

Chew Stoke with Nempnett Thrubwell Parish News

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September 2025



SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

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USLI DE CONTACTS					
Chew Stoke Parish Council stevenread@chewstoke.org.uk	Chairperson: Clerk:	Steve Read SJ Streatfeild	07916 785348		
Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council	Clerk:	Liz Horne	07754 737008		
Chew Stoke Village Hall www.chewstoke.org.uk/village-hall Nempnett Thrubwell Village Hall Women's Institute		R Donlevy Coral Westaway Gill Ford Hazel Wedlake	01275 333106 07955646579 01761 462391 01275 332812		
Chew Stoke Toddler Group		Carol Hare	01761 221695		

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Chew Stoke Toddler Group		Carol Hare	01761 221695
Chew Stoke Bowling Club		Phil Gullam	01275 472605
Cricket Club		Ro Master	01275 331229
Drama Club		Ruth Knight	01275 333601
Chew Stoke School	Headteacher:	Ben Hewett	01275 332354
	Governors' Clerk:	Liz Dagger	"

Chew Valley School Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club	Headteacher:	Gareth Beynon Allen Marsh	01275 332272 01275 331143
Chew Valley Choral Society		Helen Boyde Kim Heath	01275 333014 01275 331711
Chew Stoke Film Club Harvest Home		Nick Baker	01275 333753
www.chewstokeharvesthome.org.uk Chew Valley Art Club		Liz Boyd	07941 471410

MAGAZINE CONTACTS AND DEADLINES

Got some news? Want to advertise an event or your business? You can get in touch with us either by

Email: chewstokemag@gmail.com

or contacting the Editor:

CynthiaTroup 07365 263419

Fairwood, Pilgrims Way, Chew Stoke

or for Magazine Distribution:

Joanna Stephenson 01275 333908 or Alison Farrar 07580 965825

The copy deadline for the October edition will be Friday 19th September

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHURCH

Rector: Rev Dr Ian Mills 01275 474504 chewvalleywest@gmail.com

Curate: The Revd Fran Smettem 01934 340682 curatechewvalleywest@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Chew Stoke: Andrew Troup 01275 333002

Tina Kilroy 07920246322

Nempnett Thrubwell: Rosemary Porter 01761 462571

Nick Houlton 01761 462075

Capt. Bellringers: Chew Stoke: John Bone 01275 332328

Nempnett Thrubwell: Andrew Ball 01275 472356

Churchyard Maintenance: Chew Stoke: Anne Summers 01275 333812

Nempnett Thrubwell: Nick Houlton 01761 462075

Magazine: Editor: Cynthia Troup

Distribution: Joanne Stephenson & Alison Farrar

Deanery Synod Reps: Chew Stoke: Jessica McInnes

Jerry Moorhouse

Nempnett Thrubwell: Rosemary Porter

PCC Secretaries:

Chew Stoke: Jessica McInnes Nempnett Thrubwell: D. and K Haskard

PCC Treasurers:

Chew Stoke: Tina Kilroy Nempnett Thrubwell: Nick Houlton

PCC members:

Chew Stoke: Tina Kilroy, Jessica McInnes, Laura Down, Sheila Limburn, Lindsey Suenson-Taylor,

Andrew Troup (Vice Chair), Les Poynter, Jerry Moorhouse,

Sue Cook and Hazel Wedlake

Nempnett Thrubwell: Jane Batten, James Everett, Geraldine Ford, Nick Houlton,

Alison Howard, Hugo King, Jane Oosthuizen, Rosemary Porter,

Dorian and Kathleen Haskard

Chew Stoke Sidespeople: Mesdames: Down, Downey, Kilroy, Limburn, Patch, Manville,

McInnis, and Troup,

Messrs: Jameson and Moorhouse

Website

A reminder that full details of forthcoming services and events in our benefice of Chew Valley West can be found on our website: www.chewvalleywest.org

Letter from our Rector, the Rev Dr Ian Mills

Dear Friends,

As we look around our parched gardens, dusty lanes and golden fields under the weight of the summer sun, it's clear we've been living through a dry and unusually hot spell. The grass has withered, and the lake is at its lowest level for many decades.

In such weather, we are reminded how utterly dependent we are—on rain, on rhythm, on God's gracious provision. Our farmers especially have felt the strain, watching their crops mature with too little water and praying for just enough moisture to bring them through to harvest. We hold them in our prayers as the combines roll and the fruit of their labours is gathered in.

Harvest is always a time of thanksgiving in our communities and in our churches. Yet perhaps this year, our gratitude will run even deeper. When the land has struggled, and still offers its yield, we can see more clearly the mercy and faithfulness of our Creator. As the Psalmist declares: 'You crown the year with your bounty; your paths overflow with abundance' (Psalm 65:11).

As a new school term approaches, we also turn our prayers to our teachers, children, and their families. May the return to school be met not with anxiety, but with hope and excitement for all the learning and growing that is to come. In a world that often feels uncertain, we pray that our children may be rooted in love, confident in who they are, and aware of the God who walks beside them.

Let us also take this season to consider our own spiritual harvest. Have we borne good fruit in our lives this summer—kindness, patience, joy? May we be attentive to the Spirit's quiet work in us, even when conditions feel dry. So, as the earth around us longs for rain, may our hearts thirst for the living water that Christ offers. And may we, as a church, be a refreshing presence in our community—a place of welcome, peace, and hope. Yours in Christ.



Church News



Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing is celebrated in our group of parishes on the **first** and **third Wednesdays** of each month at 10.30am. This month:

Wednesday 3rd September
St Katharine's, Felton at 10.30am
Wednesday 17th September
St Andrew's, Chew Stoke at 10.30am

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:18)



NEW! Baby & Toddler Group 'Tuesday Tots' in Chew Stoke!

We are launching a new Baby & Toddler group 'Tuesday Tots' in St Andrew's on Tuesday 23rd September between 10.30am and midday, and thereafter on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the same time. Please spread the word to mums, dads & carers and come along to enjoy some refreshments, conversation, music and sensory play.

Tuesday Tots will also meet in St Mary & St Peter's, Winford on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the same time.

Chew Stoke Tuesday Tots: 23rd September, 14th & 28th October Winford Tuesday Tots: 16th September, 7th & 21st October



NEW! Mind and Spirit Care Cafe

We are trying a slightly different format for our Mind & Spirit meetings going forward. Beginning on

Wednesday 10th September

we will be holding a monthly Care Café for those experiencing conditions affecting memory and those who care for them.

This will be a relaxed space to enjoy conversation and offer mutual support with free refreshments. **Care Café opens from 10.30am in Felton Village Hall.**

Sunday First Back to School − 7th September



A special Back-to School service will be held on Sunday 7th September at St Andrew's, Chew Stoke at 10.00am. Breakfast and craft activities will be provided followed by a short act of worship for all ages

Fran's news

Community gardening is in full harvesting mode! We had our first cucumbers over the holidays, and a mammoth courgette/marrow as well as some sensible size courgettes, a carrot or two and lots of broad beans and peas. The sweetcorn is doing well, and somehow the cabbages and cauliflowers haven't been completely decimated by cabbage white caterpillars — at least, not at the time of writing!

Sessions will continue on Wednesdays at 3.30pm and Thursdays at 10.30am during September. Meet at the lower gate to Dippenstiles, w3w public.compound.chucked.

Mind and Spirit restarts in September as a Carers' Café. Do come along for conversation with other carers, refreshments, and some gentle (optional!) activities at Felton Village Hall on Wednesday 10 September at 10.30am.



Community Choir

The next Community Choir rehearsal will be held on **Wednesday**10th September at 7.00pm in Winford Church.

As always, these sessions are free and everything you need will be provided.

If you haven't been before, you will be made very welcome! There is no audition and singers of every standard and level of experience can join in.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

First Charity Soup Lunch

Wednesday 1st October 12.30pm in Chew Stoke Village Hall

Harvest Winetasting Evening Friday 2nd October in Chew Stoke Village Hall

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 5th October at 10.30am in St Andrew's Chew Stoke **Sunday 12th October** at 9.30am in St Mary's, Nempnett Thrubwell.

Nempnett Thrubwell Traditional Sunday Roast Sunday 19th October in Nempnett Village Hall

07903711355 or battenjane9@gmail.com

Weekly Church e-Newsletter

If you would like to receive a weekly email Newsletter with a reminder of service times for the coming Sunday, details of readings, and some thoughts on the readings with prayer suggestions, please sign-up via our website:

https://chewvalleywest.org/newsletter

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for St Andrew's Church, Chew Stoke with easyfundraising? There are over 8,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds. All you need to do is:

- Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-andrews-chew-stoke/ and join for free.
- 2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
- After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to St Andrew's Church, Chew Stoke at no extra cost to you whatsoever! There are no catches or hidden charges and St Andrew's Church, Chew Stoke will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

FFI Jessica McInnes gusandjessmac@btinternet.com

Support us through easyfundraising

September Services

	Sunday 7 September	Sunday 14 September	Sunday 21 September	Sunday 28 September	Sunday 5 October
	Trinity 12	Holy Cross	St Matthew	Trinity 15	Trinity 16
CHEW STOKE St Andrew	10.00am Sunday First 'Back to School'		6.30pm Evensong		10.30am Sunday First (Harvest Thanksgiving)
NEMPNETT THRUBWELL The Blessed Virgin Mary		9.30am Eucharist		6.30pm Evensong	
FELTON St Katharine		11.00am Eucharist		9.00am Morning Worship	5.00pm Evensong (Harvest Thanksgiving)
WINFORD St Mary & St Peter	9.00am Eucharist			11.00am Eucharist	9.00am Eucharist
REGIL St James			8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)		
STOWEY St Nicholas & The Blessed Virgin Mary	6.30pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)		6.30pm Evensong VEN TONY WILDS	6.30pm Evensong (Harvest Thanksgiving)
BISHOP SUTTON Holy Trinity		10.30am Morning Worship	10.30am Eucharist		

St Andrews September Duty Rota

Flowers: Altar & Lady Chapel: tba

Cleaning & Brass: Tina Kilroy & Ruth Donlevy

Sunday 7th September 10.00am Sunday First

Sidespeople: Cynthia & Sheila

Sunday 21st September 6.30pm Evensong

Sidespeople: Andrew & Lyndsey

Readers: Liz W & Hazel P Proverbs 3: 13-18 Matthew 9: 9-13

NEMPNETT THRUBWELL BELLS RING OUT AGAIN!

With some generous grants, private donations and lots of fundraising, the sum of £65,000 was reached, and the bells were lowered from the tower in August 2024 and removed to Higby's foundry in Radstock, for re-furbishing.

A new bell frame foundation was created from a grillage of galvanized steel beams, which then had to be cast into concrete beams in the tower over the next two months, and the upper frame also had to be replaced. PTO

Here is the new bell frame being put together in Higby's foundry, with the refurbished and re-tuned bells in the foreground.

Then came the exciting part!!! The assembly of all of the parts inside the church tower.

First the concrete had to be poured in the top of the tower, topped with steels to strengthen the bell frame foundation, then the steels of the upper frame had to be hauled up to the top of the tower and manoeuvred into place. Then the bells had to be brought back from Radstock and hauled one by one up into the top of the tower and hung in place. The tower is very small so it was a



tight fit, and a very difficult space in which to work. Finally, the new wooden wheels were manoeuvred into place above the bells and the bell ropes were attached.

It was a very joyous occasion when, at the beginning of August, we were able to hear the bells again after two years of silence. Twenty local bellringers arrived

from many different parishes to take turns in ringing them, and all agreed that they sounded wonderful.

Continued next page



Nempnett Bells Restoration continued:

In my twenty years as a churchwarden this has been by far the biggest challenge that we have taken on, because we are a tiny village and to us this was an enormous amount of money. Stressful and exhausting, but worthwhile! Thankyou to everybody who contributed funding, time and work.

Rosemary Porter (Churchwarden)

Nempnett September Duty Rota

Sunday 14th September 9.30am Cleaner - Kathleen Haskard, Reader - James Everett Sunday 28th September 6.30pm Cleaner - Gerry Ford, Reader - Gail Houlden Grasscutting

August 31st - September 13th - David Howard

September 14th - September 27th - Debbie Kelly

September 28th - October 11th - Ingrid Wilms

FETE ON THE FARM

After weeks and weeks of hot weather the day of Nempnett Thrubwell's fete was fast approaching, but the weather forecast was now for showers all weekend!!! The fete is normally held in the area outside the village hall, as the hall itself is too small, but as it is situated on top of a hill it is very exposed to bad weather. The choice had to be made - to postpone the whole thing and hope for better weather later in the month, or to go ahead and hope there was enough shelter under the gazebos.

Then just two days before the event George and Meg Ford came to the rescue and very generously offered us the use of their covered barns and catering kitchen at Nempnett Pastures. We did not have to think twice! We quickly changed the road signs and put up some new signs directing customers to the new venue, and E-mails flashed back and forth informing the fete team. At least we did not have to erect two marquees and half a dozen gazebos! We were not able to start setting up the site until teatime on the Saturday because Nempnett Pastures had an Open Day, but by mid day on the Sunday the tables and stalls were in position, the bunting was up and the teas were being prepared.

The Fete was a tremendous success because there was so much to do and see. The Men of Chew gave two splendid performances to great applause, the cream teas and ice creams were almost sold out, as was the cake stall. There were hundreds of items to buy on the white elephant stall, there were beautiful plants, jewellery and even an amazing range of hats. The coconut shy kept the children and adults amused and the children loved playing in the hay maze, and on the push car racing track.

The fete made a record profit of £2,000. Our grateful thanks go to George and Meg for the use of their wonderful venue, to all of the people who manned stalls and to the wonderful people who turned up to help set up before and pack up at the end. The picture overleaf shows the Men of Chew entertaining the crowd.



The Men of Chew serenading the tea drinkers in the Nempnett Pastures Barn

St Andrew`s Chew Stoke - new or experienced bell ringers wanted!



Bell Ringing instruction offered for anyone interested in keeping the bells of St Andrew's ringing.

This is a valued and worthwhile skill to have. You can stick to the basics needed to ring rounds and simple call changes, or you can progress to more complicated methods if you wish.

This is an opportunity for younger students who may wish to learn this skill as part of a Duke of Edinburgh Award, but all ages welcome. Instruction is available at Winford ,Ubley and Clutton, but ideally 2 or 3 would start together at a learning hub like Backwell where they can learn the basics with fellow beginners and then progress to join in at other towers and eventually be the ones to get the Chew Stoke bells ringing again! Contact hazelwedlake@gmail.com to be put in touch with our local instructors.

Chew Valley Gadget Busters help with any IT problems

It costs £3 per session, all of which will go to charity. Either book by emailing cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com or turn up on the day.

September 10th, The Stoke Inn, Chew Stoke October 8th, The Queens, Chew Magna

Chew Stoke Parish Council News www.chewstoke.org.uk

We currently have 2 Councillor vacancies on the Parish Council. CSPC would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us, we meet once a month, normally on the first Thursday. You would be joining a proactive and enthusiastic team, and you can play a vital part in representing the interests of the residents and help to deliver services to meet local needs. No previous experience is required, but you must be over 18 years old and be resident or work within 3 miles of the parish. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact the Clerk clerk@chewstoke.org.uk for more information.

The Local Plan Reset underway, B&NES are seeking advice from the Parish Council as to the suitability of the 3 HELAA (Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment) sites in the village, this will be discussed at the Sept meeting.

Community Bloom 2025. The Bloom team are still meeting fortnightly to keep the village looking beautiful. Thank you to all the team who have worked so hard to make the village look great. Judging for the RHS Bloom competition took place in July, with results expected in September.

The Parish Council and the Road Safety Working Group continue to work hard to look at ways to improve road safety and reduce the traffic speeds in and around the village. Following the 2 recent incidents, CSPC is calling for a multi-agency meeting to discuss recent events and agree what action needs to be undertaken to improve safety and stop the anti-social and dangerous driving that is being witnessed in the parish. Residents are asked to report such incidents to the police and via this log: https://form.jotform.com/251804578404055 this will help us build evidence of the scale of the road issues in the parish and the wider valley.

Anti-slips treads have recently been fitted to the footbridge in Rectory Field. If you have other suggestions for improvements in the village, please contact the clerk via the email above. Facebook Messenger is checked very infrequently.

Repairs are due to begin to the footpath from Church Lane towards the waterfall, the footpath will be closed for the duration. The repairs will be undertaken sympathetically and are being undertaken to prevent the path becoming impassable due to the mud in winter and an overgrowth of vegetation in summer. B&NES have a responsibility to maintain the path and for it to be usable year round, for the benefit of residents and those looking to access nature.

Next meeting: Thursday 4th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Chew Stoke



The Arts Society Mendip

Our new season of talks starts in October and will run through to July 2026. Talks begin at 11.00am in Croscombe Village Hall (and usually simultaneously via Zoom – a link will be sent to members and guests). Guests are welcome (up to a maximum of 3 lectures

in a season) for £10. More information, details of membership and our full programme are available on our website- www.theartssocietymendip.org.uk

Tuesday 7th October: Palmyra: Bride of the desert. Dr Paul Roberts will examine Palmyra's meteoric rise and its dramatic fall, its rediscovery by English lords, its influence on art and architecture, and then its desecration by Isis, but he will finish with the hope that beautiful Palmyra will rise again.

Chew Valley Gardening Society

This friendly society meets on the second Thursday of the month at Stanton Drew Village Hall where there is easy access and parking.

There will be a meeting on Thursday 11th September where RHS Chelsea Judge and Gold winner Jon Wheatley, will speak on 'Britain in Bloom, the RHS & Mexico City'.

There will be a competition for the best 3 dahlia blooms.

If you would like to become a member please contact Graham Nicol on 01275 333456 or just come along, you are warmly invited.

Friendly Keep-Fit class at 10am on Tuesday mornings at Chew Stoke Village Hall.

Just bring a mat to join in aerobic movement to music followed by floor exercises. Only £5 a session!



At the **MAJESTIC** Aka Chew Stoke Village Hall A COMPLETE UNKNOWN—15 25th September

Set in the influential New York City music scene of the early 1960s, "A Complete Unknown" follows 19-year-old Minnesota musician Bob Dylan's meteoric rise as a folk singer to concert halls and the top of the charts as his songs and his mystique become a worldwide sensation that culminates in his groundbreaking electric rockand-roll performance at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. Timothee Chalamet is captivating as Dylan and Edward Norton stars as Pete Seeger with Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez.

7PM for 7.30 screening

Chew Valley Sustainable Transport Group are holding a Lakeside Family Fun Day on Saturday 20th September from 9am-3pm.

<u>The Big Lemon</u> will have an electric bus on site that you can climb on board championing our 2 fabulous routes - and lots more to enjoy!



Members enjoyed a successful show in July with good entries in most classes. Particularly impressive were the floral art classes. Dry weather affected the growth of some flowers and fruit, but our members still came up with some competitive result and the Judges were complementary about the quantity and quality of exhibits.

Instead of a meeting in August, in perfect balmy weather, ten members and friends spent a very pleasant couple of hours in Rectory Field by the Centenary Oak, enjoying a picnic, Pimms and a chat.

Our next meeting is on **September 17**th at 7.30pm at Chew Stoke Village Hall. The talk will be 'An insight into the work of a Bristol Street Pastor' by Helen Harrison.

Further info - Debbie chewstokewi@avonfwi.org.uk or Hazel 01275 332 812



Jessica, Julie and Hazel admiring some entries in the show.

Harptrees History Society: The English Civil War Wednesday 24th September

West Harptree Memorial Hall. BS40 6EG Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.Booking opens on September 10th and closes at midday on September 24th. To book or request a membership form, please email: info@harptreeshistorysociety.org with subject line "September 2025"

Remembering Two well-loved Nempnett Characters

Two long standing Nempnett parishioners sadly passed away recently, June Read in March aged 89 years and Marjorie Durbin in May aged 92 years.

June Read was brought up in Plaisters Green and then on marriage to Alan Read moved to Church farm. They had 4 children. All her married life she helped on the Farm, looked after the children (and grandchildren) and cooked homemade meals. She had done an apprenticeship in sewing clothes before her marriage, cycling to Chew Magna every day, and later put her fantastic sewing skills to much use helping so many parishioners. She also made time to visit people who were not well or just needed a friendly chat. She also helped to clean the church and was on the church flower rota, using flowers from her lovely garden and also from the hedgerow. She always decorated the font at Easter.

From 1996 June used to visit Pixie Hall Farm regularly to see Marjorie, helping with the cleaning and chatting together. They also attended evensong together at Nempnett church for over twenty years. Marjorie, who was blind at birth, was born at Ubley farm, then aged 6 years came to live with her grandmother at Pixie Hall Farm. She attended Bristol Blind school and was a boarder there throughout the war years even when they were evacuated to Templecombe. Marjorie learnt to sing at school but the school advised her not to pursue a singing career as it wasn't in high demand in those days and instead they taught her how to knit socks, a skill that then became her career after leaving school. She used to knit 12 dozen socks just to take to the Bath and West Show. Marjorie had a lovely voice and was word perfect with most hymns. When church congregation numbers were low it was always a great relief when Marjorie arrived and we knew we could follow her in song. Marjorie never seemed to complain about her lack of sight and managed to run a home, identify which bird was singing, and stay happy and cheerful. Two lovely ladies and good friends who will be greatly missed. Written by Jane Oosthuizen

Mary



Joan



World first for Stowey Church

On 27th September at 7pm Stowey Church is hosting the 6th in a series of occasional Organ Recitals by leading organists.

The Programme contains music from Mediaeval to Modern to reflect the history of this ancient building, said to have been dedicated in 1235. The Programme culminates in a piece specially commissioned from David Bednall by a Stowey parishioner, which will have its world premier at the concert.

Churchwarden Mrs Jill Nicol comments "We're very fortunate that David has agreed to undertake this Recital and that it will include his new Organ Voluntary. The recital will be live screened within the church courtesy of the Bristol and District Organists' Association, enabling everyone to have a good view of David's skills on the manual and pedals. And we'll all be able to see the newly cleaned and conserved mural over the Chancel arch."

Tickets are available, price £15 to include interval refreshments, from sue.skinner@stowevchurch.com or from Jill on 01275 333456



Big Community Squash Harvest Day at the Community Farm!

Saturday 20th **September 12.30-6.30pm** This is a relaxed event for adults and older kids (12+ recommended), perfect for anyone who'd like to get their hands a little muddy, meet like-minded people, or simply mark the turn of the season in good company. Tickets can be brought here: www.thecommunityfarm.co.uk/events/the-big-squash-harvest

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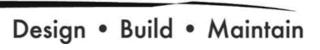


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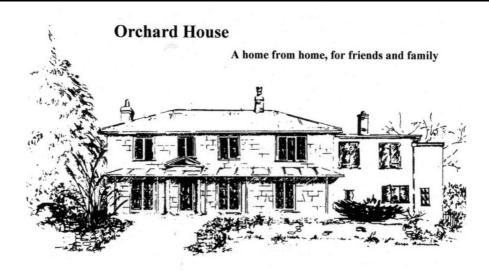
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