metal supports are available, as well as canes (although these may become unsightly), or hazel twigs.



Pruning

To maintain the shape and promote new growth lower down, now is the time to prune spring flowering shrubs (after they have finished flowering), as next year's flowers will be produced on this year's growth. Once spirea has finished flowering, cut out the tallest, oldest shoots to the base. Forsythia is a vigorous shrub and can soon become unmanageable, simply prune after the last flowers have faded, cutting out the oldest flowered stems each year to encourage strong new shoots from the base. Other spring flowering shrubs that can be treated this way are deutzia, flowering currant, philadelphus and weigela.

Agapanthus

May is a good time to repot and divide very root-bound agapanthus. Although they must have constricted and restricted roots when you repot, allow some room for the roots to grow. The solution is to plant three smaller plants in one pot so they are crowded but still have a little room to grow, then in three years' time they will need repotting again.

Vegetable Garden

Make outdoor sowings of runner and French beans, continue to sow carrots, parsnips, beetroot and salad crops. Control blackfly on broad beans by pinching out the tips of every plant. Earth up potatoes by drawing soil around developing plants using a draw hoe. Inspect gooseberries regularly for sawfly larvae, pick off by hand. Apply a mulch of straw to strawberries to protect the fruit from being splashed with soil.

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



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

Lazing on a

Sunday afternoon

An afternoon of madrigals, motets and more.

Including works by Tallis, Morley, Rutter and Duruflé

Guest conductor Alison Blundell

Accompanist Anne Kershaw

Sunday 7th June

3.30pm

St Mary's Church,

Church Road,

Yatton BS49 4HH



Tickets £8

Accompanied under 18 free

Tea and cakes afterwards



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



WINSCOMBE W.I.

Our next meeting is on:

WEDNESDAY 13th MAY

at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start

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

Cheese & Wine Evening / W.I. Resolution / General Knowledge Quiz

refreshments available - find us on Facebook

Come for a Cuppa!



**Tea and Cake
in the afternoon**

LAST Saturday every month!

Toy Corner available

LYNCH CHAPEL

2.30pm - 4pm

NEXT: Saturday 30th May
Saturday 27th June



Come for a Cuppa!

*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:

6TH MAY, 3RD JUNE, 1ST 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)



MAY 13th & 27th

JUNE 10th & 24

JULY 8th & 22nd

DIARY – MAY 2026

SAT 2	10.30am	Community Café - All Saints Church
SUN 3	EASTER 5	
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 5	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 6	10.30am	Mid-week Service - Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Winscombe WI - Community Centre
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
	7.30pm	Sandford & District Gardening Club - Sandford Village Hall
THURS 7	9.30am	Scramblers - Church Centre
	10.00am	Communion in the Community - Dunster Court
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
SAT 9	9.00am	Refresh-men+ Men's Breakfast - Woodborough Inn
	10.00am	RNLI Plant & Garden Sale - Winscombe Community Centre
	10.30am	Sandford & District Gardening Club - Spring Sale - Sandford Village Hall
SUN 10	EASTER 6	
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 12	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 13	2.00pm	Knit & Natter - Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THURS 14	ASCENSION DAY	
		See opposite page for details of Services
	9.30am	Scramblers - Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
SUN 17	EASTER 7	
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 19	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 20	2.45pm	Communion in the Community - Sewell House
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THUR 21	9.30am	Scramblers - Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
SUN 24	PENTECOST	
		See opposite page for details of Services
TUES 26	10.00am	Midweek Communion - All Saints Church Room
	10.30am	Coffee Morning - Church Centre
WED 27	2.00pm	Knit & Natter - Lynch Chapel
	7.15pm	Choir Practice - St James's
THURS 28	11.00am	Communion in the Community - Winscombe Hall
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing - St James's
SAT 30	2.30-4.00pm	Come for a Cuppa - Lynch Chapel
SUN 31	TRINITY SUNDAY	
		See opposite page for details of Services

Church Service Times - Opportunities to Worship in May

Sunday 3rd May	8.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Church Centre	Benefice Praise
Sunday 10th May	10.30 am	St John's	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	St James's	Holy Communion
Thursday 14th May	7.00 pm	St James's	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th May	10.00 am	All Saints	Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 24th May	10.00 am	St John's	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	All Saints	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	St James's	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st May	10.30 am	St John's	Morning Worship
	10.30 am	All Saints	Holy Communion

Midweek Services

Every Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints


Special Services in May

Sunday 3rd May 11.00 am Holy Communion at Sandford Station
 Thursday 7th May 10.00 am Holy Communion at Dunster Court
 Wednesday 20th May 2.45 pm Holy Communion at Sewell House
 Thursday 28th May 11.00 am Holy Communion at Winscombe Hall

We remember the family and friends of:

Reverend Robin Mann whose funeral service took place at St James's Church, Winscombe on Friday 24th April followed by his burial in Ilex Lane Cemetery.

BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

Sunday 3rd May Acts 7: 55-end Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 or 31: 1-5 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14	Sunday 10th May Acts 17: 22-31 Psalm 66: 7-end 1 Peter 3: 13-end John 14: 15-21	Sunday 17th May Acts 1: 6-14 Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-end or 68: 1-10 1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11 John 17: 1-11
Sunday 24th May Acts 2: 1-21 or Numbers 11: 24-30 Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b or 104: 26-end 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21 John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39	Sunday 31st May Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-end Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end Matthew 28: 16-end	

We would like to say thank you for the wonderful support we have had: prayers, cards, letters, 'phone calls and gifts of flowers, plants and food. Knowing we had your support has made a very real difference and we are truly grateful.

Thank you, Margaret, Richard and Helen (family of David Lister)

Not sure what Pickleball is?

Why not come along to the Church Centre, Winscombe on Saturday 2nd May from 1.30 - 3 pm to find out more?

The Over 65 Pickleball Canadian National Champion will be there so if you fancy meeting him and maybe play some pickleball, that would be great!! We hope to see you there.

A promotional graphic for pickleball. It features a blue background with a white diagonal stripe. In the top left, the words "PICKLE BALL" are written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. To the right of this text is a yellow pickleball with brown spots. Below the main text, the question "Do you play?" is written in a white, cursive font, slanted upwards. Underneath that, "Would you like to play in Winscombe?" is written in yellow. In the bottom left, there is a dark blue paddle with a yellow and black striped handle, and a yellow pickleball is shown in the center of the paddle's face. To the right of the paddle, the text "Badminton Court available for hire at the Church Centre" is written in black. Below this, the word "Contact" is written in black, followed by the phone number "01934 352696" in bold black. At the bottom right, the email address "admin@winsandchurches.org.uk" is written in black.

PICKLE BALL

Do you play?

Would you like to play in Winscombe?

**Badminton Court
available for hire at
the
Church Centre**

Contact
01934 352696

admin@winsandchurches.org.uk

May Quiz Answers

- 1 Boxing Day
- 2 The Coronation of King Charles III
- 3 May Day
- 4 Labor Day
- 5 New Year's Day
- 6 Iceland
- 7 William of Orange
- 8 Germany
- 9 Nepal
- 10 Christmas Day



alive
Leading us better

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





BRANCH GENERAL MEETING - MONDAY 13th APRIL

RAFA-MSB held a Branch Meeting on Monday 13th April in Wells Golf Club, the highlight being a presentation *'They Bend 'Em, We Mend 'Em – The Nimrod Years'* by the Chairman, Paul Ashmore who outlined his time as an Engineering Officer at RAF St Mawgan. Paul gave an overview of the station organisation and his role within it, a review of the Nimrod layout as a maritime aircraft including its design and sensor fit, the operations it conducted and the engineering issues they generated, how the Nimrod force fitted into the overall NATO Maritime Mission between 1978 and 1980, how the aircraft was maintained and supported, and some of the detachments he went on during this period. He also recorded his involvement in the Tintagel Air Crash in 1979. This was followed by a review and feedback on the outcomes from the March AGM and March Committee Meeting; the meeting ended with an optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

The photographs show a Nimrod MR1, the Nimrod Flight Deck, The Two Navigators Stations, and the internal Sonobuoy Launchers.



FUTURE PROGRAMME

RAFA-MSB will meet on Monday 11th May at 11.00 am in Wells Golf Club, for a presentation entitled, 'The SS Great Britain' by Brian Aston. This will be followed by a discussion on future Branch business, and the meeting will conclude with the usual optional lunch and drinks.

The June RAFA-MSB event will be a Branch Meeting on Monday 1st June at 11:00 am in Wells Golf Club. There will be a presentation entitled, 'RAF National Service' by Branch Member, Steve Barton followed by planning for the summer programme and ending with optional lunch and drinks from the club's menu and bar.

RAFA-MSB will hold a special summer lunch on Saturday 20th June starting at 12:15 pm in Wells Golf Club, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Branch. There will be drinks on arrival, a raffle, 2 or 3 course lunch, the Loyal Toast and some frivolity to finish.

All meetings will be held in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS.

BRANCH COVERAGE AND CONTACT DETAILS

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

For information about any of these events, please contact the Branch via email rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or telephone the Secretary on 01458 224057.

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



Welcome

Thursday

Lunches

Only £5


7, 14, 21 & 28 May
12.30pm Churchill Methodist
BS25 5NG

Menu

Ham or Cheese Ploughmans
Hot pudding or Cold Dessert
Tea or Coffee



Churchill Methodist Church
Contact us:
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

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



Wrighton Vale Rotary Club

At the March Breakfast Meeting, retired geochemist Tony Morby, delivered a compelling insight into the world of critical minerals and their growing importance to global economies. He explained that nineteen key elements underpin modern technologies, with China currently dominating their processing, including over half of global lithium, two-thirds of cobalt, and almost all rare earths. Tony highlighted emerging alternatives, notably Greenland’s significant Tanbreez rare earth deposit, expected to be fully operational by 2029, alongside other potential sites. He also noted Cornwall’s renewed prospects, where lithium, tungsten and tin could once again be extracted at South Crofty. His talk ranged from smartphone chemistry to environmental case studies; everyone was fascinated, demonstrated by the lively questions and discussion.

Our next Breakfast Meeting is on **Wednesday 6th May** at the Mendip Activity Centre, BS25 5BQ starting at 0800, finish at 0900 sharp. No booking required.

The speaker will be our own **Nigel Oakley Making AI work for you** as you can see in this advert.

Come a bit earlier, have chat and a bacon bap - no need to book! Further information is available from Angie Biggs on 07790 400718.



Skate Park, Churchill – help shape the future



Churchill Parish Council is running a short survey about the future of the local skate park. No decisions have yet been made. The survey is part of a consultation to understand how the current facility is used and whether any changes may be needed. Your views are important and will help inform future discussions.

The survey takes around 1-2 minutes to complete and is open to both parents and young people.

Take part here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVGVYB8>

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



Another busy month! I attended the annual Legal Service which marked the appointment of the new High Sheriff of Somerset, Peter Dixon. Somerset's beautiful ceremonial sword and scabbard are kept safely by High Sheriffs during their term of office.

I ran 29 surgeries last month – 13 at my regular monthly venues and 'extras' in 16 rural cafés, community hubs, a garden centre café, a beer shed and two village pub nights. Thank you if you came to speak to me; I value listening to your views and concerns, which inform my work as your MP in Westminster.

Locally, I was proud to join Amnesty International's local representatives to mark International Women's Day. They campaign relentlessly for access to legal and welfare support for the many female prisoners held in terrible conditions across the globe.

It was a pleasure to welcome Tim Farron, MP and Lib Dem Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to my 'patch'. We spent a day visiting inspiring people and projects and Tim spoke to an audience, answering questions from farmers and others. If you'd like to know about future events, please contact me.

In Westminster, I met the 'real' Ash Smith and Peter Hammond of 'Dirty Business' fame, discussing the newly released sewage spill data for 2025 and what can and should be done to clean up our rivers, streams and rhynes. I also attended a joint NFU/WWF/RSPCA meeting advocating fair trade - high standards for food imports, and I've met the Energy Minister to highlight the problems for rural households dependent on increasingly expensive oil for their heating and hot water.

In Parliament, I have spoken on a number of matters, raising the following:

- The importance of returning to 0.7% spending on overseas aid as both humanitarian and national security measures.
- Securing guarantees that foreign national prisoners complete their UK Court ordered prison terms when they're transferred to their 'home' country.
- Rigorous monitoring by the Home Office of the contract for tagging offenders released early or on licence.
- Whether drug company incentives should be investigated as these may influence which drugs are prescribed.
- Reforming the regulation of Funeral Directors.
- Holding Government to account for top level briefings given to Peter Mandelson before his vetting was completed.
- Pressing the Government on the need for pumps to be ready prior to flooding, not after it happens.
- Outlining the need for strong measures and clear accountability for safeguarding in religious organisations and cults.
- Ensuring planning regulations protect the accessibility of hospital helipads for air ambulance use.

My next local ‘surgeries’ are listed below, but please visit my website or contact my office for the full list.

- Friday 1st May** from 10:00 to 11:00 at **Market Kitchen, Churchill**
- Saturday 2nd May** from 14:00 to 15:00 at **The Star Inn, Star**
- Saturday 9th May** from 14:00 to 15:00 at **Coffee Bank, Winscombe**
- Monday 11th May** from 09:30 to 10:30 at **Congresbury Community Café**
- Friday 15th May** from 18:00 to 19:00 at **The Brewer’s Arms, Banwell**

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 via email: patrick.keating@n-somerset.gov.uk .



May Word Search Answers

Here are the answers to this month’s word search. ‘Bee happy’ if you found them all!

World Bee Day



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





CHURCHILL & LANGFORD VILLAGE FUND
AND CHURCHILL MUSIC



invite you to join us for

CHURCHILL & LANGFORD IN THE PARK

26TH & 27TH JUNE 2026

CHURCHILL RECREATION GROUND

The Twerzels



S Jacks Bandoke



Local bands from
Weston College



The Royal Marines
Association Concert
Band



Craft Stalls · Face Painting · BBQ
Bar · Bouncy Castles & more...



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.THEVILLAGEFUND.ORG.UK
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Called to Care



I heard about one of the earliest scientists to get involved in climate change research. When he began, the researcher said, he'd believed that if we could just get the science right, all the challenges could be resolved. The best information would enable humankind to find the right technologies and take the right actions to bring climate change under control. Twenty-five years on, the scientist said, he'd realised he'd got it all wrong. What we need to sort out he said, is the human heart. We know what to do to address the climate emergency, but our challenge is that we're all too liable to place the actions we need to take into the '*too difficult*' box or just deny there's a problem altogether.

Yet whether we like it or not, the climate emergency is a reality that is advancing upon us. It's seen in rising sea levels and increased freak weather. Talk to our brothers and sisters in Zambia and they'll tell you that the climate emergency is upon them now in increased droughts and floods. Last year, the National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis, saw leading experts brief an audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The Briefing outlined the implications of climate breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy. If you've not seen it, please can I encourage you to find out where you can watch it.

I invite us all to think too about the next steps we can take to address an issue we'd probably rather ignore. The Church of England has set the bold target of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030. Our churches can make a difference in local communities towards achieving this ambitious goal. I urge you to fill out your church's Carbon Footprint return, sign up to achieve an '*A Rocha Eco Church Award*', and make whatever difference you can, where you are. Such actions are a sign of us turning around – metanoia as the New Testament puts it – away from denial of what's wrong, towards putting things right. Our actions can be signs of the change in heart that all of us need to make.

Michael Beasley
Bishop of Bath and Wells

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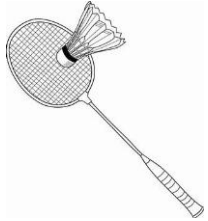




What's going on every week at St James's Church Centre?

52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe

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



BADMINTON

Monday morning
Wednesday evening

CHAIR YOGA EXERCISE

Thursday afternoon



CHI BALANCE

Friday morning

COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday morning



MOVEMENT AND DANCE EXERCISE

Thursday evening

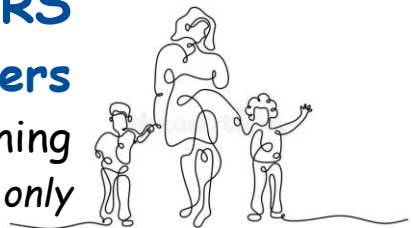


SCRAMBLERS

Parents & Toddlers

Thursday morning

Term-time only



Need a venue for a regular class, one-off event or party?

Hourly rate: Private from £10.00 / Commercial from £12.00

Seating for 120 / Fully Accessible (all on ground level) / Kitchen Facilities

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Email: admin@winsandchurches.org.uk or Call: 01934 352696

Looking for a local venue for a regular class or group?
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- ✓ spacious facilities
- ✓ free parking
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- ✓ 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

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.

Reminder notes

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.....

.....

.....

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Stuart Rossiter
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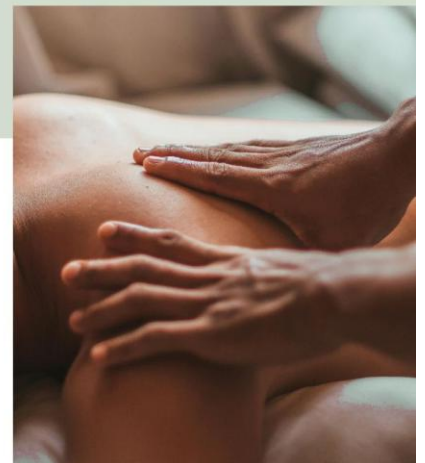


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