



St Andrew's Churches
Banwell and Congresbury

Pew News

7th November 2025



Christmas dates correction

The **carol service** at Puxton's **Holy Saviour's Church** will be at **3pm** on **Sunday 21st December** (and *not at 4pm* as stated in the previous edition of Pew News). The following carol service that day will be held from **6.30pm** at **St Andrew's Church, Congresbury**.

Apologies for any confusion. Details of all Christmas events and services can be found on the Christmas page on our website, or alternatively on the Events section of our Facebook page.

Together for Toybox

Our church supports Toybox, a **charity** working to end the **injustice of children living and working on the streets**. Through **education, healthcare, and family support**, Toybox helps children build **safer, more sustainable futures**. We currently sponsor two children through this programme, but to continue our support we need 18 more donations of **£12**. If you'd like to help us reach this goal and keep changing lives, please speak to Rosemary (our Congresbury church treasurer) or contact the church office.



TOYBOX

Changing the world
for street children

Festive Afternoon Tea

Come and enjoy a festive afternoon tea at **St Andrew's Church, Congresbury**, on **Wednesday 17th December at 2.30pm**. Tickets are available for a suggested donation of **£5** from the church or church office – everyone is warmly welcome!

Congresbury Singers Christmas Concert

Get into the Christmas spirit with a **community concert** at our church! The Congresbury Singers, with **children from St Andrews School**, will perform on **Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm** in **St Andrews Church, Congresbury**. Enjoy festive music, wine, and mince pies. Tickets **£12**, available from the Post Office, Re-Store, or on the door.

A Memorable Night with Adrian & Bridget Plass

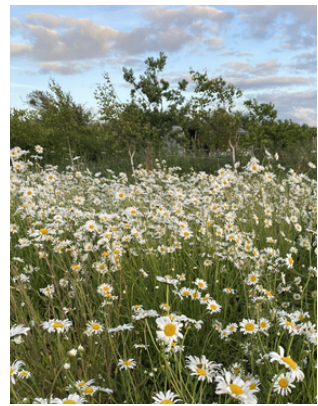
Many thanks to everyone who joined us for a wonderful evening with Adrian and Bridget Plass on 25th October. Around **60 people** gathered at our **Banwell church** to enjoy the Plasses' stories and sketches, brimming with humour and faith.

A **special thank you** to **Maggie McCarthy** for organising the event and to **Bob Mitchell**, who gallantly came to the rescue with transport when the Plasses' car broke down before the evening began!

The field by Robert McLaughlin

Many people share my experience in that an appreciation of nature introduced me to an awareness of God. As a child I remember looking in wonder at the stars and trying to understand infinity. What is beyond the furthest star you can see or imagine. It was my first experience of connecting to something greater than myself but possibly connected to my own spirit. An early moment of contemplative prayer. Dawn and dusk still draw me into an awesome experience of the Divine. A time when I want to watch and pray. From childhood I loved nature and enjoyed pets, nature and gardening. As my life progressed an opportunity to purchase a 4 acre field on Congresbury marsh came up and as a family we were able to buy it. Interestingly the land once belonged to St Andrew's church in Congresbury. The historical footpaths to the church still connect to our field and we can hear the church bells ringing from the field. A call to prayer.

In earthly terms we "own it" but Biblical references describe a relationship with the earth as one of stewardship, where humanity is tasked by God to "work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15), recognizing that God is the ultimate owner of all creation (Psalm 24:1). In the past we have kept sheep and pigs in order to produce our own organic meat but, since most of my family became vegetarian, it became unnecessary. Some time ago I was also interested in community supported agriculture but unfortunately so far it hasn't worked out. During the summer of Covid, as an extended family, we would meet at the field and we created a camping area so we could meet with



family and friends and enjoy and share the outdoors.

Since the sheep have gone I have become very interested in the concept of re-wilding. So within the field we have areas for growing food organically, camping areas and space where nature is reclaiming the land. As this process develops it's wonderful to see how bible references such as Isaiah 55:12, where the mountains and trees are said to burst into song and clap their hands, and Romans 8:22, which speaks of the whole creation groaning in anticipation of being set free. Other passages like Joel 2:21-25 describe a time of green pastures and bountiful harvests, and Revelation 21:1 promises that God will make "everything new," restoring the earth in the end all come into being. I feel so blessed to be a witness to this.

I love to be in the field. As is psalm 23, fresh and green are the pastures where God gives me repose.

I had a wonderful moment this year when I was tending to my runner beans and the bees were busily pollinating them in the summer sun. At that moment I knew all was well with my soul as I cooperated with the Divine. What more could I want. The Lord is my shepherd.

Sweeten Someone's Christmas

Throughout November and into December, we'll be collecting chocolate bars and boxes to support our local foodbank. Please bring your donations along to church; each gift could help someone feel cared for and remembered this Christmas. Thank you for helping spread a little extra love and joy in our community this festive season.

All Souls Services 2025

We're grateful to all who joined our All Souls services. While technical issues prevented livestreaming or recording, each submitted name was carefully read and lovingly remembered.

Upcoming funeral

A funeral will be held for Jean Kedward at 11.30am on Friday 14th November, at St Andrew's Church, Banwell.

Upcoming Services

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 9 th November	Congresbury	10:30am	Remembrance Day Service
	Banwell	3pm	Remembrance Sunday Service
Tuesday 11 th November	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 12 th November	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 16 th November	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
Tuesday 18 th November	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 19 th November	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 23 rd November	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 25 th November	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 26 th November	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 30 th November	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong

Dates for your diary

- **Monday Evenings** - The Chosen, watch and discuss the Chosen together on zoom, at 7:30pm. Contact Matt to be added to the call.
- **First Monday of the Month** - Soul Gym, at the Vicarage (by St Andrew's Church, Congresbury). Sessions run at both 1pm and 7.30pm.
- **Wednesday mornings** - Coffee and Chat, at Banwell Scout Hut, 10am-12noon. All welcome, donations gratefully received, please come along.
- **Friday mornings (term-time only)** - Take 5, 8am–9am at St Andrew's Congresbury
- **First Friday of the Month** - Congresbury Coffee and Chat, 1.45pm in the Refectory
- **Saturday 8th November** - Seed Bomb drop-in session, 11am-12pm at Mead Fields, Banwell (event organised by Banwell Parish Council)
- **Sunday 9th November** - Remembrance Sunday services
 - 10.30am at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
 - 3pm at St Andrew's Church, Banwell
- **Saturday 15th November** - Men's Breakfast, 8.30am at Banwell Scout Hut
- **Monday 17th November** - Service at The Leonard Elms Care Home at 2.30pm
- **Monday 24th November** - Clothing Mending Workshop, 6-8pm at Youth and Community Centre, Banwell, to book a space email: Naturebanwellparishcouncil.org.uk or call 01934 820442
- **Saturday 29th November** - Congresbury Christmas sale and coffee morning, 10am-noon at Congresbury Methodist Hall. Entry £2 including tea or coffee and biscuits.
- **Saturday 6th December** - Banwell Christmas Market, 11am-4pm at the Youth & Community Centre and Scout Building (event organised by Banwell Parish Council)
- **Monday 8th December** - Light Up a Life, 7pm at St Andrew's Church. An evening of remembrance and carols organised and run by Weston Hospicecare
- **Tuesday 16th December** - Congresbury Singers Christmas Concert, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Congresbury. Tickets £12 (see front page)
- **Wednesday 17th December** - Christmas afternoon tea, 2.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury. Tickets £5 (see front page)

Office Opening Hours: Wednesday to Friday 9:30am-2:30pm

Our administrators work from Banwell church on Tuesdays

Tel: 01934 833126 E-mail: admin@newcreationchurches.org.uk

Website: www.newcreationchurches.org.uk

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches