



St Andrew's Churches  
Banwell and Congresbury

# Pew News

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026



## Plant and Cake Sale - A Wonderful Community Effort

Our Plant and Cake Sale on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, was a truly **joyful occasion**. With a **lovely atmosphere** and a **fantastic turnout**, it was heartening to see so many people come together: catching up with old friends and making new ones along the way.

**A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped make the event such a success.** We

are especially grateful to Ruth W, our wonderful churchwardens, Ruth H and Lynda, Joan, and the gardening team for supplying such a beautiful variety of plants.

Thanks also to all who contributed delicious homemade cakes, helped set up and run stalls, and offered such a warm welcome to visitors. And of course, thank you to everyone who came along to support us; your generosity made all the difference. With special thanks to Rosemary for organising the event so brilliantly.

We are delighted to share that, thanks to this collective effort, **we have raised enough money to provide Leavers' Bibles for all three of our local primary schools:** St Andrew's (Congresbury), St Anne's (Hewish), and Banwell Primary School.

Thank you once again to everyone involved in making this such a memorable and meaningful event.



*Rosemary and Joan ready to welcome shoppers*

## Friends AGM - Save the Date

The Friends of St Andrew's (Congresbury) AGM will take place in church on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 10:45am**. Everyone welcome.



## Music to Elevate the Soul

Join **Congresbury Singers** for an uplifting evening of music on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7:30pm** at the **War Memorial Hall, Congresbury**. Wine and refreshments available.

**Tickets: £12**



Available from the **Post Office, Re-Store, or on the door.**

## Coffee and Chat - Bringing Our Communities Together

Coffee and Chat continues to be a wonderful way for people in both Congresbury and Banwell to **come together, enjoy good company, and build lasting friendships** in a warm and welcoming environment.

In **Banwell**, Coffee and Chat takes place **every Wednesday morning from 10:00am to 12 noon** at the **Scout Hut**. Everyone is welcome to drop in for **tea, coffee, and cake**, all available for a **small donation**. Proceeds are collected and donated to local charities, making each visit not only enjoyable but also meaningful. The sessions are run by a dedicated team of volunteers who help create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere for all.

**Congresbury's** Coffee and Chat meets on the **first Friday of every month at 1:45pm in the Refectory**. Once again, **all are warmly invited to attend, with donations gratefully received**. These gatherings are also volunteer-led and often include a film followed by thoughtful discussion, offering both entertainment and an opportunity for connection and conversation.

Whether you are looking for a friendly chat, a chance to meet new people, or simply a quiet moment with a cup of tea, Coffee and Chat offers something for everyone. **We look forward to welcoming you.**



## Sending Bongi Blessings on Her Journey Home

As we prepare to **say farewell to Bongi, Sam, and their beautiful daughter**, our hearts are filled with both gratitude and sadness. **Their time with us has been a true blessing, and their presence has left a lasting mark** on our congregation and the wider community in Banwell.

**Bongi has been an inspiration to so many.** Balancing the demands of her PhD, work, and motherhood is no small feat, yet she has carried it all with grace and strength. Despite her busy life, **she remained committed to our church family**, always giving, and often going the extra mile by preparing meals for the congregation. **Her generosity and dedication have touched us all deeply.**

Their **young daughter**, has **brought so much joy to our congregation**. With her bright smile, playful spirit, and gentle curiosity, she quickly captured the hearts of everyone around her, **bringing warmth and happiness into our gatherings.**

We were blessed to share a **wonderful farewell with Bongi and her family, filled with lovely food, laughter, and stories on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**. It was a joy to see the children running around the church, playing freely, and to witness everyone gathered together in such a spirit of love and fellowship.

Together with Sam, **their family has been a wonderful part of our church life**. They will be greatly missed, not only for what they have done, but for who they are.

As they **return home to Zimbabwe**, we send them with our **love, prayers, and very best wishes for the future**. Though distance may separate us, they will always remain in our thoughts and in our hearts. We look forward to the day when our paths cross again.

May God continue to guide and bless them in all that lies ahead.



## Church Closure in June - Congresbury.

St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, will be closed 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June while work takes place to upgrade the online streaming system. The midweek communion that week, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, will take place in the Prayer Garden if weather allows.

## Banwell Crop Swap

The crop swap table is back in the porch of St Andrew's, Banwell. Open daily 10am-3pm.



## Upcoming funerals in Congresbury.

- Marion Attwell on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am.
- Lorna MacIvor on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm



## Upcoming Services

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Cadbury Hill	7am	Ascension Day Outdoor Service Meet at Claverham Cricket Club
	Congresbury Prayer Garden	9:30am	Ascension Day Service  <i>To be held in the Prayer Garden (weather permitting)</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		5:30pm	Café Church
	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Banwell	10:30am	Pentecost service
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Congresbury	10:30am	Trinity Sunday Service
	Banwell	4pm	Evensong

# 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.
- **Tuesday Evenings (term-time only)** - Banwell Youth Group (10-18 year olds), 6.30-8.30pm at the Youth & Community Centre - entry £1
- **Wednesday mornings** - Coffee and Chat, at Banwell Scout Hut, 10am-12noon. All welcome, donations gratefully received, please come along.
- **Wednesday mornings (term-time only)** - Banwell Toddler Group, 9.30-11am at the Youth & Community Centre
- **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.
- **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** - Congresbury Spring Clean, 9am-12.30pm, Riverside Car Park
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May** - Mothers' Union, 2.30pm at Banwell Youth & Community Centre
- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** - Friends of St Andrew's (Congresbury) AGM, 10.45am at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** - Men's Breakfast, 8.30-10am at Banwell Village Hall
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** - Banwell Spring Clean, 10am-12noon, Youth & Community Centre
- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** - Banwell Village Market, 9.30am-12.30pm, Banwell Youth and Community Centre
- **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** - Tea and Tech, 2-4pm at Youth & Community Centre
- **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May** - Tea and Tech, 2-4pm at Youth & Community Centre
- **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June** - Congresbury Village fete - more details to follow
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** - Congresbury Singers present "Music to Elevate the Soul", 7.30pm at Congresbury War Memorial Hall (see details on front)

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](mailto:admin@newcreationchurches.org.uk)

Website: [www.newcreationchurches.org.uk](http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches](http://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches)