



St Andrew's Churches
Banwell and Congresbury

Pew News

10th July 2026



Welcome

This week we have a bumper edition of Pew News for you; we have so much to share with you, Pew News has **doubled in length for this week only!**

Last Chance to Enter Our Summer Family Fun Raffle!

There's still time to take part in our Summer Family Fun Raffle – but not for long!

Ticket sales close at midnight on Tuesday 14 July, so this is your final reminder to get your entries in and be in with a chance of winning one of our fantastic family prizes.

For just £1 per entry, you could win:

Prize A

A family pass to Court Farm (2 adults & 2 children) plus a summer hamper filled with family-friendly treats

Prize B

A Family Disc Golf Day Pass at Mendip Activity Centre

Prize C

A gift certificate for 4 people at the Upside Down House, Bristol

Whether you're planning summer outings or looking for something fun to enjoy with family and friends, these prizes offer something for everyone, and **every £1 entry increases your chances of winning.**

These prizes are **perfect for families**, so even if it's not one for you, **we'd love it if you could share the raffle with friends, neighbours or family members who might enjoy taking part.**

The draw will take place on Wednesday 15 July, so don't miss your opportunity to take part.

How to enter

Entries are quick and easy to **purchase online:**

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/summer-family-fun-raffle>

You can also scan the QR code below:



All proceeds will support the ongoing work of New Creation Churches in our local community; **thank you to everyone who has already entered** and helped make this raffle a success.

Get your entries in before the deadline - and **good luck!**



Celebrating 25 Years of Matt's Ministry in Congresbury.

On **Sunday 5th July**, our usual morning service took a very special turn as we gathered to **celebrate 25 years of Matt's ministry in Congresbury.**

The service was delightfully "hijacked" with a **series of video tributes and messages** from people who have been part of the church family over the years, alongside those involved in church life today. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on Matt's faithful ministry and the difference he has made in the lives of so many people over the last quarter of a century.

It was **heartwarming to see the church so full**, with the children's corner well used and people of all ages joining together for the celebration. Many came to mark this significant milestone, and **Matt was genuinely surprised to see such a large gathering, including some familiar faces he had not seen for many years.**

The music team opened the service, and Alyx and Jamie treated us to a couple of beautiful live songs, which added a personal and memorable touch to the morning. For anyone who was unable to attend, the

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A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped make the day so special. In particular, to Angela for coordinating the celebrations; to Caz, Alyx and Jamie for their work behind the scenes with the technology and livestream, with Caz also producing the wonderful photo montage; to Sonya for collecting photos and messages from those who could not be there in person but wanted to contribute; to Ian and Steve, who led the service; to our wonderful church wardens, Lynda and Ruth; and to everyone who attended and helped create such a warm and joyful occasion.

It was **a fitting celebration of 25 years of faithful ministry, friendship and service,** and a day that Rev Matt, and all of us, will remember for a long time to come.



**25TH
ANNIVERSARY**

Harvest Season at New Creation

Harvest season is approaching

New Creation is **looking forward to welcoming the community to a variety of celebrations across Banwell, Congresbury and Puxton**. From traditional Harvest Festival services and popular harvest suppers to a family-friendly apple pressing afternoon, there's something for everyone.

Harvest is a **time to give thanks** for God's provision, **celebrate the work of those who grow and produce our food**, and **come together as communities in gratitude and fellowship**. Whether you are a regular churchgoer or simply looking for an opportunity to join in a traditional village celebration, **everyone is warmly invited**.

Harvest Festival Services

This year's Harvest Festival services will take place at all three New Creation Churches:

- St Andrew's Church, **Congresbury**
Sunday 20th September at 10.30am
- Holy Saviour's Church, **Puxton**
Sunday 20th September at 3.00pm
- St Andrew's Church, **Banwell**
Sunday 27 September at 10.30am

Each service will include thanksgiving for the harvest and an opportunity to reflect on the blessings we enjoy and our responsibility to care for one another and the world around us.

Harvest Suppers Return

Alongside the services, the much-loved Harvest Suppers are returning to both Banwell and Congresbury, offering an evening of good food, entertainment and community spirit.

Banwell Harvest Supper

*Saturday 19 September
7.00pm*

Banwell Village Hall

Tickets cost £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for children.

Guests can enjoy a delicious meal and live music from talented local performers. A fully licensed bar will be available throughout the evening (drinks not included in the ticket price), and raffle tickets can be purchased on the night.

Tickets can be purchased online via the QR code below, at Coffee & Chat (Wednesdays, 10am-12 noon at Banwell Scout Hut), or by contacting **Jacki** at jacki.parky@mbzonline.net



Congresbury Harvest Supper

Friday 25 September

7.00pm

Congresbury War Memorial Hall

Tickets are £12 each

The evening will include good food and live entertainment, together with a licensed bar (drinks not included) and a raffle.

Tickets can be purchased from the church office, from the churchwardens, or online via QR code below.



Harvest Fun for Families

As part of this year's harvest celebrations, families are invited to join us for an **afternoon of apple pressing at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury**.

Friday 18 September

3.15pm-4.30pm

Come along after school to see apples being pressed into fresh juice and enjoy a hands-on taste of the harvest season.

Everyone is welcome.



A Warm Invitation

Harvest remains one of the highlights of the church year, bringing people together to celebrate, give thanks and enjoy friendship within our local communities.

Everyone is welcome to join us at our Harvest Festival services and suppers as we celebrate this special season together.

Celebrating 150 Years of Mothers' Union

150 Years of Faith, Service and Fellowship

This year marks a very special milestone as Mothers' Union celebrates its 150th anniversary. Founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, Mothers' Union has grown into a **worldwide Christian movement supporting families and communities through prayer, practical action and loving service.**

June was a truly memorable month in the anniversary year, as members gathered at St Paul's Cathedral and at the Annual Gathering in London. Welcoming members from across the worldwide fellowship, these celebrations provided an opportunity to reflect on the rich history of Mothers' Union, give thanks for God's faithfulness over the past 150 years, and look ahead with hope and confidence to the future.

As we celebrate this remarkable anniversary, we are reminded that the values which inspired the organisation 150 years ago, faith, compassion and service, remain as relevant and important today as ever.



Banwell's "Bags of Kindness" Appeal

As part of the Mothers' Union's 150th anniversary celebrations, our Banwell branch is marking this special occasion by **supporting families affected by the war in Ukraine.**

Our **aim is to provide 150 Bags of Kindness**, each containing **essential items and practical gifts** to bring comfort, hope and encouragement to those facing extremely difficult circumstances.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has already contributed to this appeal. Every donation, no matter how small, helps us move closer to our target and makes a real difference to families in need.

Donations can be brought to St Andrew's Church, Banwell, where they will be gratefully received and added to our collection.

Together, we can celebrate 150 years of faith, service and compassion by sharing God's love in a practical way and helping those who need it most.



MU Banwell member, Romany, with some of her Bags of Kindness

Join Banwell Mothers' Union

Banwell Mothers' Union meets on the **second Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm** at the **Banwell Youth & Community Centre.**

Our meetings offer a wonderful opportunity to enjoy **friendship, fellowship and inspiring speakers** covering a wide range of interesting topics. Throughout the year we also organise **outings and social events**, giving members the chance to explore new places, make lasting friendships and enjoy time together.

Visitors are always welcome to come along and see what we do.

Meeting contribution: £1 per talk
Annual membership: £30 per year

Your annual subscription helps support the vital work of Mothers' Union, enabling projects and charities that bring hope, practical support and care to families and communities both locally and around the world.

Whether you are looking to deepen your faith, make new friends or simply become part of a caring and supportive community, we would be delighted to welcome you.

For more information, come along to one of our meetings or speak to a member of the Banwell Mothers' Union team.

Angela Takes on Third Sponsored Abseil

Congratulations to Angela on completing her **third sponsored abseil** in as many years!

Angela has once again taken on a daring challenge, this time to **raise money for Coleridge Ward at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, in memory of her late husband, Michael.**

On her fundraising page, Angela explains that she wants to **thank the doctors and nurses who cared for Michael in the final hours of his life**, treating him with "respect and professionalism" and showing great compassion to them both.

The funds raised will go to **Love Musgrove, the official charity of Musgrove Park Hospital**, helping to improve services, provide equipment and support patients and their families.

Having previously completed the Big Bristol Abseil from Bristol Children's Hospital in 2024 and an abseil from the top of St Michael's Hospital in 2025, Angela has now completed her third consecutive annual abseil challenge.

Thanks to the generosity of her supporters, she has already **raised more than £700** and **would like to thank everyone who has sponsored and encouraged her.**

There is **still time to donate.** Angela's fundraising page remains open until 3 October, and every contribution will help support the valuable work of Coleridge Ward.

Scan the QR code (opposite) to **donate online.**

Well done, Angela, on this wonderful achievement and for supporting such an important cause.



Friends of St Andrew's, Congresbury – We Need Your Support

Many of you will have noticed the condition of the **Refectory** as you walk through Congresbury churchyard. The Friends of St Andrew's are planning **urgent repairs and external redecoration** of this much-loved historic building - and we need your help.

The Refectory, dating from around **1446**, is a **Grade I listed building**, so specialist work is required and can only be carried out at certain times of year. The cost of this project is estimated at **£10,000.**

Over the past two years, the Friends have already spent around **£15,000** on essential works, including the church clock, lighting, and a stained glass window. These efforts help preserve **St Andrew's Church (consecrated in 1215)** for future generations.

As a community, we are all custodians of this heritage. We want to avoid seeing these buildings fall into disrepair at the heart of our village.

How You Can Help

- Make a one-off donation to the Refectory Project
- Set up a standing order for regular giving
- Gift Aid your donation (UK taxpayers), increasing its value by 25%

Ways to Give

- By BACS / Standing Order
 - Account Name: The Friends of St Andrews Church Congresbury
 - Sort Code: 60-23-32
 - Account Number: 43783392
 - One-off: reference Refectory Project
 - Standing Order: reference REF + your name
- By Cheque, given or sent to the Church Office
 - Payable to: The Friends of St Andrews Church Congresbury
- Gift Aid: Contact the Treasurer for a form on 07777 651 797

Get Involved

- Join our friendly committee (infrequent meetings)
- Help at events during the year
- Volunteer as part of our support team

Thank you for helping care for St Andrew's - now and for future generations.



Prepare, Cook & Eat! Returns This Summer

Take 5 is delighted to invite **families and young people** to our much-loved summer holiday activity, Prepare, Cook & Eat!

This year, due to a **change of venue** and cooking facilities, we will be holding two special afternoon tea sessions, where participants can enjoy preparing and sharing a **delicious afternoon tea** together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Dates and Times

- Friday 24 July, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Friday 21 August, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Venue

The Refectory
By St Andrew's Church, Congresbury

These sessions are a wonderful opportunity for families to **spend time together, learn simple food preparation skills, meet new people**, and enjoy a tasty afternoon tea.

Everyone is welcome at this community event. There is **no need to book or sign up in advance**, and **attendance is by donation only**, so people can contribute whatever they are able.

Please note that **all children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult**.

Whether you're a regular attendee or coming along for the first time, we'd love to see you. Why not invite a friend or neighbour and join us for an afternoon of cooking, conversation, and community? We look forward to welcoming you!



Upcoming Funeral

A funeral service will be held for **Eila Llewellyn at 11:00am on Thursday 16th July at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury.**



Temporary Office Closures

Please note that our church office, in Congresbury, will be closed on the following days:

- Thursday 16th July
- Thursday 23rd July
- Friday 24th July
- Friday 31st July

The office is otherwise expected to be open as normal.



Banwell Parish Meeting

A parish meeting will be held at **St Andrew's Church, Banwell, on Sunday 26th July at 12 noon**. At the meeting, we hope to elect Angela as Churchwarden to serve alongside Maggie.

Dream Shed Community Pantomime – Join the Fun!

Dream Shed Inclusive Theatre is launching a **brand-new Community Pantomime for March 2027**.

Everyone is welcome to get involved, whatever your age, experience, or ability. Whether you enjoy performing, helping backstage, creating costumes and props, or simply want to make new friends, there's a role for you.

Rehearsals begin on Sunday 20th September, 5.30 - 7pm, at The Refectory, St Andrew's Church, Congresbury. Just come along and join in!

For more information, contact Caz Carter at caz.carter@newcreationchurches.org.uk

Upcoming Services

DATE	CHURCH	TIME
Sun 12 Jul	Banwell Morning Worship with Holy Communion	10:30am
	Congresbury Morning Worship	10:30am
	Banwell Evensong	4pm
Tue 14 Jul	Banwell Midweek Communion	9am
Wed 15 Jul	Congresbury Midweek Communion	9:30am
Sun 19 Jul	Congresbury Morning Worship with Holy Communion	10:30am
	Banwell Evensong	4pm
	Congresbury Cafe Church	5:30pm
Tue 21 Jul	Banwell Midweek Communion	9am
Wed 22 Jul	Congresbury Midweek Communion	9:30am

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 18th July** - Men's Breakfast, 8:30-10am at Banwell Village Hall
- **Monday 20th July** - Service at The Leonard Elms Care Home. Please meet in the Congresbury Church car park at 2pm.
- **Friday 24th July** - Prepare, Cook and Eat - Afternoon Tea (see inside for details)
- **Sunday 26th July** - Banwell Parish Meeting, 12noon at St Andrew's Church Banwell (see details inside)
- **Thursday 13th August** - Afternoon Tea in aid of Breast Cancer Now, St Andrew's Church Congresbury (see inside for details)
- **Saturday 15th August** - Men's Breakfast, 8:30-10am at Banwell Village Hall
- **Friday 21st August** - Prepare, Cook and Eat - Afternoon Tea (see inside for details)
- **Thursday 10th September** - Mad Hatter's Afternoon Tea, St Andrew's Church Congresbury (see inside for details - ticketed event)
- **Friday 18th September** - Apple pressing, 3.15-4.30 at St Andrew's Church Congresbury. Everyone welcome.
- **Saturday 19th September** - Banwell Harvest Supper, Banwell Village Hall (see inside for details - ticketed event)
- **Friday 25th September** - Congresbury Harvest Supper, Congresbury War Memorial Hall (see inside for details - ticketed event)

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