



St Andrew's Churches
Banwell and Congresbury

Pew News

22nd May 2026



Unexpected Discovery at Banwell's Church Grounds

Recent work carried out on the grounds of St Andrew's Church, Banwell, has led to an **intriguing and unexpected discovery**.

A shallow excavation was undertaken in the south-west corner of the churchyard, close to the boundary wall. This work was part of efforts to strengthen and stabilise the wall, which had begun to show signs of structural weakness. What was anticipated to be a straightforward and uneventful task, however, quickly became something rather more surprising.

During the excavation, **workers uncovered what appears to be a stone structure beneath the ground**. Most notably, a stone "roof" was revealed, along with what seems to be a hollow entrance leading into the space below. At present, the **purpose and origin of this structure remain unknown**, and it has come as much a surprise to us as it did to those carrying out the work.

Further investigation will be needed to determine exactly what has been uncovered, and we will share more information as it becomes available.

In the meantime, for safety reasons, **the area has been securely fenced off**, as the excavation has left an open hole in the ground.

This unexpected find adds a note of curiosity to our church grounds, and we look forward to learning more about what lies beneath our feet.



Jacqui and Paul – A Time to Say Thank You

As many of you will have heard, Rev Jacqui Keir-Bucknall and her husband Paul are preparing to **move away from the area to be closer to family**. Although they have only been with us since February, they have quickly become a much-loved and valued part of our church family at New Creation Churches. We are **so grateful for all they have shared with us** in their time here, and we will be sad to see them go.

While there is **not yet a confirmed date for their move**, and we will still enjoy seeing them at services in the coming weeks, we want to take an early opportunity to gather as a community to give thanks for them and to wish them well in this next chapter of life and ministry.

This **Sunday, 24th May**, we will do just that at our Pentecost service at **10.30am** at St Andrew's Church, **Banwell**, followed by a **bring-and-share lunch**. You are warmly invited to stay after the service, and if you are able, please bring some food to share.

Do join us as we mark Pentecost together and give thanks for Jacqui and Paul's time among us.

Teddy Tombola Donations Needed

The Friends of St Andrew's (Congresbury) are delighted to be planning their popular teddy tombola stall once again for this year's **village fete on Saturday 20th June**. They would be **very grateful for donations of small stuffed toys** to help make it a success. If you are able to contribute, please leave your donations in church. Thank you for your support!



Soul Gym – June Update

For **next month only**, Soul Gym will meet on the **second Monday** of June. As Matt will be taking a well-deserved break during the first week, our next gathering will be on **Monday 8th June at 7:30pm**, held at the **Vicarage** in Congresbury.

We look forward to seeing you there!

New Church Website Coming Soon

A brand-new website for our church is currently being prepared behind the scenes, and we're delighted with how it's shaping up. A great deal of time, effort, and expertise has gone into the project, and we are incredibly grateful for all the work that has been done.

The new website **already looks truly fantastic**, with **simplicity and accessibility at the heart of its design**. While more content will be added in the coming weeks, we're so excited for you all to see what has been created so far.

Keep your eyes peeled for the **launch**, which is expected around the **beginning of June!**

Reminder: Congresbury Church Closure

St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, will be closed from **2nd – 4th June** while work is carried out to upgrade the online streaming system.

Please note that the **midweek communion on 3 June** will be held in the **Prayer Garden**, weather permitting.

Café Church – A Space to Belong

Looking for a relaxed place to connect, chat and explore faith in a different way? Café Church is a welcoming space designed especially with teenagers and young adults in mind, although everyone is invited and encouraged to come along.

Café Church is a great space for all ages, bringing different generations together to share experiences, encourage one another and learn from each other's faith journeys. These conversations and connections are what make Café Church such a welcoming community.

With good coffee, cake, music and a laid-back atmosphere, Café Church offers space for conversation, reflection and real discussions about life and faith. There's no pressure or expectations, just an opportunity to come as you are, meet new people and enjoy being part of the community.

📍 **St Andrew's, Banwell** – First Sunday of the month at 5:30pm

📍 **St Andrew's, Congresbury** – Third Sunday of the month at 5:30pm

Everyone is welcome – bring a friend and join us!



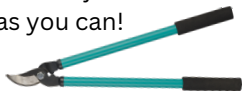
Joke of the Week

Why do vicars like doughnuts?

Because they're filled with holy goodness

Love Your Churchyard – Join Us!

Our next Love Your Churchyard morning in Congresbury is on **Saturday 6th June, 10am–12 noon**. Come along to help care for our churchyard and keep it looking its best. If you can, **bring gloves and any gardening tools such as loppers or green waste bags**. Everyone is welcome - do join us for as much or as little time as you can!



Upcoming Funerals

Congresbury

- **Lorna MacIvor** on **Wednesday 27th May** at **1.30pm**
- **Irving Prowse** on **Friday 29th May** at **11am**

Banwell

- **Betty Harding** on **Thursday 28th May** at **11am**



Upcoming Services

Please note: This year's **Pentecost service** will be held at St Andrew's Church, **Banwell** and NOT in Congresbury as previously stated.

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 24 th May	Banwell	10:30am	Pentecost service
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 26 th May	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 27 th May	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 31 st May	Congresbury	10:30am	Trinity Sunday Service
	Banwell	4pm	Evensong
Tuesday 2 nd June	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 3 rd June	Congresbury	10am	Midweek Communion
			<i>To be held in the Prayer Garden (weather permitting)</i>
Sunday 7 th June	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	BCP Holy Communion
	Banwell	5.30pm	Café Church
Tuesday 9 th June	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 10 th Jun	Congresbury	9:30am	Midweek Communion
Sunday 14 th June	Banwell	10:30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		4pm	Evensong
	Congresbury	10:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 16 th June	Banwell	9am	Midweek Communion
Wednesday 17 th June	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).
- Soul Gym - 7:30pm at the Vicarage in Congresbury on the first Monday of each month. **Please note: the next meeting will be on Monday 8th June**

- **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.

- **Tuesday 26th May** - Tea and Tech, 2-4pm at Banwell Youth & Community Centre

- **Saturday 30th May** - Banwell Singers "Around the World" concert, 6:45pm at Banwell Village Hall (tickets £8 - call 07972098049)

- **Tuesday 2nd - Thursday 4th June** - Congresbury church closed

- **Saturday 6th June** - Love Your Churchyard, 10am-12noon (see details inside)

- **Monday 15th June** - Service at The Leonard Elms Care Home. Please meet in the Congresbury Church car park at 2pm.

- **Saturday 20th June** - Men's Breakfast, 8:30-10am at Banwell Village Hall

- **Saturday 20th June** - Congresbury Village fete - more details to follow

- **Tuesday 23rd June** - Congresbury Singers present "Music to Elevate the Soul", 7.30pm at Congresbury War Memorial Hall (tickets £12 from the Post Office, Re-Store, or on the door)

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

Our administrators work from Banwell church on Tuesdays

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