



St Andrew's Churches
Banwell and Congresbury

Pew News

19th December 2025



Christmas office closure

The church office will close today for the Christmas and New Year period, and reopen on **Wednesday 7th January**. Our church administrators can be contacted by email until Tuesday 23rd December.

Thank You for Bringing Narnia to Life This Advent

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has helped bring Narnia to life and supported the preparations for Christmas across both of our churches. St Andrew's Churches in Banwell and Congresbury have been **wonderfully transformed with scenes inspired by Narnia**, our theme for this Advent season.

Special thanks are due to **Caz** for her tireless coordination of the project, to her **fantastic team of volunteers** who have so generously given their time and resources, to the **flower arrangers** at both churches, the **bell ringers**, and to the **many community groups** who have contributed displays. Each contribution has played a vital part, and we are deeply thankful for the care, creativity, and dedication shown by all.



Christmas and New Year Breaks for Regular Groups

Please note that some of our regular groups will be taking a short break over the Christmas and New Year period. Details of their return are outlined below:

- **Soul Gym** will return on **Monday 5th January**. From the New Year, this will run as an **evening group only**, meeting at **7.30pm** at the **Vicarage** in Congresbury. It offers a gentle and peaceful space to connect with God.
- **Dreamshed Inclusive Theatre Group** will return on **Sunday 11th January**. Sessions take place in the **Refectory**, from **5.30–7.00pm**.
- **The Chosen (Online Group)**, where we gather to watch and discuss *The Chosen*, will return at **7.30pm** on **Monday 12th January**.
- **Services at Leonard Elms Care Home**
We hold a service at Leonard Elms Care Home, our local dementia and nursing care home in Congresbury, on the third Monday of each month. The next service will be on **Monday 19th January**. Please meet in the **Congresbury Church car park** at **2.00pm**.

Family-Friendly Viewing: The Chosen Adventures

Follow Abby and her friend Joshua in ancient Capernaum as they meet Jesus and discover new ways to see the world.

The first two episodes are on YouTube, and the **full first season** is available on **Amazon Prime**, perfect for family viewing over the Christmas holiday.

Fun and Festivities at Banwell Christmas Market

Banwell Christmas Market was a lovely chance to spend time in the heart of the village and connect with people of all ages. Thank you to everyone who visited our stall, bought a raffle ticket, or simply stopped for a chat.

Congratulations to Jacki and Steve, who took home our festive food hamper filled with over £50 of Christmas treats.

We're also grateful to everyone who helped make the day run smoothly, from those who staffed the stall to those who supported us in other ways. A special thank you to **Banwell Parish Council** for organising such a well-run and enjoyable event.

Our "Find the Dolly" game was a real hit with younger visitors. **Thank you** to **Romany** for planning and organising it, and to **Theresa and Maggie** for stepping in to help run the game on the day.

It was a pleasure to be involved, and we're already looking forward to the next opportunity to be out in the community.



'Experience Christmas' at St Andrew's Congresbury

A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who helped make Experience Christmas such a wonderful event! We welcomed **children from St Andrew's School** in their class groups and guided them through the **story of Narnia** as they explored the beautifully arranged displays in our church. This **annual tradition** wouldn't be possible without the dedication of **Caz** and our **amazing volunteers**, we are truly grateful for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

A Holly Tradition at St Andrew's Congresbury

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Ray Richards** for donating the beautiful holly cross now hanging above the South Porch Door at St Andrew's, Congresbury. This year marks **over 20 years** of Ray continuing a cherished family tradition, **begun by his father, Tom**. Both Ray and Tom have faithfully served our church community as grave diggers, and this enduring gift of the holly cross is a lovely reminder of their dedication and the family's lasting connection to St Andrew's.



Save the Dates: Community Events in Congresbury

There are several community events to look forward to in Congresbury, starting with a **Pancake Day celebration**.

Everyone is welcome to join us at **10.00am** on **Tuesday 17th February** for Pancake Day at **St Andrew's Church, Congresbury**. Enjoy pancakes and fun for all ages; children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.

Looking ahead, **Congresbury Village Fete** will return over the **weekend of 20th-21st June 2026**, and a **duck race** will take place on **Saturday 4th May** to raise funds in support of the fete.

More details will be shared closer to each event.

A Merry and Blessed Christmas from New Creation Churches

From all of us at New Creation Churches, we wish you a Christmas filled with joy, peace, and God's love. May His comforting presence lift your heart and remind you of

the spirit of togetherness, wherever you are this season.

Upcoming funeral in Congresbury

- Tuesday 23rd December - funeral for Clive Perry at 12 noon

Upcoming Services

Date	Church	Time	Service
Saturday 20 th December	Banwell	6pm	Carols Under the Tower
Sunday 21 st December	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		6:30pm	Carol Service
	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
	Puxton	3pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 23 rd December	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 24 th December	Congresbury	3pm	Crib Service
	Banwell	11:30pm	Midnight Communion
	Banwell	5pm	Christingle
Thursday 25 th December	Banwell	10:30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 28 th December	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Morning Worship
	Congresbury	10:30am	Evensong
Tuesday 30 th December	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship
		4pm	Evensong
Wednesday 31 st December	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Thursday 1 st January	Congresbury	12noon	New Years Day Service
Sunday 4 th January	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
		5:30pm	Cafe Church
Tuesday 6 th January	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 7 th January	Congresbury	10am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 11 th January	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 13 th January	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 14 th January	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion

Dates for your diary

- **Monday Evenings**
 - Living Faith - The Chosen, where we join together to watch and discuss the Chosen on zoom, at 7:30pm, all welcome to join. Contact Matt to be added to the call. Every week except for the first Monday of each month (when Soul Gym runs instead). The next group session will be on Monday 12th January
 - Soul Gym - 7.30pm at the Vicarage in Congresbury on the first Monday of each month. The next meeting will be on Monday 5th January
- **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
- **Sundays (term-time only)** - Dreamshed Inclusive Theatre Group, 5.30-7pm at the Refectory in Congresbury. The next session will be on 11th January
- **Saturday 20th December** - Carols Under the Tower, 6pm at St Andrew's Church, Banwell
- **Sunday 21st December** -
 - 3pm - Carol Service at Holy Saviour's Church, Puxton
 - 6.30pm - Carol Service at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
 - 6.30pm - Banwell Village Carol Service at Banwell Methodist Church
- **Monday 22nd December** - Carol singing around Congresbury, meeting at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, at 6pm so we can set out on foot together
- **Wednesday 24th December** -
 - 3pm - Crib Service at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
 - 5pm - Christingle Service at St Andrew's Church, Banwell
 - 11.30pm - Midnight Communion at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
- **Thursday 25th December** - Christmas Day Service at St Andrew's Church, Banwell
- **Thursday 1st January** - New Years Day Service, 12 noon St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
- **Saturday 10th January** - A Winter Warmer: Love Your Churchyard, 10am-12noon in the churchyard at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury. Come and help us battle the brambles and make our churchyard accessible
- **Monday 19th January** - Service at The Leonard Elms Care Home. Meet in Congresbury Church car park at 2pm.

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

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