

The Village Magazine

Backwell

Chelvey

Brockley



Bye bye Backwell

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*Submission deadline for next issue is the
12th of the preceding month.*

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The Village Magazine

Backwell Chelvey Brockley

Dear Readers

In the May edition, I gave you fair warning that the September magazine would be my last. Here I am working on this edition and it is indeed my final act as your local editor. Martin and I are moving to Liverpool in the middle of September (hence bye-bye Backwell on the front cover).



The good news is that this is not the final edition of the magazine. Three very capable and experienced volunteers have stepped forward. Allan Rhodes has agreed to take on the role as Editor and Simon Russell will take over from Hilary Power as Advertising Manager. In addition, Ian Howlett is joining the committee as a Church Liaison Officer. Julia Phillis and Lesley Barratt are remaining in post as Distribution Manager and Treasurer respectively. Their experience will be much appreciated in the hand over, but even they are looking to step down quite soon.

In my ten years as editor, I have found the role rewarding and challenging, but I have been well supported and there are a number of people to thank. As well as the committee and our printers, Adroit's, I would like to acknowledge the help of Valerie and Geoffrey Wells and people who provide cover photos, most notably Ann Belcher.

But most of all, you our Readers (many of whom are also contributors) I want to thank you. This local magazine survives because it has a local focus and local support. I think community is important to Backwell. Do you agree? Backwell is going to grow. I believe that this magazine (both online and in print) is an amazing tool to help newcomers to Backwell understand and get involved with the local community. If you are a local group who does not send notices into the magazine (or used to but it slipped away), this would be a really good time to start. It will help people feel welcomed to Backwell and once they join in, they might even volunteer to help occasionally. Wouldn't that be great?

Finally, I want to remind you that this is a church magazine, serving the community. That is why I took on the role of editor. If you think I have done a good job, it is evidence of the power of prayer. I prayed over every single edition of this magazine that I worked on, and I thank God for His help.

God Bless
Jane Canning

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Backwell Parish Council Meeting August

With regret, Councillors accepted the resignation of Cllr David Lloyd. He was thanked for all his contributions to the work of the Council. Councillors voted unanimously to accept the application of James Sharkey to be co-opted onto the Council.



Planning

Farleigh Fields East Cllr Harland informed BPC that the show home is open with four units sold. Further earth movements are pending. Cllr Harland explained that the drainage and surface water conditions have now been signed off.

Farleigh Fields West (land off Dark Lane) Cllr Harland informed Councillors that the number of houses to be built had reduced to 96.

Councillors unanimously agreed to explore working with an independent expert to further examine the proposed Dark Lane mitigation, to check for effectiveness and safety as it is a major route to school and connective branch of the village.

Cllr Horner raised concerns over drainage and Councillors agreed that the Council should raise this at the reserved matters stage to avoid a repeat of Farleigh Field East level and giant bunds.

Local Green Space (LGS) Cllr Harland reported that the LGS (middle fields) offer from Persimmon is imminent, as the first house will be occupied in November.

Councillors thanked Michael Pratt from BRA, for his thorough work on the LGS to assist the Council.

Rodney Road Cllr Harland updated Councillors on the site activity and Taylor Wimpey's ongoing efforts to work with BPC and other interested parties. Cllr Harland discussed issues neighbouring properties, noise, dust, HGVs reversing and mounting the pavements. The loss of wildlife, habitat and mature trees have also been reported.

Taylor Wimpey is working to finish the site entrance before school term starts in September. Cllr Harland informed Councillors that some TW staff had been verbally abused.

Cllr Harland proposed that a statement about the current work should be issued by BPC to keep residents informed.

Councillors heard that Taylor Wimpey had applied for double yellow lines to be installed along the length of Rodney Road for the duration of the building work. Councillors accepted that the use of yellow lines will be approved by North Somerset Council. Councillors will press for single lines only, with designated times to allow residents to park on the road during the evenings and weekends. Cllrs Taylor and Power will consider the options and submit a response with BPC's opinion and recommendations.

Cllr Harland informed Councillors that there had been positive movements with the Management Plans, NSC, Taylor Wimpey are prepared to work with residents and BPC for the best outcome.

Land North of Farleigh Road Councillors heard that no planning application had yet been made, but the developers, MacMic, were scoping for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the erection of around 500 houses with some mixed-use

development. Councillors were adamant that the EIA must take into account all the environmental factors, including but not limited to, horseshoe bats, other wildlife, drainage and surface water.

Other Planning Matters There were no updates on the Gleeson proposals (land north of Backwell) or Grove Farm. Cllrs Harland and Power will be making a site visit to Long Lane at the old BT site shortly.

Local Plan Cllr Harland formally thanked BRA for their unwavering support in BPC's endeavours and for their financial aid, without which BPC would be unable to be as effective. It was agreed that there would be a joint response from BPC and BRA to the most recent proposals. It was further agreed that legal advice would be taken to ensure that the village response was robust.

Backwell Scouts and Guides – Tree branch

reduction Councillors heard that an application had been made to address problems with the trees overhanging their Hut and other buildings in the vicinity. Unanimously, Councillors voted to defer to the Tree Officer, and request that he also review some of the trees overhanging the children's activity centres.

Backwell Junior School Councillors supported an application from the school to undertake some improvements which would modernise the buildings. The plans were sympathetic to the building's heritage and would provide much needed additional facilities.

Playground Councillors heard from Cllr Taylor that the roundabout at Moor Lane Play Area needs replacement. Cllr Taylor was asked to make enquiries as to the cost of an accessible roundabout as a replacement.

Bus Service Improvement Plan Cllr Hatcher informed Councillors that a meeting with D/Councillor Young and Cllr Harland had taken place where there were challenging and helpful discussions. D/Councillor Young confirmed that the BSIP scheme had not yet been agreed to proceed in full but was still at the design stage. She will report back to BPC in September.

Bristol Airport Cllr Taylor and Cllr Martin reported that a meeting had taken place where BPC's request for local highway changes had been discussed. Cllr Taylor will prepare a written report, detailing the requested changes, for official consideration by the Airport.

The next full Parish council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Thursday, 4th September 2025** at the Parish Hall. All would be most welcome to attend.

Backwell Village Show

Saturday 20th September
Backwell Parish Hall & WI Hall

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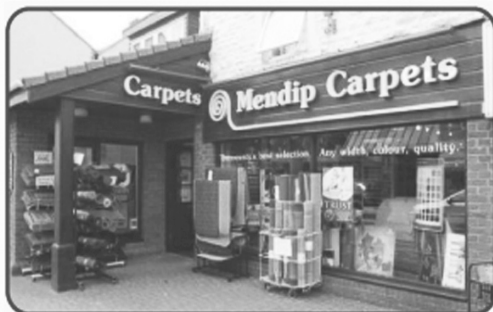
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Backwell Scout News

Explorers

With the summer term having ended thoughts and energy were focused on the Explorers' summer camp which this year was a week camping on the outskirts of Amsterdam.

Having packed Terry's Belingo with tents, cooking gear and pots and pans two leaders (Ian and Laurence) set off on the Friday afternoon to catch the ferry from Dover to Calais early on Saturday morning. The rest of the leaders (Iain, Terry and Jennifer) and unit then met at Bristol airport on the Saturday to fly across to Schiphol airport and onwards to the campsite near Zandvoort. Once all parties had arrived, camp was set up amongst the pine trees. On Sunday the unit was up early and set off to explore Amsterdam on foot taking in the canals, architecture and enjoying plenty of waffles. Monday, the unit walked into Zandvoort to enjoy the beach although the local gulls were keen to sample everyone's lunch!

Having hired bikes, Tuesday was the first riding day and saw the unit cycle to Amsterdam and back enjoying the many windmills, waterways and cycle tracks. Having ridden 75kms there were some tired legs in camp that evening!!

Wednesday was a slightly easier day with the unit cycling into Haarlem to take part in a local treasure hunt game. The prospect of the losing team having to clean the toilets spurred them on with some particularly creative entries coming in during the day. The Dune Loop ride took place on the Thursday with the unit split into smaller groups to enjoy the national park. One highlight was a swim in a local lake which had a sandy beach for the unit to rest and enjoy.

Friday the unit went to a local theme and waterpark which was enjoyed by all, especially as it enabled everyone to have a wash!

Saturday the camp was packed up and the unit came home tired but with plenty of memories from another successful week away. *Laurence*

Friday Scouts

Friday Scouts had a fantastic finish to our summer term with a colour run and barbeque to raise funds for 1st Backwell Scout hut renovations. It was a wonderful evening with people all ages coming together and we managed to raise over £830! Best of all, it was a great community event, which we hope to repeat next year.

Friday Scouts have had a break for the summer, having been away on our summer camp at the start of the summer holidays to Cranham in the Cotswolds. 23 young people joined leaders for an action-packed camp where we went team paddleboarding, kayaking, raft building, swimming in a lido, bivouacking in the woods and on a night hike to view the superb views at Painswick Beacon. We had team challenges involving a climbing wall, grass sledges and archery and a 'lava river'. We even managed to hold an investiture for a new scout on a slack line over a stream. Scouts went shopping in their teams with a budget to create the best 'high tea' in our MasterChef competition, which I can confirm was a scrumptious success all round, and ended the week with a hilarious Taskmaster competition. Scouts were amazing as always and I'd like to thank all of the leaders and helpers who came along to make the week so special. We adults had a fab time too! It is such a privilege to be able to make these fantastic memories with the scouts, have loads of fun and enable our young people to have such brilliant opportunities to develop their skills, thrive and build wonderful friendships.

We have had an amazing year in Friday Scouts and now look forward to the start of a new one!

Lorraine



Save the day! Backwell Scout AGM – Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm, Scout Hut

We'd like to welcome the Backwell community to our Scout Annual General meeting on Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm in the Scout Hut, 15 Rodney Rd, Backwell. This will be an opportunity to hear about all the great activities undertaken by Backwell Scout Group in 2024 / 2025 and hear about our plans for the future.

We'd also like to make you aware of two Backwell Scout Committee roles which will become vacant after the 2025 AGM. Matt Dobbs will be stepping down as Treasurer after nearly ten years of dedicated service to Backwell Scout group, so we urgently need someone to take over this role. Katie Gore will also step down as Scout Secretary during 2025 / 2026.

Please get in touch with our secretary Katie Gore (katgore@googlemail.com) if you could assist with either of these roles, or would be interested in helping out with Backwell Scouting in any way.

Group Treasurer:

Manages and monitors the financial activities of the Group and its section and prepares and presents financial reports and accounts to the Trustee Board.

Group Secretary:

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We should be very pleased to hear from you ! Thanks Katie Gore

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Backwell School has a new Headteacher

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as Backwell's Headteacher from September succeeding Jon Nunes who has led the school with such distinction over the past nine years. Living locally to the school I have always followed it with a keen interest and as a proud person who hails from Somerset, I am delighted to lead a school in the county I call home. I am determined that Backwell School will build on its excellent reputation and continue to flourish and maintain its position at the heart of the community for many years to come.

I have been a teacher, primarily of Geography, and a senior leader in two comprehensive schools for the past 18 years in both Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. I am currently the Deputy Headteacher responsible for the quality of curriculum and teaching and learning at Cheltenham Bournside School a large secondary school in Cheltenham having been a Head of Sixth Form, a designated safeguard lead, Head of House and Head of Geography at my previous school. Away from school I love nothing more than being outside in the fresh air be it on my bike, the coast path, ski slope, rugged Cornish beach or cricket pitch!

Being married to a teacher and as a father to two wonderful girls, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the very highest standard of education is achieved for every member of our school community. It is my promise to you, the local community, that I will do my utmost to ensure that every child at Backwell will have the opportunity to find their version of exceptional.

At Backwell, we are keen to emphasise not just academic success but those areas which bring colour and vitality to the student experience, such as art, drama, sport, music and the full range of extra-curricular activities on offer. To achieve this, every child in our school will continue to have the wide breadth of opportunity to provide them with the knowledge and experiences that allow them to achieve both at Backwell and in the wider world beyond our school gates. This ethos of whole-person-education is already part of Backwell's DNA and is a strength that I intend to nurture.

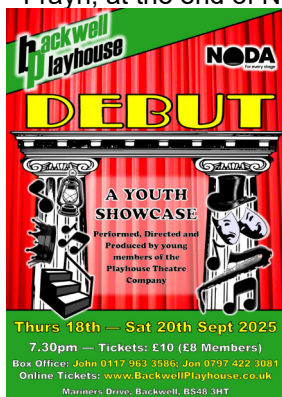
If you haven't done so recently, I warmly invite you to explore our website and discover the spirit of our wonderful school and with our Open Evening on **Thursday, 18th September** please feel free to visit us in person then! But for now, thank you for all the support you give the school as part of our local community, as I firmly believe that us working together makes us stronger, as after all 'we are Backwell'.

**Will Penny, Headteacher,
Backwell School**




Backwell Playhouse are finalising our Autumn Schedule, and we have some fantastic events lined up to see us through to the end of the year. First up is a wonderful event to showcase the talents of the younger members of the Playhouse Theatre Company. 'DEBUT' is an evening of performance that is directed and produced by our young creators, who are responsible for every aspect of the show. It is their opportunity to learn how to put on a production at the Playhouse, and to try their hand at every job available. Supported by the main theatre group, the company get to light, stage manage, direct and write the evening's entertainment to help them gain the experience for the future. 'DEBUT' features plays, songs, dances and musical performances and runs from the **18th - 20th September**. Tickets are £10 (£8 Members) and available from our website, www.BackwellPlayhouse.co.uk or from our Box Office: John 0117 963 3586; Jon 0797 422 3081.

We are also thrilled to announce that our 2025/26 season of Comedy Nights starts again on **Saturday 16th October**, and will now be monthly! Tickets remain just £10 for a brilliant and hilarious evening of comedy, featuring Joe Riley, Glenn Braley, McClaine Beirne and Emma Hughes. Our MC is Rob C and our headliner is Mark Hurman, returning to the Playhouse for the third time. The main Theatre Company then perform 'The 'Sneeze' by Anton Chekhov, translated by Michael Frayn, at the end of November.



Management Committee that looks after our theatre. 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 look for people who are keen and passionate about an important part of life in Backwell. We are particularly looking for someone to join as our Treasurer.

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 email 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 Senior Club

Such good news that the Village Mag is to continue into the future. Well done to all those involved in the takeover and thank you to Jane who has kept it going for so long. I hope everyone is *enjoying* the summer break and coping well with the varied weather. Too hot, too wet or too windy; never satisfied are we!

Our last gathering in June was the very popular Summer Tea Party hosted once again by Nancy and Tim which brought our year to a close. I well remember how cool and windy it was for the event last year and we held it inside. Well, this year it was sooooo hot that we again held it inside and admired the gorgeous garden through the patio windows! Thank you, Messrs Lewis, for your generous hospitality and well done to all those that helped in the preparations and the clearing up.

We were entertained by David Francis such a gifted guitarist and Peter a vibrant violinist. We were blown away by their performance. We all enjoyed the sing-along too. Thank you both very much for a very fitting end to our season.

We next meet at our new venue on **19th September** in the West Town Methodist Church. Usual time of 2.00pm. We will open our new season being entertained by our dear friend, Jean Routley, with a programme called "Musical Memories". I am sure it will be a magical, memorable afternoon.

There will be a different look to one or two of our meetings when we will be set out "Café Style" and be more involved with the "goings on". We hope you will find it fun. ALL adults, ladies and gentlemen, will be very welcome.

We do have local transport available for those who need it, but it must be booked by the previous Wednesday. Please ring Mair on 01275 463736.

For further information please ring Sue on 01275 461231.

See **YOU** there.

Backwell & Nailsea Macular Support

We have an outing arranged for **Thursday 4th September** to the Somerset Rural Museum at Glastonbury; leaving Backwell at 9.30am and returning before 5.00pm : £10 each. This is open to everyone who would like to join us. Please ring Sheila on 01275 462107 to be included.

Our monthly meeting on Wednesday **24th September** in the W.I. Hall, Backwell, will be informed about visual aids by Vision North Somerset. If you have an eye problem, do come and see and handle what is on offer that might be of assistance. All are welcome - further information from Sheila at 01275 462107.

Rotary Nailsea and Backwell

A "Grand Charity Quiz" will take place on **Saturday 11th October.**

At the WI Hall Backwell, starting at 7.00pm.

Teams of six at £7.50 each.

Tickets are available from members of Rotary, John Brown's Nailsea and Parker's Backwell

BYO Drinks. Raffle on the night.

In aid of Nailsea Memory Café

Federation of West Leigh Infant and Backwell Junior School

West Leigh Infant School

Owl Class – Year 1 (aged 5-6)

Frida Kahlo

Owl class enjoyed the Art project on Portraits and Self-portraits at the end of last term. As part of this project, we looked at the work of Frida Kahlo and the children created their own Frida Kahlo portraits. They concentrated hard, following the steps of the drawing tutorial and carefully chose their pastels to create vibrant pieces. Mrs BG was proud of the whole class for all the effort and concentration that went into this brilliant work - well done Owls!

Reptile and Insect Visit

Our Year One children were very excited to welcome Iain McElarney and his interesting pets to West Leigh before the holidays. Iain introduced the children to some large cockroaches, George the Monitor Lizard, and the pythons Caramel, Peaches and Cookie. Iain taught us lots of fantastic facts about the reptiles and the children were lucky enough to be able to handle the snakes too! We were impressed with how calmly the children sat while the pythons were on their laps, and it was wonderful to see how much they could remember about reptiles at the end of the session. Thanks to Iain for volunteering to visit us again!

West Leigh Solar Panel Project

Thank you so much for the support with our Solar Panel Fundraising Venture. During Sports Week. Each class was set a target of raising £250 through a sponsored event. They completely smashed the target set, raising just over an incredible £3087 This now brings the grand total raised so far to £14,836.

Backwell C Of E Junior School

BJS – Thank you from the PTA.

We want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to our incredible parent community for their continued support of the PTA.

Last school year, together, we raised an incredible £10,000—a huge achievement that has had a real and lasting impact on our children's school experience.

Thanks to their generosity, time, and fundraising efforts, we were able to fund:

- an inspiring Author Day that sparked imagination and a love for writing
- a fun-filled Maths Puzzle Day to challenge and engage curious minds
- new table tennis and basketball equipment, giving our children more ways to be active and play together
- much-needed reading books to fuel their learning journeys
- new laptops and iPads, helping to enhance their education through technology
- and through our ever-popular cake sales, we've contributed to memorable Wow Days and school trips

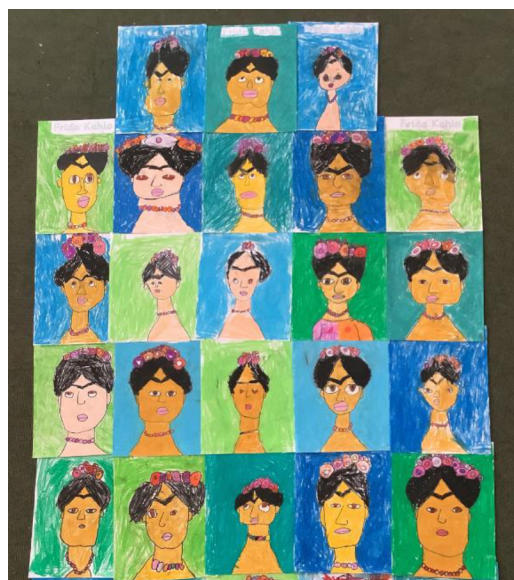
These are the kinds of experiences that make primary school so special—and without the PTA, they simply wouldn't happen.

We are truly lucky to be able to play such an active role in our children's early school years. Once the children move on to secondary school, these opportunities to be involved are few and far between.

To keep this amazing work going, we need help. We're looking for volunteers to be Class Reps for the next school year, a fantastic way to get involved, meet other parents, and help keep the momentum going.

We are also in urgent need of a new PTA Secretary to join the committee. This is a key role that helps keep everything running smoothly. If you are organised, enthusiastic, and can spare a little time, we'd love to welcome you to the team. If you are able to give some time—big or small—we'd love to hear from you. Hoping you have had a happy and restful summer break!

Backwell Junior School Association



Somerset Festival of the Arts 2025 Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th October

Our 2025 festival programme will feature beautiful candlelit concerts from our opening concert Baroque 'n' Roll, merging some of the greatest Baroque repertoire with a few 20th century surprises, an orchestral tribute to the evocative and mesmerising sound world of Edith Piaf, and our exuberant festival finale with a spectacular selection of Viennese Waltzes. Tickets available online



An annual celebration of classical music and the arts which brings together leading chamber musicians and performers to North Somerset.

St Andrew's Church
Backwell

BAROQUE 'N' ROLL
Friday 3rd October at 7.30pm

FAMILY CONCERT: MUSICAL MYTHS AND LEGENDS
Saturday 4th October at 10.30am

LA VIE EN ROSE, A TRIBUTE TO EDITH PIAF
Saturday 4th October at 7.30pm

VIENNESE SPECTACULAR
Sunday 5th October at 7.30pm

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WWW.SOMERSETFESTIVALARTS.CO.UK

*Terms and conditions apply

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Backwell Residents Association (BRA)

Here are some updates on the many current developments in Backwell, including both present building sites, and important public consultations on possible other developments expected shortly.

North Somerset Local Plan (2040) (LP)

The current version of the LP includes sites already approved by North Somerset Council (NSC); the largest of which is for 515 houses on Grove Farm. Unfortunately, it also includes two major sites for 500 and 450 houses in East Backwell on Green Belt land. These sites cover virtually all the fields bounded by the railway line, Farleigh Road and Chapel Hill.

A public consultation is expected soon, and this will be Backwell's only significant opportunity to join together to object and have our say. This extra housing over a 15-year period is unsustainable for Backwell, which currently is a village of 2,000 houses, with limited infrastructure.

BRA continues to work closely with Backwell Parish Council (BPC) and has made donations to employ planning expertise to give us the best advice to safeguard East Backwell.

We will contact members as soon as the consultation opens and suggest how residents can best help. With enough comments we still have a chance to influence the decision.

Proposal for 450 houses East of Backwell

At the Drop-in Session in the Parish Hall in July, MacMic Strategic Land Development claimed that their 450 homes site could have 500 homes built, with vehicular access from a new junction with signals on Farleigh Road opposite Fairfield Way.

It is expected that a planning application will be made to NSC shortly. BRA strongly opposes this major development and will be in touch with members if and when an application is made.

65 Houses off Rodney Road (Ref 20/P/1847/OUT and 24/P/0533/RM)

Taylor Wimpey (TW) has started preparatory work on this development,

with its very narrow access onto already busy roads. There has been much activity between TW, NSC, BPC and others, which is given in some detail on the BPC website. Go to www.backwell-pc.gov.uk, and Reports/Posts/ and Rodney Road/Taylor Wimpey. At

the time of writing, we are expecting to hear details from NSC of parking restrictions to enable HGV access and to maintain safe use of the road to access shops etc.

Farleigh Fields (East) 96 houses

Persimmon has already built several houses near the A370 access, and a show house is now operating Thursday to Sunday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Persimmon expects some 10 houses to be completed by the end of the year.

Farleigh Fields Local Green Space BRA

understands that Persimmon will shortly be making an offer to BPC to purchase the land for £1. BPC continues to give detailed consideration and conduct due diligence of the short- and long-term aspects of this land ownership.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

On Tuesday 27th May BRA was pleased to hear that the BSIP team was being asked by an internal NSC Scrutiny Panel to reconsider its plans for BSIP Backwell, given the major opposition from some NSC Councillors, BPC, and BRA whose survey included a 98% rejection of the bus lane along Farleigh Road, by 255 BRA households who responded,

The leader of the BSIP team, Hannah Young, (NSC Member for Highways and Transport) produced a 16 page report in response to the findings of the Scrutiny Panel which repeats the main goal of BSIP Backwell to reduce the time taken for the round trip Weston to Bristol and back. It estimates that the bus lane would save 58 seconds for buses to Weston in the late afternoon peak period.

The bus lane is still at the feasibility and design stage, and no formal decision to proceed to build has been made. We expect to hear more from the BSIP team in early autumn. It has been made aware of the intensity of local opposition to the bus lane and to moving the bus stop from the crossroads to outside the Post Office.

From your BRA Committee

Visit our website at

www.backwellresidents.org.uk

Email us at

backwellresidents@btinternet.com

Backwell's Second Saturday Fair Trade Café

September 13th Backwell Parish Hall 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Backwell's long established Saturday Fair Trade Café starts again on **September 13th** after the traditional August break. Come along to this Community event to enjoy the excellent Fair Trade coffee and tea and some delicious home baked pastries and biscuits.

As usual 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 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.

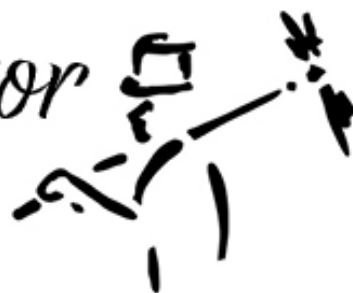
Move from recycling to re-using by bringing your own container to fill (or better refill) with all kinds of BioD/ Ecover detergents and cleaning fluids on our BioD/Ecover stall.

This month Backwell Climate Action will be with us once again with information on how we can all do our bit. Our District Councillor Bridget Petty is often present to discuss local affairs with any concerned residents.



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Backwell & Nailsea Support Group for Carers

Inviting all carers to join us on **Wednesday 3rd September** for Afternoon Tea at Cadbury Garden Centre (Booking Essential). RSVP by 28th August.

We meet each month at the WI Hall, Backwell from 2.00pm - 3.30pm.

Come and join us for support, friendship and entertainment, and a short respite from your caring role. The afternoons include a quiz, raffle, delicious refreshments and a 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 the surrounding area also welcome. Look forward to seeing you.

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

St. Andrew's Ladies Group.

Our summer outing in June to Sidmouth, was a great success. All the fifty seats on the coach were taken, mainly by our members but quite few husbands, partners and friends came along too. Everyone seemed to have a great day by the sea and enjoyed the unspoilt and lovely tranquil English setting. On **September 8th** we will be holding our AGM in St Andrew's Church house at 7.30pm. The Rev Sam Norton will chair the meeting and after the business side we look forward to hearing about Sam's journey to becoming our Rector. After a long summer break September 8th will be a good opportunity for members to see some familiar faces and maybe meet some new ones, do join us if you can. *Gillian Vasey.*

Backwell Probus Club Report

We have had two meetings, the first in late July we heard Dawn Denton talk on "1820 Settlers of Somerset in South Africa". It was an extraordinary tale of how the Governor of South Africa demanded some English farmers would come out to South Africa to compete with the Dutch Boars. She stated that 4000 went out, as the farming community in England were not in good shape. Our next meeting was a slide talk by Mike Hooper on "Bristol in the 1950's and 1960's". He showed us many arial photos of Bristol in those two decades, which brought back many memories for many of us, particularly the old ESA Robinson building near Bristol Bridge. He showed so many pictures of buildings/terraces now gone; it became a sad reflection of times past!

In September, our meetings will include a talk on "Treading the Wards by a Nurse" and "On the Streets". 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 and 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 **26th September** from 10.30am -12.00noon.

For more information contact disabledaccessgroup@gmail.com

West Backwell Bowling Club

Our outdoor season is drawing to a close on **Sunday 14th** with Captains Day, and our annual Men v Ladies competition. On **Saturday 13th** we will hold the very popular Novices Tournament, and the weekend before will be the Club Finals – results next month!

The Ladies were the Area Winners for North Somerset in the Fear Cup, and played Street in the semi-finals, losing by just three shots.

The Men got to the semi final in the North Somerset Cup. Bob Bees is in the semi final of the County Hon. Secretary's competition. Emma and Adam just lost out on getting to the semi of the County Mixed Pairs competition. At the weeklong Clevedon Tournament, Jayne, Julie and Shireen won the ladies' Triples.

New and social members are still most welcome. Tuesday evening is our popular coaching session for new and inexperienced members, when the bar is open! Friday evenings are Club Nights, with bar.

Further information about the bowling club, can be found on our website, or contact the Secretary email: wbbsecretaryinternal@outlook.com

The Parkinson's UK NW Somerset 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. At the meeting on **12th September**, you will have the opportunity to meet and chat with others with Parkinson's. The speaker that day will be Les Davies, Westcountryman and expert on the Mendips.

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.

North Somerset Quilters

will be meeting on **Friday September 19th** at 7.30pm at Backwell W.I. Hall, Station Rd., Backwell BS48 3QW. Our Speaker will be Jackie Benstead with her talk "Why I Make Small Quilts". Trader for the evening Mark Pickles. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £7 for the evening; for more information Tel Karen 01275 463119

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Flax Bourton, BS48 3QQ



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'Halos and Heritage'

Saturday 27th

September
10-4

St Michael &
All Angels,
Flax Bourton

In aid of the Halo Heating Fund

Local History
Exhibition

Clock Tower &
Church Tours

Angel Cafe

Games, Arts &
Craft

Angel Art Display

Craft Stalls

Nailsea District Leg Club

Your leg club needs you – help! Volunteers needed please, proactive and able to set up our drop-in clinic, serve refreshments, chat with members and assist with clearing away at the end of the morning. **NO heavy lifting involved**, everything is moved on trolleys, Leg Club is Health & Safety aware! The morning starts at 8.30 and finishes by 12.30pm, volunteers are required all morning, but can opt to come in to set up and stay for a couple of hours, or come in mid-morning and help put equipment away, the latter being equally as important as setting up.

Volunteer drivers also needed to pick up within the Tyntsfeld Medical Group area, mileage is paid and a willingness to go on a rota maybe twice a month. Those who are picked up have to be able to walk unaided from their front door to the car; some members bring 'walkers' with them, which fold for the car boot.

A wonderful Tenth Birthday Party was held on 11th July and attended by members, volunteers and nursing staff who give so much to make the Leg Club the success it is. A super lunch was provided and much enjoyed, it was truly a great celebration, especially as the 'model' of Nailsea Leg Club has been passed on to help start clubs in other areas.

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

At the July meeting we reviewed the successful joint



PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

PPG / (TMG) Information Stand at the Farmers' Market. Many people stopped to talk to PPG members on the stall and to Dr Parker and the TMG nurse who were offering blood pressure checks. Topics raised were discussed; these included lengthier waits between patient prescription requests and pharmacies dispensing them; osteoporosis and bone density screening, food advice for gout, getting appointments and ways of communicating with TMG. The awareness information leaflets on Arrhythmia, Sepsis and Calcium nutrition were also popular, as were the free cakes and also the fresh fruit kindly donated by the Silver Street greengrocer Ashley Olsen and by Waitrose.

We heard about the recent GP quality survey across the entire North Somerset, Bristol and South Glos region in which TMG came second. Scores were high across the board although slightly lower because of lower traffic via the TMG website. TMG explained that they deliberately concentrate on telephone appointments as they felt it better for their patient population. Patients can find extensive information on the TMG main website: <https://www.tyntsfeld.nhs.uk/>. TMG are making increased use of their Facebook page. Follow them on <https://www.facebook.com/TyntsfeldMedicalGP>

Full PPG minutes can be found on the TMG website: <https://www.tyntsfeld.nhs.uk/patient-involvement-1>. Please note that minutes can not be published until they are ratified at the subsequent PPG meeting. As we take a break in August, full minutes from the July meeting will be available towards the end of September.



The Meeting Point

The **Holiday Action 25** programme for children has been really successful, with around 25 taking part in each activity. The final one is the Clay Workshop on **2nd September**. Everyone can have a go with clay even if the workshop is full. We are really grateful to all our volunteers and to the artists and teachers for providing the workshops. We also thank the Parish Council for their grant support. Look out for the Tuesday Break art workshop in October half-term from 10.00 to 12.00.

Sitting Fit Yoga returns on **9th September** in the Parish Hall at the usual time of 11.00 to 12.00. This will, I'm sure, involve some recovery from the summer break, so come prepared. Coffee and cake will as ever be served from 10.30.

Our lunch schedule for September is as normal:

2nd September at 1.00 pm, home-made soup with bread and cheese, fruit etc.

16th September at 1.00 pm, 2-course lunch by Scotty. Please book by 9th September.

2nd September at 12.15. Informal Communion service. Stay for the soup lunch if you can.

We are open **after school** for tea and cake, so whilst children prepare for the WI Hall ballet, why not join us for a time of relaxation and chat. We're open till 4.30pm and have plenty of paper & pens, Lego and board games.

Backwell Life

Who Let the Dads Out? I apologise for the mix-up last month, but there will be **no** Saturday morning session on 20th September, the weekend of the Village Show. We hope to resume in October but are still searching for volunteers to organise (and prepare the food and drinks). Please contact us if you would like to be part of this.

Membership of Backwell Life (the parent charity for The Meeting Point) is supported by a team of volunteers and trustees. We would love to welcome more volunteers, especially as we are losing two (who're moving away) and others are somewhat older than they were when we started 12 years ago. 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



West Town & Backwell WI

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 17th September** from 7.30pm in the WI Hall.

This month we learn about WI Resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' with a talk by Sarah from St John's Ambulance about CPR and using defibrillators. We also welcome visitors to bring along a jigsaw to swap this month.

New members welcome.

In addition to our meeting, Backwell WI hosts the Clothes Swap at Backwell WI Hall and invite the whole village to come along on **Saturday 13th September** from 2.00-4.00pm. Free entry, all welcome.

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



Clothing Swap

Saturday 13th September 2025
2pm - 4pm
last donation 3.30pm
A sustainable event hosted by
Backwell WI
Free for all, everyone welcome

Clothes, shoes and accessories for all. Swap item for item, OR donate £1 per item to Backwell WI.
Refreshments available

Backwell WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell, BS48 3QW

backwellwi@gmail.com
www.backwellwi.org.uk

West Town Methodist Church

September Sunday Services, at 10.30am

7th Revd Sally Ratcliffe **Communion**

14th Revd Preben Andersen

21st Martin Buckley

28th Revd Sally Ratcliffe **Harvest**
(more information about Harvest Celebrations will be circulated later)

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 babies and toddler group. Every Tuesday 10.00 – 12.00 during term time, starting on **September 9th**.

Wednesday Fellowship Group
September 10th and 24th, at 2.30pm, at 4 St Andrew's Road

Thursday Fellowship Group
September 4th 10.30 at 11 The Avenue, and the **18th** tba

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

Backwell Village Show – do support this on **Saturday 20th September**. Schedules can be picked up in Heaven coffee shop.

Open the Book – restarting in October.

Prayer Watch – **Monday 1st September** 7.45 pm at St Andrew's

Christians Together in & Around Backwell

Congresbury Singers welcome new members for their autumn term - War Memorial Hall Congresbury **Tuesday 2nd September** @ 7.30 - NO audition - for info 07803040175

Nailsea & District Local History Society meets on **Monday 8th September** in the Green Lecture Room at Nailsea School at 7.45pm when Yvonne Bell will present her paper entitled "Keep Your Hair On". Visitors most welcome £3pp. Further from 01275 463479

Backwell and Nailsea Ladies Choir

The choir is really looking forward to the Autumn term with our Musical Director Naomi Davies. Our first weekly session will be on **Thursday 11th September** 2025 at our usual time of 13.15 until 14.45 in the WI Hall, Station Road, Backwell. The term will be 12 sessions culminating with our Christmas concert in the WI Hall on the afternoon of **Thursday 11th December**, so save the date now!

As always, we welcome new members and are offering a 'first session for free' if you would like to give us a try. Do join us. We are a mixed ability, friendly choir and no auditions are required. For more information contact Mandy Collinson on 07722 703956

Backwell Baptist Church

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

Sunday Services

Doors open - 10.00am
Services start - 10.30am



7th September (Communion)

Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Sheila Whiting
Theme: Entering God's Kingdom
Passage: John 3:1-21

14th September

Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Anne Nicklen
Theme: The Parable of the Sower
Passage: Mark 4:1-20

God has blessed us with an amazing church community. We love to welcome new faces, support and encourage one another, and serve the village through activities such as Blaze and Holiday at Home. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you. There is a place here for you.

We have had an incredible summer. For seniors in the village, we had two fantastic days of Holiday at Home with plenty of laughter! Thank you to our friends at St Andrew's, The Meeting Point and everyone who came and made it such great fun! Photos on our Facebook page.

Tim was then invited into a local school to be grilled by three classes about his Christian faith and what it's like being a Minister. Questions were asked about heaven and hell, baptism, why Tim enjoys being a Minister, and how his faith in Jesus has helped him through difficult times in life. We think Tim survived and certainly welcomed the opportunity to share God's word and respond to the students' questions.

As part of our regular fellowship activities, we enjoyed a glorious afternoon at Chew Valley Lake with a scrummy lunch at Salt and Malt followed by a lovely walk in the sunshine! Those who attend our Home Groups also enjoyed summer socials.

On another joyous occasion, we celebrated the Dedication of Tim and Sarah's son, Ezra.

21st September

Preacher: Derek Cleave
Service Leader: Tim Crossley
Theme: The Parable of the Growing Seed & The Parable of the Mustard Seed
Passage Mark 4:21-34

28th September

Preacher: Tim Crossley
Service Leader: Sarah Crossley
Theme: The Parables of the Hidden Treasure & The Pearl of Great Price
Passage: Matthew 13:44-46

We thanked God for a precious new life and joined with Tim and Sarah's families to pray for Ezra. A huge thank you to Peter Burns, Minister of Nailsea Baptist Church for leading the dedication on behalf of the family and sharing how we can all know God through having child-like faith. Guests enjoyed coffee and cake after the service! Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14).

And finally, one of the highlights of the last few weeks has undoubtedly been BlazeFest – two incredible days of Blaze fun for children in Years 3 to 6 with messy games, bubbles, tie dying bags, face painting, nerf guns, marble mazes, mini golf, mini basketball, and much more! The children and helpers were all brilliant!

Next up... our annual Community BBQ is on **Saturday 13th September** at 4.30pm. It is for all the family, with free food, fun Blaze games and prizes for children. Sign up with the link on our Facebook page to let us know that you are coming. We can't wait to see you!

And finally, if you have any prayer requests or questions about faith, please do get in touch with Tim at minister@backwellbaptist.co.uk.

News from St Francis

September is a great opportunity for us all to begin new experiences after the restful month of August. At St Francis, some children move up to Secondary School and Further Education whilst younger children move up classes or begin their school career. We wish them well, whilst praying for a successful academic year.

This year, the annual Pilgrimage to Glastonbury is taking place on Sunday **7th September**. A procession (for the Jubilee Year) from the Abbey to the Tor begins at 11.00am, followed by Mass in the Abbey grounds at 15.00. Everyone is welcome. Almost a year on, the sealing of the windows of our Church are nearly finished which will be a huge relief to Father Frank! Now we have to pay!

Please see the website, www.josephfrancis.org for Mass times and Livestreaming.

St Bridget's Church

There is still time to support our Harvest Quiz Night including a hot meal on **Saturday 6th September** from 7.00pm, raising funds for the vital upkeep of St. Bridget's Church. Scan the Eventbrite QR code or visit www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk/events to reserve your places (which helps us know how many to cater for). Tickets are priced at £15, payable on the door by cash or card; a hot meal is included but do bring your own drinks! Participants are welcome to either form teams in advance or group together with others once they arrive – we are aiming for approximately four per team.

There is also a coffee morning at 10.00am on **Saturday 6th September**, a great opportunity to investigate the history of our beautiful Church over a cup of coffee.

To keep up with information about all our services and events please visit our website www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk.



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

September brings a season of change in the Benefice, not least because we will be welcoming two new members into God's church through Baptism on **14th September**. We also hope that the exam results were what was hoped for, that new doors have opened and also that the return to school goes well.

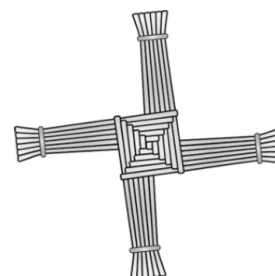
Harvest will be celebrated in St Bridget's on **7th September** and in St Andrew's on **21st**. It will be lovely to gather together to give thanks for and to share God's blessings.

The informal communion service at The Meeting Point in the Parish Hall is on **2nd September** 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 September	St Andrew's Church	St Bridget's Church
	7th Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	7th Twelfth Sunday after Trinity/ Harvest
	11.00am Informal Communion	9.15am Holy Communion
	5.00pm Evensong	
	14th Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	14th Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
	11.00am Sung Eucharist with Baptism	9.15am Morning Prayer
	5.00pm Said Evening Prayer	
	21st Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist/ Harvest	21st Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
	9.30am Café Church	9.15am Morning Prayer
	11.00am Sung Eucharist	
	5.00pm Said Evening Prayer	
	28th Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	9.30am Café Church	
	11.00am Sung Eucharist	
	5.00pm Said Evening Prayer	



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 September we pray for
West Town Road,
The Green,
Manor Road
Moody's Acre

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.

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, Sarah Ould
Treasurer	Nigel Hardman 01275 851581

Backwell Baptist Church

Chapel Hill, BS48 3PW

Minister	Rev'd. Tim Crossley
Website	www.backwellbaptist.co.uk/contact
Email	backwellbaptist@gmail.com
Phone	07521 787115
Facebook	www.facebook.com/backwellbaptistchurch/

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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