

# The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley



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# The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

<https://www.backwellvillagemag.co.uk/>

## Strange Traditions, Mass Marketing, and a Middle Eastern Baby Boy.

Perhaps you are someone who has the tree up and decorated with four colours of tinsel, a massive turkey in the freezer, three advent calendars, and just enough lights outside your house to annoy all your neighbours by mid-November. Alternatively, you might be someone who can't stand the same old TV adverts every year, traipsing around the shops buying presents on the busiest Saturday of the year, and you just can't understand why your neighbour needs *four* lit up Father Christmases hanging off their roof. Whichever end of the scale you fall, you have to admit some of our Christmas traditions are rather... interesting, let's say.

It seems somewhat odd to me that every year we stuff ourselves with chocolate and mulled wine, watch a 'Gavin and Stacey' Christmas special, and fill large socks with oranges to remember a young couple who travelled half-way across a middle eastern country and gave birth to a baby boy in a cave two thousand years ago. Yet, every year, the decorations come back out, the fridge is full of pigs in blankets, and I listen to more 'Wham!' in December than the other eleven months combined.



Despite the traditions and the marketing, every year we hear and tell the Christmas story. Parents proudly watch their children perform in the school Christmas show, hoping they are Mary or Joseph this year, rather than sheep three. Non-religious families make their annual visit to church for the annual Christmas carol service. What is it about this Christmas story that, despite all the traditions we've made and all the marketing that goes on, continues to inspire people, even after two millennia?

I don't have any children yet, but I enjoy thinking about what names I might give to them if I do in the future. Persuading my wife of the names will be the main issue. Mary and Joseph had no such problem. In Matthew's gospel, the angel said to Joseph 'She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins'. Jesus was also known as 'Emmanuel', which means 'God with us'.

Whether you consider yourself to be a Christian, a person of another faith, or no faith at all, you will probably have heard all sorts of stories about this 'God with us' man. I think the reason the Christmas story has continued to inspire people down the generations is largely due to what happened next. Of course, Jesus didn't remain a baby for long. He grew and became a boy, and by age twelve was considered an adult. By the time he was thirty years old, he had a large following (a bit like on Instagram or X, only it was actual people following him around), because he was doing all sorts of miraculous healings and offering the crowds a message of hope and love the other religious leaders couldn't.

In the Bible we see that the reason Jesus was born was to die for the wrong things we think, say and do, so that we can receive forgiveness and enjoy a restored relationship with the God who loves us. Jesus saved his greatest miracle for Easter Sunday: rising from the dead to offer us new, ever-lasting life.

So, please enjoy the Christmas festivities. Please don't get too annoyed with your neighbour for playing Wham! on repeat and having enough lights outside their house to drain Backwell of its energy supply. Even more importantly, though, can I encourage you not to let this Christmas go by without reflecting on how its true meaning is found at Easter and the hope Jesus' birth brought is fully discovered through his death and resurrection.

Happy Christmas!

*Tim Crossley (Minister-in-training, Backwell Baptist Church).*



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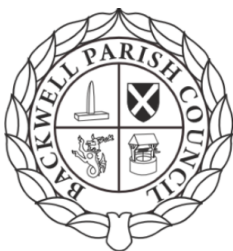
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## Backwell Parish Council – November meeting

Councillors were delighted to welcome Mrs Barbara Harland as a new Councillor and hoped that her time with the Council would be an active and happy one. There are still vacancies for Parish Councillors. Please contact the acting Clerk (Clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk) or by phone 01275 464653.



### Parish Office

Councillors were concerned to hear that there were still staffing issues within the Parish Office and hoped that residents would understand that their requests and queries might not be answered as soon as Councillors would like.

### Planning

#### **Applications:**

Councillors heard from two members of the public objecting to a planning application in Oakleigh Close. Councillors unanimously voted to object to the application as it impinged too much on the neighbouring property.

Councillors had no objection to an application to erect a single storey extension at 91 Church Lane, Backwell.

#### **Developments:**

There were no updates on the Farleigh Fields or Rodney Road developments.

Cllr Barclay told members that the Gleeson proposals (south Nailsea) was now a live application, but that it may be affected by the new draft Local Plan.

Cllr Barclay also reported that the pre-submission of the new Local Draft Plan had been approved the NSC Executive Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> October. There will now be a public consultation on the plan, but dates have yet to be set.

It is crucial that residents respond to the consultation, and the 'Save Our Village' campaign is raising awareness of the issues.

Cllr Barclay reported that she had also met with NSC regarding the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). Currently the proposals are that Dark Lane would become one way, and that two 'Transport Hubs' would be established next to Spar in Rodney Road and also at the Leisure centre. Councillors at the meeting made it clear that the Parish Council would oppose these proposals. In particular, the effect on other roads in the village if the partial closure of Dark Lane goes ahead.

Councillors decided unanimously that the retained Planning Adviser, Lucy White, would represent the Parish Council, Backwell Residents' Association and Backwell Resistance.

Councillors were pleased to hear that the planning proposals at Dark Lane were unlikely to go ahead.

### Bristol Airport – pedestrian safety

Cllr Martin reported that pedestrian safety is continuing to be a serious issue on the A38 and Downside. The risk of a serious accident occurring is very real, and, despite continual efforts by Cllrs Martin and Taylor, a meeting between the Parish Council, NSC and Bristol Airport had yet to be arranged.

### Other business

Councillors were pleased to hear from Cllr Bowerman that the arrangements for the Over 60's Tea Party, the Council's Christmas drinks reception and Carols Around the Crib were well under way. Councillors were also reminded of the Remembrance Service at the church. Several councillors will be attending.

Cllr Power told the meeting that she was working to improve the muddy footpaths and gateways between the Scout Hut and the Infant School.

Councillors were happy to hear that plans were in hand to upgrade the Parish Hall Clock and unanimously voted to accept a quote of £997 + VAT for the work.

Cllr Taylor reminded Councillors that the draft budget would be sent out by the Finance Working Group for consideration. The budget will be set at the January meeting. (NB the January meeting will be held later than usual on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to allow time for Councillors to review the proposals in full).

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on **25<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at the Parish Hall. All residents would be very welcome.

The Parish Council budget for 2024/25 will be set at this meeting.



### **Nailsea Concert Orchestra's**

Christmas concert on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm. Entry fee is £10.00/Under 18s £5.00: at Nailsea Methodist Church.

Thank you everyone who came to the **Charity Christmas Card morning** on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The total money taken was about £1200. It was a very happy occasion.  
*Jean Routely*

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## Backwell School News

Backwell School was looking appropriately autumnal at the start of Term 2, with attractive collections of colourful leaves and less welcome puddles in evidence across the school site. Fortunately, we missed the worst of storm Ciaran which meant that the Sixth Form Open Evening was able to go ahead smoothly.



We welcomed a very large number of Year 11 students from Backwell and schools from the wider area. Those pupils, with their parents and carers were able to learn what Backwell Sixth Form offers and went away enthused by the opportunities ahead, buoyed up by the enthusiasm of the Backwell sixth formers and teachers they had spoken to.

Enthusiasm was certainly the name of the game when it came to our latest charity fundraising at the beginning of November. Mr Newall energetically led three consecutive lunchtimes of 'Let's Dance' in the main theatre, raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Hundreds of pupils spent all lunchtime following the complex dance moves shown on the big screen, becoming expert movers to the Halloween-inspired grooves of 'Thriller' and 'Ghostbusters.'

There were two further opportunities for Backwell pupils to show their support and concern for others. On Monday November 13<sup>th</sup>, we recognised anti-bullying week by observing 'Odd Socks Day' and on Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> we raised money for 'Children in Need' by holding another non-uniform day. For 'Children in Need,' pupils were asked to donate a pound to support the charity and could wear non-uniform clothing – perhaps including another outing for the odds socks from Monday as we rounded off 'anti-bullying week.'

*Mr J Nunes Headteacher*

### Festive best wishes

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all those in the Backwell community a wonderful festive season and a Happy New Year

### Key Dates

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term 2

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Start of Term 3

## Federation of West Leigh Infant & Backwell Junior School

### West Leigh Infant School School and British Value Champions

Each term, we have a focus school value to learn about and this term we have been learning about aspiration. Once we have learnt what this value means, we try our best to demonstrate this value whenever we can in school. For example, we have demonstrated aspiration by wanting to make our work better or by taking on an extra challenge. At the end of Term 1, Miss Hiscocks asked our teachers who had been a champion in demonstrating this value and they were rewarded with a special certificate. Their photos are displayed on the School Value Champions board in school. Congratulations to Cleo, Roman, Hugo, Ben, Harriet and Raffle who were our Aspiration Champions for Term 1

### Fox Class News (Yr2 – aged 6-7)

Recently we have done an art project inspired by Bristol artist Jane Ormes. Her artwork is nature themed, and she specializes in printmaking. We sketched natural objects and created printing blocks of leaves using a range of different materials. Look at how fantastic our artwork is.....

(If you check out the online version, you can see it in colour)



## Backwell Junior School

### Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at our Harvest celebration on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The children really enjoyed sharing harvest songs with everyone who came and their confidence and performing skills were fantastic. We are very proud of them all and how well they have settled into their new classes. The kind donations have been collected by the food bank who were very grateful for our offerings.



## BACKWELL Playing Fields

Our current Chair of Trustees - Drummond Forbes - will step down at the end of November after nearly six years as a volunteer for the Charity, more than half of which was spent leading the small but dedicated group of local trustees who manage the playing fields. In that time, we have registered the land at Land Registry, put on the Backwell Fair and other events, improved the pathways, planted the Cloth of Gold daffodil path and installed new play equipment at the Rodney Road play area - all while keeping the playing fields solvent and well maintained. We thank Drummond for his tireless efforts and welcome Chris Green as the new Chair.

If you are concerned about the effect on the playing fields site and its various clubs of the proposed development at Grove Farm, please do consider joining us as a trustee. Our site can't be built on, but we need local people to help advocate for the future needs of residents if the village is forced to expand. We meet quarterly and would love to hear from you at [backwellplayingfieldscharity@gmail.com](mailto:backwellplayingfieldscharity@gmail.com) if you'd like to find out more.

The festive season is coming ... and a few of us at **Backwell Camera Club** have been putting our heads together for five quick tips on how to make the most of capturing it on your phone cameras.

Tip 1: Before you snap your photo, take a quick look at your phone screen. Is everything included that you want to include? If not, turn your camera screen from 'portrait' (upright) to 'landscape' (sideways) and see if that makes any difference. Alternatively, experiment with your phone's lens options to get more in the shot, or less.

Tip 2: Think about your viewpoint and background. For example, get right down to floor level to capture a small child's or pet's view, or move up behind someone to take a shot over their shoulder of them serving food or opening a present.

Tip 3: Experiment with the portrait function, which will generally give you a sharp foreground and a softer, out-of-focus background. It works for objects as well as people and adds a surprising layer of creativity.

Tip 4: Take a few seconds of video, then use the editing tools in your phone to isolate just one frame. This is a great way of capturing a genuine expression or unusual moment.

Tip 5: Have a bit of post-processing fun. Use your editing tools or a free app to perhaps add a frame, or apply a retro filter. You can even use words and emojis to add some humour.

If you would like more photography tips and tricks for any kind of camera, then why not join us at Backwell Camera Club in 2024. You'll find details at <http://backwellcamera.club/> Meanwhile, happy snapping.

**"I CAN'T FIND ANY PRESENTS ROUND THIS TREE!!!"**

Photo by Sandra Stafford, showing how an app or two can add a touch of festive cheer to your photographs



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# Christmas Services

Carols around the Crib  
Christians Together in & around Backwell invite you to the Parish Hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm for this popular event for all the family. The Congresbury Brass Band will be playing. Refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>  
3.00pm Carol Service St Bridget's, Chelvey

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>  
10.30am Christmas Service Backwell Baptist Church  
4.00pm Christingle St Andrew's  
6.00pm Carols by Candlelight United service with West Town at Nailsea Methodist Church  
6.30pm Carol Service St Andrew's

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>  
7.00pm Carol Service St Francis R C Church

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
10.30am Carol service West Town Methodist Church  
11.00am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent St Francis R C Church  
4.00pm Crib Service St Andrew's  
4.30pm Christmas Eve Vigil St Francis R C  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight Backwell Baptist  
9.00pm Christmas Communion Service St Bridget's  
10.30pm carols followed at 11.00pm  
by Mass in the Night St Francis R C

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day  
9.15am Family Christmas service West Town Methodist  
10.00am Christmas Family Communion Service  
St Andrew's  
10.30am 'Jesus is born' Backwell Baptist  
11.00am Christmas Day service St Francis R C

## Backwell Scout News

### Tuesday Beavers

We had a busy term in September and October working together to create impressive dens in Stancombe Woods. To ensure each den was waterproof, the leaders poured bottles of water on top to test them. We experimented with creating bottle rockets and decorated each bottle prior to launching them in the Scout Hut garden.

We also held a fundraising event to provide teas, coffees and handmade cakes by the Beavers in the Scout Hut, which was a huge success. All Beavers and volunteers had a brilliant time and we hope to have a similar fundraiser again in the future.

The Beavers have used their navigation skills to hike around Backwell collecting clues, to open a padlock and unlock a special treat and made batteries out of potatoes. If your child is interested in joining Tuesday Beavers, please email [tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com](mailto:tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com) to join the waiting list. *Sarah Tuesday Beavers Section Leader*

### Monday Cubs

Some of the Beavers who moved up to Cubs at the start of the term made their Promises on our recent night hike, standing on the plinth of the Jubilee Stone with a ring of torch light provided by the rest of the pack. For Halloween, traditional games such as apple bobbing and eating ring doughnuts from a line were enjoyed by all. The Cubs explored the origins of this festival, both pre Christian and Christian.

In preparation for Remembrance Sunday pebbles were painted with poppies by the pack. This was part of an exploration of the history of scouting and the roles Scouts took in the world wars. The pebbles were placed at the Memorial following the Remembrance Service *Helen*

### Thursday Cubs

At the time of writing Backwell Thursday Cubs are excited about their forthcoming visit to Portishead Lifeboat Station, and their winter camp where they will pitch their own tents and cook their own dinners, with a film and games thrown in of course! We learnt about the Local Services on offer in the village and where these are located. We will attend the Remembrance Service where we shall wear our uniforms with pride alongside the other sections, to pay respect to others. And onwards into December we will be observing the night skies for our astronomy badge...and having some Christmas fun where some fancy dress is sure to be on the programme. *Imogen, Assistant Section Leader*

### Tuesday Scouts

This month the Scouts have been making their own cooking equipment in the form of 'Penny Stoves' made from empty soft drink cans. The end result is fuelled with methylated spirit and is sufficient to boil water and even make popcorn.

As the nights draw in it is obviously time for a night hike in the woods above Flax Bourton finishing with hot (well, warmish) chocolate and biscuits. Staying in a dark and scary place we moved on to a Halloween themed evening with all the usual traditional games of apple bobbing and doughnut eating as well as some newer ones to test their skills.



We finished off with a special day just for the Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders at the Scout Hut starting with an escape room type puzzle with a pirate theme (they all escaped) after which they prepared and cooked curries and naan bread on an open fire together with some team games involving the movement of radioactive elements and balancing the team on cunningly placed planks of wood - you really needed to be there for the full effect!

The rest of this term will take on a more Christmassy theme as you will find out next month

*Ian Asst Scout Leader*



**Friday Scouts** had an exciting first term of giant marble run-making, campfires, games and an amazing puzzle-night of all sorts of types of communication from morse code to braille. We ended the term with an Autumn troop camp with a Halloween theme. We had a day of team challenges and Halloween crafts and an evening of chocolate apples, popcorn and a film. This was then topped by a further day of swimming at Barton Camp, Wrington where we held a number of investigations at the top of the slide, followed by a hike and picnic up Crook's Peak. Another fun-packed weekend.

Term 2 started with some outdoor cooking and a spaghetti tower challenge. We are looking forward to Tomahawk throwing and Warhammer model-building and many other fab activities in our run up to Christmas. *Lorraine*



## Christmas Tree Sale

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

9.00am to 12:30pm

The Rising Sun

Backwell Scout Group will be selling Christmas trees again this year, to help raise funds for Scouting in Backwell.



**Norway Spruce**

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**Festive Greetings**  
The Group wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas & New Year, and thanks all our friends for their help & generous support during 2023



## 7 Steps to Supporting the Scout Christmas Post

- 1) Decide to send Christmas Cards to your friends and family in Backwell and Nailsea
- 2) Buy some Christmas Cards or find last year's leftover cards in the Christmas cupboard
- 3) Write your Christmas Cards and clearly address the envelopes with addresses in Nailsea and Backwell (including The Elms but not Downside – sorry)
- 4) Pop down to one of our friendly partners and buy Scout Stamps for just 50p each. Our partners in Backwell are:
  - Backwell Barbers
  - Backwell Motors
  - Backwell Village Club
  - Backwell Vets
  - Parkers Estate Agents
- 5) Place the stamps on the cards
- 6) Return to one of our partners to post your cards before noon on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December
- 7) Go home and pop the kettle on and put your feet up, safe in the knowledge that our wonderful Scouts and Explorers will make sure your cards are delivered!

Supporting the Scout Christmas Post helps us to purchase much needed equipment to be able to engage our local young people in activities and opportunities that they might not otherwise have. Thank you for supporting our Scout Christmas Post this year and a big thank you also to all the Scouts and Explorers who are working hard to deliver the post.



### Bridget for Backwell

I want to wish you well through this festive season.

Writing this in November in preparation for December, I am expecting two important consultations to be out when the magazine is published.

#### 1. Bus Proposals

The North Somerset Council is asking for feedback on designs for bus improvement on the A370 (this is part of wider works all called the [Bus Strategic Improvement Plan](#) – working with the West of England Combined Authority). There are at least two proposals being considered. I think it is important that local residents constructively share what they think are the pros and cons to these suggestions. Would making Dark Lane one way (up only) improve traffic flow at the junction, as it takes it from 4 way lights to 3? It is hoped that if all actions were to take

place, it would enable buses running every 10 minutes. I've raised my worries about how other parts of the village would be impacted. Nothing will go forward without a full safety audit of final designs. This is the early stages for the scheme. It will not happen until mid 2024.

I and other councillors have strongly spoken out on the lack of communications about the bus schemes already completed on the A370. I have demanded a far better consultation process for the next stage. November will see a face-to-face sessions as well as online consultation responses.

I am aware that many of us worry about road safety because of high volume of traffic and I do receive emails asking for a more reliable bus service (although it is First Bus that runs the buses). Working together on these issues will help us towards a good outcome.

#### 2. Local Plan

The drawn-out process of the Local Plan is reaching another phase of consultation. Previously the plan included 600 houses by the Leisure Centre, I have pushed hard to have these houses, and inroads into green belt, removed. A major road across Backwell Common was also proposed. I fought against this. It is now gone. Last year the local plan included over 20,000 houses. After significant challenge from the group of Green Party Councillors, the plan will now aim for 14,800 houses over 15 years of the plan, which is based on assessing the actual growing needs of the area. I spoke out in October that our area needs more affordable housing so all community members can live here, work here and thrive. The proposal is 37.5% affordable housing up from previous 30%. The next consultation will ask you to comment on this. I am disappointed that Grove Farm remains on the strategic sites map and I worry like others about the impact on our local services. This is a consultation, so now is the time to comment, raise concerns specific to our geography and share the needs we have. I appreciate this is a very sensitive issue and ask people to avoid making comments personal. It is an area wide plan.

During the consultation, If you think it is a good thing that the green belt is extended between Nailsea and Backwell please comment on that. If like me, you want better quality homes and climate change considered as is proposed, then please comment so that the houses built will be more affordable to heat and that how much carbon is being used in construction is properly measure.

Council consultations are mostly found on the council website - search [North Somerset Council Consultations](#).

Despite a very difficult year personally, a highlight was being re-elected in May with a larger majority than before. I do feel honoured to represent all the community. I thought this saying might add a smile to peoples' faces as it is cold and wet outside –"Might we all spread kindness like it was confetti"

Peace and a happy holiday season to all in Backwell.

*Bridget*

Councillor Bridget Petty (She/Her)

Green Party Councillor for Backwell, North Somerset  
Green Group Leader

## West Backwell Bowling Club

The Weston Ukelele Band gave us a most entertaining evening in October.

In November we held our Celebration Dinner and Presentations at the Masonic Hall. The Club person of the year was Emma Price - very well deserved. Emma masterminded our *Thrive with Bowls* campaign which brought in many new members. She has been instrumental in getting the Club grants and sponsors; one of them Parker's Estate Agents provided us with new shirts. The club has great publicity on Facebook.

**Holly and Mistletoe:** this annual and very popular event will take place at the Clubhouse on **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December**, 10.00-12.00noon.

Do come along for your essential Christmas greenery, browse round the stalls, and enjoy mulled wine, coffee and mince pies. There will be a Grand Draw.

## St Andrew's MU

A very pleasant afternoon was had at our branch meeting, listening to three of our members telling us of their memories growing up in Backwell. Memories were stirred making some members recall times in their childhood.

"The Souls of our Feet" exhibition is on display in the undercroft at Wells Cathedral from **November 25<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December** during United Nations 16 days of Activism against gender-based violence. This exhibition is put on by Chris Mahoney on behalf of the Mothers' Union; it is shoes telling the story of victims of domestic violence. This is a very thought-provoking exhibition, well worth a visit.

In December we have our usual meeting of Carols and various Christmas readings, followed of course by tea and mince pies.

Dates

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>** 2.15pm. Carols and readings

## Knitting for Others

As well as knitting warm garments for those who need them (sea farers, small babies and families, older folk with cold legs and shoulders) with extra helping hands, we have knitted angels to "sing" at the cribs which "Little Lambs" families were given a couple of years ago. Last year shepherds were added. Hopefully, the young families will be reminded that the angels, as well as singing God's praises at Christmas, are helping us with praise as we grow into the lives He has made for us.

This month's meeting is as usual on the second Monday of the month - **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** from 10.30am at 18 Karen Close (01275 463131)

Whatever your circumstances,  
I wish you a contented  
Christmas.  
*Barbara Paige*



## The Meeting Point

As we all prepare for Christmas, we will be serving our Scotty-style Christmas Lunch on **19<sup>th</sup> December at 1.00pm** in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity for our volunteers to join with our regulars and enjoy



a celebration together. We do ask for bookings for this one by 12<sup>th</sup> December please, to ensure we have catered for you. There is a limit to how many we can accommodate, so please book your place early. At the start of this month our lunch of home-made soup, bread and cheese with fruit is on **5<sup>th</sup> December at 1.00pm**. As a New Year treat, why not join us for a warming soup and accompaniments on **2<sup>nd</sup> January at 1.00pm**?

The last of the Sitting Fit Yoga sessions until the new year is on **12<sup>th</sup> December**, when there will be a chance for an early Christmas celebration and for congratulating yourself for having made it through a full year of Nina's exercises. Before the class each week there are the usual refreshments from 10.30, with the session running from 11.00 to 12.00.

A warm welcome awaits if you wish to drop in for some coffee or tea and home-made cake, or if you have a question about your phone, tablet or laptop that we might be able to help you with. We're not part of the official Warm Welcome scheme this winter, but it will be warm, and we will make you welcome any time from 10.30 to 4.30.

This month the usual **Communion** service will be held on **5<sup>th</sup> December at 12.15**, in the **Parish Hall**. All are welcome as we break bread together before enjoying the soup lunch.

**Volunteers needed.** The AGM of Backwell Life, the charity behind The Meeting Point, was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November and a few changes of Trustee were made. If you would like to join or re-join as a member of the charity, now is the time for your £5.00 annual membership. Volunteer Trustees are still needed to ensure the future of the charity.

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## Nailsea District Leg Club

Do you know that Leg Club is held every Wednesday 9.00 – 11.30am at Nailsea Tithe Barn, Church Lane, BS48 4NG? This is a wonderful, historic building, with many unusual and fascinating features, it's warm in the winter and we offer refreshments too.



The X9 bus goes close by, (check bus times), and if necessary, volunteer drivers can collect attendees, providing they can walk from their front door to the car.

Do you know Leg Club is open to everyone registered with Tyntesfield Medical Group (TMG), and the drop- in clinic welcomes anyone with lower leg issues? If you or a family member or friend, need advice about such problems, our wonderful nursing team are there to see you without any appointment. If you prefer, an appointment for Leg Club can be made by calling your local TMG surgery. please spread the word, we're there to help.

With Christmas now so close we're planning a 'party' on **20th December**, come and join the festivities, tombola, carols, mince pies etc. **However please note there will not be a clinic on 27th December.** Should you need an appointment that day, the surgeries will be open as normal and you will need to **make an appointment in advance** in the usual way.

Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year from all the team at Leg Club.

## Film Club

By a strange calendrical quirk we show our December film starting on the last day of November - **November 30th**, for three nights as usual. **Fisherman's Friends: One and All**. After the highs of performing on the pyramid stage at Glastonbury, the group struggle with their second album.



During a divisive tour of South Australia, they will trace their ancestors and embrace a new community, and discover their musical DNA. A true story that reveals that fame is never plain sailing.

We return to normality in January starting on **4th January**, with **Empire of Light** with Olivia Coleman, Colin Firth, Toby Jones and Michael Ward. A film that is modestly described on the DVD case as "an achingly lovely film - the best Sam Mendes has yet made" ... we shall soon find out.

As ever non-members are very welcome if they prebook with me at a fee of £5.00.

*Tim Lewis 01275 790555*

## Backwell Probus Club Report

We have had two meetings since the last report, the first was entitled "Joseph Lancaster and The British Schools Movement" given by Terry Ransome. We were told that Lancaster set up the British Schools first in London for the children of the poor in the early 19th century. It was a well-illustrated talk. Schools established all over the country and then in New York, where Lancaster died tragically. The second talk was entitled "Time Gentlemen Please" given by Baz Hamblin, which was all about how the world has measured time from the Roman era to the present day, starting with sun dials, sand timers and how time has been measured by mariners over centuries. It was the most comprehensive talk we have had for some time.

In December we will be having our Christmas Luncheon celebration and will resume our talks in the New Year, so do come and enjoy these on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10.00am for coffee followed by a 10.30am talk in the Bowls Pavilion. Any retired men are welcome to join us for convivial conversation before and after the talk.  
*Peter Lamb (01275 463160)*

## Rotary Quiz an Outstanding Success

The latest Charity Quiz organised by Rotary Nailsea and Backwell was held at the Backwell WI Hall on Saturday 4th November. Teams of up to 6, totalling 100 people, competed to win this fun quiz and a good time was had by all. An amazing sum of £850 was raised for the Nailsea Memory Café. Rotary's grateful thanks go to Ray and Sue Griffiths for compiling and running the quiz and to all the local residents who turned out on a wild night to support the event.

Our photo (below), courtesy of Bob Keightley, shows the representative of the winning team (appropriately the Memory Café), Rotarians Ray and Sue and Rotary President Andrew Bale.



**North Somerset Quilters** will not be meeting in December, but we would like to wish all our visitors, whether members or not, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2024. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Friday January 19th



# Scouts Christmas Post



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

Inviting all carers to join us on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at the WI Hall, Backwell crossroads, Backwell, from 2.00pm – 3.30pm

#### **Annual Christmas Buffet Lunch**

Delicious food/drink/quiz/raffle/fun and games  
Come and join us for support, friendship, entertainment and a short respite from your caring role. New carers, any age or gender, always welcome  
**RSVP by 3/12/23** (01275 463215 after 6.00pm)

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

### **Senior Club**

Roy Ackrill entertained us in October with his new talk entitled *Motoring in Backwell*. We had one of our largest audiences for a long time, including five gentlemen, for an interesting and nostalgic talk about one of Roy's passions.

Jean Routley follows this on November 17<sup>th</sup> with her recollections of *Growing up in Backwell*, which again should be of great interest to our members.

We shall be enjoying a Christmas entertainment on **December 15<sup>th</sup>** with Sheila and Tim, who will be leading us in carols and rendering some of their seasonal readings and songs ... all followed with mince pies, shortbreads and a cup of tea.

*Nancy Lewis 01275 790555*

### **Recycling Medicine Blister Packs**

Bring your tablet blister packs to the Fairtrade Café on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** 10.00am-12.00noon at the Parish Hall. And then stay for a lovely cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee, a home-made biscuit and a chat. Richard Ivens has kindly volunteered to take the blister packs to a collection point in Clevedon. Blister packs are made from a difficult-to-recycle combination of plastic and aluminium so should not be put in your kerbside recycling boxes.

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

The Group Christmas Lunch is on **Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December**; one of our highlights of the year. We have a trip to the Pantomime at the Bristol Hippodrome on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December**. However, there is NO Group meeting in December; the next meeting is on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year; see you in January. Contact Sheila on 01275 462107 for information about the Group

### **Backwell Garden Club**

The December meeting of the Club will have an entertainment by Tim Lewis and Sheila Furneaux entitled "Our Harmonious Garden". The Club meeting is on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** starting at 1.45pm for 2.00pm at the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell.

The Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month and is always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. For further details contact Robin Langford, Chairman on 01275 855822 or email [rclangford64@gmail.com](mailto:rclangford64@gmail.com)

### **Christians Together In & around Backwell**

#### **Backwell Christian Fellowship @ Lawnside**

Wednesday, **6<sup>th</sup> December** 2.30pm Preparation for Party  
13<sup>th</sup> Celebration Party

#### **Prayer Watch**

Monday **4<sup>th</sup> December** 7.45 – 9.30pm at the Baptist Church. Starting with refreshments; all welcome to join in prayers for our community and the world.

#### **Open the Book**

A Wednesday morning in December, at West Leigh Infants School.

Date tba Theme: The Christmas Story

#### **Carols Round the Crib**

This popular family event will take place in the Parish Hall 6.30pm on Thursday, **21<sup>st</sup> December**.

### **St Andrew's Ladies Group**

Our November meeting was very well attended in spite of the heavy rain. We welcomed Ian Shelby who entertained us with the sounds, the clothes, the models, the film stars, and the general excitement of the Swinging Sixties. He showed us videos, photographs and some clever graphics of the youth-driven cultural revolution of that extraordinary decade. Many of us agreed with the words of Mary Hopkins "those certainly were the days"

The Ladies Christmas lunch will be held at the Masonic Hall in Nailsea on **December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Our meeting on **January 8<sup>th</sup> 2024** will include Tim Crossley, a Baptist minister who will talk about his faith, his call, and his hope. We will also be hearing from Andy Pitcher, a church warden at St Andrews' who will be giving us an update on developments connected to topical issues relating to the church. We always are keen to welcome new members to our very friendly group. So do join us. *Gill Boylan.*

### **The Parkinson's UK NW Somerset Support Group**

welcomes new members. If you would like to give us a try, come along to one of our meetings. The group meets on the second Saturday of each month for an informal coffee morning at St Francis Church Hall in Nailsea, 10.30am to 12.15pm, and all those with Parkinson's and those who are caring for them are welcome. At the meeting on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** there will be a Christmas social morning with carols and a quiz. You could also come along to the Singalong group which gets together on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 2.30-4.00pm at St Francis Church Hall, to sing popular songs and old favourites. Singing helps loss of voice due to Parkinson's. No skill required.

### **West Town & Backwell WI**

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** (a change from our usual third Wednesday of the month) from 7:30pm in the WI Hall when we will be having a Christmas celebration. New members welcome; email [BackwellWI@gmail.com](mailto:BackwellWI@gmail.com) for more information or find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter







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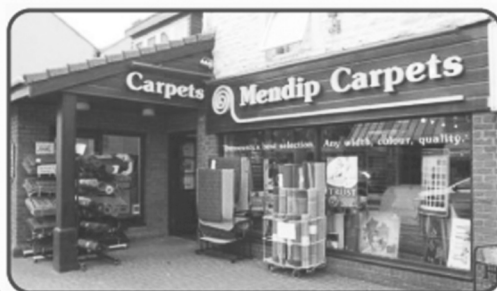
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### Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am

Services start - 10:30am

**3<sup>rd</sup> December** (Communion and Advent Week One)

Preacher: Alisdair Longwill

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Passage: Daniel 5

Theme: Living in a Foreign Land

**10<sup>th</sup> December** (Advent Week Two)

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Dave Nicklen

Passage Daniel 6

Theme: Living in a Foreign Land

**17<sup>th</sup> December** (Advent Week Three)

Preacher: Crawford Telford

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Passage: TBC

Theme: Christmas

**24<sup>th</sup> December** (18:00 doors open, 18:30 start.

Advent Week Four)

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Various

Passages: Lots!

Theme: Carols by Candlelight

**No Morning Service on Christmas Eve**

**25<sup>th</sup> December** (10:30am start)

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Passages: Lots!

Theme: Christmas Day - Jesus is born!

**31<sup>st</sup> December** (Communion)

Service Leaders: Church Deacons

Passage: Isaiah 43:19-24 and Psalm 77:10-15

Theme: Looking Back and Looking Forward

## News for December from St Francis

We begin this month with the start of Advent on

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** which is the season of preparation for the celebration of the nativity. We remember this as we light candles on the Advent wreath during Masses before Christmas Day. There is an opportunity for children and families to meet

together for an Advent Service on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**

Later in the month, on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** there is an afternoon of fun and craft (for children) after morning Mass from 12.00 – 2.00pm.

Our annual Parish Carol Service is nearer to Christmas on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** beginning at 7.00pm.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent this year (also Christmas Eve ) Masses are as follows;

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December** Mass at 11.00am

Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 4.30pm

Christmas Eve Mass at 11.00pm with Carols at 10.30pm

Christmas Day Mass at 11.00am

As usual, all masses are Livestreamed. Please see the website [www.josephfrancis.org](http://www.josephfrancis.org)

The Parishioners of St Francis wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

## West Town Methodist Church

December Sunday Services, at 10.30 am.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Revd Deborah Mallett **Church Anniversary**

**10<sup>th</sup>** Revd Michael Pullan **Communion**

**17<sup>th</sup>** C Challis

**6.00pm Carols by Candlelight @ Nailsea Methodist**

**24<sup>th</sup>** Heather Bentley **Carols & coffee**

**9.15am 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day family service**

Revd Deborah Mallett

**31<sup>st</sup>** Revd Deborah Mallett

Nailsea join us for a **United Service**

**Ready Teddy Sing** – Tuesdays, 10.00 – 12.00 noon during term time.

Our toddlers and babies group led by Patty Lou, our Families Worker, with May Vivian and a team of volunteers.

**Fellowship Group** 10.30am for 11.00, on a Wednesday in December at 53 Oakleigh Close. Date tba

### The Welcome Hub

**Come Along and Meet Each Other** in our Welcome Hub on Monday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00, where a warm welcome awaits you. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. We're here for you for a cuppa and a chat. Additionally, you are invited to bring along your knitting, crocheting, puzzles, craft project etc., or simply some quiet time. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. Any queries, in the first instance, please contact Shirley Edwards on email: [tsmce12@gmail.com](mailto:tsmce12@gmail.com)

### Hire of building

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

Contact Julie Ratcliffe on email:

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



## St Bridget's Church

At a recent meeting with the Archdeacon and following the special Parish Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October, Sue Bougourd and Roger Watson were both sworn in as church wardens for the Parish of Chelvey and Brockley. We thank them both wholeheartedly for offering to fill these gaps in our ranks especially at this time when we have no rector.

As Christmas fast approaches, we draw your attention to three of our services in December.

Firstly, at Brockley for the St Nicholas Patronal on Sunday, **3<sup>rd</sup> December** at 5.30pm, secondly our Carol Service at St Bridget's on **10<sup>th</sup> December** at 3.00pm and finally, our Christmas Eve Communion Service at 9.00pm on **24<sup>th</sup> December**.



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

There are many ways to celebrate in our churches this month, beginning with the Patronal Festival of St Nicholas in Brockley church on **3<sup>rd</sup> December**. There are carol services to mark the start of Advent (St Andrew's) and then Carol Services on the following two Sunday evenings (in St Bridget's then St Andrew's) as we move towards Christmas itself. We also have a Christingle Service on **10<sup>th</sup> December** and on Christmas Eve, the opportunity to come in shepherd, angel or other suitable costume, and hear (or join in) the Christmas story at the Crib Service.

You might also see carol singers pop up around the village at various points during the month, so do take some time to join them in singing or in conversation as we all mark the advent of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. As angels sing in heaven and on earth to welcome the birth of the Saviour of the world, may their message of peace be heard across the earth.

With warm greetings,  
Martin Canning

### Services in December

#### St Andrew's Church

**3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday**  
9.00am Little Lambs  
10.45am Informal Worship and Word  
6.30pm Advent Carol Service

**10<sup>th</sup> Second of Advent**  
10.45am Sung Eucharist

**17<sup>th</sup> Third of Advent**  
10.45am Informal Worship with Communion.  
4.00pm Christingle  
6.30pm Carol Service

**24<sup>th</sup> Fourth of Advent / Christmas Eve**  
There is no morning service at St Andrew's  
4.00pm Crib Service

**Christmas Day 10.00am Family Communion**

**31<sup>st</sup> First of Christmas**  
10.45am All Age Benefice Communion

#### St Bridget's Church

**10<sup>th</sup> Second of Advent**  
3.00pm Carol Service

**17<sup>th</sup> Third of Advent**  
9.15am Morning Prayer

**24<sup>th</sup> Fourth of Advent / Christmas Eve**  
9.00pm Midnight Holy Communion

#### St Nicholas Church

**3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday**  
5.30pm Patronal Service



#### Benefice Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals in October

**Internment of ashes**  
13<sup>th</sup> - Simon Lucas  
30<sup>th</sup> - Eric Davey

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

**In December we will be praying for people living in St Margaret's Lane St Margaret's Close Hilldale Road Oakleigh Close**

#### Community of the Sisters of the Church (Bristol).

As part of their missional activity, St Andrew's Church members support a different local or international charity each quarter. From October to December 2023, that charity is The Sisters of the Church in Bristol, who have a wonderful ministry in the city.

In the early 1990's four Sisters from the Community moved to Ashley Road and they have had a presence there ever since. As part of their lives of prayer and active service, the Sisters began giving out small food parcels to about 12 people a week - this has now grown to 250-300 a week. Callers come to the house for food and companionship and the Loaves and Fishes Ministry has become their main focus.

Poverty in the UK is a disturbing reality they see every day. In the Gospel of John 6:1-14 Jesus took a boy's offering of 'five small barley loaves and two small fish' and fed the five thousand. Together with wonderful volunteers, the Sisters are the channels of countless people's kind and generous donations which is why they have named the ministry 'The Five Loaves and Two Fishes Project'.

Food parcels are offered to anyone who calls asking for one. No one is judged, and no questions are asked except their name. Anyone and everyone is welcome, with no justification needed. The only restriction is that one parcel is given per person, per week. When possible, sandwiches and drinks are also offered, alongside help with form filling and phone calls. The sisters are also trying to help those in fuel poverty by offering a top up once a month, a lifeline for those in desperate need.

Short breaks for families, children's days out and pastoral care are all part of the Sisters' ministry. Prayer is also a vital part of their ministry and is offered to anyone who asks.

The Sisters' Christmas Appeal letter will be available shortly and will be posted on the St Andrew's website. If you would like to respond, please take your gifts to St Andrew's or call the Benefice office to arrange collection. This year, all of the Harvest gifts from St Andrew's were donated to the Sisters.

# Christians Together In & around Backwell

## Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

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

### St Andrew's

Rector	Vacancy Any inquiries please contact the office
Readers	Martin Canning Tel 01275 790309 David George Tel 07532202786
Benefice Office	Tel 01275 463469 <a href="mailto:admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>
Church Wardens	Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075 <a href="mailto:leakefamily1@hotmail.com">leakefamily1@hotmail.com</a> Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158
Bell Ringers	Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416
Organist and Choir Master	Andrew Colley <a href="mailto:music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>
PCC Secretary	Jane Canning Tel 01275 790309
PCC Treasurer	Lesley Barratt Tel 01275 857899
Mothers' Union	Co-ordinator Marie Bale Tel 01275 269246
Ladies Group	Leader Shena Jones Tel 01275 852427
St Andrew's Art Group	Chair - Jenny Alsop Tel 01275 791113
Sunday Club and Little Lambs	Timi Booy <a href="mailto:childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk">childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk</a>

### St Bridget's

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

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

## West Town Methodist Church

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

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

## Backwell Baptist Church, Chapel Hill

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

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

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

Parish Priest Father Richard Elson  
Tel 01275 851530

## Woodies Local at Backwell Fairfield School, Backwell BS48 3PD

Rural Minister Zoe Germain  
[zoe.germain@woodlandchurch.net](mailto:zoe.germain@woodlandchurch.net)



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STUDIO IN BACKWELL

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