The Village Magazine



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The Village Magazine
Backwell Chelvey Brockley

Honi soit qui mal y pense

The story goes that in the 14th Century, the King of England, Edward III was at court and dancing with his first cousin, Joan of Kent. Her garter slipped down to her ankle and there was sniggering amongst the courtiers at her embarrassment. The King then placed the garter around his own leg saying ‘Honi soit qui mal y pense’ – shame be to him who thinks evil of it. In other words, show some humanity and respect – to laugh in this context is simply displaying a lack of nobility. Edward III then founded the Order of the Garter in 1348 in order to uphold this ideal of honour.

How far have we come from then? A society where human nature was clearly just the same as ours, but where the institutions and leaders of society sought to uphold a more honourable way of life. I have been reflecting on this in the light of the guilty verdict against Manchester City, as a result of their 'sham' financial dealings. For those who haven't followed the detail, the independent panel investigating City found, not only that they had indulged in 'financial doping' over many years, enabling them to purchase players at a level beyond what they had actually earned, but that they had systematically deceived the Premier League about this, actively trying to prevent any investigations and indulging in 'lawfare' against the League itself.

Now, I'm a Chelsea supporter, and let those who live in glass houses not throw stones, but... what has really struck me is that City have acted against their partners in the league, so how can they expect to carry on as before? Formally the Premier League is an association of twenty clubs, bound together contractually and collectively responsible for the competition in which they participate. The clubs therefore agreed rules requiring full disclosure, accurate accounts and cooperation with the machinery established to police those rules – in other words, a system that depends upon good faith, and which cannot exist without it. This is why the “utmost good faith” is emphasised.

English law recognises that there are relationships in which deliberate deception can be a repudiatory breach of contract: something sufficiently fundamental that the innocent party is entitled to say that the relationship itself has been destroyed; and this is what I think is at stake when considering a punishment for City. Put simply their action has not been honourable, it has lacked nobility.

Things like fines and point deductions make sense within the context of a shared framework of partnership. What City has done – have continued to do – seems to me to be undermining that very prospect of partnership itself. If City got away with this – ie with just a fine, or a points deduction, even if the deduction meant that they were relegated then such a development would represent a hiccup to their progress and would be forgotten within a few seasons. The Premier League itself would be damaged, would be held in disrepute. If, however, the point was reinforced that the members of the League absolutely must act in good faith towards each other, and that without that good faith nothing else works – well, that would be quite a lesson, and I think it would be one that would do the power of good for football as a whole, and, given the public interest in football, it might do a lot of good for our wider society.

After all, in all of our dealings with one another we need to be able to act on the basis of shared norms of behaviour, what is called 'high social trust' and that depends upon a shared sense of right and wrong. What City have done is just not cricket. The eventual punishment will tell us an awful lot about how honourable our society actually now is.

Sam Norton
St Andrew’s

Cover drawing by Alexander Bruce (age 8), he writes:

'I love Backwell because of its beautiful nature and lovely community. It is a great place to grow up!'

The Village Show judges and organising team agreed that Alex's poster really captured the best of Backwell; highlighting the lake, playgrounds and nature as well as schools and the junior football club! We hope this poster class will become a regular feature of the show. It reminds us all how the parish's children feel about this community and location they grow up in.

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Parish Council Report – October Meeting

Planning Cllr Harland told Councillors that a response to the Mac Mic application (land north of Farleigh Road) had been drafted. The Council strongly objects to the application, citing flooding and infrastructure issues as well as other evidenced concerns.

Cllr Harland informed Councillors that the Parish Council were hoping to submit a joint response with Nailsea Town Council to the reconsultation on the Gleeson application (Land south of Nailsea).

Councillors were pleased to hear that the construction of affordable housing units at Rodney Road is progressing.

Cllr Harland reported that the issue regarding noisy manhole covers at Farleigh Fields East continues. Persimmon Homes will carry out further work to rectify the problem.

Residents in the new houses at Farleigh Fields East are continuing to express concern about the drainage system. Dr Chris Whitlow is currently preparing a hydrology report on behalf of the Council.

The North Somerset Council Local Plan Examination hearing will commence on 9th November. NSC have confirmed that there are no plans to live stream the proceedings. Cllrs agreed that the Clerk write to the Planning Inspectorate and NSC to request live streaming given the importance of the hearing for residents.

Councillors expressed their thanks to Backwell Residents' Association for the contribution of £5,000 towards BPC's opposition to the overdevelopment of Backwell. Councillors voted unanimously to object to the application to build a house next to 2 Fairfield Close. (The full objection can be seen on NSC website reference 26/P/1857/FUL).

Bus Service Improvement Plan Councillors noted that the smart bus priority traffic lights have not yet been installed. It was requested that the Clerk write to North Somerset Council to request an update.

Cllr Power reported that a confusing mix of former and new speed limit signage in Station Road remains following the implementation of the new 20mph limit. Cllr Power and Dt Cllr Petty are following up on the matter with NSC.

The installation of Speed Indication Devices to remind drivers of the new 20mph speed limit on West Town Road is progressing well.

Highways and Footpaths
Cllr Power reported that while the new footpath on NSC land near West Leigh Infant School is wider than anticipated, it is being well-used by residents. Concern has been expressed regarding potential unauthorised use by motorcycles and vehicles, and Cllr Power is exploring deterrent options. Cllr Power further reported that NSC had made the path 'permissive' rather than 'designated'. This was disappointing.

The path from Backwell Grove into the Playing Fields has stopped short of what was anticipated. Cllr Power is in discussion with Taylor Wimpey to try to resolve the issue.

Environment and Community The Over 60's Tea Party will be held on Thursday 26th November from 2:00pm-5:00pm at the Parish Hall. Doors open at 1.30pm. Free tickets will be available from the Parish Office.

Cllr Ould reported that plans are underway to take grafts from the 'Strawberries and Cream' tree.
Cllr Hollis reported that she and Cllr Rogers are reviewing potential planting sites for trees across the village, including a potential location for a 'Peace' tree near the new footpath/ Backwell Grove.

Councillors accepted a quotation of £695+VAT for weed control spray around the village. It was noted non-toxic products would be used and no glyphosate around the play areas.

The Clerk reported a delay in progress regarding the digital noticeboard due to ongoing discussions concerning the land agreement with the owner. The contract terms are being reviewed and installation of the noticeboard remains on hold pending final approval of the wording.

Councillors accepted a quotation of £688.07 +VAT for non-flashing multicoloured festive Christmas lights.

Other Business Cllr Harland reported that the temporary bus stop at Downside was now operational and being used.
A resident addressed the Council about a timebank scheme which he is exploring. Councillors asked questions and were supportive of the idea. The resident said more information on timebanks can be found on www.timebanking.org.
Members noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published its report recommending a new two-councillor ward for Backwell, Brockley, Cleeve, Butcombe and Wrington. The report will be submitted to Parliament for approval.
Cllr Ould informed members that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds will be a standing agenda item going forward to allow members to share project ideas.
Cllr Harland noted an increase in airport parking in the village, with drivers parking locally to use the new A2 bus service. BPC has requested involvement in the review of the A2 service.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 5th November 2026 at the Parish Hall. All would be very welcome.

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BACKWELL SCOUTS

Scout Christmas Post – Backwell & Nailsea 2026

Backwell and Nailsea Scouts are once again joining forces to deliver Christmas cards and letters throughout the villages, raising vital funds for both troops. As well as being a much-loved local tradition, the Christmas Post is a unique community service run entirely by our young people and volunteers — and at just 50p per stamp, it's an easy way to support Scouting in our area.

Backwell Scouts continues to thrive, with 200 young people enjoying the opportunities, energy and commitment provided by our leaders and facilities. Those facilities, however, need regular upkeep — from keeping our vehicles running to maintaining the Scout Hall. Every stamp you buy helps us continue offering a safe, welcoming and well-equipped space for our young people.

Post boxes and stamps will be available from Saturday 20th November at:

- Backwell Co-op
- Backwell Vets
- Parkers Estate Agents
- Backwell Barbers
- Backwell Village Club

We are extremely grateful to these local businesses for supporting the service again this year.

Stamps are still just 50p each and may be used on cards and letters for addresses in Backwell and Nailsea, including the Elms Estate but unfortunately, we are unable to deliver to Downside.

The final posting date is noon on Thursday 17th December.

A huge thank you goes to all the parents, Scouts and Explorers who will be sorting and delivering the post — your help keeps this wonderful tradition running smoothly. If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please contact: Backwellscoutpost@gmail.com

Backwell Scouts AGM Celebrates Another Successful Year

Members of 1st Backwell Scouts gathered at their Annual General Meeting in September to reflect on another busy and successful year of Scouting in the village. The Group Scout Leader reported that the group continues to thrive, with 151 young people taking part each week across Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We have 40 Explorers who manage most of their own affairs – making a total of nearly 200 young people in Backwell Scouts. A further 76 young people are currently on the waiting list. Leaders also highlighted the valuable contribution made by volunteer adult leaders and Young Leaders, who help deliver a wide range of activities and adventures for local young people.

Fundraising remained a major success during the year, with the popular Christmas Tree Sale and Christmas Post once again generating substantial income. The group would like to thank Backwell Parish Council for its £3,000 donation towards the purchase of replacement tents. The Group Scout Leader also thanked parents, local businesses and grant-giving organisations for their ongoing support.

The AGM included presentations from George Jackson, who shared an update on his preparations for the 2027 World Scout Jamboree in Poland, and Simon Kelly, Gordano District Lead Volunteer, who provided an overview of district activities.

Please visit our website to view our annual section and trustee reports, which offer a flavour of the exciting activities our young people have enjoyed over the past year: AGM 2026 – Documents & Reports

Several volunteer vacancies were highlighted during the meeting. The roles of Group Chair, Secretary and Hut Lettings Manager are currently unfilled, and the group would welcome enquiries from anyone interested in supporting local Scouting. Please get in touch via email at contact@backwellscouts.org.uk.

The meeting closed with thanks to all volunteers, supporters, parents and young people whose efforts continue to make Backwell Scouts a successful and enjoyable part of the village community.

Katie Gore, Backwell Scouts Outgoing Secretary

Monday Cubs

We have been learning some core scouting skills: emergency aid and navigation. Additionally, the last of the light evenings provided the opportunity to continue looking at nature in different seasons.

Our wild camp in the woods included learning how to " leave no trace" skills, shelter building, making spears and catapults as well as making a campfire cooked meal

Helen

Tuesday Scouts

After a successful Summer Camp Tuesday Scouts are now back to a new Autumn term of activities. We kicked off with a split programme with half the Scouts navigating their way around the big city (well, Nailsea actually) with clues and directions to follow - they all made it safely back to the village! Meanwhile the other half were making soda can stoves and then assessing the various design options as they were used to boil some water (a few weeks later this was revisited and the stoves were used to make popcorn).

We then became a little more cerebral as we all looked at the choices we make culminating in part of the Global Issues Activity Badge as the Patrols battled it out to grow oranges to sell on the commodities market whilst navigating the ever changing weather, family problems, the tax man and fluctuations in inflation rates and the value of oranges on the open market - some made more money than others and some excellent teamwork decisions were evident.

Our next outdoor adventure is in preparation and will see a dozen Scouts going out into the hills and mountains of South Wales for a days walking - report to follow!

Ian

Explorers

The first month back promised to be a lively one and it didn't let the unit down. Following the "It's a Knockout" evening the unit celebrated all those who took part in the Ten Tors challenge this year with the annual presentation and BBQ. It's always great to recognise the amazing achievements of those who took part in the challenge back in May including the 35, 45 and 55 milers!

A week later, the unit took part in a 'horror' Escape and Evade exercise where they had to navigate to selected points across Backwell while evading creepy ghouls who were hiding in the woods around the village.

Classic hut games and master chef planning occurred the following week after leading to the forever popular Master Chef night to find the next Marco Pierre White! With limited resources and equipment some amazing dishes were served and demonstrated what can be achieved in limited time.

Save the Date – the Musingo fundraising night will take place on Friday 27 November in the WI Hall so please pop it in your diary and look out for news on ticket sales.

Laurence

Friday Scouts

We started back to the new term as we mean to go on, with lots of team games and challenges and some creative cooking where parents got to taste the delights blind folded!

We have 12 scouts embarking on a 2-day expedition next month in the Gower, which they have to organise themselves (with a bit of guidance). So, they have been undertaking lots of training and planning this term and are looking forward to the event mid-November.

The rest of the troop have been busy with a Lego challenge night and we have all just been on a night hike where the weather held out for us. Our focus was on teamwork and being supportive - encouraging and looking out for each other.

We are learning about bats at St Andrew's church, are looking forward to our Halloween film night and have booked in some Christmas ice-skating for next term!

Lorraine

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SCHOOL NEWS

A Flying Start to the New Academic Year at Backwell School

The new academic year is already well underway at Backwell School, and it has been a wonderful start filled with achievement, opportunity, community spirit and success.

We were delighted to learn recently that our 2026 GCSE results placed Backwell as the highest-performing school in North Somerset, reflecting the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff and the invaluable support of parents and carers.

The start of term has also provided many opportunities for students to demonstrate the values that make us so proud of our school community. Earlier this term, two Year 13 students were praised by a local resident after stopping to assist an elderly lady who had collapsed in the street. They remained with her until help arrived, displaying kindness, maturity and compassion that exemplify the character of Backwell students. Our annual Open Evening was another tremendous success, welcoming more than 750 visitors to the school. Prospective families enjoyed seeing the breadth of opportunities available at Backwell, with departments showcasing learning through engaging and interactive activities. Most impressive of all were our students, who acted as exceptional ambassadors for the school.

Beyond the classroom, students have embraced a wide range of enrichment opportunities. From sports clubs and drama productions to science, dance and design technology activities, there has been an enthusiastic uptake in our extensive programme of clubs and societies. Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants have also had a fantastic start, with Gold Award students successfully completing their expedition in Snowdonia and Bronze students tackling the Mendips with determination and resilience.

Sporting success has also been a feature of the first few weeks of term. Our Year 7 girls made an incredible start to their netball careers with a 40-2 victory over St Katherine's, while our rugby teams have produced a series of impressive performances including our Year 7s winning the annual Clevedon School tournament and our Year 10 girls winning their National Cup fixture 10 -1! The Sixth Form netball team also enjoyed an outstanding victory in Wales, winning 35-21 in the Sisters in Sport competition.

The school's new Dining Centre has quickly become a hub of activity, serving significantly increased numbers of students each day. From free breakfast options to nutritious hot lunches, students are enjoying high-quality food from our caterers Aspens that helps them thrive throughout the school day.

With the Spanish Exchange visit, environmental projects with the Belmont Estate, academic success and so many opportunities beyond the classroom, the year has begun with enormous positivity. We are excited about what lies ahead and grateful for the continued support of our families and wider community as together, we continue to show what it means to say: We Are Backwell.

Will Penny
Headteacher

West Leigh Infant School

WL Class News – Reception Children

We are incredibly proud of the fantastic start our new Reception children in Badger and Squirrel classes have made. They have settled into school life beautifully, bringing lots of energy and enthusiasm to their classrooms. It has been a pleasure to welcome them into the school community, and we are so impressed by how quickly they are adapting to their new environment. During our first week, we focused on the theme of friendship, sharing stories about kindness and what it means to be a kind friend. It has been great to see the children putting these ideas into practice, showing lots of lovely ways to care for one another and make new friends. We have also begun establishing our daily routines, including phonics and group learning sessions. The children have shown wonderful focus during these activities, and we are absolutely delighted with their progress so far.

Backwell Church of England Junior School

Celebrating Excellent Outcomes

We are delighted to share our 2025-26 statutory assessment results, which reflect the hard work of our pupils, the dedication of our staff and the fantastic support of our families. We have achieved outstanding outcomes, with 78% of pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined, compared with 63% nationally, placing the school in the top 15% of schools nationally.

Particularly impressive were results in Reading and Mathematics, where 90% of pupils achieved the expected standard, and in Science, where 92% met the expected standard. A high proportion of pupils also attained the higher standard across subjects, significantly above national averages.

These results are a testament to the commitment, perseverance and ambition of our children. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and thank our whole school community for helping make this success possible.

Nick Webster
Headteacher

Backwell Playhouse History (Part 1)

Although the Backwell Playhouse we know today first opened its doors in 1951, Backwell's amateur theatre scene had already been developing for over ten years by then. The North Somerset Players came together in the early 1930s, following an initial production at Backwell Parish Hall in October 1931. At the centre of the group was Molly Griffin, a young member of the nearby Nailsea Shakespeare Society, whose family had lived and done business in the area for 200 years.
Molly's mentor was Kathleen Stafford, a voice and drama teacher who would later teach at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Kathleen was known for her reverence of the classics and her strong belief that performers ought to take their cues from them, instead of following current trends. Her training, combined with Mr Griffin's business practices, put Molly in a strong position to develop a theatre project.

The nucleus of the North Somerset Players was formed when one Dr Jackson moved to Backwell with his wife, Phyllis, and began seeing local patients. These patients included Kathleen Stafford, as well as Harold James, a thespian who'd performed with the Bristol Playgoers, and his wife, who had founded the Backwell Women's Institute (WI). Molly Griffin was by this time a member of Backwell's WI, and their monthly meetings would include an entertainment segment, which sometimes took the form of a one-act play.

Dr Jackson himself had had an interest in theatre ever since his time as a student at Bristol University. In October 1931, he and Phyllis came together with Molly, Kathleen and the Jameses to put on three productions, one of which was an original script by a local writer. These plays were held at the Parish Hall and went down so well with the audience that the group decided to carry on working together.

From early on, the North Somerset Players showed a dedication to their craft and a drive to produce the best theatre they could. Unlike many amateur drama groups of the time, they put on their shows purely for the audience's enjoyment, rather than to benefit any other cause. The group came second in Somerset's regional drama festival in 1936, then went on to win in 1939 with a production of Walter Knight's 'Lovely Lady'.



Winning this award, however, wasn't the biggest thing to happen to the Players that year. Due to Molly's parents' failing health, her family moved into a bungalow on Backwell's Station Road, which was then dominated by orchards. Molly was drawn to the bungalow because of the ex-army Nissen hut that sat in its garden, as she thought this could work as a rehearsal room. Together with the other North Somerset Players, she set to work converting the hut into a space where they could prepare their productions.

Like many across the country, the Players found themselves facing financial difficulties with the onset of war, and ended up splitting in 1940. During the war years, the members created a travelling theatre and toured the South West performing specifically for evacuated children. Molly Griffin also performed locally with a group who staged shows for residents and any troops who had been deployed to the area.

The Players came back together after the conflict had ended, rehearsing in the hut and performing at the Parish Hall as before, but there came a point where this arrangement no longer worked for them. Seeking their own dedicated performance space, the group partnered with a Mr Gane to develop a fully-fledged theatre on the site of their rehearsal room.

Despite their low budget and the impacts of post-war rationing, the Players were determined to create a space not just for their theatre group in its current state, but for what they saw it developing into over the next decades. A large hut for props and scenery was built where the greenhouses had once been, while the centre of the orchard was cleared away to make room for a car park. Historian Elisabeth Whitehead describes the Players as "firm in their resolve", and by October 1951, the theatre – formally named The Playhouse, Backwell – was ready for action.



The Players continued to perform at the Parish Hall while developing their new theatre; their last show there was in January 1951, when they produced John van Druten's 'I Remember Mama'. By then, the group had firmly cemented their reputation for high-quality amateur theatre; one reviewer of 'I Remember Mama' said they had "never seen a better display from young actors", and that the Players should "have little fear" for their own future. The group then spent months finishing up work on the one-time army shelter, transforming it into an auditorium. They would add the stage last, once the additional land had been let to them.

Backwell Playhouse was officially opened at a ceremony on 31st October 1951. The event included a talk by Molly and Kathleen explaining their vision for the theatre, a poem written specially for the occasion by Norman Holland, and a performance of Anatole France's 'The Comedy of the Man Who Married a Dumb Wife'. So widely known was the theatre by this point that the ceremony had to be repeated four nights in a row, with stars from across and beyond Somerset coming to share in the excitement. Backwell's thespians at last had their own venue, and the stage was set for a diverse range of future productions.

Playhouse Theatre Company

Keep your fingers crossed for the Playhouse Theatre Company in November, as we are nominated at both the Rose Bowl Awards and the Phoebe Rees Awards from Somerset Festival of Drama, for our production of Fletcher's Waterbed Dreams!

As for "what's on" at the Playhouse, we welcome Nailsea Musicals from Weds 11th - Sat 14th with the hilarious musical "Monty Python's Spamalot", based on the film Monty Python and Holy Grail. We then have our AGM on Thursday 19th where we discuss the events of the year before and look forward to the coming year. The AGM is open for all, though only members can vote on arising matters. The AGM starts at 7.30pm, but please join us for a drink from 7pm.

On Friday 27th at 7.30pm, we have our next National Theatre Live screening, Golden Boy by Clifford Odets and starring Josh O'Connor. Set in 1930's New York, Joe Bonaparte is a gifted young violinist until a chance at fame and fortune lures him to the world of professional boxing. Tickets are £15 (£13 Members). And on Saturday 28th, we have our last comedy night of 2026, headlined by Ian Crawford (Cutlery Safety Expert), and featuring Joe Capper, Owain Graham and Ian Bowden. Tickets £10.

And don't forget our Christmas celebration show, A Christmas Wish, on Saturday 12th December. Tickets for all events are available from our website: www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk.





Congresbury Singers

Congresbury Singers announce their autumn concert "A Trip down Memory Lane " The choir's own selection from the past 10 years' repertoire. Sat 14th Nov 2026 at 7.30pm War Memorial Hall. Tickets including refreshments £12 on the door or from usual outlets.

Backwell and Nailsea Ladies Choir

Rehearsals are well underway now for our Christmas Concert with our Musical Director Naomi Davies. Our concert will include some beautiful, less well known carols, some well known Christmas songs and of course some traditional carols which will require audience participation. It should be a most enjoyable afternoon ending with teas, coffees and mince pies, so put the date in your diary now: Thursday, 10 December 2026 at Backwell WI Hall, Station Road. Doors open at 1.30 pm for a 1.45pm start.
Tickets are £7 each and available from members of the choir, or from Mandy Collinson (tel. 07722 703956) as usual. Please call to reserve your tickets as we have a limited number. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nailsea & District Local History Society

The Nailsea & District Local History Society will be meeting in the Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School on Monday 9th November at 7.45pm when Clive Burlton will be speaking on Trenches to Trams (A Story of a Bristol Tommy). Members free & visitors most welcome £3pp. Further detail from 01275 - 463479

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Backwell Climate Action
The National Emergency Briefing film was attended by over 100 residents. There was plenty of lively discussion on the issues raised including the need for resilience planning in our community.
Our next event is a Sustainable Christmas, demonstrating it doesn't have to cost the Earth, on Sunday 29th November at the Scout's Hut. Look out for further details or Phone 07811208334 if you would like to be involved.
Other good news, other than the completion of A370 road works, includes that Avon Wildlife Trust have acquired Ebdon Farm near Weston and have the funding for major nature restoration.
Funds raised from the Walking Carnival donated to the Playing Fields Trust will enable the planting of more trees.
Recent meetings have included other groups within the village and from outside. This is a healthy trend which we hope will continue.

Backwell's Second Saturday Community Fair Trade Café
November 14th Backwell Parish Hall 10 am to 12
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 month we host once again the ever popular Repair Café offering help and advice and where possible repair of household and garden items. Remember though if you are looking for a repair, come early as we have to clear away at 12 o'clock. There is also a tool sharpening service.
As usual this month the bulk-buy Grub Club will provide its comprehensive service. Here you can join and buy all kinds of food stuff 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 Ecover detergents and cleaning fluids on our Ecover stall.
Our District Councillor Bridget Petty will be present to discuss local affairs with anyone concerned.

Charity Card Sale
We will be running our annual charity card sale in the Parish Hall on the 7th November between 10 am and 12. Christmas is coming and this is a fantastic opportunity to buy from a large selection of charities, items that will include Christmas cards, calendars, diaries and a selection of present ideas. Do come along and browse from the largest selection in the area and make your Christmas card selection really easy. Coffee and biscuits will be available so you can even stop for a catch up with friends.

Backwell Garden Club
The November meeting of Backwell Garden Club on Wednesday 18th has Jane Lindsay of Tynings Plants giving a talk titled "Plants and Gardens Under Attack".
The Garden Club meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month in the afternoon commencing at 1.45pm for 2pm prompt start. We meet in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. BS48 3QW and potential new members or visitors are always welcome to join us - just come along.
The Club's December meeting on the 16th will be a "hands on" meeting with members making a "Small Christmas Table Decoration"
Further information from Robin Langford on either rclangford64@gmail.com or 07811693579

28th November: Can you help us Litterpick Backwell's Hedges and Verges?
We need your help. Could you join us for an hour or so on the next Litterpick?
It will be at 2.30pm on Saturday 28th November. Meet outside The Spar on Rodney Road. We have litterpickers to lend out but please bring your own garden gloves, if possible.
In 2027 we are going to try having the monthly litterpick on the last Sunday of the month to see if we get more volunteers. The first one of 2027 will be 2.30pm on Sunday 31st January, with tea and scones after! Email sustainablebackwell@gmail.com for more info.

Repair Café will be on Saturday 14th November, 10am-12noon at the Parish Hall, running alongside the Fairtrade Café.

Come early with your broken things as repairs take time to do. Sustainable Backwell volunteers can usually repair bikes, clothes and household items, and sharpen tools and knives. Donations for repairs are used to fund useful things for the village, like litterpickers, stakes for trees, etc. They also contributed to the solar panels on Westleigh School's roof.

Sustainable Christmas Event: Sunday 29th November
Loads of planet-friendly activities are being planned by Sustainable Backwell and Backwell Climate Action for 2pm - 5pm on Sunday 29th November at the Scout Hut on Rodney Road.
We hope to have Cracker-Making, Decoration-Making, Make-a-tree-from-a pallet, Make-your-own-mincemeat or marzipan, Reliable-recipes to copy, Toy-and-book-swap, Eco-gift ideas, Make-a-flat-pack-bird-box-or-hedgehog-house, Sweet-treat-making, Christmas-origami and an Unwanted-gift-auction.
Teas, coffee, squash and cakes will be available for a small charge.
For all ages! Come and join in the fun!!

Yatton Local History Society
Tuesday November 3rd
Yatton Local History Society talk by Tony Lewis on Environmental Health through the ages
7.30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW.
Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

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Nailsea & Backwell Disabled Access Café

Having difficulties accessing shops, transport or venues? Struggling with blocked or poorly maintained pavements? Any other issues relating to disability access? Join us on Friday 27th November at 65 High Street, Nailsea, BS48 1AW from 10am - 12noon, for an informal chat over a free cup of tea or coffee and biscuits as we share experiences, both good and bad, and offer advice and support where we can.
For more information contact:
disabledaccessgroup@gmail.com

Nailsea District Leg Club

Calling potential volunteers, wanting to know what Leg Club is? Be nosey, visit Nailsea Tithe Barn on a Wednesday morning, bring a friend, enjoy a coffee and find out about Leg Club, no obligation. Due to unforeseeable circumstances, Leg Club wasn't able to have a stand at the Farmer's Market in September to promote who, what, where!
These mornings are always lively and buzzing, not only for those who need to see the nurses for treatment, but for those who come as carers, those who enjoy the company, and the volunteers – Leg Club is equally as important to them. All are welcome any time from 9.00 – 11.30 a.m. However to make use of the drop-in clinic it's advisable to arrive early to avoid disappointment. In September, having been going for 11 years, Leg Club registered the 800th member, quite a milestone and achievement. It's impossible to quantify the number of appointments that have saved the surgeries, let alone the number of teas/coffees served!
Dame Ellie Lyndsay OBE, founder of the Leg Club is visiting on 18 November, definitely a morning to be there to meet this outstanding lady.
Call Carole Brooke: 07954 302498 or Sandy Riley 01275 853547 for more information.

Patient Participation Group

At the PPG meeting in September, we welcomed two people from the "North Somerset Places" team who are implementing or piloting elements of the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme, part of the NHS 10 Year plan announced in 2025. There are two work streams in North Somerset; the first is looking at older people with multiple health issues which involve using several services with the aim of ensuring that their care is coordinated. The second workstream is a pilot providing local rather than hospital care for heart failure patients requiring iron infusions. Subsequent discussion was wide ranging and interesting.

Nailsea town council's Wellbeing Team is working with Somerset Prostate Cancer Support Group to offer free PSA tests in January. The booking QR code can be accessed via this link: https://shorturl.at/iWF4g.

Being part of the PPG offers opportunities to find out more about how the Tyntesfield Medical Group operates and to potentially influence services offered. Places are available, to join you must be a patient at one of the four TMG practices. For more information about the PPG and an application form, see: https://www.tyntesfield.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1, or email tmgppg@gmail.com.

Parkinson's UK

The NW Somerset Local Support Group (Parkinson's UK) 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 November meeting will be held on the 14th, with a talk by Andy Stowe, Auctioneum Bristol & Bath, with tales from the rostrum.
Enquiries: 01934 742091; 07800 815262

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 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 2.30-4pm, with a break for tea and biscuits and time to get to know our fellow singers.

St Peter's Hospice, Backwell

On Tuesday 3rd November between 5.00 -7.00pm we will be open for Christmas festivities.
Please come and join us.

Backwell and Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at the WI Hall in Backwell from 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm
Subject: Making Christmas Foliage Decorations
Come and join us for support, friendship, entertainment, and a short respite from your caring role. The afternoon includes a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and a warm welcome - all free of charge. New carers are always welcome, any age or gender. Come along and enjoy a fun afternoon, look forward to seeing you.

West Town & Backwell WI

Wednesday 18th November - Our AGM and Advent Crafting

Join our fun and friendly WI for our November meeting at Backwell WI Hall. It will include our AGM, during which we will be celebrating our brilliant WI and thanking all of the members for their willingness to 'connect' and 'get involved' within our wonderful local and wider community. If you are not already a member, do come along and see what we're all about. Doors open at 7:30pm. New members are warmly welcomed; first-time visits are free! Each month we are treated to inspiring speakers, whilst enjoying cake, coffee, tea, wine or beer! Additional social events are also organised throughout the year. For more information, email backwellwi@gmail.com or find us on Facebook or www.backwellwi.org.uk

St Andrews Mothers' Union

After the summer break our Mothers' Union members joined together for our annual Harvest Lunch in late September. We enjoyed a simple meal, shared fellowship and friendship and sang some harvest hymns.
At the beginning of November on Thursday 3rd, we will be going to The Failand Inn for lunch.
On our meeting day, the 24th November we will be celebrating a special birthday with afternoon tea.
Our meeting in December will be on Tuesday 8th. Due to lack of leadership volunteers, this could very well be the last meeting of Backwell Mothers' Union.

Marie Bale

St. Andrew's Ladies Group

Sarah Dutton gave an excellent talk on 'How to Save a Life' She explained that people are often reluctant to get involved if someone collapses as they are concerned that they may do the wrong thing, but Sarah stressed how important time was and quick actions can save a life.The emergency operator on 999 will tell you what to do, such as checking for danger in the immediate environment and trying to get the casualty to respond, opening airways, getting them in an appropriate position, and starting CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and how long to continue with it. She demonstrated the technique and timing of CPR on the model she had with her. Many lives have been saved by bystanders who were able to carry out CPR and Sarah had a number of encouraging stories of survivors. Sarah told us that where a defibrillator is at hand it will talk you though the steps of using it.
Our next meeting will be on November 9th, when Sandy Bateman will talk to us about the works of the Brontes. Members are requested to bring payment for the Christmas lunch which will be held at the Masonic Lodge in Nailsea Park. Do join us if you can. Gillian Vasey.

Backwell Senior Club

WHERE DID THAT MONTH GO?
We had a good start to our new season with a very interesting and well delivered talk from Sandy Bateman about the Bronte siblings. Sandy is obviously passionate about their history and had recently returned from another visit to Haworth Parsonage where they grew up.
On Friday 20th Nov. we look forward to a talk from Kerris Harrop about Ladies' Mile and the goings on there experienced by the lady who spent over 30 years as a cloakroom attendant on Bristol's Durdham Down. Don't miss it!
We meet on the 3rd Friday of the month at the West Town Methodist Church (A370) at 2.00pm for 2.30 start and finish at 4.00pm. All seniors, LADIES and GENTS are welcome. We offer entertainment, of some sort, plus tea and biscuits/cake and a friendly chat. Entry £3. Limited local transport is available and should be booked by the preceding Wednesday with Lesley: Tel No. 07816966728. We would welcome a few volunteer drivers to transport local members to the church and back. Any such would be welcome to stay with us for the afternoon as our guest. If you would like to help please call Sue, on 01275 461231 for more information.
SEE YOU THERE

Backwell Probus Club Report (October 2026)

Since our last report, we have had two meetings, the first was a talk by Jonathan Holt on "Follies of Bristol & Somerset". He started with local buildings, which were used as accommodation, such as the Observatory, a quirky building between Long Ashton and Flax Bourtont. He also showed us pictures of Blaise Castle and the Black Castle at Arno's Vale. He showed us many more, too many to list, but nevertheless entertaining. He finished on a recent one in Backwell, much to everyone's surprise, built in someone's back garden.

At our next meeting, we heard Lottie Dale talk on "Falling in Style", which was about her amazing life as a Sky Diver. She started telling us about her father, who had been an RAF pilot and then herself, having got married and with two sons, had taken up Sky Diving from a small airport, Headcorn in Kent. She became obsessed with other ladies holding hands in group formations prior to parachuting to the ground. First groups being 6 to12 but then extending to 30/40, which was quite amazing. She was given an award for 1000 jumps.

For our next meetings in November, we can look forward to talks on "Astronomy" and "The Edwardian Christmas". We meet 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

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The Meeting Point in September

Looking Ahead

Backwell Life charity, which runs The Meeting Point with its much enjoyed lunches, chair yoga and children's holiday activities exists to support the community of people who call Backwell 'home'. It has a group of Trustees (who are answerable to the Charity Commission), a Steering Group who organise the week to week running of The Meeting Point (including events like Christmas lunch and the children's holiday activities), and wonderful friendly volunteers.
Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th November at 1.30 in the Parish Hall. Please come along to find out more about us, especially if you are new to Backwell, and, if you really want to feel 'at home' come and join the team! There will be cake.

November Calendar

Tuesday 3rd

Accessible Yoga with Nina	11-12.00. £5.
Refreshments from 10.30. £2	
Informal communion	12.15 - 12.45
Soup lunch.	1.00 £7
Close	2.30

Tuesday 10th.

Accessible yoga with Nina.	11-12.00
£5. Refreshments	10.30 £2
Close	12.30

Tuesday 17th

Accessible yoga with Nina	11-12.00. £5.
Refreshments	10.30 £2
Scotty's 2 course lunch	1.00.
Scotty's 2 course lunch £9	
Close	3.00

Tuesday 24th

Accessible yoga with Nina.	11-12.00 £5
Refreshments	10.30 £2
Backwell Life AGM.	1.30- 3.00.
Tea and cake	

Please note our earlier closing times, very sadly due to a lack of afternoon volunteers. We will review in January. We are having to request donations for refreshments at children's activities in order to make their provision sustainable. We have a card reader available.

Flax Bourton Church of England Primary School

Village primary school just 10 minutes from Bristol invites families to discover what makes it special
With extensive outdoor grounds, a welcoming village atmosphere and an exceptional approach to early years education, Flax Bourton Church of England Primary School is inviting families to its upcoming open days.
Choosing your child's first school is one of the biggest decisions parents make. Just 10 minutes from Bristol, Flax Bourton Church of England Primary School offers something special: a village school with spacious grounds, a close-knit community and a commitment to helping every child flourish.
At the heart of the school is its vision, 'Growing together towards life in all its fullness.' Guided by its three core values: Compassion, Courage and Curiosity - the school encourages children to be kind, confident and enthusiastic learners.

A brilliant start to school life

Flax Bourton's Reception provision is a particular strength. Its early years teaching has been recognised as a model of good practice, with teachers and school leaders from other schools visiting to learn from its approach.
With around 200 pupils, the school is small enough to foster a strong sense of belonging while offering children a rich and varied education.
Space to explore, learn and grow
One of the school's greatest assets is its extensive outdoor space, giving children opportunities to play, explore nature and enjoy being active.
Beyond the classroom, pupils can take part in activities including nature club, choir, computing and cheerleading.
The school's Christian ethos and close links with the village community also help children develop friendships, kindness and a sense of responsibility for others, bringing its vision of growing together to life.

Headteacher Steve Lung said:
"We're incredibly proud of our school, with its wonderful outdoor spaces, fantastic Reception team and strong sense of community where every child belongs.
Our vision is 'Growing together towards life in all its fullness', and we'd love families to come and see that in action. There's no better way to get a feel for a school than to visit, meet the people and see the children enjoying their day."

Come and discover Flax Bourton
Steve Lung and his team are welcoming families considering Reception places for September 2027 to visit the school, explore its grounds, meet the teachers and experience the atmosphere for themselves.
Upcoming school tours:

- Thursday 22 October 2026 – 2pm
- Monday 2 November 2026 – 9am
- Thursday 12 November 2026 – 2pm
- Monday 16 November 2026 – 9am
- Thursday 26 November 2026 – 2pm
- Monday 30 November 2026 – 9am
- Thursday 10 December 2026 – 2pm
- Monday 14 December 2026 – 9am
- Thursday 7 January 2027 – 2pm
- Monday 11 January 2027 – 9am

Tours last approximately 30 minutes, and children are very welcome to attend.
Families from Flax Bourton, Long Ashton, Failand, Backwell, Nailsea and the surrounding Bristol and North Somerset area are encouraged to come along.
Book your place: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-tour-for-prospective-reception-starters-in-september-2027-tickets-2000417097388
Come and see how Compassion, Courage and Curiosity help children flourish at Flax Bourton.

BACKWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptist Church Services
1st Nov
Family Sunday
Service Leader: Sarah Crossley
Passage: John 6:1-15
Theme: The Never-Ending Picnic

8th Nov (Remembrance Sunday)
Preacher: Josh Howard
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Passage: Ephesians 4:1-16
Theme: Unity & Maturity in the Body of Christ

15th Nov (Communion)
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Dave Nicklen
Passage: Ephesians 4:17-32
Theme: Instructions for Christian Living: Part One

22nd Nov
Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Passage: Ephesians 5:1-20
Theme: Instruction for Christian Living: Part Two

29th Nov
Preacher: Steve Finamore
Service Leader: Anne Nicklen
Passage: Ephesians 5:21-33
Theme: Instructions to Christian Households: Part One

NAILSEA METHODIST CHURCH

Annual Craft Fair - 50+ Stalls, Free Admission!

Looking for the perfect individual gift?
The ever-popular Annual Craft Fair will be held at Nailsea Methodist Church on Saturday 14th November, 10am - 4pm.

Over 50 stalls selling a range of gifts including Christmas gifts, knitted clothes/toys, chocolate brownies, watercolours, scarves, decoupage, driftwood scenes, felt pictures, embroidery pictures, cards, textiles, upcycled gifts & handbags, jewellery, candles, soaps, accessories, glass, felting, place mats, pottery, resin crafts, cakes, bunting, 2nd hand books & jigsaws and a Girls Brigade stall.

Refreshments served all day.

Free Admission.

Nailsea Methodist Church, Silver Street.
www.nailseamethodistchurch.org.uk

WEST TOWN METHODIST CHURCH

West Town Methodist Church
Sunday Services, at 10.30 am

November
1st Revd Preben Andersen
8th Remembrance Sunday @ St Andrew's Church
15th Heather Bentley
22nd Revd Michael Pullan Communion

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 Email: ann.pullan@btinternet.com or Shirley: tsmce12@gmail.com

Ready Teddy Sing – Our baby and toddler group. Every Tuesday during term time, 10.00 – 12.00.

Knitting Group – Tuesday evenings, in schoolroom.

Art Group – Wednesday mornings 10.00 - 12.00.

Wednesday Fellowship Group
November dates tba

Thursday Fellowship Group
for 11.00 5th and 19th November. venue tba

Harvest
Last month we held our Harvest Service and Lunch, with non-perishable goods and donations going to Turnaround, the centre in Lawrence Hill, which provides meals et al for the homeless. Many thanks to those who decorated the church so beautifully, provided food for the lunch, and monetary donations.

Hire of building
West Town Methodist Church is in the centre of the village and provides ample comfortable space for small gatherings, meetings, children's parties etc. For details please contact Julie on Email: ratcliffedj@btinternet.com

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

Services in November

St Andrew's Church

Sunday 1st	All Saints/All Souls
11.00am	Informal Communion
5.00pm	All Souls Service
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Sunday
10.50am	Remembrance Sunday Service
5.00pm	Said Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	2nd Sunday before Advent
9.30am	Café Church
11.00am	Sung Eucharist
5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
Sunday 22nd	Last Sunday before Advent
11.00am	Sung Eucharist with Confirmation and visit of Bishop Fiona
5.00pm	Healing Service
Sunday 29th	Advent Sunday
11.00am	Sung Eucharist
5.00pm	Advent Carol Service

St Bridget's Church

Sunday 1st	All Saints
9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Sunday
10.50am	Remembrance Sunday Service at St Andrew's (no service at St Bridget's)
Sunday 15th	2nd Sunday before Advent
9.15am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	Last Sunday before Advent
9.15am	Morning Prayer with visit of Bishop Fiona
Sunday 29th	Advent Sunday
9.15am	Morning Prayer

St Bridget's Church

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Coffee Mornings this year, from our Holy Saturday opener in April to our final gathering on Saturday 3rd October.

Sunday services at St. Bridget's continue at 9.15am, with Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9am. Please note that on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, the Remembrance service will be held at St. Andrew's, Backwell, at 10.50am, with no service at St. Bridget's that Sunday.

Looking ahead, please save the date for our Christmas Fayre, which will be held at St. Bridget's on Saturday 5th (10am to 4pm) and Sunday 6th (10am to 1pm) December. On the afternoon of Sunday 6th, the St Nicholas Patronal Service will take place at St. Nicholas' Church, Brockley, at 3pm. A week later, on Sunday 13th December, our Carol Service will be at St. Bridget's, also at 3pm. Both services take the place of the usual morning service. Our Christmas Eve Holy Communion will be at St. Bridget's at 9pm on Thursday 24th. More details will follow in next month's magazine.

As the evenings draw in, why not find out a little more about our beautiful church? 'Chelvey' is an Anglo-Saxon name meaning 'calf farm', and the manor is recorded in the Domesday Book. Our tower dates from around 1490, and the lone bell in the belfry is dated 1738. St. Bridget's also has strong links with the Tynte family, Lords of the Manor in the 17th century at Tynte Place, the forerunner of Tyntesfield. You can discover more at stbridgetschelvey.co.uk/history.

As ever, for information about all our services and events by visiting stbridgetschelvey.co.uk or scan the QR code below.

St Francis

This month begins with celebrating All Saints Day at both weekend Masses, 31st October and 1st November. Later in the day, a Taize' Evening is being held and everyone is welcome.
On Sunday 8th November we all remember, both nationally and locally all those who have died in the service of their country. We remember them at our 11:00am Mass.
Behind St Francis Church, in the memorial garden volunteers are planting many Spring bulbs to brighten the area next year. We raised money for this project at a cake and coffee morning after mass last month.
Please see further information on the website www.josephfrancis.org
Mass times can also be found at this address.

Christians Together In & around Backwell

Prayer Watch
7.15 for 7.30pm Monday, 2nd November at West Town Methodist Church

Open the Book
West Leigh Infants: Wednesdays 4th and 18th November
Junior School: Thursdays 12th and 26th November

St. Andrew's

Rector: Rev'd Sam Norton revsamnorton@gmail.com Tel 07771349319 (Day off: Friday)

Benefice Office: admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk Tel 01275 463469 (Open Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30-12.30)

Church Wardens: Cherry Leake Tel 0770 888 3075 leakefamily1@hotmail.com / Andy Pitcher Tel 07837281158

Bell Ringers: Rebecca Cox Tel 01275 462416

Director of Music: Edward Stancombe BackwellMusic@outlook.com

PCC Secretary: Vacant- contact via Church Wardens

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: Lindsey Busby Tel 01275 852348

Children's Worker: Timi Booy currently on maternity leave

Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.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

Roman Catholic Church of St Francis

Parish Priest
Father Frank Wainwright
Tel 01275 851530
www.josephfrancis.org

West Town Methodist Church

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

- Minister
  - Revd Sally Ratcliffe- 01275 852473
  - Church Stewards
    - Val Sowerby
    - Heather Bentley
    - Shirley Edwards
    - Brian Kemmish
    - Sarah Ould
    - Julie Ratcliffe
    - May Vivian
  - Treasurer: Nigel Hardman

Backwell Baptist Church

Chapel Hill, BS48 3PW

Minister Rev'd. Tim Crossley

Children / Toddler Activities (& DSL) - Sarah Crossley

Website: www.backwellbaptist.co.uk/contact

Email: backwellbaptist@gmail.com

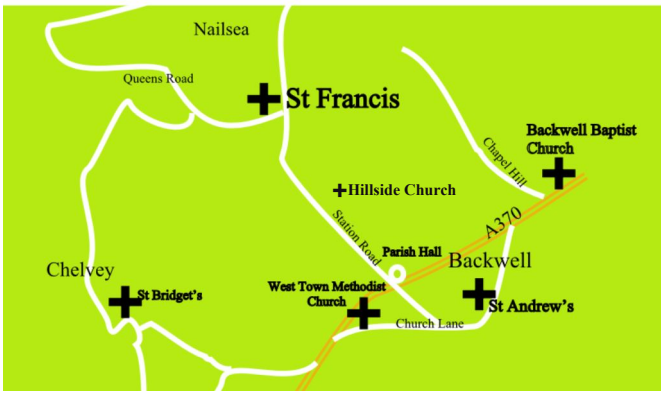
Phone: 07521 787115

Facebook: www.facebook.com/backwellbaptistchurch/

Hillside Church, part of Woodlands Church Family

Meeting every Sunday 11am
Backwell School Sixth Form Centre
Church Leader: Zoe Germain

For more details email: hillside@woodlandschurch.net



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01275 850460. 2 Harbour Road, Portishead
01275 858515. First Floor, The Sion, Crown Glass Place, Nailsea

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