

The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley



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Vol 91 No 2

Free

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**February
2024**

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West Leigh Infant School	Secretary Tel 01275 463274	Backwell Residents Association (BRA)	Hon Sec Mike Veal Tel 01275 461187 www.backwellresidents.org.uk
Fairfield School	Secretary Tel 01275 462743	Backwell Playing Field Charity	Fran Parry Tel 07949487457 backwellplayingfieldscharity@gmail.com
Backwell Medical Centre (Part of the Tynesfield Medical Group)	15 West Town Road Tel 01275 465100 (Monday - Fridays, excluding Bank Holidays) Out of hours Tel 111 www.tynesfield.nhs.uk	BET (Backwell Environmental Trust)	Ian Chambers Tel 01275 463315 www.backwellenvironmenttrust.org
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Police	Avon & Somerset Constabulary Non Emergency Calls 101 https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk	Playhouse Theatre	membership@backwellplayhouse.co.uk bookings@backwellplayhouse.co.uk
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12th of the preceding month.

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The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

Hope in deed

I'd love to be writing a sunny New Year's article reflecting a boundless global optimism about the future. Yet the reality is very different. War in Ukraine drags on and tensions in the Middle East remain dangerous. The cost-of-living crisis continues and many are finding things tough. Pessimism rather than optimism is the order of our day.

In such circumstances, where can hope be found? For Christians, confidence and assurance rest in the promise of the future that

God has in store for us. In the Bible God says: 'See, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end' (Revelation 21: 5-6). Christian hope is that whatever may be happening to us now, God has a very different and favourable future in store for us.

Critically, the point of such hope is not just to enable us to say 'Well don't worry about present circumstances. It's all going to be all right eventually.' Hope's purpose is to shape how we live and what we do now. It's to enable us to live out the words of the old Christian Aid poster that said, 'We believe in life before death'.

Towards the end of last year, I had the privilege of visiting a number of the deaneries of our diocese. On those visits I heard at first-hand how through the work of our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, Christian hope translates into practical action for good amongst the everyday lives of local communities. We are offering debt counselling and food banks, support for families and care of the lonely and isolated. All these and many more were amazing examples of how we can join with God to 'make all things new' right here, right now.

So, as we start a new year, please can I encourage us all not to stare into our glasses, lamenting their being half full? Rather, through how we live and what we do, let us fill them with the new wine of God's kingdom – overflowing to the brim. For that is hope in deed.

Bishop Michael



Greenbelt 2023 © Jane Canning



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Bridget for Backwell

I recently listened to a podcast on Radio 4, called **How to be**

Happy. Have you discovered Podcasts yet? It is great to be able to choose when you listen to something, this can be done on a smart phone but can also be done on



a computer. Just One Long Thing has Michael Mosley interviewing Dr Rangan Chatterjee. I found it a good listen for the start of the year.

The blurb reads "Dr Chatterjee believes the core happiness that we all want is built upon three principles: alignment, contentment and control. He describes alignment as being when who you are inside matches your public persona, and contentment is what we do to find calm. Finally, those who have a sense of control over their lives are, research suggests, happier, healthier, more prosperous and have better social relationships. I took away a positive message that talking to people you don't know can make you feel good, not just in that moment but for the rest of the day and week.

Backwell is pretty good at this, but it is nice to consider sharing it even wider.

Another tip was to "Write your deathbed diary and apply it to your everyday life - It might sound morbid but the goal of this exercise is to help you live intentionally, making time for the things that are important to you." Thinking what do you want to achieve in your lifetime and making it a reality today, not something in the future. This may be time with friends or meals as a family.

There were more tips but I will leave you to look it up on BBC Radio 4, either listen or I found an article listing it out.

In Backwell it has been a tough few months with a lot asked of local residents to comment on North Somerset Council plans be it buses or housing. I am aware that sadly it doesn't look much more positive as the council nears its budget-setting time in February and March. Inflation and increasing costs means that the local council joins many councils across the country really struggling to balance the budget and find the money to ensure the statutory tasks are funded and all the other services many of us rely on. It really is a troubling time, national government does offer support but only tells local councils how much money they will have one year at a time. This makes it very difficult to make long-term plans. Some councils like Birmingham and Somerset have reached the state where there is not enough funds to cover the costs, essentially putting them into administration. North Somerset hopes to keep out of this circumstance but there will be news in the coming months of the consequences of a very difficult economy. I will try to keep the community informed, but updates will also be on the council Facebook page, regular email news and the local papers.

Councillor Bridget Petty
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Membership forms are available from the 'How to Join' page on our website www.ndct.co.uk or call the office and speak to one of our friendly staff on 01275 855552. If you have any difficulty paying for your membership, you can contact your local Town or Parish Council who should be able to help you.

The service is provided by a large number of volunteers and we welcome anyone that is able to provide some time volunteering (office, drivers or passenger assistants) and we will give full training.

Finally, if your loved one is using our service to help to maintain their independence, perhaps you might consider supporting us, either with a donation or by volunteering

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The report of the January meeting of Backwell Parish Council will appear in the March edition of The Village Magazine, alongside the February one.



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Backwell School News

Whole School production of *West Side Story*

Tuesday 6th February to Friday 9th February

This will hit the School stage after months of planning, preparation and rehearsals have gone into the production, and it promises to be of the high standard we have come to expect from our staff and students.

Performances at 7.00pm in the main school theatre.

This production is just one of many reasons why Backwell Sixth Form remains one of the best places to study A levels or equivalent qualifications in the region.

Folgarida Ski Trip 2024

It is the aim of the school not only to encourage our students in their academic studies, but also to develop their social skills and physical fitness and enable them to experience environments outside their normal day-to-day lives. The Backwell School Ski Trip has been running for over twenty years and has built up a very strong reputation. Because of the superb facilities on offer, we have decided to return to Folgarida, Italy in 2024.

This year's trip will take place during the Easter holiday 2024, departing Friday 29th March and returning Friday 5th April 2024. All 50 spaces have been filled.



Trips

Backwell School has a strong tradition of organising trips to complement the curriculum and enrich the students' learning outside of the classroom. Examples of trips that took place over the past year included:.....

Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath Fashion Museum • Tyntesfield 'Red Dress' Exhibition • Life Drawing, Royal West of England Academy • <i>Costume for Theatre, TV & Film</i>, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
Business Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadbury World, Birmingham • <i>Discover Economics Schools' Challenge</i>, Bristol
Careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath University • <i>Weston College</i>
Duke of Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions on the Mendips and Dartmoor
Education Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barton Camp • <i>Local excursions</i>
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, Backwell Playhouse • Ovid in the West Country storytelling competition, University of Bristol • Essay Competition Winners trip to Waterstones Bookshop • <i>An Inspector Calls</i>, Bath
Enrichment Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Tyrrell outdoor education centre, New Forest • Warwick Castle • Mojo Active, Bristol • Bristol Street Art Tour • Falmouth University, Cornwall • Eden Project, Cornwall • BF Adventure, Cornwall • <i>Beach Activities, various beaches, Cornwall</i>
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Holford GCSE trip • SS Great Britain field trip • FSC Nettlecombe Court field trip • <i>Bosington Green field trip</i>
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 12 History trip to Berlin • <i>Lessons from Auschwitz, Poland</i>
Modern Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Exchange, Dinan • German Exchange, Freising • <i>Spanish Spelling Bee, Bath</i>
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir workshop and concert at St George's, Bristol
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Studies trip to Mendip Outdoor Pursuits • <i>The Wave, Bristol</i>
Philosophy & Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places of Worship, Bristol • <i>Shepton Mallet Prison</i>
Performing Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noughts & Crosses</i>, Bath • <i>Ocean at the End of the Lane</i>, Bath • North Somerset Dance Festival, Weston super Mare • <i>The Lion King</i>, Bristol • <i>The Great Big Dance Off, Cheltenham</i>

Key Dates

Friday 9th February

- End of Term 3

Monday 19th

February – Start of Term 4 (Inset Day)

Thursday 28th March

- End of Term 4 (Inset Day)



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Backwell Scout News

This year, the Scouts are proud to announce another resounding success, having raised an impressive £433 from the sale of stamps. Throughout the weeks leading up to Christmas, dedicated Scouts worked tirelessly to deliver cards across our village.

The money raised will be put towards the future purchase of a new minibus which will allow the Scout leaders to continue to offer the wide range of activities and camps which they currently undertake. If you wish to make a donation to the minibus fund, please do get in touch.

The success of the Scout

Christmas Post isn't just about the funds raised. It is about the tradition that brings the community closer together. In an era where digital communication often takes precedence, the tangible act of sending and receiving cards remains a

cherished yuletide tradition that fosters a sense of connection among neighbours and friends. The Scouts would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in the 2023 Christmas Post. Whether you sent a card, purchased stamps, volunteered your time or acted as a Post Office, your contributions have made a significant difference.



Tuesday Beavers

Tuesday Beavers have had several weeks off over the Christmas period but are back and recharged, ready for the year ahead.

We have a varied programme including finally being able to go on our tobogganing trip with the money raised by our bake sale and we'll also be paying particular focus on health this term.

Our first session back saw the Beavers completing a fun obstacle course and creating fruit monsters out of fruit prepared by each lodge and also performing experiments on pears and apples to see which float. If your child is interested in joining Tuesday Beavers, please email tuesdaybeaversbackwell@gmail.com to join the waiting list.

Sarah

Tuesday Scouts

2023 ended with the now traditional Family Quiz night and it was great to see so many parents willing to put themselves forward for the challenge as their Scouts noisily competed against them - a good fun night to end the year on a high.

After the well earned Christmas break we are looking forward to 2024 with a fun packed year of activities planned. Coming up we have an option to join in the Bristol Monopoly Run, an event for Scouts and Guides - the Scouts will be the players and Bristol itself will be the board! We will also be considering where to go for the Expedition Challenge for our next cohort of older Scouts, BOTT (Backwell on the Trail to replace JOTT which is no longer being run), Winter and

Spring camps, hill walking and Summer camp.

Yes, the planning starts now. Then, of course, there are the usual Tuesday evening activities as well. We will update you all on these and our other activities as the year progresses.

Ian

Friday Scouts We enjoyed a fabulous end to 2023 with Tomahawk throwing, a festive night hike, a Warhammer night and our Christmas party. A highlight was a chocolate workshop provided by a fantastic chocolatier based in Clevedon. I wonder how many of the chocolate-Christmas gifts we made actually made it until Christmas?

This term is all about training for a forthcoming night

hike competition in the Cotswolds. Friday Scouts are entering fourteen scouts across three teams in the 10-mile hike, so we have lots of fun map-based activities planned, a night hike and a visit from St John's Ambulance to help us brush up on our emergency aid skills, which hopefully won't be required on the night. To help us recover, we have a lovely relaxation and wellbeing evening planned before we break for half term.

Lorraine Friday Scouts Section Leader



Contact Details for 1st Backwell Scout Group

Sarah - bloorina@googlemail.com for Tuesday Beavers

Jeff - jeff@backwellscouts.org.uk for Thursday Beavers

Beaver waiting list is gary@backwellscouts.org.uk

Helen - helen@backwellscouts.org.uk - for Monday Cubs

Frank - frank@backwellscouts.org.uk for Thursday Cubs

Cubs waiting list is helen@backwellscouts.org.uk

Jill - jill@backwellscouts.org.uk for Tuesday Scouts, and Group Scout Leader matters

Lorraine - lorraine@backwellscouts.org.uk for Friday Scouts

Iain - iain@backwellscouts.org.uk for Wednesday Explorers and Ten Tors training

Ben - ben@backwellscouts.org.uk for Scout Exec matters

hq@backwellscouts.org.uk for Hut HQ Management matters

Federation of West Leigh Infant & Backwell Junior School

West Leigh Infant School Glove Puppets (Yr1 aged 6-7)

Before Christmas the children in Rabbit Class enjoyed the challenge of designing and making their own glove puppets. As part of this process the children had to learn how to sew a running stitch and an over stitch. The sewing stitches proved a little challenging at times but we had plenty of adult helpers who sorted out our tangles and knots to get us going again. A BIG thank you! We were all very pleased with our finished glove puppets.



Yr. 2 trip to Bristol Aerospace

On Tuesday 28th November, Fox and Hedgehog classes visited the Aerospace Museum in Filton to celebrate their learning about the history of aviation.



At the museum, they got to explore Concorde and took part in a workshop where they worked in teams to build and test their own model Concorde. They also explored the museum and saw some of the

historical figures and aircraft they have been learning about including George White, the Wright Brothers and the Bristol Box kite. Both classes behaved beautifully and represented West Leigh extremely well.



Backwell Junior School

Year 3 children had their Ancient Egyptian WOW day on Thursday 7th December. Egyptologist, Ali Ball, visited and spent the whole day talking to them about Egyptian Gods, showing them real-life artefacts and teaching them to write in hieroglyphs. Ali truly enthralled the children with her vast knowledge of the Ancient Egyptians and was able to show them her own experiences of the time she had spent in Egypt, including photos of her standing next to the pyramids so the children could really understand just how enormous they are. The children thoroughly enjoyed being able to dress up as Ancient Egyptians and spending a whole day exploring the history they have been learning about since September.

Celebrating 10 years of 'CONNECT'ing

A hugely successful support project at work in Nailsea School is at risk of having to close due to lack of funding.

10 years ago, in a small church hall in Nailsea, a vision to offer pastoral care and support the community of Nailsea School was birthed, and local churches agreed to employ, and gift to the school, a part time youth professional as 'an extra pair of hands'. Neil Wylie was given a limited term contract, a part time salary and a brief to get to know the needs of the school and support staff there to help young people.

Over the last decade this role has developed and, particularly since the Covid lockdown, become significantly more necessary.

To the delight of school staff, parents and students, Neil, with voluntary help from other local youth workers, has steadfastly provided encouragement, mentoring, and mental health support for hundreds of young people in need. One parent recently commented like this; 'I just thought I would drop you a line to say thank you so much for all of the support you have given X over the last couple of years. It has been a relief for me knowing that he had someone he could go to at School to talk things through, and I know he has appreciated talking to you.' Whilst one of the deputy heads at Nailsea summed up his help like this; 'Neil continues to support the school with some challenging cases both in terms of individual cases, group work and field trips. This is an invaluable asset which we are truly grateful to add capacity to our pastoral support team.'

Ten successful years on though, the trustees are finding it harder than ever to raise sufficient resources to go on funding the project. Connect treasurer John Payne recently wrote to local churches to express thanks for their ongoing support but highlighted that this covers less than half the annual costs. John said; 'I'm sorry to say that we are finding things harder as we look to the future. Whereas we have funds up to the end of our financial year in April, it is looking very bleak after that. We are struggling to find grant making bodies to approach for help.'

Connect chair of trustees, Peter Burns, said that 'Connect has been a fabulous resource for our local school community and one which is needed more than ever. We would love to hear from anyone who may be able to help us raise these much-needed funds to go on supporting local young people in need.'

If you are able to help keep CONNECT connecting, please get in touch.

Peter.burns@nailseabaptist.com

Editor's note - just as Backwell Junior School is embarking on the exciting new venture of becoming a training hub for Pupil Chaplains, it would be very disappointing to see this established, successful chaplain project disappear simply due to lack of funds.



Backwell Playhouse

Backwell Playhouse have started rehearsals on our April show and we are looking forward to sharing details soon.

In the meantime, we are thrilled to be welcoming back award-winning Alison Neil with another of her fantastic one-woman shows.

After the huge success of "Glowing Bright" in 2022, Alison will be presenting "Mrs Baker's Company" on **Sunday 3rd March** at 2.30pm. Mrs Baker's Company (or, a Tale of Rogues and Vagabonds) tells the story of Sarah Baker, who shone brightly as a theatre manager at the beginning of the 1800s. Later forming her own company, she fought to gain respectability - against almost impossible odds. Her story reveals a precarious world of make-believe and slapstick, mixing with the highest and the lowest, providing a touch of magic wherever the wagons stopped and the show began.

The event will consist of a one-act show, followed by a fascinating Q&A session with Alison after the interval. Tickets are £12 (£10 Members) and available from www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk or by calling Jon on 07974223081



Spring Spring Clean of Backwell's Hedges & Verges

Come and help Sustainable Backwell volunteers to litterpick around the village, especially in the hedges while they have fewer leaves. This will benefit wildlife and the soil by preventing plastic wrappers from decaying into polluting microplastic particles.

Date: If not raining/snowing – **Sunday 25th February**. Or if the weather is bad on 25th, then it will be on Sunday 3rd March.

Where and when to meet: 25 Mulberry Close at either 10.00am or 2.00pm (whichever time is better for you). Then come back at 4.00pm for tea, scones and jam and share your litterpicking stories.

All litterpicking will be at your own risk. Please wear gardening gloves and Hi-Viz if you have them. Sustainable Backwell will have a few litterpicking tools available to borrow. We hope that you will be able to take the litter you collect home with you to put in your own recycling boxes and black bin for the Monday collection.

Any questions: Please ring Sarah 01275 463978

ex-WI social group

We have made arrangements to meet up at the Coffee House on the Backwell Crossroads junction on the first Monday of each month - unless a bank holiday - arriving by 2.15pm for refreshment and chat.

Those of us coming from Nailsea and Railway Station area can make use of the local bus service to hopefully keep it running.

The December lunch party at Cadbury Garden Centre was enjoyed by all those attending - we could make this happen more often if members would like this. See you there, Pauline and Elizabeth

Keep Active in Backwell with Age UK Somerset

Keeping active is vital for our health and wellbeing. Did you know, the guidelines for exercise for older adults is to do at least 150 minutes of moderate activity every week, and to try to be active every day. Why not mix up your usual routine with an Age UK Somerset activity session? These are specially designed for people over 55.

In Backwell, you could join the recently launched **Movement to Music** exercise class. This fun and lively choreographed class is held in Backwell WI Hall, Station Road, BS48 3QW, on Thursdays at 10.00am, the class costs £5 per week.

For more information or to sign up contact Age UK Somerset's Ageing Well service on: 01823 345624

ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk
ageuksomerset.org.uk/ageingwell

2ND Saturday Fair Trade & Repair Café February 10th Backwell Parish Hall 10.00am to 12.00

Once again, the Fair Trade Café welcomes Sustainable Backwell who will present their ever popular repair service. Garments will be sewn, computer advice given and shears sharpened etc. Come along to enjoy excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea as well as some delicious home baked pastries and biscuits.

As usual this month the bulk-buy Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service. Here you can join and buy all kinds of food stuffs in bulk including many different types of flour, a wide range of cereals, nuts, seeds and spices as well as all kinds of tinned fruit and vegetables, various coffees, teas, beverages, chocolates, biscuits and much more. The range includes many fair trade and organic items. Come and peruse the catalogue or go to <http://www.essential-trading.co.uk>, join the Club and place an order

You can also buy from the goods on display without joining or ordering.

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

Backwell Climate Group will be present to provide useful information on environmental topics. The theme this month will be 'shopping locally'.

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

Repair Café: Saturday 10th February

Can we repair something for you? Bring your broken things for us to try and repair, so that they don't go to landfill. In the past we have repaired chairs, coats, shopping bags, a strimmer, table lamps, rucksacks, umbrellas, a food mixer, secateurs, bikes, cuddly toys ... AND costume jewellery (a new volunteer who came for the first time in October is a specialist in this). We can also sharpen garden tools, knives and scissors. Sustainable Backwell volunteers will be running their Repair Café alongside the Fairtrade Café on **Saturday 10th February**, 10.00am-12.00noon, at the Parish Hall ... which means you can enjoy a mug of Fairtrade tea or coffee while you wait. Oh, and please turn up early with your repairs - they take time to do.

Nailsea Shedders will be there with some surplus tools to give away to anyone who would find them useful.

West Town and Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 21st February** from 7:30pm in the WI Hall.

The speaker will be Nicola Everitt, manager of the UK Tea Academy, who will unravel the delights of our nation's favourite beverage and introduce you to some new options for enjoying your brew at home.

New members welcome
Email [BackwellWI@gmail](mailto:BackwellWI@gmail.com)
for more information or find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The Meeting Point

We're rapidly heading towards half-term already, so planning is under way for some craft-centred and creative Holiday Action for Tuesday **13th February from 10.00 to 12.00** in the Parish Hall. Look out for further details. Younger siblings are always welcome and parents can relax with coffee and home-made cake before deciding whether to join in. As ever, a warm welcome awaits on Tuesdays between 10.30 and 4.30, especially if you wish to enjoy some of the other activities. The after school and pre-ballet folk meet for the last period of the afternoon, which usually means there's no cake left for us to take home.

A full 2-course lunch produced by Scotty will be served on **20th February at 1.00pm** in the Parish Hall – always a popular event. We do ask for bookings for this one by 13th February please, to ensure we have catered for you. A warming bowl of home-made soup, followed by bread and cheese with fruit etc awaits on **6th February at 1.00pm**. No need to book, just come and enjoy.

The Sitting Fit Yoga sessions continue through these colder months, with the exception of 13th February, and starts with a social time for refreshments from 10.30. Coffee and cake are enjoyed before the session, which runs from 11.00 to 12.00.

This month our **Communion** service will be held on **6th February at 12.15**, also in the Parish Hall. All are welcome as we break bread together before enjoying the soup lunch.

If you have ideas of things we could slot into the day or if you'd like to volunteer with us, please do get in touch. We'll soon be planning for the school summer holidays, so what would you like to see happening? The £5.00 annual membership gives you a voice as well as helping our funds.

Contact: e-mail or phone: backwell.life@gmail.com or call/text on 07851 438530. Or visit our website at www.themeetingpointbackwell.co.uk

Yatton Music Society Spring Concerts.

Looking forward to the lighter nights with the colour and smell of Spring in the air, the Yatton Music Society is delighted to host its Spring series of live quality music at St Mary's Church. The programme for the season will commence with a candlelit concert by the Bristol Ensemble, followed by the Rockhampton wind quintet, Boglárka György (violin), organ recital by Richard Johnson, and Stephanie Gilbert (flute) from Backwell.

The first concert of the season on **Saturday 3rd February** will be 'Vivaldi by Candlelight' performed by the Bristol Ensemble led by Roger Huckle and will be a performance similar to that played at Backwell's St Andrew's Church in October.

The second concert is on **Saturday 24th February** and will be an evening of sparkling music by the brilliant Rockhampton Wind Quintet, with flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and horn.

Concerts start at 7.30pm at St Mary's, ticket prices are £10 and the audience is assured of a warm welcome, refreshments and wonderful music.

Details of these and future concert and can be found on the society's website www.yms.org.uk

Off the Record (OTR) North Somerset made the exciting move to our new offices in Rodney Road this January. OTR is a charity dedicated to providing mental health support for young people and young adults aged 11 to 25. We're not just a service – we are a mental health movement mobilised to support, promote and defend the mental health, rights and social position of young people.

In North Somerset, we are delivering one-to-one therapy at our Backwell offices every Wednesday and Thursday and Low-Intensity Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) in schools. We also run two group sessions – Mind Aid, focusing on low mood, anxiety, stress, or depression, and Shameless, a safe space for those impacted by body image and low self-esteem. Both groups are available in schools and online.

Our fantastic Community Development team is out and about, promoting our services in venues across the county, attending community events, and hosting drop-in spaces (hubs) in schools and at Castle Batch Children's Centre. The team also runs our Resilience Labs, a fun, 5-week interactive group, helping participants understand stress, practice self-care, and build bounce-backability.

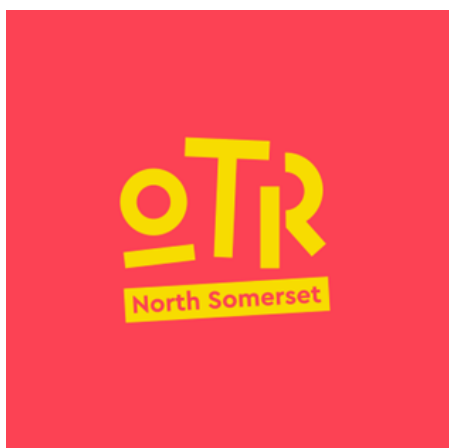
For our young adults aged 18 to 25, we have a dedicated support worker delivering Resilience Labs and also providing one-to-one support. Our 18-25 Mental Health Practitioner is also organising wellbeing walks in some beauty spots across North Somerset.

If you're 18 or over and keen on volunteering, why not join OTR? We offer an induction programme, continuous one-to-one support, and the chance to get involved in hubs, community events, or shadow our group work. It's not just a rewarding experience, but a great addition to your CV or university application.

Our delivery in North Somerset is all about adapting to the diverse needs of different communities. We might be running a group in one community and then heading off to another to support exciting community nature projects.

We're absolutely thrilled to be based in Backwell and can't wait to become part of the community while delivering essential mental wellbeing support to young people.

Interested in learning more or accessing our services? Check out our website at www.otrnorthsomerset.org.uk.



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Knitting for Others

(Where and when you can)

I should have wished everyone, (particularly those who of who knit for others) A happy 2024 in The Village Magazine for January – Sorry - so now I pray for everyone, that we will feel God's Love and strength, whatever happens in 2024.

In December two bags of warm family garments etc went to be distributed to those who need them. The we started to fill another bag, but not before we added angels to the original crib scenes each Little Lamb family had been given previously.

Our social time to knit together this month is as usual the second Monday of the month from 10.30am **Friday 12th February** at 18 Karen Close. But if you would like to come another day or time, please phone 01275 463131. *Barbara Paige*

St. Andrew's Ladies Group.

In spite of the bitterly cold weather and the threat of snow, we had a good number of members attend our January meeting. Our chairman welcomed two guest speakers who although had very different roles in life had something in common.

Andy Pitcher told us how he had always worshipped in Clevedon but one day whilst walking in Backwell he felt God was calling him to join St Andrew's Church. In a very short time he became joint church warden and responsible for the running of the church and the appointing a new rector.

Tim Selby our second speaker also felt he had a calling to do God's work but in the Baptist ministry. Tim is in his final year before he becomes the minister of Backwell Baptist Church. We were struck by his enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment to his calling. He mentioned his aims which were to share the gospel, to offer hope and light the way to God. Our next meeting on **February 12th** will be a talk by Arthur Taylor about the history of Clevedon Court. We are a friendly group and always pleased to welcome new members, do come along if you can.

Nailsea District Leg Club

The Leg Club was delighted to receive £1061.11 recently from Nailsea & Backwell Rotary Club following the Charity Walk that took place last summer. This is a most welcome boost to funds that will go a long way to supporting members. Many thanks to those who walked on our behalf, their sponsors, and the Rotary Club for organising the walk. The Leg Club is very dependent on either grants or small donations (including small legacies), to keep running, so the annual Charity Walk is not only vital to us, but also an enjoyable walk for those who take part.

Nailsea District Leg Club was started nine years ago and is fortunate to have the continued support of Tyntesfield Medical Group, and a proactive committee, who meet regularly to discuss what goes on each Wednesday morning at Nailsea Tith Barn. These mornings are well attended by members needing treatment at our drop-in clinic, or members who enjoy coming for a chat and social catch-up. Please spread the word if you, a relative or friend would like to drop in for advice (prevention is better than cure) or treatment.

For more information call either Carole Brooke 07954 302498 or Sandy Riley 01275 853547 for information.

Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

The February meeting is on **Wednesday 28th** at the Backwell W.I. Hall at 1.30pm.

The speaker will be Judy Pride, on " Tyntesfield: Low vision walks". (Judy was for several years our Macular Society Regional Manager).

Our meetings are open to anyone interested in the speaker or subject; no commitment is involved. We would love to welcome you. Further information from Sheila on 01275 462107.



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

The following is a quote from an MU website.

'Supporting families around the world Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. Our members are active in 83 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities to build a future where everyone thrives.'

Our branch meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month in Church House at 2.15pm, all are welcome to our meetings. We have a speaker most months and hold fund raising events to help with the MU projects worldwide.

Dates for February

Tuesday 6th	10.30am	Coffee morning at 14 Yeo Valley Way, Wraxall
Tuesday 27th	2.15pm	Branch meeting, Speaker:- Roger Shorland

Subject:- Rotary and its involvement in the community.

Backwell Probus Club Report

During December we have had only one get-together, our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Masonic Hall, when it was attended by 73 members and guests. A very successful raffle was held collecting £210.00 for our charity, this year, "Nailsea and District Community Transport". Our first meeting in the new year has been a super talk by Barry Hamlin about the formative working life of (Captain) James Cooke. How he quickly moved from farmworker to an apprenticeship in Staithes which brought him into contact with the sea. He then went to sea on coal luggers and moved on to the Navy. Here he had a fortuitous cooperation with an Army surveyor preparing for battle with the French in the St Lurance estuary in Canada, which gave him surveying skills and then "the world was his oyster". We look forward to our AGM next to elect new officers one hopes.

Do come and join us 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

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER in & around BACKWELL

Prayer Watch

Monday, 5th February 7.45 – 9.30pm, at St. Andrew's, starting with refreshments. Come along to pray for the needs of the world, and our village.

Open the Book

Sharing a bible story in a fun and interactive way with the children of West Leigh Infants School on alternate Wednesday mornings at 10.00 am. **February 7th & 21st.**

Lent Lunch

We are holding just one lunch this year on **Ash Wednesday 14th February**, 12.30pm at St Andrew's Church House. Cost £5, for a frugal lunch of soup, bread, cheese/pate and pickles, with profits to Wellspring Counselling Service. Please support this and bring your friends.

Begin Well

FREE Antenatal Course

This is a 7 weeks course that will run on Mondays, 7-8.30pm.

Dates:
12, 19, 26 Feb
4, 11, 18, 25 March

Location:
Methodist Church, Nailsea



NEW COURSE DATE

The course is best to attend after 28 weeks, these dates will best suit due dates April/May 2024.
You are welcome to attend alone or with your birth partner.



Contact Tmi Booy (St Andrew's Childrens Worker) for more details


childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

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Backwell Garden Club

The Club will meet as usual on Wednesday the **21st February** in the Backwell WI Hall at 1.45pm for 2.00pm. The speaker will be Catherine Williams and her topic is Spring Flowers.

The Club meets on every third Wednesday of the month at 1.45pm and New Members or Visitors are always welcome. For further details contact Robin Langford on 01275 855822 or email rclangford64@gmail.com



Play Badminton

Do you want to get fit after Christmas and the New Year? If so, why not play badminton with a local, friendly, non-league club? Nailsea All Comers Badminton Club is looking for new members who have some experience, or people who have not played for a while and would like to get back into the game. The club plays on Friday nights from 7.00pm until 9.00pm, in Nailsea. If you are interested, please give Gordon a ring on 01275 810067 or Jenny on 01275 463264. (Unfortunately, we can only take players aged 18 or over)

Nailsea & District Local History Society

12th February, in Nailsea School at 7.45pm

From Bryegstow to Bristol in 45 Bridges

Speaker - Jeff Lucas

Backwell & Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on **Wednesday 7th February** at the WI Hall, Backwell from 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Entertainment by The Grassy Knoll Ukulele Ensemble
Come and join us for support, friendship, entertainment and a short respite from your caring role.

New carers, any age or gender, always welcome.

PS If you would like to attend this afternoon of brilliant entertainment, we are opening this event to non-members (at a charge of £2.00 per head, to include tea and cake) to boost our group funds. Look forward to seeing you.

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



Film Club

It is good to be able to report that an excellent program of films, as chosen by our members, is encouraging new people to fill the diminishing number of available membership places.

This month's offering, showing on the first three evenings of February, is **Banshees of Inisherin** with Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson playing lifelong friends, Padraic and Colm, who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship bringing alarming consequences to both of them.

PLEASE NOTE: Next month we shall be enjoying Bill Nighy's performance in **Living ...** but be warned we run from **February 29th to March 2nd**, something to do with temporal exactitude, I understand.

Tim Lewis 01275 790555

Senior Club

We had a very well attended Christmas Party, which seems a long time ago now. Tim and Sheila entertained us with an excellent new musical rendition of the nativity story called **Come to Bethlehem**, which was based on tunes from Les Miserables. They followed this with some seasonal songs and readings finishing with everyone participating in an enthusiastic interpretation of *The 12 Days of Christmas*. A good afternoon and prelude to the festive season.

Tim Hooper, another well known Backwell entertainer, will be talking to us on Friday **16th February** about his experiences as an 'Extra' doing Television and Film work over the years under the title of **Television Tales**.

We actively welcome everyone, younger or older, to our meetings - 'Senior' may imply 'old', but it doesn't mean it!

Nancy Lewis 01275 790555



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Backwell Baptist Church

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

Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am
Services start - 10:30am

4th February (Communion)

Preacher: Crawford Telfor

Service Leader: Anne Nicklen

Passage: Romans 8:26-27

Theme: Praying in the Spirit

11th February

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader's: Ann and Alan Lewis

Passage: Joshua 1

Theme: 2024 Vision Sunday

18th February (Church Lunch)

Preacher: Peter Price

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Passage: Psalm 5

Theme: Prayer: Lamenting

25th February

Preacher: Neil Mobbs

Service Leader: Tim Crossley

Passages: Intercession & Praying for the Nation

Theme: 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

News from St Francis

The 2nd February, sees the 26th Anniversary of the dedication of our Church which will be celebrated on Sunday 4th February at both Masses.

This month, sees the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 14th February with Mass and the distribution of Ashes.

Some of our parishioners are going on a joint pilgrimage with St Josephs, Portishead to Rome from the 19th - 23rd February.

Please check Mass times for all weekday and Sunday Masses on www.josephfrancis.org and for Livestreaming.

St Bridget's

The Patronal Service will be held on Sunday, 4th February at 3.00 pm with tea served immediately afterwards. This year we have a special addition to the service which involves the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Restoration of the Church carried out between 2007 – 2020.

In 2006, the Church was faced with an immediate bill of £100,000 just to make the Tower and all the windows windproof and waterproof. Such was the response from the community that the PCC was not only able to fund this work but was able to continue to upgrade the facilities in the church such that we now have a building fit for purpose for many years to come.

In addition, we shall unveil a plaque on the oak surround to our famous knight in the Tynte Chapel in honour of Michael Dorrey, a great stalwart of our church during the Appeal, who played the organ for us and was Churchwarden for many years.

Tony Stirratt

West Town Methodist Church

Sunday Services in February, at 10.30am

4th Revd Ian Bowley

11th Revd Deborah Mallett **Communion**

18th Revd Deborah Mallett **Café Style Service for Lent**

25th Heather Bentley

The Welcome Hub - Monday mornings 10.00 to 12.00, where a warm welcome awaits you for a cuppa and a chat. Feel free to bring along knitting, crocheting, puzzles, craft project etc., or simply enjoy the conversation. Any queries, please contact Shirley Edwards at: tsmce12@gmail.com

Ready Teddy Sing - every Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00 noon, every Tuesday in term time. Play, story, songs, craft and café at our babies and toddlers group led by Patty Lou, our Families Worker, with May Vivian and a team of volunteers.

Fellowship Group 10.30am for 11.00, on Wednesday 7th & 21st February at 53 Oakleigh Close.

Church Council – Tuesday, 6th February 7.15pm

Musical Evening

Mike and Ellis are giving us another wonderful **Golden Oldies Evening**, on Saturday, 17th February, at 7.00pm, at West Backwell Bowling Club. There will be nibbles, a bar, and a raffle. The proceeds will help support our families' work in the community. All the tickets have now been sold.

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 or 01275 463123



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

This month takes us through preparation for and the beginning of Lent, including a Sung Eucharist with ashing on 14th February, Ash Wednesday. As we move through these 40 days, there will be opportunities to come together in prayer and contemplation at various stages. Details will be publicised each week.

Before this, we come together in St Bridget's on **4th February** at 3.00pm to mark this church's patronal festival. Refreshments will be served after the service for all who would like to stay.

On the weekend of **18th February**, we are very pleased to welcome back Rev Jane Eastell who served her curacy in the benefice several years back. Jane is leading a quiet morning on 17th based on some words of Catherine of Sienna and all are welcome. She will then celebrate at a Benefice Eucharist on the Sunday at 10.45.

Following the consultation event at the end of January, preparations are under way for the next stage of appointing a new Rector. Please do pray for those who are closely involved in this process. Thank you to everyone who completed the benefice questionnaire and submitted their responses. It was good to hear voices from across this community.

*With warm greetings,
Martin Canning*

Sundays in February

St Andrew's Church

4th 2nd Sunday before Lent
9.00am Little Lambs
10.45am Informal Worship and Word

11th Sunday next before Lent
10.45am Sung Eucharist

14th Ash Wednesday
7.00pm Sung Eucharist with ashing

18th 1st Sunday of Lent
10.45am Benefice Eucharist.
5.00pm Evensong

25th 2nd Sunday of Lent
9.15am Sung Eucharist
10.45am Informal Worship

St Bridget's Church

4th Patronal Festival
3.00pm Holy Communion

11th Sunday next before Lent
9.15am Morning Worship

Benefice Register of Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals in December

Burial of Ashes

1st Marian Pattison
James McIver
4th Ray Pearce
7th Christine Sutton

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 February we shall be praying for

**Church Lane
Linemere Close
Court Close**

St Andrew's Charity for January, February & March - USPG

Vision

For the churches of the Anglican Communion to experience a deeper fellowship together in Christ and be sources of transformation within their communities and beyond.

Mission

To partner churches across the Anglican Communion in rethinking mission, energising church and community and championing justice.

Aims

USPG has three strategic aims: Rethinking Mission, Energising Church and Championing Justice.

We bring people together from different parts of the global Church in mutually enriching conversation and profound encounters, to deepen faith in Jesus Christ. We strive to make connections between the churches of the Anglican Communion to deepen bonds of affection and learn from each other in rich exchange. We promote education and leadership and strengthen the unity and capacity of the Anglican Church. We also accompany Anglican churches across the world as they form communities of hope and resistance in the struggles associated with climate change, migration, gender, the human rights of indigenous people and inter-religious living. The Christmas Appeal 2023 centred on malaria treatment in a programme run by the Anglican Council of Malawi.

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

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 admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk
Church Wardens	Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075 leakefamily1@hotmail.com Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158
Bell Ringers	Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416
Organist and Choir Master	Andrew Colley music@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk
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 Elizabeth Webb
St Andrew's Art Group	Chair - Jenny Alsop Tel 01275 791113
Sunday Club and Little Lambs	Timi Booy childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

St Bridget's

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

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@woodlandschurch.net



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