



# St Andrew's Churches Banwell and Congresbury Pew News



13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Welcoming Rev. Jacqui Keir-Bucknall

On **Thursday 12 February**, we were **delighted to welcome Rev. Jacqui Keir-Bucknall to New Creation as our new Associate Priest**, serving the parishes of Banwell and Congresbury with Hewish, and Puxton.

The **Licensing Service, led by the Archdeacon of Bath, Charlie Peer**, was a joyful occasion with a strong turnout of familiar faces and new ones alike. We were especially **pleased to welcome friends of Jacqui from her time in Locking Castle, and in Sandford and Winscombe.**

The **bells were rung ahead of the service**, setting a celebratory tone. During the service, **representatives from across our church and wider community welcomed Jacqui**, including the New Creation staff and ministry teams, our church wardens, a representative of the bell ringers, Banwell Parish Council, and local Methodist and Catholic churches: a clear sign of shared support.

We celebrated **Holy Communion** together and sang the **uplifting hymns** Jacqui had chosen for the evening.

The service was livestreamed, and a **recording is now available on our Facebook page** for those who were unable to attend.

Please continue to **hold Jacqui and Paul in your prayers** as she begins her ministry among us. We look forward with gratitude to this new chapter in the life of New Creation.



***Above:** Rev. Jacqui Keir-Bucknall and Archdeacon Ven. Charlie Peer during the licensing*

***Below (L-R):** Archdeacon Ven. Charlie Peer, Rev. Jacqui Ker-Bucknall and Rev. Matt Thomson*

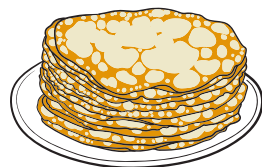


## Pancake Day – Tuesday 17th February

Just a reminder to join us for Pancake Day at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, on **Tuesday 17th February at 10.00am!** Enjoy pancakes and fun at this community event.

The event is **free to attend**, though donations are very welcome and gratefully received. **Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.**

We'd love you to **tell your family and friends; everyone is welcome** to come along and join the fun!



## Final Push for Matt's Half Marathon –

### Support Local Young People!

Our vicar, Matt Thomson, will be running the **Alicante Half Marathon** on **Sunday 22 February 2026**, in aid of **The Stewart Dewar Fund**.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has already sponsored Matt - your generosity is **helping young people in Congresbury, Hewish and Puxton take part in trips, camps, training and other activities that help them flourish**.

If you haven't had the chance to contribute yet, there's **still time to support Matt** and the Fund. Every donation counts, and your support will make a real difference to local young people.

**You can sponsor Matt:**

- Online via JustGiving:  
[justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stewart-dewer-fund](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stewart-dewer-fund)
- Paper forms & donation box:  
Congresbury Church Office
- Directly to Matt: cash in a small envelope

Thank you for helping us continue Stewart Dewar's legacy and for supporting young people in our community. Let's cheer Matt on as he takes on this challenge!



### Love Your Churchyard – new date!

Following the success of previous sessions, the **next Love Your Churchyard event** will be on **Saturday 21 February, 10am–12noon**. Volunteers will help clear overgrown areas and tackle brambles in Congresbury churchyard. **Hot drinks provided**. Please **bring protective gloves and loppers, choppers, or green bags if you have them**. Thanks to everyone who has already given their time - your efforts make a real difference.

## Quiz Night Success & Upcoming Dates

Congratulations to the winners of **our first quiz night** at the Old Inn on **10<sup>th</sup> February!** What a fantastic start to the series. **Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Friends of St Andrew's**.

If you missed the first quiz, don't worry; there are **still two more evenings** to test your knowledge and enjoy a fun night out:

• **10 March**

• **7 April**

The quiz starts at **7.30pm**, with entry **£2 per person** and a **maximum of six people per team**. There's also a raffle on the night.

**Booking is recommended** to avoid disappointment. Call **01934 832270** to reserve your team's table and join the fun!

### Helping Swifts Soar Again Over Congresbury

Our **eco-church plans** in Congresbury will soon feature a **new project**. We hope to provide **nest boxes** for one of Britain's most spectacular, but sadly now endangered species: **the Swift** (*Apus apus*). These little speedy birds arrive in our skies in May from Africa and leave in August, but it is **getting harder for them to find suitable nest holes** in old roofs and buildings. To help them we will provide **suitable boxes to be installed in St Andrews church tower in Congresbury**. The boxes will not interfere with the church bells, or alter the appearance of the outside of the tower, but they will **answer an urgent need**, though it may take 2 or 3 years for the swifts to discover and use them. Once they do, they should return year after year and their presence will enrich our village summer skies with their amazing flight and squealing calls.

- Petra,  
Congresbury PCC



## **“Make Loneliness a Stranger” Workshop**

Join Voluntary Action North Somerset for their “Make Loneliness a Stranger” workshop on **Thursday 26 February, 12–3pm**, at **The Hive**, 6 Beaufighter Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 8EE (bus routes 7, 125 and 126). Learn about **local projects tackling loneliness across North Somerset**. Light refreshments provided (no lunch). Please **RSVP to Nicky** on 07395073817 or [nicky.pybus@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:nicky.pybus@vansmail.org.uk) by 19 February!

## **Evening with Simon Guillebaud MBE**

Join Locking Deanery for an inspiring evening with Simon Guillebaud MBE, **evangelist, author and founder of Great Lakes Outreach**. Hear stories of **faith, courage and hope** from over 20 years serving in some of the world’s toughest places.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 7.00–8.30pm**

**St Peter’s Church**, Baytree Rd, Milton, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 8HG

## **Upcoming Services**

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Banwell	4pm	Holy Communion
		5:30pm	Café Church
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy 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).
- Soul Gym - 7.30pm at the Vicarage in Congresbury on the first Monday of each month.

- **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 11<sup>th</sup> January

- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** - Pancake Day celebrations, 10am at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury. Everyone welcome. Under 16s to be accompanied by an adult.

- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February** - Men's Breakfast, Men's Breakfast, 8.30am at Banwell Village Hall

- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February** - Love Your Churchyard, 10am-12noon at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury

- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February** - An Evening with Simon Guillebaud MBE, 7.00–8.30pm St Peter's Church, Baytree Rd, Milton, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 8HG (see details inside)

- **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** - Rev Matt's running (and walking) the Alicante Half Marathon! Please see sponsorship details inside.

- **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February** - Make Loneliness a Stranger workshop, 12-3pm at The Hive, Beaufighter Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 8EE (RSVP needed - please see details inside)

- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Quiz Night at the Old Inn, Congresbury (see inside for details)

- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April** - Quiz Night at the Old Inn, Congresbury (see inside for details)

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

Our administrators work from Banwell church on Tuesdays

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