



St Andrew's Churches
Banwell and Congresbury

Pew News

5th December 2025



Festive Fun at Banwell Christmas Market!

Get into the Christmas spirit tomorrow (Saturday 6th December) at Banwell Christmas Market! Our stall will be open 11am-4pm at Banwell Youth and Community Centre, and we have some exciting treats in store.

Win a Christmas Hamper!

Our office admin team, Vicky and Anna, are raffling off a Christmas food hamper worth over £50, packed with two bottles of wine and lots of other delicious festive goodies. Tickets are £1 each - don't miss your chance to take home this festive treasure!

Fun for Everyone – “Find the Dolly”!

We will also be running a “Find the Dolly” game. It's just 50p for 3 goes, and everyone's a winner, perfect for children and the young at heart alike!

All proceeds help support our church community, so come along, have some fun, and make the most of a wonderful festive day out. We can't wait to see you - and good luck in the raffle!

A Gesture of Kindness in the Midst of Chaos

Chaos struck on Monday 25th November when Romany Poppitt-Price set out to attend her brother-in-law's funeral in Swindon. Road closures and heavy traffic made it impossible for Romany and her partner, Mick, to get out of Banwell and reach the motorway. After trying every route they could, they eventually had no choice but to turn back home, disappointed, but accepting that the circumstances were beyond their control.

As Romany sat with the sadness of not being able to say goodbye in person, her thoughts turned to how she might honour John's memory in a meaningful way. She remembered the food bank's Christmas appeal for chocolate treats for families in need, and decided that an act of generosity would be a fitting tribute.

What began as a frustrating and disheartening morning became, through kindness, an opportunity to share love and comfort with others; an example of how even in difficult moments, God can guide our hearts toward compassion.

Pictured: Romany Poppitt-Price, holding a photo of her late brother-in-law Simon, stands with Rev Matt Thomson beside a bag of chocolate donated to the local foodbank.



A Season of Giving: Supporting Our Church Through Everyday Shopping

As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, many of us will be preparing for family gatherings, choosing gifts for loved ones, and ordering the things we need for the weeks ahead. It's a time of waiting, giving, and reflecting on God's generosity to us.

This year, we'd like to share a simple way you can support our church's ministry through something many of us already do: online shopping.

A Small Action That Makes a Real Difference

Through easyfundraising, over 8,000 retailers, including well-known names such as John Lewis, Boots, Marks & Spencer, and Argos, will make a small donation to the church every time you shop with them online.

Importantly, it doesn't cost you anything extra. The donation comes from the retailer, not the shopper.

This means that the ordinary, everyday purchases you're already making can quietly and consistently help fund the ongoing life and mission of our church.

Why We're Encouraging It

Many of us want to support the church's work, but finances are stretched for households and individuals. Easyfundraising offers a way to contribute that doesn't place an additional burden on anyone.

It's a gentle form of stewardship; using what we already do, in the course of normal life, to bless the wider church family.

How to Join In

It's straightforward:

1. Visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
2. Search for one of our church charities (St Andrew's Church Congresbury or New Creation) and select it as your cause
3. Create a free account
4. Shop online as usual

If you like, you can install their optional "donation reminder" tool, which simply lets

you know when a retailer participates.

Together, Small Things Grow

As with many things in church life, the beauty of easyfundraising is in the collective effort. One person's donation might be tiny, but when many of us take part, those small gifts grow into meaningful support for our ministry, outreach, and buildings.

During this season of giving, hope, and community, we invite you to consider joining us in this unobtrusive but deeply helpful way of supporting our shared mission.



A Festive Afternoon Tea to Warm the Heart

Join us at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, on Wednesday 17th December at 2.30pm for a festive afternoon tea full of delicious treats, warm drinks, and excellent company. It's the perfect way to relax and celebrate the Christmas season together. Tickets are available from the church or church office for a suggested donation of £5.

Everyone is welcome - come along and share in the festive fun!



A Thank You From Yatton Foodbank

St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, has received this note from Yatton Foodbank:

"Thank you to all at St Andrew's for your continuing support of our work."

A big thank you to everyone who has donated! You can continue to drop off Foodbank contributions at our churches throughout the festive season.

Supporting Children's Hospice South West

St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, has received a thank you from Children's Hospice South West following the £503 raised by Liz Glen's Coffee Concerts in October. Our heartfelt thanks to the talented performers, and to everyone who attended and donated so generously.

Lighting Up the Church Spire

On Thursday 18th December, Congresbury church spire will be lit in memory of David (Baz) Burnett: A loving family man, brother to Sheila & Georgina, loyal friend and scouter.

Upcoming Funerals

- Friday 12th December - A celebration of the life of Barbara Ayers, 11am at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury

Upcoming Services

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 7 th December	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	Banwell	4pm	BCP Communion
		5:30pm	Cafe Church
Tuesday 9 th December	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 10 th December	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 14 th December	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 16 th December	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 17 th December	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
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 11:30pm	Crib Service Midnight Communion
	Banwell	5pm	Christingle
Thursday 25 th December	Banwell	10:30am	Christmas Day Service

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.
- **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 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, Congresbury. An evening of remembrance and carols organised and run by Weston Hospicecare
- **Wednesday 10th December** - Carols in the Precinct, 5.30pm at the shopping precinct on Brinsea Road, Congresbury.
- **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)
- **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 point TBC (please check for announcements nearer the time)
- **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

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

Our administrators work from Banwell church on Tuesdays

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