

The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley



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Only Jesus can save us

Would it be controversial to say that this country is in a mess? Clergy aren't supposed to be controversial – oops – but we really do seem to have taken a severely wrong turn somewhere. What are we to do? Where are we to go? How shall we resist? And what has Jesus got to do with it?

Let's take the proposed redevelopments in Backwell. If reports are to be believed we are looking at doubling the population of Backwell in the coming years, which might be all well and good if everything that goes along with an increase in population was also addressed – like medical provision, or transport needs, or public space. My question, my invitation, is: why aren't these things also being addressed?

There is a story that could be told here about the way in which the human being has been reduced to the status of an economic unit, a changeable and replaceable widget in the great factory of a modern economy. We are just steel ball-bearings, mass produced, useful for a purpose but discarded if not smooth enough. At least, that is how it feels when I'm stuck in a phone call listening to the robotic voice intoning 'your call is important to us'. Yeah, right.

What is missing in our modern economy, and it applies so obviously when it comes to housing developments, is any idea that we human beings are soulful creatures. There is more to us than the contribution that we can make to GDP. It matters that we can do the things that human beings need to do, like meet together, like look after our vulnerable and sick, like play in the fresh air, like sing and dance and love. Most of this doesn't turn up on the GDP balance sheet or – worse – things that are actually terrible end up being a contribution to the size of the economy, so they get incentivised even when they make our human lives much worse.

What would it look like if we started to build Backwell as if people mattered? What would be the balance between new homes and new facilities, and how would we arrange for people to move around? I have no confidence that the metropolitan bubble-dwellers in Whitehall have any idea (once upon a time I was one...!)

At the risk of sounding like a bible-basher, we have been in similar messes before, and there are lots of relevant stories in the Bible that have something to say about the mess that we are in – I'm rather hoping that we're more in a Tower of Babel situation than a Noah's Ark situation, but I'm not confident of that. What I am confident about is that we will not get to answers for the problems that surround us unless we recognise that we need to treat each other – and be treated by others – as full human beings, with deep-rooted needs that cannot fit onto an accountant's spreadsheet (vital and useful though such things are in their proper context).

If we accept that we need to function on a human scale with these questions, we need to have some idea of what a fully human life looks like, what it would mean for each and every one of us to flourish and become the people, individually and communally, that we were created to be.

Which is why only Jesus can save us. If we want to know what being human looks like, and what that flourishing life looks like, and what we have to do in order to share in that life, each of us and Backwell as a whole as we ponder all these developments, then we would do well to contemplate the one 'in whom we live and move and have our being'. In the midst of our contemporary glooms and dooms he is the one surpassing light who can guide us.

Rev Sam Norton, St Andrew's Backwell

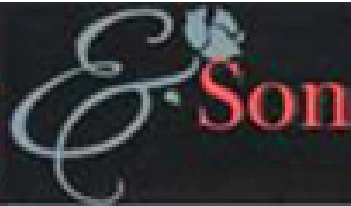
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Backwell Parish Council June Meeting

It was noted that Cllr Ould had unanimously been returned as Parish Council Chair. Cllrs Harris and Lloyd were unanimously elected as joint vice-chairs.

Two residents raised concerns about airport-related parking around Downside Park, including threats from landowners, access issues for emergency vehicles, and traffic congestion. Cllrs Harland and Power outlined reporting options and assured residents that the Parish Council continues to monitor and report issues, working with Bristol Airport and NSC.

Cllr Ould reported that Nailsea Town Council had raised concerns about a new application for 200 houses near Netherton Grange, despite a lack of infrastructure, unsold existing homes, and already congested roads. Given the potential impact on Backwell, Cllr Ould proposed that BPC object in support of NTC.

Planning Cllr Harland, as Chair of the Planning Committee, reported on several planning issues affecting Backwell:

Farleigh Fields East No response had been received from North Somerset Council regarding BPC's concerns about the draining and level situation. This has been chased up.

Farleigh Fields West (Land off Dark Lane) No update

Rodney Road Cllrs Harland and Power will be meeting with Taylor Wimpey for a preconstruction discussion on outstanding matters. Representatives from Backwell Playing Fields Charity, who are concerned about their boundary, the levels, access and compound, will attend for part of the meeting.

The road names are still under discussion. Cllrs Taylor and Power will attend Court on behalf of BPC if necessary.

It was emphasised that the Taylor Wimpey's access plans must explicitly reference the Strawberries and Cream tree, noting it as one of only two of its genus in the UK. Full details of BPC's stipulated conditions are available on the website.

Gleeson Proposals (South Nailsea) No update

Grove Farm Both BPC and the District Councillor will be involved in the discussions about building conditions, assisted by Lucy White, an independent planning consultant employed by BPC.

Even Keel (Land off Moor Lane) No update

East Backwell Councillors unanimously agree that members of BPC should meet with MicMac to discuss their forthcoming application to build on fields there.

Local Green Space There is to be a hearing in relation to the Local Green Space proposal. BPC will write as an interested party.



Planning Applications Councillors voted unanimously to continue to object to the application for permission in principle to build three dwellings to the south of 7 Backwell Hill. The area is Green Belt and in a Conservation Area.

Bus Service Improvement Scheme (BSIP) BPC remains opposed to the scheme in Backwell and continue to meet with the NSC team to ensure that residents' views are heard.

Bristol Airport Concerns were expressed about the absence of a bus stop at the layby for children to access school buses. This issue will be pursued by Cllr Harland, and Councillors agreed that the Lighthouse Trust should be asked to lend their support.

Concerns were also expressed about the speed limits in local lanes and it was felt that the national speed limit should be reduced to 30 or 40mph.

The ongoing problems with airport users parking in the station and lake parks was also discussed. It was hoped that police and other agencies would take action to address the problem where possible.

Enhancement Councillors unanimously approved a four-year contract for the Christmas lights.

Rights of Way Cllr Power reported that the situation at Long Lane appears to have settled. She and Cllr Harland will visit the area to confirm that the issues have been properly resolved.

Cllr Power reported that a stile near the Leisure Centre is in very poor condition. She is hoping to contact the landowner with a view to installing a kissing gate instead.

The next full meeting of the Council will be held at the Parish Hall on **Thursday, 3rd July 2025 at the earlier time of 6.00pm**

Backwell's 2ND Saturday Fair Trade Café July 12th Backwell Parish Hall 10.00am to 12.00

You are invited to Backwell's monthly second Saturday Fair Trade Community Café to enjoy the excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea and some delicious home baked pastries and biscuits. This is our last café before the summer August break, but we start again on September 13th. 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 different types of flour, a wide range of cereals, nuts, seeds and dried fruits 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, you can peruse the catalogue at the cafe or at <http://www.essential-trading.co.uk>. Why not come along, join the club and place an order for what you need. You can also buy from the range of goods on display without joining or ordering. If you are interested in environmental issues one or more of Backwell's energetic groups such as Sustainable Backwell or Action for Climate Change may well be in attendance to discuss and advise. Move from recycling to re-using by bringing your own container to fill (or better refill) with all kinds of BioD/Ecover detergents and cleaning fluids on our BioD/Ecover stall.



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Backwell School News

Anti-bullying Ambassador Training

Earlier in the school year, a group of nine students from Backwell joined with students from ten schools across the Southwest to complete their anti-bullying ambassador training as part of the Diana Award.

Throughout the day the students took part in various interactive workshops to:

- develop their understanding of different types of bullying behaviours,
- understand the different roles in bullying behaviour
- recognise the signs that a target of bullying behaviour may show
- agree how to act when we witness bullying behaviour

Our anti-bullying ambassadors ended the day by making an action plan so that as a school we can earn our 3 anti-bullying badges, which are the community badge, the well-being badge and the inclusion badge.

Sports News

Our Under 13's and Under 15's Girls Softball Cricket team recently took part in the first round of the County 'Chance to Shine' Softball cricket competition earlier this term. After 3 three convincing wins and a couple of narrow losses the Under 13's finished 2nd in the competition!

Well done to all the girls who represented Backwell School. They came together as a team quickly, taking wickets and making spectacular catches in the field, alongside some impressive batting performances. A special mention must go out to May K who captained the team successfully throughout the competition and was awarded player of the match three times over the afternoon. Jess W and Meg P were also awarded player of the match. We also congratulate Emily M - a Year 7 who stepped up to play in the U13 team and played a vital role. Well done team - all the winter training definitely paid off.

Our Under 15's also finished 2nd in the competition. After some close results and scores tied, they went into a playoff for 1st/2nd place against St. Katherines School, narrowly missing out on the top spot. Well done to Captain Erin L for a great competition, gaining herself player of the match alongside Vice Captain Stella K, and Pearl P.



Motorbike Club

A huge well done to the Year 10 students who took part in Mr Trevitt's Motorbike Club at school this year.

They have taken a second-hand motorbike and restored it to showroom quality. Under Mr Trevitt's expert guidance they learnt how to maintain,

spray, customize and service this Blue Rock Legend 125. The aim is for the bike to be sold for a profit, which will then be invested in another vehicle for the Motorbike Club to work on in the new school year. This is a fantastic project for students to learn skills for the workplace. The bike is currently on display in the School Reception. If you are interested in purchasing this bike, please contact the school, who will put you in touch with Mr Trevitt to give more information.

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Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School

West Leigh Infant School

Three wise and Thoughtful Owls

Three of our Wonderful Year 2 Owls (aged 6), Harriet, Connie and Charlotte, were taken with the idea of fundraising for the school's solar panels project, and together, they decided to hold a cake and lemonade sale on Saturday 17th May. With their will, determination, and fantastic selling skills, they raised a whopping £177!

A very big THANK YOU goes to Charlotte, Connie, Harriet, and their siblings, who helped to run the stall and even went door to door to rustle up potential customers. Thanks also of course to everyone who donated cakes and stopped by to buy some!



Reception Trip to Puxton Park

On Wednesday 14th May, Badgers and Squirrels enjoyed a fantastic school trip to Puxton Park. They met a range of furry and not so furry creatures, made a bug hotel and created a toy for a marmoset.

In the afternoon the children went on a tractor ride and learnt all about the Puxton cows and some children even managed to go on the train. It was a beautiful sunny day and we are really proud of how the children behaved.

Thank you to our parent helpers who accompanied us on the trip. We really appreciate you giving up your time to join us.

Health & Fitness Week

On Monday 19th May, Year 1 and 2 took part in The West Leigh Triathlon! The triathlon events were running, scooting and bouncy hopping. Children chose to complete the triathlon solo or in teams of 2, 3 or 4. There was lots of energy, enthusiasm and teamwork. Everyone was amazing and completed the triathlon with huge grins on their faces. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying the event as well as cheering each other on. Well done Hedgehogs, Owls and Rabbits, you should all be very proud of yourselves!

Backwell C Of E Junior School

Health & Fitness Week

We had a wonderful BJS, Health and Fitness Week which was full of events suitable for all needs and abilities. Gymnastics, Boccia, Speed Stacking, Tug of War, Cornhole, Woodlands Walks, Tennis, Bleep Test, Art and Mindfulness and of course the much talked about and very wet Water Challenges which mostly ended up with a lot of water and a very wet Mr Williams!

We would like to thank Premier Sports, North Somerset PE Association, Gym Clubs, Bellatrix Dance Company and Match Point Tennis Club for contributing towards this being a week to remember. The biggest thanks of all goes to the fabulous staff for organising and getting fully involved in all the fun and to Mr Williams for his hard work and dedication in putting this week together.

80th Anniversary VE Day Concert by Indiana – 6S (aged 11)

In April, my mum received a message inviting me to go to the 80th Anniversary VE day concert as I participate in St John Ambulance cadets. So on Thursday 8th May, we took a looong coach to London and visited the Natural History Museum.

Afterwards we took the underground to Trafalgar Square and then went to Horse Guards Parade, where we met the Chelsea pensioners, retired army veterans who live in Chelsea Hospital and had a photograph with them. We then took our seats, near the royal box and watched as King Charles III, Queen Camilla and the Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Kate, entered the box, along with the Prime Minister and some of the remaining World War II veterans. Next we were surprised by a Battle of Britain plane flying overhead!

We then watched performances by the Strictly Come Dancing professionals and a lot of different singers and listened to some stories from people who were around in the war, like Mary Berry and also from Harry, a 107 year old, who was in the royal box. When it was over we took the tube back to the coach station for a very loooooong coach journey home. All in all it was a fantastic experience and I was honored to be invited. *Indiana, 6S.*



Backwell Senior Club

Since our last entry in The Village Magazine, we have held a very interesting AGM and a talk by Barry (Baz) Hamblin on the "History of Time".

The talk was very well researched, delivered and most interesting with extremely good screen images to help explain such things as how the earth orbits the sun, how the moon orbits the earth, and how we get our Solstices and Equinoxes. Why there are 30 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour 24 hours in a day. etc... etc...

We heard lots about how the Calendar was invented and how it changed through the centuries. Evidence shows how the Calendar dates back to ancient civilizations such as Sumerians, Egyptians and Mayans. How the Julian Calendar, a solar calendar, was introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and was in use for more than 1,600 years. Because it was not sufficiently accurate it was replaced by the Gregorian Calendar (after Pope Gregory XIII) in 1582 AD. The UK adopted this calendar in 1752 and it is used by more than 190 countries around the world today. Thank you Baz, it was fascinating.

At the AGM we had very lengthy discussions on our future. As our membership increases, we have decided that the Lounge at Lawnside is no longer big enough for our needs. The committee, with approval from the members, has agreed to move to West Town Methodist Church (WTMC) from 19th September where we will have more room to grow and more facilities for our use.

We thank Lawnside for making us welcome there for many years.

We now have our summer break for July and August and meet at WTMC from 19th September 2.00pm for 2.30 start.

Transport can be provided by prior arrangement. (Mair 01275 463736)

If you need any further information, please ring as below.

Enjoy the summer and we hope to "see **YOU** there."

Sue Griffiths

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New Ventures in Backwell

Emily Cook has been teaching yoga for over a decade; she moved to Backwell last summer and is excited to share yoga with the local community. Yoga is a mind and body practice that combines breath-work, movement, and relaxation. Emily is certified in traditional forms of yoga, but specialises in yoga that supports Fertility, Pre/Post-natal and Menopause.

She has just started a weekly Sunday Evening Yoga Flow class locally, 7.30-8.30pm, at Backwell Parish Hall.

Connect with Emily and book on her website, www.emilycookcoaching.co.uk or follow @emilycookcoaching

GLUE DESIGN & FABRICATION

has opened a workshop in Cheston Coombe

GLUE. design and fabrication is an independent Bristol based business, owned and operated by Mark Harris, designing and fabricating sculptural contemporary lamps, lighting, furniture and objects. GLUE. is the most recent iteration of Mark Harris's art career, which has spanned some 26 years of practicing arts, fabricating arts, installing arts all over the world.

GLUE. is the natural progression for Mark Harris to bring his skills, knowledge and love of the creative industries into one venture.

Beyond the design and fabrication of Mark's own contemporary lamps and furniture, GLUE. collaborates with Guest Designers, makers and artists from all sectors of the creative industry, through all stages of their careers, with the aim to build a fabulous community of vision and creativity! While always maintaining sculptural uniqueness and exemplary service with all designs and supply, GLUE. is a platform for artists and creatives to diversify their income streams and display their practices.

In the longer term, GLUE. will work on large scale design and sculpture commissions alongside its growing community of Guest Designers, further pressing ideas of community while adding more strata of income. As GLUE matures over the years and connections and contact grows, the GLUE. Design Awards will emerge. These awards will be aimed towards BA and MA post graduate students, within their first year of graduation. The award winner will receive a large cash prize and the opportunity to design and develop a lamp with Mark Harris or one of GLUE.'s Guest Designers. The final lamp will then be sold as a first edition of 25 alongside all Guest Designer contributions

GLUE. is currently working on its first biannual expo of designers and designs for November 2025.



Backwell Scout News

Tuesday scouts

May was a quieter month with no major outdoor events to throw us off course, so very much a Tuesday night report this time!



Amongst the usual games and general mayhem we have managed to squeeze in some knotting puzzles which led on to making and racing chariots - some chariots even made it to the finish. Earlier in the year we had undertaken some First Aid training and took the opportunity with the lighter nights to send the Scouts off on a First Aid Incident Hike around the village, so everyone can now sleep soundly knowing that if they have a medical need the Scouts will deal with it (or at least 'Do Their Best'!).

We have commenced a couple of evenings of rafting on the Yeo at Congresbury and are preparing our 'float' for the Backwell Walking Carnival later in June - it's all a bit hush-hush but there may be pictures next month.

Ian

Thursday Beavers

We were very busy last month learning to put up tents and tying reef knots plus an adventurous night at Glenny Woods, grass sledging, climbing and taking on the confidence course. This time it was warm and sunny.

We have also worked towards our Gardeners' Badge, planting seeds and learning how to use tools, plus walked to the allotments to gain this badge.

Gerry

Explorers

With exams looming for many of the Explorers getting away from studying and taking a break is an important way to manage the unit's stress levels! The summer term kicked off with a trip to the Curzon cinema to watch the new David Attenborough film called Ocean.

The following week the unit was split into smaller teams who had to devise a 'challenge' for other teams to undertake and included Trick Shots, Treasure Hunt, Back Pictionary, Bag Grope (identify stuff in a rucksack) and Biggest Find.

After the half term holiday, the Unit had to build a Sedan Chair using six poles and pieces of rope. Once made each team had to carry one team member across an obstacle course in the fastest time without dropping their passenger. The night finished with a game of family fortunes.

Plans are also coming along for the Unit's summer camp which is a trip to a scout camp on the outskirts of Amsterdam!!

Laurence

Backwell Residents Association (BRA)

At present there is huge building and planning activity in Backwell – here are some of the major happenings.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

Plans by the North Somerset Council (NSC) BSIP team to move to the next stage of BSIP Backwell, included a bus lane opposite the Leisure Centre, the use of GPS technology to give approaching buses priority at the traffic lights, a puffin crossing (similar to the one by the Post Office) near the leisure centre, and moving the crossroads Bristol bound bus stop to near the Post Office. Backwell Parish Council (BPC) and BRA opposed the proposals for a bus lane, and a bus stop near the Post Office. BRA conducted a survey of its members to gauge their opinion on the four proposals. There was support for the use of GPS and the puffin crossing but 98% of the 255 respondents opposed the bus lane.

The proposals were rejected by a scrutiny panel at Weston on May 27th with a vote by NSC Councillors of 6-2.

Unfortunately, our "stand-in" NSC councillors did not object, but others spoke well in opposing it. The best outcome would be for the GPS and puffin crossing to be implemented, and the bus lane and bus stop move be removed from the plan. It seems however that, despite knowing their unpopularity on safety and cost grounds, modified plans may be brought forward by the BSIP team for a decision.

Rodney Road - 65 houses by the Scout Hut

Taylor Wimpey (TW) is progressing this development with detailed plans, and BRA is working with BPC to set conditions for TW operations. Safety of school children is paramount, along with the many users of the Scout Hut and Playing Fields, plus parking issues on inadequate roads, which are being addressed by restricted times of site working and deliveries, and parking for site operatives etc.

Farleigh Fields (East) 96 houses

Persimmon has started building houses near to the A370 access and is marketing them (for example a poster by the ticket machine at the station, with a QR code). The huge pile of earth has naturally caused much anxiety, but this is **not** shown on the approved plans. It is temporary and is due to be removed. The Planning Enforcement team at NSC has visited the site regularly and is in contact with Persimmon, and says it "will continue to monitor the development to ensure that it is built in line with the approval given".

Farleigh Fields Local Green Space

BPC continues to give detailed consideration to the option to purchase this area.

STOP PRESS North Somerset Local Plan (up to 2040)

NSC has just produced the latest draft of its Local Plan. This puts an extra 1,000 houses in our Green Belt, in addition to 800 at Grove Farm and other already approved sites. Details are on our website, under "News & Hot Topics".

From your BRA Committee

Visit our website on
email us at

www.backwellresidents.org.uk
backwellresidents@btinternet.com

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The Meeting Point

Bookings via Eventbrite for our **Holiday Action 25** programme for children are now open. Details are available on our website (www.themeetingpointbackwell.co.uk) with a link through to the booking site. The programme covers all the Tuesdays in the school holidays from 10.00 to 12.00. We look forward to seeing you in the summer for music, juggling, art, cooking and clay modelling.

Holiday at Home this year in the Parish Hall is on **7th and 8th July** and will include lunch. There will be a range of activities and games on a sea cruise theme, and a chance to be sociable together. Brought to you by Backwell Baptist Church and ourselves, it's aimed particularly at those on their own or who aren't able to get away for a holiday so easily. Booking forms are available from The Meeting Point and the churches. Come to both days if you can - and bring a friend.


Sitting Fit Yoga continues on its usual schedule of Tuesdays from **11.00 to 12.00**, with the last one before the summer break being on 22nd July. Coffee and cake will as ever be available from 10.30, but on 8th July, the whole session will take place in the WI Hall.

Our lunch schedule for July is as normal:

1st July at 1.00 pm, home-made soup with bread and cheese, fruit etc.

15th July at 1.00 pm, 2-course lunch from Scotty. Please book by 8th July.

1st July at 12.15. Informal Communion service. Stay for the soup lunch if you can.



WHO LET THE DADS OUT?
The brilliant second series

A time of playing & being together

9.30 - 11.30am
Backwell Parish Hall
19th July

Lots of space and toddler toys

Coffee/tea and bacon baps for Dads
Healthy snacks for children

No fee or requirement to book.

Ring 01275 790309 for more information



Tuesdays Backwell Parish Hall 10am - 12
Holiday Action 25
Children's activities

+ Go Sketch

Cooking Pottery Ukulele Juggling

29th July, 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th August, 2nd September

Children attending must be in the charge of an adult, who remains responsible for them throughout the session. As always at The Meeting Point, there will be Fairtrade real coffee and tea, along with home-made cake.



There is no fee for any of the activities
But please book a place in advance.
(We are constrained on numbers)

Full details and booking at
<https://www.themeetingpointbackwell.co.uk/>

Backwell Life

Who Let the Dads Out? The next Dads' and toddlers' session will be on **Saturday 19th July** between **9.30 and 11.30am**, in the Parish Hall. It's a regular third Saturday feature in term-time and a chance to meet other Dads and their little ones.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for coffee and bacon baps, with drinks, fruit and rice-cakes for the kids. There will be plenty of toddler toys and if they're at a loose end older children will be welcome too.

Membership of Backwell Life is supported by a team of volunteers and trustees as well as its membership, which costs only £5.00 per year. We would love to see more members and of course are always looking for more volunteers (and potential trustees). If you are already a member, might you be able to offer a bit more of your time in support? Please contact us as below to find out more.

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

Backwell Village Show 2025



SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday 20th
September**

Backwell Parish Hall & WI Hall

Schedules available late June (print) or online at:

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

Follow '[BackwellVillageShow](https://www.facebook.com/BackwellVillageShow)' on Facebook!

Any local artists wishing to take part in **St Andrew's Art Group's Open Summer Exhibition** at Backwell Parish Hall from **Friday 25th to Sunday 27th July 2025**, please request an entry form by leaving your name and contact details with Lindsey on 01275 852348 (after 2.00pm) or give your details to any member of the group before **14th July 2025**. This year all funds will go to support the marvellous work of St Mungo's homeless charity.



PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The May meeting was largely devoted to planning the joint PPG / Tyntesfield Medical Group Information Stand

at the July Farmers' Market. Look out for us opposite 65 High Street; we'll have essential information around important health topics such as Healthy Eating, Arrhythmia, Checking Blood Pressure and Recognising Sepsis; your nearest defibrillators and bleed kits and more, including opportunities to find out more about the PPG and make suggestions to help improve your patient experience. A doctor and a nurse from the surgeries will attend as well as PPG members. The Wellbeing Officer updated us on the FREE Dance Event at the Tithe Barn on 12th June, part of the Age Without Limits week, plus we found out about the six FREE health seminars being offered at No 65 High Street by Nailsea Physio. She also told us that you can now recycle blister packs at N0 65.

AOB covered several issues including poor hospital discharge experiences, why the Practice was unable to send appointment reminders for children, 'Patient Place Assessment' opportunities at UBHT. We also talked about how collaboration with event or research partners can use a mechanism where they can select patients and use the Tyntesfield communication systems, although TMG will not be aware of which patients are contacted. The full minutes can be found on the TMG website:

<https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1>

Paul and Renate invite you to their

Crafts and Cream Teas

21st June - 5th July 2025

11am to 5pm - closed Tuesdays

We are once again opening our house & gardens for a Craft Extravaganza! We'll have beautiful hand crafted items made by us and by other local crafts people. Enjoy homemade cakes and cream teas all day.

3 Bishop's Mead, Cleeve BS49 4NH

Tel - 01934 835141

info@woodnthings-uk.com

All proceeds from refreshments and a percentage from all sales will go to Children's Hospice South West.

There is also a raffle for Cancer Research UK



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St Andrew's Art GROUP

Exhibition

Open Exhibition and Sale of Paintings
Free Entry

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th July 2025

Opening Evening: Friday

7.30pm to 9.15pm

Saturday 10am to 6pm

Sunday 10am to 4pm

Backwell Parish Hall
Station Road
Backwell BS48 3QW

All funds raised for
StMungo's

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Charity for the homeless



Evergreen Chorus Songs of Home

Where: Saint George's, Bristol

When: Sunday July 20th, 5pm

tickets can be purchased at
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www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk

featuring local
musicians, in a
world-class venue

Songs of Home is a
choral concert
not to be missed!



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Backwell Probus Club Report

We have had two meetings since our last report, our first was a talk by Capt. Roger Francis on the "Story of Trinity House". Members were entertained to a fascinating slide/talk including

all the maritime history involved. Trinity House was appointed by Royal Charter many years ago to provide much help, guidance and direction to the maritime community. It has an extensive training facility for naval personnel and still maintains a number of lighthouses and light ships around our shores. A thoroughly absorbing presentation with a high level of attendance. Our second meeting was a talk "The Creation of Somerset from Romans to the Saxons" by Ken Parsons. It was a very interesting story with considerable detail of the Saxon times revolving around King Alfred's reign, when he and his successors managed to take-over Mercia and the Danelaw territory and therefore most of England.

In July, our meetings will include a talk on "History of Windmills in Somerset" and "1820 Settlers of Somerset in South America". We meet 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 Tel : 01275 463160

Nailsea District Leg Club

The handbag sale held on a sunny May Saturday raised a magnificent, much needed £510.00.

Thanks to all who

volunteered before and on the day, and those who donated some super bags. The sun brought out lots of happy people and the musicians opposite were very entertaining. After some discussion it's intended to hold this event again in spring 2026, which does seem a time off, but will come round soon enough.

The Tenth Anniversary party on **11th July** is much anticipated, where have those years gone? Leg Club kept going despite the interruption of Covid. Since 2015 treatments have greatly improved and much of this is due to 'prevention is better than cure'. If what seems to be a small cut/graze is treated promptly, it prevents the condition from worsening. Along with the heart and other major organs, the skin is vital and needs full attention, including creaming legs regularly to encourage 'elasticity', and exercise too.

Leg Club drop-in clinic takes place at Nailsea Tithe Barn every Wednesday 9.00 – 12.00 noon, when NHS nurses from Tyntesfield Medical Group provide advice and treatment. Please visit if you need either, though please be patient as it's a busy place, but tea, coffee, cake and chat are always on offer!

Call Carole Brooke for more information 07954 302498; additionally there are information boards in the surgery waiting rooms.



Backwell Playhouse

Although we are quieter during the summer months, the hard work continues at the Playhouse as we use the time to complete some much-needed maintenance and updates. However, we are also cracking right on with the preparations for our Autumn Season. One of the ways we do that is to start with some fun social evenings where we read play scripts to see what suits us for our next production in November. These are really informal evenings, and we love to have new people come along and take part. It doesn't matter what experience you have or whether you want to be on stage or helping with all the jobs that happen behind the scenes, it's great fun to just join in and see what we do. These will take place on most Wednesday evenings in July from 7.30pm, but if you want to come along, check on either our social media pages or email mailinglist@backwellplayhouse.co.uk to confirm the dates.

The Playhouse is a charity, and we are keen to expand the Management Committee that looks after our theatre in the coming months. If you are excited to help a wonderful, independent and valuable resource to the village, there are opportunities for new members to join our team, get involved in running the Playhouse and to bring in new ideas to take the theatre forward. If you think that your skills can help us maintain and develop the Playhouse, we want to hear from you; being a part of the theatre group is not a requirement, we just look for people who are keen and passionate about an important part of life in Backwell.

The commitment to the Playhouse would be a minimum of one committee meeting every two months as well as the AGM; there may be some further work to be actioned from those meetings. If you would like to find out more about being part of the Backwell Playhouse Management Committee, please contact Jon Coupe on 0797 422 3081, or by email at mailinglist@backwellplayhouse.co.uk, who will happily answer any questions you may have. Alternatively, please talk to a committee member at any Playhouse event.

Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

A trip to a lavender farm, and a Macular Degeneration Awareness Day were on schedule for June.

The speaker for the meeting on **Wednesday 30th July** will be a police officer on the subject of safety for the elderly, especially those with sight impairment, be it physical or digital scams. Anyone will be welcome to attend; the meeting will be at the W.I. Hall, Station Road, Backwell, starting at 1.30pm. Further information from Sheila at 01275 462107

Backwell & Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Very many thanks to all those who attended our Annual Free Cream Tea and Plant Sale (celebrating National Carers Week) at the WI Hall on the 11th June. Funds collected from the event will go towards the running of our local carers group. Also thanks to Mrs Routley for providing the musical entertainment. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon and look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Meanwhile, inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 2nd July, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm at the WI Hall in Backwell

Speaker: Ms Yvonne Bell

Subject: "Serendipity" (Junk/Antiques)

Come and join us for support, friendship and entertainment and a short respite from your caring role. The afternoon includes a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and warm welcome - all free of charge. New carers (a carer is someone who cares on a regular basis for a spouse, relative, friend, neighbour etc) any age or gender always welcome. Carers from surrounding area also welcome.

Look forward to seeing you.

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



West Town & Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 16th July** from 7.30pm in the WI Hall.

This month our very own Committee Member Marie Horton talks about her year living and working on a remote island.

New members welcome.

Email BackwellWI@gmail.com for more information or find us on Facebook or Instagram

PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

The Parkinson's UK NW Somerset Local Support Group

welcomes all those with Parkinson's as well as family members and carers. Do join us at one of our meetings, held on the second Saturday of each month, for an informal coffee morning at St Francis Church Hall, Nailsea, BS48 2LP, from 10.30am to 12.15pm. The July meeting will be held on the 12th and there should be plenty of opportunity to meet and chat with others with Parkinson's.

Singing helps voice loss due to Parkinson's. Join our friendly group for a Singalong (no skill required!) to sing popular songs and old favourites. We meet at St Francis' Church Hall every second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 2.30 - 4.00pm, with a break for tea and biscuits and time to get to know our fellow singers.

Nailsea & Backwell Disabled Access Cafe

Are you, or someone you care for, encountering difficulties accessing shops, transport or venues? Are uneven or obstructed pavements preventing you getting around? Do you have any other issues relating to disability access?

If your answer is yes to any of these, members of North Somerset Council's Disabled Access Group are on hand to offer friendly advice and empathy over a free cup of tea or coffee and biscuits at 65 High Street Nailsea on **Friday 25th July** from 10.30am - 12.00noon.

For more information contact disabledaccessgroup@gmail.com



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Backwell Baptist Church

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

Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am

Services start - 10.30am

6th July (Communion & Café-style)

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leader: Sarah Crossley

Theme: Babylon

Passage: Rev 17

13th July

Preacher: Steve Loader

Service Leader: Dave Nicklen

Theme: Lament over Fallen Babylon

Passage: Rev 18

20th July

Preacher: Tim Crossley

Service Leaders: Alan & Ann Lewis

Theme: Threefold Hallelujah over Babylon

Passage Rev 19

27th July (Service of Dedication)

Preacher: Peter Burns

Service Leader: Ruth Ham

Theme: Faith like Children

Passage: Zephaniah 3:17, Matt 18:1-5
& Matt 19:13-15

St Bridget's Church

Our thanks to all those who turned out in early June – in the rain – for the very enjoyable Summer Concert held at St. Andrew's Church. We were thrilled by the Avon & Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir and their superb solo violinist; and all gladly tucked into nibbles and drinks in the interval. The audience numbered over 100 and, after expenses, raised £683 in support of St. Bridget's and St. Andrew's.

In case you are free on Saturday **12th July**, at 2.00pm there will be an informal short performance at St. Bridget's Church by "Called to be Saints", a local group of singers and instrumentalists celebrating their 30th Anniversary. They specialise in the West Gallery tradition, described as sacred and secular music of the Georgian era. An audience is very welcome – there will be no charge or booking needed. Just turn up!

Finally, for those in our community curious to have a look around St. Bridget's – our beautiful and fascinating 12th century Church – you may be interested in coming along to one of our Coffee Mornings being held there on the first Saturday of each month over the Summer. The next of these is on **Saturday 5th July** 10.00am to 12.00pm at St. Bridget's Church.

Please see information about all our services and events on our website
www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk.



West Town Methodist Church

July Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

6th Mr Jim Richards

13th Local Arrangement

20th Revd Michael Pullan **Communion**

27th Revd Sally Ratcliffe

The 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 info, please contact Ann Pullan email: ann.pullan@btinternet.com or Shirley Edwards: tsmce12@gmail.com

Ready Teddy Sing – our baby and toddler group meets on Tuesdays from 10.00 – 12.00noon, during term time, under the leadership of Rhiannon Mark.

Thursday Fellowship Group – 10.30am for 11.00 on **Thursday 10th and 24th July** venues tbc

Wednesday Group – 2nd and 16th July 2.30pm at 2 St Andrew's Road tbc

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 a large wall-mounted TV screen for audio visual presentations by agreement.

Contact Julie Ratcliffe on email:

ratcliffedj@btinternet.com

Christians Together In & around Backwell

Backwell Prayer Watch – Monday 7th July 7.45pm at West Town Methodist Church

Open the Book – at West Leigh Infants School on **Wednesdays, 2nd and 16th July**

News from St Francis

After a busy June with the Children celebrating their First Holy Communion and our young people receiving the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, July is a quieter month.

On **Sunday 6th July**, St Francis is hosting an afternoon party for our Syrian, Ukrainian, Afghan and Hong Kong families. Parishioners are encouraged to come and share time with everyone. After Easter, invitation leaflets were distributed about an Alpha course at Heaven Coffee House in Backwell. Several guests have taken part in the course (learning about Jesus) which they've found informative and helpful.

Please see the website for Sunday and weekday Masses, www.josephfrancis.org

Christian Aid Week

Thank you to all those who supported Christian Aid in its 80th year. Special thanks to Parker's Estate Agents who acted as a Collection Point.

£445 was collected, with over 50% gift aided. Our Treasurer Carol Lomas will give us the final total in due course. The total in the UK currently is £833,751!

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

We begin the month by celebrating Zambia – Bath & Wells Sunday on **6th July** with our brothers and sisters in Zambia and across our Diocese, which is a great way to mark our fellowship and see something of how the love of God is visible in our different lives.

On Saturday **12th July** at 10.00am, there will be a coffee morning in support of USPG at 5 West Town Road. It will be a chance to hear the latest from their annual conference and to bring collecting boxes for emptying. Thanks in advance to all who have supported the work of the society over the last year.

On **16th July**, we say farewell for the summer to Backwell Junior School at their end of year service at 2.15pm. It has been wonderful to see the strengthening connection between St Andrew's and the school through collective worship, church days, regular services in church and of course the pupil chaplains.

At the end of the month, there is no evening service in St Andrew's on **27th July** as the choir, joined by the choir of St Mary's, Yatton, will be making their annual appearance leading worship at St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. All are of course welcome to experience Evensong in this beautiful church at 5.30pm.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Little Lambs last month (apart from seasonal events) whilst the main leader, Rhiannon Mark, takes a well-deserved break. We're grateful for her initiative and commitment over the last four years and pray for all the children and their families who have benefitted.

The informal communion service at The Meeting Point in the Parish Hall is on **1st July** and every first Tuesday at 12.15pm. You are always welcome to stay for the soup lunch if you can.

With warm greetings Martin Canning

Sundays in July	St Andrew's Church	
	6th	Third Sunday after Trinity
	11.00am	Informal Communion
	5.00pm	Evensong
	13th	Fourth Sunday after Trinity
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist
	5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	20th	Fifth Sunday after Trinity
	9.15am	Café Church
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist
	5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	27th	Sixth Sunday after Trinity
	9.15am	Café Church
	11.00am	Sung Eucharist

St Bridget's Church	
6th	Third Sunday after Trinity
9.15am	Holy Communion
13th	Fourth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am	Morning Worship
20th	Fifth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am	Morning Prayer

Benefice Register of Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals in May

Weddings	Funerals/Burial of ashes
16 th - Anna and Tom	9 th Patricia Vaughan
24 th Hannah and Liam	22 nd Patricia Stone

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 July we pray for
Church Lane
Linemere Close
Court Close**

St Andrew's Charity for July, August, September

In 2023, we decided to commit to supporting a Mission Partner with CMS. We are now supporting Bishop Martin Gordon, Bishop of Goma, in DR Congo.

The Church Mission Society (CMS) story began in London in 1799 with a group of Christians whose hearts were stirred to go to the edges, people like William Wilberforce, John Venn and John Newton. Together, they worked to abolish the slave trade, they fought for the rights of oppressed people at home and they launched out onto dangerous seas to share Jesus with the world.

CMS is likewise called to connect with people at the edges: the edges of church, the edges of society, the edges of our comfort zones. They are always looking for others who will join them at edges near and far, to help share God's love in creative ways, knowing that person-by-person, community-by-community, this is how we will see our world made new.

CMS describes itself as a community on a journey of rediscovering God's mission together, made up of disciples of Jesus from various countries, cultural backgrounds and walks of life. We are talking about a vibrant mix of people in mission from the UK, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia – all following Jesus to the edges together.



**CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY**

Christians Together In & around Backwell

Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

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

St Andrew's

Rector	Rev'd Sam Norton revsamnorton@gmail.com / 07771 349319
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 07929 093888
Mothers' Union	Co-ordinator Marie Bale Tel 01275 269246
Ladies Group	Leader Gillian Vasey Tel:07892004836
St Andrew's Art Group	Chair - Jayne Smart Tel 07943 569995
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 Sally Ratcliffe 01275 852473
Church Stewards	Heather Bentley, Shirley Edwards, Brian Kemmish, Pam Marchant, Julie Ratcliffe, Val Sowerby, May Vivian
Treasurer	Nigel Hardman 01275 851581

Backwell Baptist Church, Chapel Hill

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

Pastor	Rev. 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 Frank Wainwright Tel 01275 851530
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Hillside Church, Woodlands Church Family Backwell School Sixth Form Centre

Rural Minister	Zoe Germain zoe.germain@woodlandschurch.net
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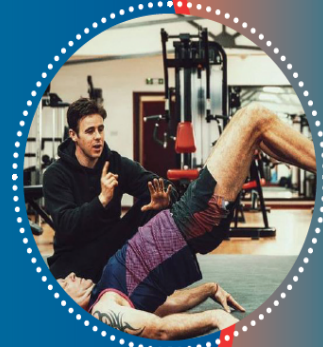
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