



St Andrew's Churches
Banwell and Congresbury

Pew News

10th April 2026



Easter Reflections and Thank You

What a **wonderful Easter** it has been across our churches!

It was truly heartening to see such a **strong turnout at all our services and events** over the Easter period. From familiar faces to those joining us for the first time, it was a joy to gather together to mark this most important season. The warmth and welcome shared across our community made it especially memorable.

Our Easter journey **began on Maundy Thursday with a Passover Meal** in Congresbury, thoughtfully organised by Ruth H and attended by 17 people. This reflective evening set the tone for the days that followed.

On Good Friday, we held services in both Congresbury and Banwell, including **ecumenical gatherings** hosted in our local Methodist churches. We greatly value these opportunities to come together with others across our community in shared worship and collaboration.

Over the weekend, our **children's craft clubs**, led by our fantastic youth worker Caz, brought creativity and energy to sessions in **Congresbury and Banwell**, with around **10 children attending each**. It was wonderful to see younger members of our community engaging with the Easter story in such a hands-on way.

Easter Sunday itself was a special day, with **five services and events** across our

churches. From the dawn service at the Millennium Green in Congresbury to gatherings at St Andrew's Churches in Congresbury and Banwell, Holy Saviour's Church in Puxton, and Café Church in Banwell, there was a **real sense of celebration, hope, and new life throughout**.

We are **deeply grateful to everyone who made this Easter possible**: our clergy, Rev Matt Thomson and Rev Jacqui Keir-Bucknall; our church wardens, Maggie in Banwell, and Ruth H and Lynda in Congresbury; and **all those who worked behind the scenes** to prepare services, welcome visitors, and organise events. Special thanks go to Romany, Teresa, Angela and Ruth W for their contributions.

It has been especially **encouraging to welcome new faces this Easter**, and we hope that everyone who joined us felt at home. We have also **received enquiries about baptism, including two requests for adult baptism and another for a child**; an encouraging sign of the continued life of our church community. If you are interested in baptism, please speak to Rev Matt or Rev Jacqui, or contact the church office.

As we move forward from Easter, we carry with us its message of hope, renewal, and new beginnings. **You are always warmly invited to join us; we would love to welcome you all again.**



Join Banwell Mothers' Union!

Banwell Mothers' Union **warmly welcomes new members!** Meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm** at **Banwell Youth & Community Centre**, featuring an engaging talk. Members also enjoy group outings. Past trips have included a visit to Locking Church to explore its fascinating history.

Everyone is welcome, you don't need to be a mother or even a woman to join in! Each talk is supported by a **small donation of £1**, with additional contributions helping to support local and national charities. The **annual subscription is £30**.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 13th May**. Come along and see what it's all about!

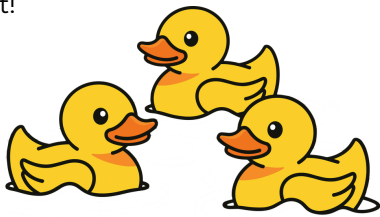
Love Your Churchyard - Reminder!

Congresbury's next Love Your Churchyard event is **10am-12noon next Saturday, 18th April**. This session will focus on the prayer garden. Please **bring protective gloves and any loppers, choppers, or green bags** if you have them. All are welcome to come along and help.

Duck Race in Congresbury – Volunteers Needed!

We're planning a fun-filled duck race on Bank Holiday Monday, **4th May**, to **raise funds for the village fete in June**. To make it a splash, we need a volunteer (or two) with a **kayak, canoe, paddleboard, or waders** to help **retrieve the ducks from the river** at the end of the race.

If you're able to lend a hand, or know someone who can, please **get in touch with the church office**. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and support this community event!



Turin Shroud Update Evening (Part 2)

Following a fascinating first session at the end of March, we are pleased to invite you to a **second evening exploring the mystery of the Shroud of Turin**.

The Shroud has long captivated believers, historians, and scientists alike. Many Christians regard it as the **burial cloth of Jesus Christ**, while others continue to study it as **one of history's most intriguing artefacts**. In our first session, Rev. Matt Thomson brought us up to date with recent scientific developments, including insights from last year's international conference.

In this second session, Matt will continue the journey, delving into **further areas of research**, including studies connected with the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, intriguing **dental evidence**, and the **work of historian Markwardt**. Together, these strands offer fresh perspectives on the Shroud's origin and significance.

Importantly, **you do not need to have attended the first session to come along**; everyone is very welcome.

Wednesday 6th May, 7:00pm
St Andrew's Church, Congresbury

Pre-loved Items Needed!

Spring is here – time for a fresh start! As you tackle your spring cleaning and uncover **hidden treasures you no longer need**, please consider donating them to the **Friends of St Andrew's (Congresbury)**.

Your unwanted items can help fund vital repairs, including the redecoration of the Refectory exterior.

We welcome **household and garden items** (please note: clothing is not needed).

To donate, please email:

friendsofstandrewscongresbury@btinternet.com

Include details of the items you'd like to donate, along with their approximate size, plus your name and phone number.

Kindly keep hold of your items until the day of the sale – **date coming soon!**

Friends of St Andrews (Congresbury) – New Members Welcome!

Friends of St Andrews (Congresbury) are looking for new members. They're not asking for money, just your time and ideas to help plan and support fundraising events. Get in touch:
friendsofstandrewscongresbury@btinternet.com

Coming Soon: Friends of St Andrews (Banwell)!

We hope to launch a Friends of St Andrews (Banwell) group in the coming months. If you'd like to express interest in joining, please contact the church office at admin@newcreationchurches.org.uk



Upcoming funerals in Banwell

- **Sonia Mitchell** on **Monday 13th April** at **11am.**
- **Rosemary Aldridge** on **Friday 24th April** at **2pm**

Upcoming funeral in Congresbury

- **Benjamin Sweet** on **Monday 27th April** at **11am.**



Upcoming Services

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 12 th April	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 14 th April	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 15 th April	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 19 th April	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	5.30pm	Cafe Church
Tuesday 21 st April	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 22 nd April	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 26 th April	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 28 th April	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 29 th April	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 3 rd May	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	Banwell	4pm	BPC Holy Communion
		5:30pm	Cafe Church

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 11th January
- **Saturday 11th April** - Banwell Village Market, 9.30am-12.30pm, Banwell Youth and Community Centre
- **Friday 17th April** - Earth Friendly Flower Arranging, 10.30am-1pm at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury (fill out the online form to register <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/CiiZNXyKsd>, £10 admission fee applies)
- **Saturday 18th April** - Men's Breakfast, 8.30am at Banwell Village Hall
- **Saturday 18th April** - Love Your Churchyard, 10am-12noon at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury (see details inside)
- **Saturday 25th April** - Plant and Cake Sale in support of Leavers' Bibles for our local primary schools, 10am-12noon at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
- **Wednesday 29th April** - Congresbury APCM, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
- **Wednesday 6th May** - Turin Shroud Update Evening (part 2), 7pm at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
- **Thursday 7th May** - Banwell APCM, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Banwell
- **Saturday 9th May** - Congresbury Spring Clean, 9am-12.30pm, Riverside Car Park
- **Saturday 16th May** - Banwell Spring Clean, 10am-12noon, Youth & Community Centre
- **Saturday 16th May** - Banwell Village Market, 9.30am-12.30pm, Banwell Youth and Community Centre

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