

MOMSS MAGAZINE



Drawing by Anne Farmer
(1944-2024)

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

News & Views for our MOMSS villages of
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch, Stawell,
Sutton Mallet and Greinton

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MOMSS MAGAZINE

This publication is hand delivered
FREE to over 1,040 homes within the
villages in the United Benefice:
**Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch,
Stawell, Sutton Mallet and Greinton**

It can also be found at:

www.middlezoyvillagehall.org.uk

and www.stawellvillage.info and

www.achurchnearyou.com/ Othery page

MOMSS is issued 11 times a year (there is a joint December/January issue) and is designed as a Community Magazine. It is produced by volunteers, with the authority of the United Benefice Churchwardens, for the villagers' benefit.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Committee: Richard Graham, Anita Winslade, Jane Stryker, Isobel Davis

Editor this month: Anita Winslade

Compiler this month: Jane Stryker



NEWS ARTICLES

We regret we cannot guarantee inclusion of articles or photographs and may need to edit copy due to space limitations.

Submitting articles: Copy preferred in Microsoft Word format.

Email to momsseditor@live.co.uk

300 word limit please.

Submit handwritten copy via one of the members of the committee if you are unable to find someone to help you transfer it to email. We cannot guarantee its accurate inclusion.

Submitting photos or artwork:

also momsseditor@live.co.uk

We gladly accept news and views from



all groups or individuals, however, the Committee has overriding editorial control. We cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from any error, inaccuracies or omission from any copy or advertising. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the United Benefice, the Editorial teams or the publisher.

MOMSS Publishing House Style

Articles submitted to the magazine are put into MOMSS house style. This uses Gill Sans 10pt for general text with Gill Sans bold 10pt for sub-headings. Arial Black 10pt is used for main headings. Example of our date format is '25 December' – the st, rd, th are only used after dates with no month alongside. There is no need to insert year unless referring to year ahead. We use a 12 hour time format eg '5.30pm'. Italics, bold or underlining will not be included.

Advertising

Due to the reorganisation of the benefice, this is the last issue of the MOMSS magazine that will contain commercial advertisements.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our advertisers who have supported us over the years and have made the distribution of this magazine for free throughout our villages.

**This magazine is edition
number 11 of volume 22**

DON'T FORGET!
February edition deadlines:
Articles 15 January

LETTER FROM . . . READER RICHARD GRAHAM

In the absence of an ordained incumbent and on behalf of our Licensed Readers and Church Wardens of the churches in these villages, I wish you a very Happy Christmas. Most of the world's religions have love at their core. So, the individuals who perpetrate terrible acts on behalf of their religion don't understand it. Love means spending time with, talking with and laughing with people. It is also shown in acts of love such as the giving of presents. Inevitably this has become over commercialised.

For Christians, the greatest love we experience is from our heavenly Father. He loved his creation (the world) so much that after sending many prophets to his chosen race, the Jews, who largely ignored them, he sent his Son. Although rejected and crucified by the Roman authorities he rose from death, but amazingly it was all part of God's plan to save us. We are now celebrating his birth.

As some say, 2000 years ago the unseen world, the one that controls for example the fate of empires, and the seen world collided in the person of Jesus Christ. Counter-culturally, the first of the general public to be informed of his birth were some shepherds in the fields nearby. It was not the religious leaders nor kings nor political leaders. It was shepherds.

Extraordinarily, the saviour of the world came as a defenceless baby. At every turn this person whose birthday we celebrate turned convention on its head and behaved counter-culturally. He showed with miracles and other signs that he was from God. As the great Christian John Henry Newman said, "we can believe what we choose but we are answerable for what we choose to believe".

At this time, whatever you believe, I wish you a very Happy Christmas.



Richard Graham

Thank you to the members of the Stawell Youth Club for their wonderful drawings used throughout this magazine.

PASTORAL REORGANISATION MOMSS&G Benefice

The benefice consists of Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch, Stawell, Sutton Mallet and Greinton. It has been proposed that the benefice is split up. Middlezoy and Othery will merge with the Athelney benefice and Moorlinch, Stawell, Sutton Mallet and Greinton will join the Polden Wheel group.

The Athelney benefice consists of the parishes of Burrowbridge, Lyng, North Curry and Stoke St Gregory. The Polden Wheel group consists of the churches of Ashcott, Burtle, Catcott, Chilton Polden, Edington and Shapwick.

It is planned that nothing will happen until both ends of our benefice are ready to move. This is likely to happen sometime in the first quarter of 2026. Once the date of the split

is confirmed a special service will be arranged to mark the occasion.

MOMSS Magazine

In the meantime, the magazine will continue but without any commercial advertisements after this edition. After more than 20 years the magazine will continue to be produced and delivered free of charge to 1,040 homes in our villages until this benefice no longer exists. This has been possible thanks to our advertisers but, more recently, to some very generous private sponsors that kept the magazine going for over a year and currently thanks to two small grants - one from the Polden Post and one from the National Lottery Fund. *Richard Graham*

GENERAL ITEMS

STILL URGENT !

Hopes for a Church Treasurer

Holy Cross Church, Middlezoy needs a Treasurer not only to look after the books but also to advise on such matters as insurance and tax. This makes the work varied and interesting.

The Basics

Whilst it is not necessary to become a member of the PCC, it is important to report quarterly on the financial position.

This voluntary position does not require an accounting qualification but would suit anyone who can keep a simple cash book. It is an excellent way of involving yourself in the village community.

To consider possibilities contact gill wilkinson: wilkiberri@outlook.com or Ian Campbell: meadowbank@btinternet.com

Emz Pilates & Yoga (FB/Insta/Youtube)

Pilates Curry Rivel Village Hall Mon 6.30pm

Yoga Curry Rivel Village Hall Mon 7.30pm

Yoga Othery Village Hall Wed 9.30am

Pilates East Lyng Village Hall Wed 7.30pm

Pilates Westonzoyland Village Hall Thurs 9.30am



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Details of all classes on my socials/Google page

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GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION DAY CHANGES

Are you a Garden Waste Subscriber?

Collection routes are being updated and changed following a large increase in subscribers during the last 5 years. The update will help to keep them efficient and to schedule.

If you subscribe to the garden waste collection service, you might have had a change to your collection schedule. If you have had a change, you will have been contacted either by post or email. The change may be in your collection week, day, or both.

If the collection service have your email address, they will have sent you an email with your updated collection day. If not, you will have received a letter in the post with the details.

The changes started from the week beginning Monday 24 November.

If you have previously downloaded your schedule to your phone or tablet's calendar you will need to re-download it.

The newest recycling lists are on page 26.

SKY AT NIGHT

December

Sunrise Sunset

Beginning of December 7.53am-4.08pm

End of December 8.15am-4.15pm

Moon Phases

Full Moon 4th / Last Quarter 11th / New Moon 20th / First

Quarter 27th

January

Sunrise Sunset

Beginning of January 8.15am-5.01pm End of January

7.50am-4.07pm

Moon Phases

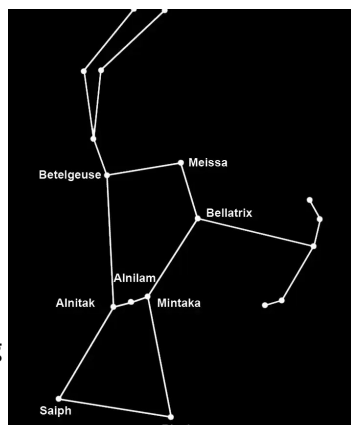
Full Moon 3rd / Last Quarter 10th / New Moon 18th / First Quarter 26th

Planets

Saturn continues to fade and set earlier and is out of sight by 10pm as we enter January. Mercury is visible at the beginning of January but then along with Venus and Mars becomes too close to the Sun to be seen. Jupiter now rules the night, rising at 6pm during December. It is at its closest to Earth on 9 January and reaches opposition the next day. On 3 January Jupiter is close to the full Moon which will be a supermoon, the first of the year. Jupiter is a brilliant beacon in the night sky and is visible all night. Look for its four brightest moons with a pair of binoculars and see how they change position night by night.

Constellation

While Jupiter is the planet of the moment, Orion the Hunter is the constellation. Unmistakable, high in the south look for the three stars that form his belt. Below this you will see the Sword, a glowing misty patch, being the Orion Nebula, a stellar nursery where stars are being born. Visible to the naked eye under less than



perfect conditions it is an amazing sight from a dark sky area. For an even more breathtaking view use a pair of binoculars through which it takes on an almost 3D appearance.

Phenomena

December sees the Geminid meteor shower which peaks on the 13th/14th with no Moon to spoil the view of the fainter meteors and then on the 21st we have the Winter Solstice giving us the shortest day and longest night.

January sees the first supermoon of 2026 which can be seen on the 3rd.

Paul Adamson 01823 698156

SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS

There is no meeting during December but our first meeting of 2026 is on Wednesday 28th when club member Stephen Spencer will bring light into the month with a talk about our closest star, the Sun.

We also have a night sky guide for February and astronomy news.

Admission is £4 with membership available.

The meeting will be held in Othery Village Hall, Fore Street, Othery TA7 0QU at 7.30pm.

If at Christmas you are lucky enough to get a new telescope or a pair of binoculars with which to stargaze and want to learn about the night sky and mix with likeminded people, why not come along to one of our meetings where you can be sure of a warm welcome.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of clear skies.

For more details or to be added to the Stargazers mailing list please contact

somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com

Follow us on Facebook.

Paul Adamson 01823 698156

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

We wish you a Happy Christmas and may the new year be a healthy and positive one. Thank you to those who have attended some of our meetings throughout the year. Everyone is welcome. We ask for a donation of £5, unless you are under 18 years old where there is no cost. This helps pay hall and speaker costs. You get not only a good speaker but a mug of tea or coffee and a raffle ticket for this. We do have a facebook page and also the meetings are on the National WFA webpage under the local branches page.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 10 December will involve entertainment and food. If you would like to come please let us know for catering purposes with any dietary requirements.

We start meetings again every second Wednesday of the month in Othery Village Hall at 7.30pm. On 14 January 2026 our speaker will be Brigadier Mike Shaw speaking about *The Eastern Front*.

To give you a taste of some of the subjects and speakers for the rest of the year, on 11 February we have *Raid on Zeebrugge* by Josh Bassett, on 11 March *Gertrude Bell* by Ian Stevenson. Other subjects and speakers include *Chatham Dockyard*, *Automobiles in the Great War*, *The Battle of The Somme*, Paul Harris, Rodney Atwood and Peter Hart. Please watch for our adverts.



For further information about the events or the Association's activities, please contact the Somerset branch or visit the Western Front Association website or find us on Facebook or email SomersetWFA@hotmail.com
Pat Adamson, Secretary, Somerset branch, WFA 01823 698156

MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS

The children have been enjoying the new trim trail since installation was completed last month.

We took part in the Remembrance Exhibition held at Wells Cathedral and the children produced these wonderful art pieces. The exhibition runs until Sunday 30 November.



The children in Unicorn class made a poppy cross for St Michael's Church in Othery and made wreaths for Holy Cross Church in Middlezoy.

We have also raised money for Young Minds with *Hello Yellow* day and BBC Children in Need by holding a *Wear your Pyjamas to School* day on Friday 14 November.

Looking ahead, rehearsals are under way for the Unicorn class Nativity. Following this, the children will once again be singing at Middlezoy Chapel's coffee morning on Monday 15 December.

Children and staff are looking forward to the annual trip to the pantomime to see *Cinderella*. Once again, the PTA have offered to host all staff and children for a festive feast which is always a wonderful end to the autumn term.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Middlezoy and Othery Primary School 01823 698465/4

At a recent United Benefice service at Moorlinch we sang 4 hymns. One of them was hymn number 111 - Dear Lord and Father of Mankind. I asked the question "What connects that hymn and the late Test Cricket umpire, David Shepherd?"

For anyone not at the service the answer is on page 23.

NEWS FROM OUR MPS

Update from Tessa Munt, MP for Moorlinch, Stawell, Sutton Mallet and Greinton

Last month, I spoke in Parliamentary debates on several subjects – from Sudan to Business Rates, the Duty of Candour in the new Hillsborough Law to the Infected Blood scandal and prison sentences to Powers of Attorney. I've criss-crossed the constituency harvesting organic walnuts (!), visiting schools and businesses, attending meetings and events and speaking with many of you at my surgeries. To keep updated on my work as your MP, I can be found on Facebook and Instagram.

October marked Breast Cancer Awareness Month and I gladly attended a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Parliament and Breast Cancer Now's *Wear It Pink!* event. It's good that progress has been made, awareness raised and I know the Prostate Cancer UK campaigns are becoming equally important annual events in Parliament too.

November is a more sombre month, with remembrance at its core. We honour those who lost their lives, particularly in the Great and Second World Wars, those physically and mentally injured, made homeless or stateless by war. Civilians are victims of war too, as our daily news broadcasts remind us. Every year I wear both a red and a white poppy. The red poppy reminds us to “never forget” the British military personnel and allied forces who died; the white ‘peace’ poppy - “never again”. If you'd like to discuss any matter, a full list of my surgeries is available if you call or email me.



These are the most local:

Friday 12 December from 6pm to 7pm at Ashcott Village Hall

Saturday 24 January from 9am to 10am at The Bluebird Café, Wedmore

No appointment is necessary - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

May I wish you a merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year!

Tessa

You can contact me:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone out of office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won't need a stamp!)

Ashley Fox, MP for Middlezoy and Othery Royal Mail Delays

Earlier this month I led a Westminster Hall Debate on the performance of Royal Mail - an issue that's been raised with me far too often. Before the debate I carried out a local survey to gather residents' experiences, and the responses painted a picture of a service that's falling short for too many.

In Othery, some households told me they went without deliveries for more than a

fortnight. In Cossington, one resident told me their magazine hadn't been delivered for seven weeks in a row. Across the constituency, only one in three households said they receive a postal delivery every day.

For many people this means missed hospital letters, late prescriptions and small businesses struggling to get orders out on time.

Royal Mail has a legal duty to deliver to every address in the country, six days a week. It's called the Universal Service Obligation, and it's vital for rural areas like Othery and Middlezoy. When that service falters, it's people in small villages - older people, those who work from home and those without easy access to online alternatives - who feel it most.

In Parliament, I called on Royal Mail to be honest about the challenges it faces and to commit to a clear plan to ensure reliable daily deliveries. I'll also be meeting with the company's Director of External Affairs to press the case for better performance here in the constituency.

We all understand that times are changing and that more of our communication is now online. But that doesn't mean the post should become a luxury. Every household deserves a postal service they can depend on, particularly when doing things online is not reliable due to poor internet connectivity. So, I'll keep holding Royal Mail to account to make sure you get the service you deserve.

If you need assistance or would like to raise any concerns, please feel free to get in touch at ashley.fox.mp@parliament.uk
www.ashleyfox.org.uk
Facebook: Ashley7Fox



A campaign graphic for Ashley Fox MP. The top left features the Royal Coat of Arms. To its right, the text 'ASHLEY FOX MP' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Further right, the phrase 'Here to Help!' is written in a large, black, cursive script. The background of the graphic shows a photograph of Ashley Fox, a man in a light blue shirt, standing outdoors and talking to two Royal Mail delivery workers in blue uniforms and hats. In the bottom left corner, there is a white box containing contact information: a House of Commons icon with 'House of Commons London SW1A 0AA', an '@' icon with 'ashley.fox.mp@parliament.uk', a phone icon with '01278 811 007', and a Facebook icon with 'Ashley7Fox'. Below this box is the text 'Formerly "Bristol" constituency - now Bristol in the West of England'. In the bottom right corner, there is a white box containing a QR code and the text 'Sign up to my newsletter' and 'SCAN ME'.

 **ASHLEY FOX MP** *Here to Help!*

 House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

 ashley.fox.mp@parliament.uk

 01278 811 007

 Ashley7Fox

Formerly "Bristol" constituency - now Bristol in the West of England


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FARM DIARY

This is written for non-farmers who live surrounded by farm land.

In the Field. After a terrible harvest owing to the exceptionally dry summer, we have had a very good autumn. Every time we sowed a crop we had some rain. It was all up and growing well at a time in November when we had not started sowing the crops the previous year. Now at the time of writing we have had excessive rainfall – a balancing of the books.

The lambs are growing well on just forage with no supplementary feeding. It helps to have fields with grasses and other plants or herbs. In fact, they are currently on a ley mainly comprising a modern ryegrass but also including cocksfoot grass, various clovers including a red clover, burnet forage herb, parsley forage herb and ribgrass or plantain. This was sown in the autumn and has been growing very well on an arable field in its arable rotation. It will be down for a year.



30:50:50. This is an initiative of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Science & Technology in Agriculture. The initiative aims to increase UK agricultural productivity by 30% by 2050 while simultaneously reducing the environmental impact by 50% per unit of output. The NFU are involved as are NIAB (National Institute of Agricultural Botany) to which we belong.

Crop breeding. Breeding new varieties is a very slow procedure but the breeders obtain about 1% yield increase year after year for wheat at least. There are many challenges including climate shocks, conflict and changing government policy. Also, over the last 25

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Dotsandstripes1

years we have lost 4.4% of agricultural land. This is according to *UK food security; outlook to 2050*, an online published report from the Science for Sustainable Agriculture policy platform according to NIAB's *Landmark* magazine of autumn 2025. Domestic food production has fallen in parallel. The construction of vast solar farms is part of this. Can we feed ourselves with less land is the obvious question? NIAB are investing in biotechnology. Crops grown are currently destroyed. Gene editing is one method. Raising yields with fewer inputs is the aim. Also, some worldwide crops such as bananas are being hit by fungal diseases as well as climate change. More later...

Richard Graham

MOORLINCH VILLAGE NEWS

LOOKING BACK.....

WEAR IT PINK - AFTERNOON TEA - OCTOBER 24th

Thank you to everyone who came to this event and donated towards the charity Breast Cancer Now either online or on the day. With some delicious and delectable cakes or a luscious cream tea to enjoy, you wonderful people raised over £420and you all came wearing something pink.

Thank you. *Jane Stryker*

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 9th

Preceded by the poignant sound of muffled bells our traditional service was, for the third year running, led by Jane Sedgeman, a Reader from the Wheathill Benefice.

Following the service we sat down to enjoy a curry lunch with pudding. Thank you to everyone who decorated the church, contributed to the service, cooked and served curries, sides, naan bread and delicious puddings.

.....AND LOOKING FORWARD

Sunday 14 December at 5pm - Christingle Reimagined

Come and join us inside and outside the Church Hall for sausages, sparklers, sweets, singing and a fire pit for a Christingle service with a difference.

Saturday 20 December from 10.00am - Church Decorating

Come along and help decorate the church, set up the nativity and Christmas tree. If you would like to add a tree decoration in memory of someone who will not be with you this Christmas please come up after 11am and if you want some quiet time come up from 2pm onwards.

Sunday 21 December at 2.30pm - Village Carols

Come and sing your favourite carols, drink mulled wine and nibble on mince pies up at St Mary's. We are delighted to welcome Pauline to lead the session.

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April 2026 - Open Church, Flower Festival and Cream Teas

A busy couple of days! There will be a flower festival, cream teas and some abseiling down from the church tower for the bravehearted and an opportunity to see some of the wonderful treasures, documents and artefacts found within the church. Put the dates in your diary.

More details to follow.



CHARITY COFFEE AND CRAFT MORNING

Thanks to all who supported the Charity Craft and Coffee Morning

We have managed 20 places for homeless people to stay somewhere warm and be fed for Christmas as well as a good donation to MacMillan. The stalls were lovely and filled with beautiful items plus there were lots of edible goodies. We made full use of the flexibility of the hall and outside spaces! Well done to all who worked so hard to make this a success. A huge thank you to you and to everyone who came on the day.

Sam Dawe

CHRISTMAS WHIST EVENING

17 December at Moorlinch Church Hall

Come and join us for a fun social evening of cards. Ready to start at 7pm, there will first be instructions on how to play and enjoy this card game. Cost per person is £10 which covers 24 hands of cards, tea and mince pies at half time (you're welcome to bring your own drinks if you like) and prizes for the top scorers. We'll also be running and drawing the hall's Christmas Raffle with the chance to win a great Christmas hamper. Please contact me in advance to book your place. sam.eastend@gmail.com

Sam Dawe

BACK (YET AGAIN) BY POPULAR DEMAND IN VEGANUARY 2026

Moorlinch Vegan Lunch – Saturday 24 January

Yes, to celebrate Veganuary we are back again to tickle your taste buds with delicious and varied vegan dishes.

Menus are being devised as we type but whatever is selected will be tasty and appetising.

Tickets will be £15 and all money raised will go to help support the work of Reimagining the Levels.

Most of us have been involved in tree planting locally and have all benefitted from the work they have undertaken in an attempt to shape landscapes and communities right here in Somerset, right here on our doorstep.

More details will be on the village email, website and Facebook page so watch those spaces. If you want to be contacted with the menu details or to book a place in good time, please drop an email or text to the following:

stryker.jps@gmail.com
or text 07432 652 165
Carrie, Jane and Pam

General Handyman Andy Reeves

Over 20 years experience and I have public liability insurance.

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mobile: 07971 874839

STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE NEWS

Information is available on the website www.stawellvillage.info

STAWELL AND SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE HALL

All that's happening at Stawell & Sutton Mallet Village Hall in December and January.

Groups

Monday Keep Fit with Liza 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday Yoga with Clare 7pm - 8.15pm

Wednesday Pilates 1pm - 1.45pm & Dog training with Sophie 5pm - 7pm

Thursday Art Group 7pm - 9pm

Friday Yoga with Clare 10am - 11.15am

Events for December

Friday 5th Film night 7pm for 7.30pm showing *The Snowman* and *Bridget Jones - Mad About the Boy*

Saturday 13th Christmas Hub Cafe 10.30am - 1pm

Saturday 13th 7pm for 7.30pm start, Christmas Carols with Burtle Silver Band, bar and food available.

Monday 15th Whist 2pm - 4pm

Events for January

Saturday 10th BIG Breakfast 10.30am - 1pm

Saturday 10th Film night 7pm for 7.30pm

Monday 19th Whist 2pm - 4pm

Saturday 24th Hub Pub (Burns Night)

More information will be on the village website in due course

Maxine Hughes, Chairperson



SUTTON MALLET CHURCH

Sheep, Shepherds and Angels see the year out

The traditional Remembrance Sunday services in November were a reminder of the impact of WWI on villages such as ours. In the tiny village of Sutton Mallet there are three names of the fallen on the memorial. They are hard to read now, so for our National Heritage open weekend last year, we made a separate poster next to it. Of the 16,000 villages in England, only about 30 were 'thankful villages' where everyone at war returned alive. If you visit our little conserved church, please take a look and remember those who "for our tomorrow they gave their today".

Another tradition we follow in Sutton Mallet Church is that of the Crib Service. This was supposedly started by St Francis of Assisi, who set up a nativity scene to remind people of the very ordinary origins of the Christmas story. Travelling at Christmas can be difficult - but you don't need to go all the way to Greccio in Italy to see shepherds, sheep and angels - you can enjoy them as they fill our homemade crib, between traditional Christmas carols and readings. Please join us in Sutton Mallet Church on Christmas Eve at 6pm and stay afterwards for festive



mince pies and refreshments.

Closing and empty churches have been in the news lately - we are lucky here to have our church looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust. It is cleaned and maintained by volunteers, filled with flowers and regularly visited, even though it is infrequently used for services. Please feel free to visit and enjoy this tranquil space as the year comes to an end.
Mortimer Rhind-Tutt (CCT Volunteer) mortimer.rt@gmail.com

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those who sent cards, good wishes and gifts on my 80th birthday. I appreciate it and feel so blessed to live in this community and United Benefice.
Ruth Peberdy

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13 December, coffee morning from 10am 'til 12 noon at Johnnie and Arlette Bannister's, The Old Manor. All welcome for this monthly occasion. Chat and coffee and cakes and bring some cash for the pot for church funds as we embark on significant renovation work. *Richard Graham, Churchwarden*

ST FRANCIS CHURCH

With Christmas just around the corner, it is time to think about our Prize Christmas Bingo with Turkey Bonanza. This year it is on Saturday 6 December and as usual, we are appealing for prizes. It is always a fun evening and there will be a draw for a festive hamper so donations for that could be a consideration, festive and seasonal items always gratefully received, or maybe something from the store cupboard.

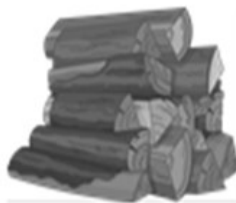
On Sunday 14 December we have our Christingle and Gift Service and as in previous years, we ask for gifts for all ages, unwrapped, which will go to the Salvation Army appeal.

Christmas is a time for giving and with things as they are right now, there are people who will be only too grateful for some Christmas cheer.

We have been very well supported at this time of year in the past and I am sure this year will be no different. So, as winter approaches, we at St Francis Church look forward to seeing you at our services and events.

Ruth Peberdy, Stawell Church Committee

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GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS

CHURCH

We held our annual Act of Remembrance in the church on 9 November. Attended by about a dozen residents, we paid our respects to all who suffer as a result of war, but especially those with connections to the village.

The next event in the church is the Christmas Singalong, which is on Sunday 21 December, starting at 5pm. For those who haven't been to one before, this is not a traditional Christmas Carol Service, but a collection of songs, readings and music with a Christmas/ winter theme. Carols will be sung and there will be a Bible reading recounting the events of the first Christmas but we hope it will have wider appeal. As always, we welcome suggestions of items to include and volunteers to read are especially appreciated. The evening will conclude with mince pies and mulled apple juice or cider.

PARISH MEETING

Now that wet weather has returned, the flood wardens are keeping an eye out to try to ensure water drains off the roads as fast as it arrives. Everyone can do their bit to help - if you see a drain is clogged with leaves, please do what you can to clear it (obviously, ensure you don't put yourself in any danger). If you can't sort it out, please let one of the flood wardens know: Toby & Georgie Crispin, Steve Butt and Sam Hearn. Georgie is the hub – you can phone her on 01458 210277 or 07751 119662.

VILLAGE HALL

Pub Nights continue to be very successful and the Fancy Fish and Chips van has added to their popularity. The next one is on Friday 5 December. Things generally get going at about 7pm and the fish and chips van arrives at about 8:30pm.

Saturday 6 December (not the 8th as I mistakenly said last month) is our Christmas Bingo Night in the village hall. Doors open at 6pm with eyes down about half an hour later. The quality of the prizes depends on the quality of the donations!

Alan and Toby will be walking around the Village the previous weekend (29/30 Nov) collecting donations for prizes. If you would like to donate (bottles, biscuits, chocolates etc are ideal), but are not going to be around, you can let us know and we can arrange collection at another time.

Finally, The Greinton Village Singers will be walking around the village on Tuesday 23 December singing carols as they go. We will meet at 4pm in front of the church and finish at Greinton House at 6pm. All are very welcome to join in – no musical expertise required! *Toby Crispin, greintonvillage@gmail.com*



MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

URGENT Church Treasurer Needed

Holy Cross Church needs a Treasurer not only to look after the books but also to advise on such matters as insurance and tax. This makes the work varied and interesting. a simple cash book. It is an excellent way of involving yourself in the village community.

More details on page 2.

To consider possibilities contact gill wilkinson: wilkiberri@outlook.com or Ian Campbell: meadowbank@btinternet.com

Remembrance

The Remembrance Sunday service on 9 November, led by Rev Deborah Kirk, was well attended. During the service fourteen village organisations laid wreaths adjacent to the memorial plaque in the church.

The church and porch were decorated with many hundreds of hand knitted poppies. This display was only possible with help of the village community. This year we added in the porch the beautiful warhorse adorned with 350 purple poppies to commemorate the horses and other animals which were killed during wars. The full story of how the display has been developed over several years can be read in the News section of the Diocese of Bath and Wells website.



Christmas Coffee Morning

A Christmas Coffee Morning to support the Holy Cross Bell Restoration Fund, featuring homemade treats and preserves, as well as pickles and other items for sale. Join us on Saturday 29 November from 10am-12:30pm at The Grange, 24 Main Road, Middlezoy; parking is available.

Ian Campbell, Churchwarden and Middlezoy PCC



MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE HALL

Middlezoy Community Project

The Oktoberfest was a big success, and we are planning to hold the event again next year.

We are also planning to redecorate the Village Hall in January, it was a number of years since this was done and is looking very tired.

The bar is going from strength to strength. We now have Orchard Rambler on draft and also Cruzcampo, along with our real ale (this changes every week). We also stock a large selection of other drinks.

The music quiz has now been moved to Saturday 31 January 2026 starting at 7.30pm. Teams of 6 - cost per team to be posted. There will be prizes. Bring your own nibbles. The bar will also be open from 7.00pm 'til late. For more details keep an eye on our Facebook pages. We will be listing all our future events along with our proposed events for 2026. We are hoping to put on several music events throughout 2026. On our Facebook pages are listed all the different food wagons that will be attending on Friday nights.

Looking ahead we will be open on Christmas eve when there will be carols and mince pies and then will be closed until Friday 2 January.

Our replacement decking fund is growing, and we hope to be in a position to start in the new year, ready for Friday summer evenings sitting on our new patio area looking over the Playing Field.

Do you need somewhere to hold a weekly class? Yoga, Pilates, Dance or Other?

Middlezoy Village Hall are currently offering your first 4 hours free when you sign up for 26 hours hire. Please email: middlezoyvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

We are still looking for more volunteers to help run and organise events for the future; if you would like to come along to one of our meetings, we hold them on the first Monday of every month starting at 7pm; we usually aim to finish no later than 8.30pm. If you can help, please contact me on 0776 0887 907. *Paul Baker, MCP Chair*

MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE COMMUNITY SHOP

As 2025 draws to a close, we're taking a moment to celebrate what has been a fabulous year for our little shop. It's been a year of growth, community spirit, and exciting new additions - including the opening of our new extension and the launch of our community bookstore. Alongside welcoming some lovely new volunteers, we've welcomed some great new suppliers, expanding our range of products to offer even more choice to our customers.

Over the festive season, we're spreading the Christmas cheer with something for everyone! Children can enjoy the fun of Santa's Lucky Dip, while grown-ups can indulge in delicious festive treats from Winnie's Bakery, Nicki's Cakes and Wessex County Gammons - and don't forget, we're taking orders for all your holiday favourites.

If you're looking for local gifts we're delighted to stock handmade treats from Somersata Designs and Somerset Chocolate. You'll also find a new mouth-watering range of jams and chutneys - perfect for gifts or festive feasting.

There will be a Foodbank donation box in the shop to enable us all to support those who need some extra help this Christmas.

We're investing in some sparkling new Christmas decorations this year, so the shop will be looking extra magical throughout the season.

To round off the year, we'll be throwing our annual Volunteer Christmas Party as a heartfelt thank-you to our amazing team of volunteers who make everything we do possible.

From all of us here, we wish our customers a very Happy Christmas and a Joyous New Year. Thank you for all your support throughout 2025.

Follow Middlezoy Village Shop and Middlezoy Post Office on Facebook for more updates and holiday opening hours. *Middlezoy Shop Committee*

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WEEKLY MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

As we get closer to Christmas we have visiting stallholders come along to our coffee morning. The dates for December are as follows:

Monday 1st - Rachel Smith with her bespoke handmade jewellery.

Monday 8th - Cath Radford with her array of handmade items.

Monday 15th - Our Christmas Coffee Morning where the schoolchildren from Othery/Middlezoy will entertain and our grand Christmas Raffle. Proceeds will be for the church bell fund and any donations of prizes would be gratefully received. We will also be presenting our annual donations to various village organisations.

Don't forget - Mondays 10am-11.45am at the Methodist Chapel Middlezoy. The first one for 2026 is 5 January. All are welcome.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Jill Darby (Co-ordinator)

MIDDLEZOY WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you to everyone who supported our brunch on Saturday 1 November. We made an astounding £500 for the church bell fund. The Senior Citizens Christmas Party on Saturday 6 December will be my first as Chairman. I look forward to seeing everyone for what we hope will be another great event. We are fortunate to have secured the Taunton Ukulele band for the entertainment. Lunch will be served promptly at 1pm.

If you are aged 60 or over and are a resident in the village and have not received an invite to the party, please contact me.

Diane Pacy, Chairman, 07557 784775, diane.pacy@yahoo.com



MIDDLEZOY METHODIST CHURCH

Peekaboo Gang

Our under 3s and carers group continues to meet on Friday mornings in term time, 10am-12noon. You will find a warm welcome, friendly chat and fun for the little ones. Thank you to Jean who helps me to welcome and host.

Our last Peekaboo before Christmas meets on Friday 19 December, and we return on Friday 9 January. We wish all our lovely mums, grans, and children a very Happy Christmas.

Soup and Sweet at the Chapel:

Thank you to all who came to the November lunch – although numbers were lower than usual, we made a good total through your generosity. Thank you!

Our next lunch will be on Monday 12 January, 1pm. (No soup lunch in December.) £7 for tasty soup, bread and cheese, and dessert. Look forward to seeing you!



December Services:

Sunday 14 December, at the later time of 5.30pm.

This will be the Village Nativity and Christingle Service – come along willing to take part in the 'Scratch Nativity' – lots of fun and memories. Finishing by lighting the Christingles and singing, before seasonal refreshments. Do come!! Wednesday 17 December at 3pm – Coffee and Carols at the Chapel. Come along to an informal time together over yummy festive treats. Choose your



favourite carols to sing as Celia plays, and listen to some Christmas readings. All welcome!

Sunday 21 December, 6pm – United Carol Service at Holy Cross church.

Sunday 28 December, 6.30pm – Service with Holy Communion, led by Revd Deborah Kirk.

Services for January on the back page of this magazine.

Booking the Methodist Church for your events:

Don't forget that the Chapel space and Back Room are available to hire – phone Jill Darby on 01823 698000.

Reverend Deborah Kirk

Superintendent Minister, Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit

Deputy Chair, SW Peninsula Methodist District 01823 334854

OTHERY VILLAGE NEWS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to all who contributed to the Othery collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal. The total from Othery was £387.04. I will have the poppies, poppy pins, lorry and car badges again next year. Thank you. *Pat Adamson*

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Open

The church is currently only open from 9am to 3.30pm, Mondays to Fridays during school term days and for services. Genuine visitors can phone 07714 672316 to arrange for access at other times.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The village's annual Remembrance Sunday service was held in St Michael's church on 9 November and village organisations laid wreaths at the War Memorial plaque in the church. after the national two minutes silence at 11am exactly.

The service was led by the Reverends David and Chrystabel Ager and afterwards refreshments were served in the Church Room.

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

The time is fast approaching for us once more to tell the story of Jesus's birth through our Crib and Carol



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Service at 3pm on Christmas Eve at St Michael's Othery. It's always a delightful occasion with the older children telling the Christmas story as the younger children build the nativity scene and we all join in singing the carols. Everyone is welcome.

We are as usual hoping to involve children and young people who would like to take part in the service. There will be some readings for young people and older children (8 years old and above) and younger children may like to help build the nativity scene in the stable by carrying a crib figure.

If your child/children would like to participate please contact Lesley on lesleystanford@live.co.uk or Isobel on isobeldav@gmail.com or 01823 698119 so that we can try to include everyone who would like to take part.

We will not be borrowing costumes this year but if any children wish to dress up in their own nativity related costume however simple it would all add to the occasion.

Isobel Davis



CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for a few new volunteers to help clean St Michael's Church on a rota basis. Over the years some have moved away, others have retired and we could do with some new blood to help make it easier for everyone. If you could spare an hour or two every now and then to keep our historic church clean and welcoming please get in touch for more information.

Isobel Davis, 01823 698119
isobeldav@gmail.com

OTHERY BOOK GROUP

***The Land in Winter* by Andrew Miller**

The novel is set in England's rural West Country during the memorably harsh winter of 1962. It focuses on two newly married couples, neighbours in a village some distance away from family and friends. They were each content to leave these people behind as they started new lives together.

Eric Parry, a GP, lives in a comfortable cottage with his wife, Irene. Across a field from them are Bill and Rita

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Simmons who are attempting to make a living from their recently purchased small dairy farm, although neither have any background in farming. Previously city dwellers, the four come from different backgrounds and carry with them pasts shadowed by the actions and expectations of parents and by war that lives on in scarred memories.

As the story develops, we're offered versions of events from alternating viewpoints, the timeline gradually moving forward from December to February. The first of the events is the suicide of a young man in the local asylum, a patient of Dr Parry. Further events include an affair, a party, and journeys to cities where pasts are revisited. However the story is mostly a study of characters and their development.

The sixties (Turkish Delight and Woodbine cigarettes), people expected to maintain the veneer of all being well, resonate and Miller thoughtfully explores prejudice towards foreigners, Jews and the mentally ill. His writing can be moving, funny and insightful and in my view is always good. The novel was shortlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize.

The opinions of the reading group ranged widely: from disparagement, (the writing, characters and plot), to tepid, disappointment at an unresolved ending, through to wholehearted enthusiasm and even to a page by page epiphany.

January's book is 'Long Island' by Colm Toibin, which will be discussed at our next meeting on Wednesday 6 January. *Liz Wall*

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ROOM

A Coffee Morning is held in St Michael's Church Room every Tuesday between 10am and 12 noon.

This is run as a weekly Warm Space with free hot drinks and biscuits although donations are very welcome. This space has been added to the Warm Space register. We can offer tea, hot chocolate and a variety of coffee including cappuccino and latte so there is something to suit everyone's taste.

We also have a selection of home-made marmalade and sometimes chutney! There is a selection of books for sale (25p per book) with a variety of authors and a lending library of jigsaw puzzles for those of you who fancy a challenge.

This is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and relax for a while, so please do join us – you'll be made very welcome. *Scilla Tempest*



OTHERY VILLAGE HALL

Our second annual Beer Fest was held on 14 November. Thank you to everyone who attended and made the evening such a success. A great evening was had with not one but two bands and many local brewery ales to try. Thank you to Paul and Julie Willis for providing the sausages for the occasion.

Now to our next event – the annual Village Christmas Party open to everyone, with a special visitor in attendance! Please see below for the details. On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, we wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all at one of our many planned events in 2026!

Save these special dates

Sunday 7 December – Village Christmas Party – 4pm to 7pm

Keep an eye out on the noticeboard, facebook and posters for our planned 2026 events



including many live music nights – acts already booked include Not like the Others, Snappa, Twisted Vinyl, Levi and the Bean and many others. We continue to attract a great variety of food vendors on our Friday nights. Details are sent out on Facebook and Instagram or contact a committee member for more info.

Regular events

Friday night social from 7pm including happy hour (and a half) on the first Friday of the month – enjoy 50% off!

Pilates, Western Front Association, Short Mat Bowls, Little Pickles and Somerset Levels Stargazers as advertised on the village hall website. Adults only Bingo – third Wednesday of the month (organised by Gemini Carnival Club) – keep an eye out for signage.

If you have some time available and would like to help with running the bar, setting up/ clearing away for events or even putting up posters round the village then please don't hesitate to contact us.

Rachael Selway, Secretary, Othery Village Hall Management Committee Tel: 07456 653252

Email: otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk

BENEFICE, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN ITEMS

PROCESSES WHILE WE ARE IN VACANCY

The Churchwardens are the people to contact for arranging Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals during the vacancy of the post of Priest-in-Charge for the United Benefice of MOMSS&G. Details of normal regular services are being arranged with the Area Dean and will be published as usual in this magazine and on posters. *UB Churchwardens*

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS

Open Daily

The United Benefice churches in Middlezoy and Stawell are open daily for private prayer; see their notice boards for their opening times. Othery church is currently only open from 9am to 3.30pm, Mondays to Fridays during school term days and services. Genuine visitors can phone 07714 672316 to arrange for access at other times.

BENEFICE/MIDDLEZOY PRAYER GROUP

Please do not think you have to be a member of the local churches as we are very willing to pray for anyone who asks. The prayer group feel it is needed so please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing middlezoyprayers@gmail.com then the group are informed of the request and the prayers are included in those individuals' prayer time.

Every prayer request is treated with confidentiality and respect.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch as we are here to listen and help.

The Prayer Group

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

Lucy Jane Barnard and Edward John Barnard were baptised at Holy Cross Church, Middlezoy on 12 October. The service was led by Rev Keith Powell.

Death

June Burrows, formerly of Middlezoy, passed away in Burnham aged 94. The funeral service was held at Sedgemoor Crematorium on 19 November.

BISHOP'S LETTER CHRISTMAS JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE

We fear that we live in a world of increasing polarisation. Conflicts between and within nations play their part. The amplification of division and hostility by social media algorithms doesn't help. Culture wars exacerbate matters further. Sometimes it feels like common ground is disappearing from underneath our feet like a sandbar being overwhelmed by the tide.

In such a climate, it's good to return to the message that heralded the arrival of Jesus. 'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people' says that angel who announces the saviour's birth (Luke 2:10). Jesus' story quickly includes all types and sorts of humanity. From local shepherds to exotic visitors from afar. I wonder what the conversation was like as they all crammed into the stable to see the newborn child?

Jesus's story quickly shows that not only is he for all people but that he needs all people. His family must have needed assistance when they fled as refugees to Egypt. Jesus must have needed help when his parents left him behind on a family outing to Jerusalem aged twelve. Jesus was constantly calling on and engaging with others as he went about his teaching and ministry.

What might counter the polarisation of our day? Amongst our greatest resource is to seek out the emotion that accompanied the news of the saviour's birth – joy. When we encounter joy – from that cup winning goal to the marriage of much loved friends – such moments are never the time for division and enmity. We're all far too busy shouting and hugging each other! The invitation of Christmas is to experience such joy afresh. Often, we see joy most obviously in children's experience of the season. Might we seek it for ourselves too? For joy breaks down divisions, overcomes barriers, reminds us that we are one.

'I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be for all people' says the angel. A very merry and joyful Christmas to you all. + Michael

Rt Rev Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells



A THRILL OF HOPE, THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES

AROUND AND ABOUT - BEYOND THE BENEFICE

THE ARTS SOCIETY SEDGEMOOR (TASS)

December meeting

The Arts Society Sedgemoor meeting in December is on Wednesday the 3rd in Woolavington Village Hall starting at 1.30pm with refreshments before the talk by our Guest Speaker. Unfortunately there is a change from the previously advertised speaker so we will welcome Kirsty Hartiotis who will talk about *Christmas Ghosts, Traditions and Winter Tales*. Visitors are very welcome (but we do charge a modest £6 to help cover expenses). Further information about TASS can be found at <https://www.theartssocietysedgemoor.org.uk>
Jean Reynolds

MUSIC ON THE LEVELS

Music on the Levels announces details of the free concert with Secret Seven on Sunday 25 January 2026 in St Mary's Church, Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP. The concert starts at 3pm and refreshments are available at modest charge from 2.15pm.

Secret Seven is a Somerset-based band that has been gigging locally for the past few years. It is a collection of musicians from the following bands: Ultra Vinyl, The Haus Band, The Somerset Shadows, Louis and the Iguanas, DVO and The Original Barn Finds.

The repertoire ranges from Neil Sedaka to 10cc; Caro Emerald to Carole King and The Doobie Brothers to The Shadows.

"Enjoy tastefully curated music from the 1960s to the 2000s" says Rich Brown, one of the seven musicians in the band.

Arrangements for this concert

There is limited parking on the road by the church but there is additional parking at Somerset Young Farmers on School Road TA7 0LN. Visitors are asked not to park in Church Lane as this prevents resident access.

There is no need to book as the church's capacity have never yet been exceeded. However, it should be noted that seats are available on a first come, first served basis.

In order to help with the artists' and other costs a raffle is held. In addition, donations are encouraged. It costs over £400 to put on a concert. The Performing Rights Society is supporting this event with their Charity discount.

For further information contact:
Frank Challenger 01278 699071
email: f.challenger@icloud.com



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Ashcott and Pedwell	7.30pm	3rd Thursday	Ashcott Village Hall, TA7 9PZ.
Shapwick Starlets	7.30pm	2nd Tuesday	Village Hall, Station Road, TA7 9NJ.
Westonzoyland	7.30pm	2nd Wednesday	Village Hall, Cheer Lane, TA7 0EZ.

WIs near us

Local times can vary so it is best to contact to Somerset Federation before attending for the first time 01278 287034.

Westonzoyland WI

For any further information please email: zoywisec@gmail.com or call Gill Wilkinson on 01823 698429 Gill Wilkinson



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Answer to question on page 5 David Shepherd's most famous quirk was his habit of lifting one foot off the ground whenever the score reached 111 that being regarded as unlucky by Shepherd in a ritual dating back to his childhood cricket team days. The number 111 is known as the 'Nelson' and is considered unlucky for the batsman. He would also tie a matchstick to a finger on Friday 13th so he would be touching wood to bring good luck all day.

Early Medieval Yule Tide Riddles

{One}

What speaks in all languages in his riding, and his mouth spits the poison of life or death?

It is silent when it rests, and is deaf like a boy or one of the poor.

{Two}

What is the sister of the sun, though made for the night?

The fire causes her tears to fall, and when she is near dying they cut off her head.

{Three}

What is it that's blind with an eye in it's head, but the race of mankind it's use cannot spare;

spends all it's life in clothing the dead, but always itself is naked and bare?

{Four}

An eater lacking mouth and even maw; yet trees and beasts to it are daily bread.

Well fed it thrives and shows a lively life, but give it water and you do it dead.

{Five}

Tell me, what is that fills the sky and the whole earth and tears up new shoots, and shakes all foundations, but cannot be seen by eyes or touched by hands?

{Six}

I have one and you have one. So do the woods, fields, streams and seas, fish, beasts and crops and everything else in the revolving world.

(Answers on page 26)



CHRISTMAS JOKES TO MAKE YOU GROAN!

- What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot? "Get out of my face."
- What do you call an old snowman? Water.
- What is green, covered in Christmas lights and Christmas bulbs, and goes ribbit? A mistle-toad.
- What is every parent's favourite Christmas song? Silent Night!
- How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth? They had a weigh in the manger.
- What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? "It's Christmas, Eve!"
- What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? "I'll never part with it!"
- What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!
- What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? Wait, there's myrrh.
- What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.

USEFUL INFORMATION

FOODBANKS

DONATION POINTS

Middlezoy: Holy Cross Church, Village Coffee Mornings or Meadowbank, 11a Main Road.

Othery: St Michael's Church Porch.

Moorlinch: Spring Cottage, Pit Hill Lane, Moorlinch or St Mary's Church Porch

Stawell: The Old Post Office, Stawell

Cash Donation: By contacting the relevant Foodbank you can make either a single or a regular donation. If you are in a position to give via Gift Aid, the Foodbank will be able to claim back the tax you have paid on this.

To obtain assistance from a Foodbank you need a referral from Citizens Advice Bureau Somerset, St Mary's House, Magdalene Street, Taunton, TA1 1SB, (08082 787842) or your Village Agent, local GP surgery, schools, health visitors and social workers.

Bridgwater Foodbank can be contacted by email info@bridgwater.foodbank.org.uk or phone 01278 434636 or 07804 119273 (Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays). They will help put you in touch with one of the agencies that can help with a referral.

Langport Cares email: langportcares/foodbank@gmail.com

The Glastonbury Community Fridge is organised by the charity Love Glastonbury. It is situated at Town Hall, Magdalene Street, Glastonbury and is open daily 9am - 4pm. Help yourself to food, there is no charge.

There are no contact details, other than by Facebook: search for Glastonbury Fridge. Love Glastonbury also runs a Community Pantry with a wide range of food items and toiletries, based in Abbey Mews, off Silver Street. The Pantry is open Wednesday 1pm to 4pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm. Just come along and pick 10 items for a suggested voluntary donation of £2.50.

DEFIBRILLATOR MACHINES

At scene, assess - is casualty breathing? Call 999 and ask for Ambulance. Start CPR if needed. Call handler will advise of defibrillator location and may give a lockbox code. Clearly inform a helper to fetch machine, giving location with any lockbox code and to take a phone. Return without delay.

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Middlezoy, Broadfield Park

TA7 0PH

SC0255

Middlezoy Chapel

TA7 0NZ

SC0253

Middlezoy Village Hall

TA7 0PG

SC0254 (machine at car park end)

Moorlinch Farm

TA7 9BU

Othery Village Hall

TA7 0QU

Stawell Village Hall

TA7 9AD

(not locked)

Sutton Mallet Telephone Kiosk

TA7 9AT

(not locked)



HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Some Garden Waste Collection Days have changed – see article on page ??

The schedules for the MOMSS & G area are:

MIDDLEZOY

Recycling Boxes, every week:

Wednesdays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 December 7, 14, 21, 28 January

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:

Wednesdays 3, 24 December, 14 January, 4 February

Garden Waste Bins, every other week:

Mondays 8, 22 December, 19 January, 2 February

OTHERY

Recycling Boxes, every week:

Fridays 5, 12, 19, Sunday 28 December, Saturday 3, Fridays 9, 16, 23, 30 January

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:

Friday 12 December, Saturday 3, Friday 23 January

Garden Waste Bins, every other week:

Mondays 8, 22 December, 19 January, 2 February

MOORLINCH, STAWELL, SUTTON MALLEY & GREINTON

Recycling Boxes, every week:

Wednesdays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 December, 7, 14, 21, 28 January

Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:

Wednesdays 3, 24 December, 14 January 4 February

Garden Waste Bins, every other week:

Fridays 12 December, 9, 23 January

RECYCLING CENTRES

Winter opening times (October – March)

All 16 Somerset recycling sites open at weekends. 9am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

9am to 5pm weekdays.

Full details of each site, location, opening times, materials they will accept etc. can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre/>

MOBILE LIBRARY

Taunton Area, Route P

The service continues every 4 weeks on Fridays:

Next visits: 28 November, 9 January, 6 February

Stawell Village Hall 10.10am - 10.40am

Moorlinch Tapmoor Road Junction 10.55am - 11.15am

Middlezoy Main Road Bus Stop 12.20pm – 12.50pm

For further information about reading books online contact Libraries Direct on 0300 123 2224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

Early Medieval Yule Tide Riddles - Answers

{One}	A pen
{Two}	A candle
{Three}	A needle
{Four}	Fire
{Five}	Wind
{Six}	Shadow



The Common Worship (Year A) readings and lessons for the following services:

DATE	SEASON	READINGS
<u>December</u>	2nd Sunday of Advent	OT: Isaiah, chapter 11, verses 1 to 10 Psalm: 72, verses 1 to 7 Epistle: Romans, chapter 15, verses 4 to 13 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 3, verses 1 to 12
7 Sun		
14 Sun	3rd Sunday of Advent	OT: Isaiah, chapter 35, verses 1 to 10 Psalm: 146, verses 4 to 10 Epistle: James, chapter 5, verses 7 to 10 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 11, verses 2 to 11
21 Sun	4th Sunday of Advent	OT: Isaiah, chapter 7, verses 10 to 16 Psalm: 80, verses 1 to 8 Epistle: Romans, chapter 1, verses 1 to 7 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18 to 25 (the end)
24 Wed	Midnight Mass Set I	OT: Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 2 to 7 Psalm: 96 Epistle: Titus, chapter 2, verses 11 to 14 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 1 to 20
25 Thu	Christmas Day Set III	OT: Isaiah, chapter 52, verses 7 to 10 Psalm: 98 Epistle: Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 1 to 12 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 14
28 Sun	1st Sunday of Christmas	OT: Isaiah, chapter 63, verses 7 to 9 Psalm: 148, verses 7 to 14 (the end) Epistle: Hebrews, chapter 2, verses 10 to 18 (the end) Gospel: Matthew, chapter 2, verses 13 to 23
January 2026	2nd Sunday of Christmas	OT: Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 7 to 14 Psalm: 147, verses 13 to 21 (the end) Epistle: Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 3 to 14 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 18
4 Sun		
11 Sun	The Joint Covenant service	OT 1 (Law): Deuteronomy, chapter 29, verses 9 to 15 OT 2 (Prophets): Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31 to 34 Epistle: Romans, chapter 12, verses 1 and 2 Gospel: John, chapter 15, verses 1 to 17
18 Sun	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Isaiah, chapter 49, verses 1 to 7 Psalm: 40, verses 1 to 12 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 1 to 9 Gospel: John, chapter 1, verses 29 to 42
25 Sun	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	OT: Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 1 to 4 Psalm: 27, verses 1 to 12 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 10 to 18 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 12 to 23

MOMSS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please advise momsseditor@live.co.uk of amendments/additions

ANGLICAN CHURCH INFORMATION

Priest-in-charge: Vacancy

Contact your village Churchwarden or contact person listed below

United Benefice Readers

Pauline Davies 01278 451280 and Richard Graham 01278 722284

Parish Auxiliary Lay Minister

Ruth Peberdy (Stawell)

Churchwardens

Middlezoy: Ian Campbell 01823 698790

Othery: Anthony Betty 07801 233676

Moorlinch: Fiona Hixon 07767 763628

Stawell: Richard Graham 01278 722284

Sutton Mallet contact: Brian Lishman 01278 722579

Greinton contact: Jean Heywood 01458 210497

METHODIST CHAPEL MIDDLEZOY

Minister: Rev Deborah Kirk 01823 334854

Local Contact: Jill Darby jilldrb@gmail.com 01823 698000

Bookings: <https://middlezoychapeluk.wordpress.com/bookings/> or Jill Darby (above)

PARISH COUNCILS/MEETINGS

Middlezoy—Chairman: Paul Baker 01823 698082

Othery—Chairman: Andrew Tizzard 01823 690284

Moorlinch—Meeting Clerk: Richard Hennah email: themoorlinchclerk@gmail.com

Stawell and Sutton Mallet—Clerk: Mr Chris Fry 07796 794037

Greinton—Enquiries: Toby Crispin 01458 210227

VILLAGE AMENITIES

Middlezoy: The George Inn 01823 698215;

Shop 01823 587222 open Mon to Fri 8.30 am-1.00pm and 3.00pm-5.00pm

Sat 8.45am-12 noon;

P.O. 01823 698981 open Mon to Fri 8.30am to 1.00pm,

Middlezoy Village Hall 07885 195418

Othery: School 01823 698464; Othery Village Hall 01823 690482

Moorlinch: Ring O'Bells 01458 210358; Church Hall 01458 210755

Stawell & Sutton Mallet: Village Hall 01278 723665

Greinton: Village Hall 01458 210277

POLICE: Emergencies only tel: 999 ; Non emergencies tel: 101

CRIMESTOPPERS: 8am-10pm Weekdays 0800 555111;

NHS: Tel: 111

DISTRICT PCSOs: Georgia Coles 07889 659466; Tom Russell 07935 013566

VILLAGE AGENTS

To contact a Village Agent ring 01823 331222 and they will find the most suitable person to deal with your query. Referrals can also be made via doctors' surgeries.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Many hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God had promised that he would send a saviour to our world. This promise was recorded and written down by messengers to whom God revealed the future. The saviour would be called 'Messiah' or 'Christ'; both words mean 'Chosen One'.

And so it was that a young Jewish woman called Mary gave birth to her firstborn son in Bethlehem.

Because of the chaos caused by the census, Mary and Joseph had nowhere to stay except a stable, so Mary wrapped her newborn son up tight, and used a manger for a cot.

That same night, in the fields around Bethlehem, some local shepherds were guarding their flocks.

Without warning, the darkness exploded into blazing light, and an angel stood before them. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel said, 'Don't be scared! Listen up! Good news! Joy to the whole world! This very night your Saviour - everyone's Saviour! - has been born right here in Bethlehem.

He'll be easy to spot - he's the only newborn baby you'll find in an animal's feeding trough.'

In an instant, the angel was joined by countless others, singing, 'God's glory is splashed across the skies, and his peace has come to earth - peace to all who find favour with him.'

As suddenly as the angels had appeared, the night sky was empty again. The shepherds jumped up, left everything, and hurried off to Bethlehem, where they found the very scene the angel had described - Mary and Joseph, with their baby, lying in a feeding trough. What a story they had to tell - and tell it they did, to everyone who would listen!


(A Fresh Retelling of Matt 1:1-4, Luke 2:6-19)



**The United Benefice Ministry Team
and the MOMSS magazine committee
wish you all a very Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year**



SERVICES CHART FOR CHAPEL AND UB CHURCHES DECEMBER & JANUARY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
December 7 Sun (2nd of Advent)	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy
14 Sun (3rd of Advent)	9.30 am 10.00 am 5.00 pm 5.30 pm	Breakfast Café Christingle Service Christingle Reimagined service Village Nativity Service	The Church Room, Othery St Francis, Stawell St Mary's, Moorlinch Methodists Chapel, Middlezoy
19 Fri	7.00 pm	Village Carol Service	St Francis, Stawell
21 Sun (4th of Advent)	10.00 am 2.30 pm 6.00 pm	Prayer and Praise Carol Service Village Carol Service	St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch Holy Cross, Middlezoy
24 Wed (Christmas Eve) 	3.00 pm 3.00 pm 3.00 pm 6.00 pm 11.30 pm	Crib service Carols and Crib service Crib service Carol Service United Benefice Midnight Communion service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Francis, Stawell Sutton Mallet Church St Francis, Stawell
25 Thu (Christmas Day)	10.00 am	United Benefice Christmas Communion service	St Michael's, Othery
28 Sun (1st of Christmas)	10.00 am 6.30 pm	United Benefice Communion Service Circuit Communion Service	St Mary's, Moorlinch Methodist Chapel, Middlezoy
January 2026 4 Sun (2nd of Christmas)	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Worship For All Prayer and Praise Morning Prayer Morning Worship	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell
11 Sun (1st of Epiphany)	10.30 am	Joint Covenant service with Methodist Chapel and United Benefice members	Methodist Chapel, Middlezoy
18 Sun (2nd of Epiphany)	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion Service	St Francis, Stawell
25 Sun (3rd of Epiphany)	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Winter Breakfast Café Prayer and Praise Morning Worship Circuit Communion Service	St Mary's, Moorlinch St Michael's, Othery St Francis, Stawell Methodist Chapel, Middlezoy
February 1 Sun (4th of Epiphany)	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion Service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy 