

MOMSS MAGAZINE



The Lane after rain
Drawing by Anne Farmer
(1944 - 2024)

FEBRUARY 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 & 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 and Isobel Davis.

Editor this month: Anita Winslade

Compiler this month: Isobel Davis

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 momssgeditor@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 momssgeditor@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.

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 expected fairly imminent reorganisation of the benefice, the MOMSS magazine will no longer contain commercial advertisements.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our advertisers who have supported us over the years and have helped enable this magazine to be distributed free throughout our villages.

MOMSS Account details

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DON'T FORGET !
March 2026 edition deadlines:
Articles 15 February

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Another year has ended and a new one started. Like time, people have come and gone. Some from one relationship to another, some from one job to another, some from one home to another, some from this world to another. A time of joy and a time of sorrow as we look back and look forward. Changes have already happened and changes are ahead. We need to accept them and adapt as necessary. Whatever joys and triumphs, whatever sorrows and disappointments, the year and humanity goes on and takes us with it.

Many years ago my youngest son, Timothy, went to Lourdes three times. On his first visit he brought home and gave to us a small gilded statuette of the Madonna and a flagon of Lourdes water (we used the water as required). On his second visit he brought home and gave to us a wood and gilded metal crucifix. On his third and final visit he brought home and gave to us a small ornate wooden door plaque with these French words on it: "*Petite est la maison, Grand est notre Coeur*" meaning "Small is the house, Big is our heart". Treasured items and an understanding by Tim of our love for him and his older brother Ralph, for all branches of our family, for neighbours and for friends wherever they are. Sadly Tim died when he was 18 but he did enjoy life as much as he could with support from so many people.

Several years ago someone else gave us a small cushion with these words embroidered on it: "Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave and impossible to forget" – so very true. I am so grateful for the love and support I have from my family, friends and neighbours.

Reading through what I have already written I realise that the purpose of my letter this month is to give you a chance to ponder, reflect, be mindful of the way forward, to experience, to feel - there are people within reach who could be in need of your help and friendship or are willing and available to do something for you. Seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you – have courage to engage.

While you are in motion I recommend reading all the contents of this edition as you may find something to please, something to annoy, something to learn, something that makes you realise that you could teach something different to someone else. All our contributors freely send us their items – it would be a waste if their work is ignored.

Sincerely, Anita.

Anita Winslade, Editor

GENERAL ITEMS

SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS

On Wednesday 18 February we move our monthly meeting to nearby Middlezoy Village Hall, Nethermoor Road, TA7 0PG.

Here we will hold our yearly free public event, being an evening of talks, activities and stargazing. In conjunction with the Campaign to Protect Rural England, along with Jo Richardson of Space Detectives and astrophotography expert Josh Dury, we explore the importance of protecting our precious night sky from unnecessary light pollution obscuring the wonders above. Refreshments available for a donation. For more details

or to be added to the Stargazers mailing list please contact
somesetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com Follow us on Facebook.

Paul Adamson, 01823 698156

SKY AT NIGHT February

Sunrise Sunset: Beginning of February 7.48am-5.02pm. End of February 6.58am-5.50pm.

Moon Phases: Full Moon 1st / Last Quarter 9th / New Moon 17th / First Quarter 24th.

Planets: Saturn sits above the far western horizon at sunset and then sets at 8pm.

Jupiter still shines brightly in the evening sky, not setting until the early morning hours.

Venus has now journeyed around the Sun and becomes an evening object mid-month dominating the south-west sky at sunset and setting just before 8pm.

Constellation

Looking to the lower left of the Constellation of Orion you will see a very bright star twinkling in the winter sky. This star is Sirius in the Constellation of Canis Major the Great Dog. This is one of Orion's two hunting dogs, the other being Canis Minor the Lesser Dog which is located above Canis Major and contains another bright star Procyon. Sirius is one of the closest stars to earth, the light taking only just over 8 light-years to reach us (the light from the Sun takes 8 minutes!!) The reason Sirius twinkles and shimmers is because being quite low on the horizon its light is bent by the Earth's turbulent atmosphere causing a shimmering effect.



Phenomena

On the 28th find the Moon, then using any binoculars you have to hand look just below and you will see a collection of stars very close together. This is the Beehive Star Cluster, so called because it actually does resemble a swarm of bees.

Paul Adamson, 01823 698156

MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS

The start of a new year in primary school is always special as it offers the chance to reflect, reset and look forward with hope and excitement. As the classrooms fill with laughter and curiosity once again, January offers an opportunity for pupils and staff alike to embrace fresh beginnings and set positive intentions for the months ahead.

For children, the new year is a time to build on achievements, explore new topics and strengthen friendships. Teachers, too, look forward to inspiring young minds, fostering resilience and creating a nurturing environment where every child feels valued and supported. It's a season of possibility-where goals are set, dreams are encouraged and the learning adventure continues.

At the heart of our school remains the same aim which is to develop happy, healthy and curious learners who are ready to make a positive difference in the world. To support this, we are busy planning enrichment opportunities for the children. To start this off we have two sporting opportunities. The children in year 4 will be travelling to Yeovil for additional hockey coaching once a week and we will be welcoming Premier Sport into school to teach us all some skills in fencing.

With our very best wishes for the year ahead, the Middlezoy and Othery School Team.

Lindsay Hayward, Headteacher

Middlezoy and Othery Primary School 01823 698465



INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING (ICV) SCHEME

Have you ever wondered what goes on in a Police Custody suite where individuals who have been arrested are detained? Avon and Somerset Police have three Custody suites, Patchway, Keynsham and Bridgwater where the detainees are kept while decisions are made about what happens next.



The average time a person is held in police custody in the UK

is approximately 14 hours, but some are held for longer, the limits governed by PACE 1984. Understandably most are scared and disorientated at being held in a bare cell with all personal possessions removed. Some are ill, some confused or inebriated, some (not too many) are angry, some pleased to be off the street and accessing a bed, food and shower but most just want to leave a.s.a.p.

I have just retired after a decade of visits in Bridgwater as an Independent Custody Visitor where I observed and reported on the conditions in which detainees were being held. I have been trained to conduct unannounced visits to the police station to check on the welfare of those people being held in custody. My role has been to ensure that the individual's rights were understood and respected, that they had access to medical care, legal advice and adequate food and drink. The purpose of these visits was to drive improvements in custody welfare where the wellbeing and dignity of detainees is assured. Over the past decade I witnessed improvements in keeping people safe through access to mental health, alcohol and drug services, children and vulnerable adults placed in adapted and less claustrophobic cells, the needs of female detainees sensitively considered, neurodiversity better understood and the care and safety of the detainees becoming the norm. For those individuals where English is a second language, language apps are now used ensuring that staff can communicate and explain the legal process to the detainee. Frustration can build as time passes slowly so supplies of books and magazines, distraction toys and reading glasses can help.

It is VERY hard to be kept in a small cell for any length of time and it is important to identify possible risks and minimise distress. Staff will assess an individual's level of risk and allocate them an Observation Level ranging from every half hour to constant watch. Statistics show that those most at risk of harm will be inebriated through alcohol and will be put on Rouse and Respond but it is important to recognise anyone can self-harm. Being arrested and detained is a traumatic experience and emotions run high. People may be interested to know that 84% of detainees in 2024 were male and over three-quarters were white. The most common reason for arrest and detention was violence (Home Office Official Statistics ending March 2024). Most are released on bail or with no further action, with the more serious cases taken to Court. Everyone interviewed by an ICV is understood to be innocent until due process has established guilt.

Every Police Force in England has a legal duty to run an ICV scheme in order to keep detainees safe and it is run by the Crime Commissioners Office. To be a volunteer you must be at least 18 years old, live or work in the locality and be available to attend one visit per month and four meetings per year. It is vital and satisfying work that really makes a difference for both staff and detainees.

Carrie Skinner

FARM DIARY

This written for non-farmers who live surrounded by farmland.

In the Field. We have had some rain recently and the field drains have been running occasionally. However, there are still cracks on the moor ground. In 2025, it was the first time this author had ever seen our moor rhynes dry during the summer or the winter. Requests to our Internal Drainage Board rep to fill these by letting water back in from the King's Sedgemoor Drain fell on stony ground. The big question is by how much the land level has fallen through oxidation of the underlying peat or through its contraction. The lambs are growing very well on the herbal ley which is an SFI (Sustainable Farm Initiative) option we have embraced. Thank you to the current government for this support even if they have yet to decide how to support farmers nurturing peat ground. We are receiving about £3/kg live weight which is equivalent to about £6/kg for the meat on the hook. Sainsbury sells UK leg of lamb for about £20/kg.

Rewilding. An estate in West Sussex has recently had a survey of results after about 20 years of rewilding. It has gone well for the wildlife. It is 3,500 acres and this author wondered how the ownership of the estate is structured because under the new inheritance (IHT) rules due to come in April the government wants about 20% of its value every 40 years or so if it is privately owned. If it is owned by an organisation there is no IHT. The estate has done exceptionally well with a multitude of business activities including some food production.

Land use. As mentioned before when the mother of one of our tennis players was refused planning permission for an hotel and some houses on fields near-by, she was incandescent and could not understand it as there are plenty more “sodding” fields. This is a difficult one but land available for crops is declining all the time. Anyone interested in food security??

Richard Graham

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be held in Othery Village Hall on Wednesday 11 February at 7.30pm.

The talk will be *The Raid on Zeebrugge* given by video storyteller and founder of 'Historiographer' Josh Bassett. Many will have seen him at Somerton Art Festivals for the last few years and know how well researched his work is.

This talk explains the heroic raid to prevent German U Boats accessing the North Sea through the port of Zeebrugge, by the use of old Navy ships sunk into the mouth of the canal. The raid was initially successful but at a large cost to the attacking Royal Marines and Royal Navy. Subsequently the Germans were able to move the block ships and dredge a route out of the canal but this could only be used at high tide. Among the 200 plus gallantry awards were eight Victoria Crosses indicating the ferocity of the raid. Everyone is welcome to our meetings. We ask for a donation of £5 towards our speaker and hall costs. This will get you not only a good talk but a free mug of tea or coffee and a free ticket for the raffle. We hope to see you there.

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

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 February.

Groups

Monday Pilates with Sarah 10am - 11am

Monday Keep Fit with Liza 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday Yoga with Clare 7pm - 8.15pm

Wednesday Dog training with Sophie 5pm - 7pm

Thursday Art Group 7pm - 9pm

Friday Yoga with Clare 10am - 11.15am

Events for February

Saturday 14th Hub cafe 10.30am - 1pm

Saturday 14th Film night 7pm for 7.30pm start showing *The Good Liar*

Monday 16th Whist afternoon 2pm - 4pm

Saturday 21st Hub Pub 7pm - 11pm with Thai Catering in attendance.

More information will be on the village website in due course



Maxine Hughes, Chairperson

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 31 January the monthly coffee morning is at Denise Rogers' Holly Tree House. From 10am 'til 12 noon.

Saturday 28 February the monthly coffee morning is being held at Grenfell Farm by kind permission of Karen Wyatt. From 10am 'til 12 noon. All are welcome and feel free to bring a donation for the pot to help the church look after its 800-year-old building amongst other costs.

Richard Graham, Churchwarden



STAWELL AND MOORLINCH PCC

Wednesday 4 February at 5pm the Moorlinch and Stawell PCC meets for one of its four annual times.

Richard Graham, Churchwarden

ST FRANCIS CHAPELRY REPAIRS

You will have seen the scaffolding. We are engaged in our first, for many years, major repairs. The east end of the building is being repointed as necessary, the coping stones are being removed and replaced if necessary and put back after a second secret gutter is put in on the north side to match the south side of the church. Also, the east face of the tower is being repointed and the join with the nave roof is being done correctly. Two outside doors are being renovated. Some other minor works also. This is a big expense and we are funding it through two legacies we have been saving. One from Peggy Blythe, a worshipper who used to live at Carisbrooke House until her husband died. The other is from George Mogg. The Mogg family lived for many years at No. 1 Western Cottage near the original site of the phone box. The family's daughter Pam played the organ for church services for many years. Together with these two legacies, we are also the recipients of a generous anonymous donation to complete these works.

This is an attempt to keep the church available for residents and for worshippers as it has been for about 800 years. On Sundays, we have a sing, say some prayers and then have a coffee and a biscuit. Feel free to join us. *Richard Graham, Churchwarden*

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

Christmastide

A huge thank you to all those who supported our church at Christmas, from donations for prizes to the Christmas Bingo and for items donated for the Christmas Hamper, which was won by Janet Scowcroft. Christmas Bingo has become very popular over the years and is reflected in the amount of money raised for the roof repairs so desperately needed, approximately £380.

At the Christingle and Gift Service at the beginning of the month, a good number of gifts were donated which were directed to the Salvation Army for their appeal. Our Carol Service by candlelight was very well attended and we all enjoyed the mince pies and mulled wine at the end of it.

Denise Rogers and her youth group led the crib service on Christmas Eve. We did not have a donkey but Angus, the Newfoundland dog was a worthy stand in, well behaved, and seemingly a bit puzzled about all the attention he was receiving. At the end of the service, we tucked in to mini mince pies made by Denise.

Denise is such an asset to our village. She also arranges our coffee mornings, not to mention being an active member of the Village Hall Committee. We thank her for all her support.



Angus, substitute Donkey



Preparing for the service

This year, the midnight Holy Communion by candlelight took place at our church, led by Reverend Jane Durham. Since we have not had an incumbent for the past 18 months, Jane has been a great support and we appreciate that.

All in all, a very successful Christmas season.

Future events

On Saturday 21 March, we are having our Lent Lunch, from midday until two o'clock. As is the custom, there will be homemade soup, fresh bread and



cheese, plus tea and coffee. As yet, the charity which will receive the donations for our victuals has yet to be decided upon.

As Easter is early this year, our Easter Bingo with Lamb Bonanza will be on Saturday 28 March, at the Village Hall, doors opening at 7pm. As usual, we ask for donations for prizes, especially seasonal ones and items for an Easter Hamper which will be raffled. 2026 marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. We are proud that he is our patronal saint and we hope to be marking it with some special events, so watch out for news of that.

Again, thank you to all who support our church in whatever way. It is so appreciated.

Ruth Peberdy, Chair of St. Francis Church Committee

GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS

CHURCH

The parish church continues to function in much the same way as it has done for the past couple of years, despite the impending closure. Around 25 people attended the Christmas Singalong, which was a lively and enjoyable evening. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to read. Our Carol Singing evening was also very successful - we managed to get around most of the village, but apologies if we missed you. Many thanks to Polly and Mark for their wonderful hospitality. Between the two events we raised about £120 for charity.

PARISH MEETING

A very productive village meeting was held on Wednesday 14 January.

Progress is being made on finding measures to slow traffic speed through the village and also to find out from residents what they want for their community.

There will be drainage works closing the A361 from 16 - 20 February in order to install a better drain under the road by the phone box. This follows on from all the hard work put in by various members of the community in improving drainage around the village which appears to be paying off. While we haven't had many serious downpours yet this winter the ditches, drains and culverts all seem to be coping well - once again, thanks to all concerned.

The parish meeting is also looking into improving footpaths around the village, as well as providing nest boxes for barn and tawny owls.

We will keep you posted on these and other developments.

VILLAGE HALL

At the time of writing, the village hall committee has not met to decide dates for events in 2026 - they will be decided in the next few days. You can expect the usual mix of quiz nights, mouse racing and bingo, plus of course the ever-popular harvest barn dance. We always welcome suggestions from villagers for new events and also appreciate any offers of help. We are always keen to welcome new committee members (many hands make light work) and would especially like greater female and younger representation.

Toby Crispin, greintonvillage@gmail.com

MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS

MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE HALL

Middlezoy Community Project

By the time the MOMSS is on your doorstep the village hall will have been completely redecorated, so come down and see what you think.

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 and every other week there will be a pound off all alcoholic drinks between 6pm and 7pm - look out for the notice.

Our replacement decking fund is growing and we hope to be in a position to start the construction of the new patio in February, to be completed by the end of April.

Notes for your diary

We have the following booked:

Saturday 21 February - the band Snappa and have Sams Smoking BBQ coming down.

Saturday 28 March - back by popular demand, Music Bingo.

Saturday 18 April - a Cheese and Wine night.

Monday 4 May - Family fun day with silent disco, bouncy castle and BBQ.

Saturday 25 July - Jamaican night.

Saturday 12 September - Levi and the Bean.

The beginning of October date to be confirmed - our October Fest

Saturday 21 November - Mouse racing.

For all the details on our events follow us on our Face Book pages, along with details of the Friday night food wagons.

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, usually aiming to finish no later than 8.30pm.

If you can help, please contact me on 07760 887907.

Paul Baker, MCP Chair

WEEKLY MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

We had a very successful Christmas Coffee Morning on 15 December. The year 6 pupils from Othery/Middlezoy School entertained us. They were excellent. I had the opportunity to speak to the children whilst the teacher was setting up, what a lovely group of children and so polite. We wish them all well as they make their way to the next school in September.



Thanks to the generosity of many, our raffle made £120 which we have donated to the church for the Bell fund.

We were also able to donate a total of £1,485 split between several village organisations. This is from funds which have accumulated throughout the year.

Don't forget - Mondays 10am-11.45am at the Methodist Chapel, Middlezoy. Tea/coffee/hot chocolate/biscuits/books. All are welcome.

Jill Darby (Co-ordinator)

MIDDLEZOY WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB

We welcomed the Taunton Ukulele band to entertain at the Senior Citizens Christmas Party on Saturday 6 December. The event was a great success.

However, we were overwhelmed by the number of responses to the Christmas party invite and catering for such a high number was a lot of work for those of us on the committee before, during and after the party. We will be reviewing the criteria for 2026 and we will agree on a maximum number of attendees.

We now need to begin fundraising again. Our next event is a brunch on Saturday 28 March 10am-12 noon at Middlezoy Village Hall. Watch out for the posters and Facebook notice. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

MIDDLEZOY METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Fun

The 'ad hoc' Nativity service was joyful and well attended by village and Circuit friends, and the enacting of the first Christmas story concluded with us all lighting our Christingles and singing quietly in the prayerful atmosphere – really special.



Christmas events continued with the usual Coffee and Carols at the Chapel in the week before Christmas. This coincided with Pauline's 80th birthday and carols and mince pies were supplemented with 'Happy Birthday' and the cutting of a delicious cake.



United Covenant Renewal

On Sunday 11 January, friends from the Anglican Benefice together with the Methodist congregation met together for our important annual Covenant renewal. Canon Andrew Neaum was invited to preach and share in the service.

Peekaboo Gang

The Toddler Group has started back with enthusiasm and in good numbers. We meet from 10am-12 noon with wonderful help from Jean, Nat and Zena. This lovely group of mums/grans and little ones all support one another.



We will take a break for the February half term on Friday the 20th.

Soup and Sweet at the Chapel

Thank you to all who plan and prepare the lunches and support in any way. We had a really good turnout for the January lunch, with great help from our Bridgwater friends. All are invited to the next one on Tuesday 17 February. £7 for tasty soup, bread and cheese and dessert. Look forward to seeing you!

Renovating the 'Back Room'

Some time ago, we received a generous donation to refurbish the Back Room, which is a good space, but badly in need of a make-over. Unfortunately asbestos is present in the floor tiles and these will need to be removed in order to renew the floor with something more attractive and long lasting. With the addition of some storage cupboards, we hope to be able to make this an attractive and lettable space for the village community. Our thanks to Dillon Hill-King for advising us on this maintenance journey.

February Services

Sunday 8 February, 10am – United Service at Holy Cross

Sunday 22 February, 6.30pm – Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Deborah Kirk
All welcome.

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*

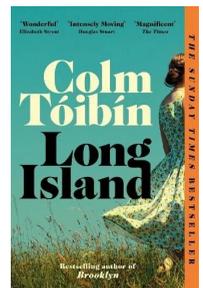
OTHERY VILLAGE NEWS

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.

OTHERY BOOK GROUP *Long Island* by Coln Toibin

A stand-alone sequel to *Brooklyn*, *Long Island* is a moving and intense novel of secrecy, misunderstanding and love. Deceptively simple, which is one of Toibin's great skills as a writer, he has the ability to infuse meaning and impact inside seemingly simple plots. The novel is about the freedom to live and love and the constraints placed on those freedoms by our families, obligations, prior actions and decisions and ourselves.



Eilis is living a seemingly content life with her Italian American husband Tony when an unexpected visitor arrives at her home with news which leads her to question her marriage, the choices she's made and the limitations of her position. With her mother's eightieth birthday approaching, she returns to her native Ireland to consider her future. While most of the group appreciated Toibín's skills as a storyteller, many didn't care for some of the characters who appeared to be deceiving on different levels with no thought of the impact on others, while a few felt their actions were in part the result of the compelling circumstances in which they found themselves. There followed a lively discussion.

February's book is *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles which will be discussed at our next meeting on Wednesday 4 February.

Lesley Stanford

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, Church Room Committee

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Christmas services

The Carols and Crib service took place at 3pm on Christmas Eve in the church and was well attended by all ages. Our thanks to all who attended and took part, particularly to all the children who narrated the Christmas story or brought forward the figurines as we gradually built up the nativity scene in the stable. It's such a meaningful start to the Christmas festivities.

The Christmas morning communion service was also held in Othery church this year with friends coming from around the United Benefice. The celebrant was Sister Rachel Pengelly.

Cafe Church is informal and friendly. Seated round tables in the church room we drink coffee, eat a free simple breakfast, have some discussion and sing a couple of hymns. We'd love to see you there, 9.30am - 11am on Sunday 8 February in the church room.

Church Mouse Races Evening

Our annual fundraising event will be held on Saturday 21 March in Othery Village Hall. Book this date in your diaries to make sure you can enjoy all the fun created by mice running along protected lanes. More details in next month's magazine.



Othery Churchwarden and Deputies

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you spare an hour or two every now and then on a rota basis to keep our village church clean and welcoming for everyone for services, christenings, weddings and funerals? Over the years some of our volunteers have moved away and others have retired. We would very much like to have some new blood to help make it easier for everyone on the rota. Cleaning is done once a week, with each pair of volunteers on the rota covering a fortnight when it's their turn. Some teams work together, cleaning twice in their fortnight, while other teams work so that one person cleans one week and the other person does the next week. It usually takes a team of two between 1 and 2 hours per week and normally includes polishing/dusting the pews, altar rails, and other woodwork and vacuuming the church and porch. If you can help or would like to know more please do get in touch.



Isobel Davis, 01823 698119 isobeldav@gmail.com

OTHERY VILLAGE HALL

Happy New Year! We have a busy year planned for 2026 so please see below for our up and coming events and **SAVE THE DATES!**

Friday 30 January – Village Quiz – teams of 6. Come and test the grey matter!

Saturday 7 February – Go Greek Night. A fun evening of traditional Greek food and entertainment from BGT act Bambas maybe even some plate smashing!

Saturday 14 February – Live music from The Man From Funkle

Friday 13 March – Live music from Not Like The Others

Saturday 25 April – Live music from Snappa

Saturday 23 May – Live music from Twisted Vinyl

Saturday 27 June – Live music from Levi and the Bean

Friday 24 July – Annual Summer Barbecue

Saturday 26 September – Live music from Big Brass Ska

Friday 30 October – Annual Halloween Party

Friday 13 November – 3rd Annual Beer Festival

Sunday 6 December – Annual Village Christmas Party

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 and Somerset Levels Stargazers as advertised on the village hall website www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk

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

Email: otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk, Tel: 07456 653252



MOORLINCH VILLAGE NEWS

BIKE REPAIR CAFÉ

Or if cycling isn't your thing, just come for the cafe!

On Saturday 21 March, Dr Bike will be setting up at Moorlinch Church Hall for a few hours (10am -2pm). It is a chance for you to bring up your bike, or even better, cycle over to have your bike looked at!

This is offered as part of Natural England's cycling support in the area, to invite parishes to host free Dr Bike community maintenance sessions. So we are taking up their offer to hold a drop-in event where the community can bring their bikes for a safety check and basic tune-up, delivered by experienced mechanics from *On Your Bike*. It will operate on a first come first served basis.

We will have a pop up cafe at the same time so you can enjoy your wait or refresh yourself after your ride, while appreciating the beautiful views across Moorlinch village and the moors.

If you don't cycle or have a bike just come for the cafe!

For information please contact Sam at sam.eastend@gmail.com



WHIST REKINDLED

After a popular trial Christmas whist session in December, we decided to hold a couple more fun whist sessions before spring. One this January encouraged back the enthusiastic players hoping to hone their strategies and improve their scores. And the next will be on Wednesday 18 March at 7pm in Moorlinch Church Hall. No need to book. Come along and try your hand at it (pun intended!). Have some fun and enjoy a sociable evening with us. For information please contact Sam at sam.eastend@gmail.com



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Looking ahead - date for your diary

Moorlinch annual plant sale is due to be held in the afternoon of Sunday 17 May.

Sam Dawe

CHURCH STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Just in case you have noticed that our beautiful church building looks like it has been boarded up

The two damaged stained glass windows were removed to the workshop for repair on 14 January and the space left has been temporarily boarded up until the repairs are completed - by a date still to be determined.

The damage the windows suffered was thought to be as a result of the Sedgemoor grass mower throwing up stones which broke small fragments off the windows.

There were prolonged negotiations with the insurance company and an even longer wait for the Diocese's agreement to the work being done.

The protective wire mesh will not be replaced as the stainless steel replacements

recommended are too expensive.

The insurance company has paid for the work - although there is an excess on the policy which the Church will have to pay.

Ian Wells, Project Manager and Chief Negotiator

BENEFICE, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN ITEMS

For the Diocesan publication *Manna* go to <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/manna.php>

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. Other 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

Deaths/Funerals:

Harry Stryker of Moorlinch - much loved husband, father and grandfather - died peacefully in Musgrove Park Hospital on Thursday 18 December aged 82. His funeral was held at Sedgemoor Crematorium on 26 January.

Maggie Munslow of Load Pool, Othery died peacefully in her sleep on 18 January aged 84 years.



BENEFICE REORGANISATION

At the present time there is no confirmed date for this. Meetings are occurring at both ends of the benefice to effect the splitting of it. Moorlinch and Stawell PCC has met with the Polden Wheel PCC and the incumbent, the Rev Rich Tweedy. They are due to do so again on Friday 2 March.

The meeting we had arranged with the Archdeacon of Taunton, Sedgemoor Area Dean, the Athelney vicar and Churchwardens and the Middlezoy and Othery churchwardens arranged for 14 January was cancelled due to illness. The provisional date for the

meeting is now Tuesday 10 February.

For the parishioners of Moorlinch, Stawell, and Sutton Mallet and people of Greinton, there is an opportunity to propose a name for the new parish – currently The Polden Wheel. Please let me know your wishes by communicating with me or the church members by Wednesday 28 February. Church committee members of the eight churches will then vote and pick one.

Richard Graham

LENT COURSE

For the north end of the benefice, there is a chance to attend the Polden Wheel bible course. This is being organised during Lent and starting on Thursday 22 January for those who wished their understanding of the bible was deeper. It is a national course run by the Bible Society and videos are available on their website if you miss a session. There is a book.

The course is run by Jennifer Tweedy on Thursday afternoons at 3pm and meeting in Shapwick church. The venue may change and people who wish to attend should look at the current details to be found on the parish website – poldenwheel.co.uk – or Spokes. They should also let the Rev Rich Tweedy know they are coming to assist with arrangements by emailing vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk

Richard Graham

ARCHDEACON OF WELLS

The Venerable Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells, is to step down from her roles in Bath and Wells in May this year. Anne has been Archdeacon of Wells and Residentiary Canon of Wells Cathedral since 2017. She temporarily stepped back from her archdeaconry role between February 2023 and June 2024 to serve as Acting Dean of Wells.

The Right Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells, says, “After serving us faithfully, generously and gracefully for nine years, Anne has decided to move on to take on a new challenge. We are hugely indebted for all that she has given during her time in Bath and Wells. Anne has known, loved and served people in churches and communities across the Wells Archdeaconry. She has also undertaken amazing work within Wells Cathedral, especially during the time Anne served as Acting Dean. Anne has been a much-loved member of our team and we shall miss her enormously.”

There will be an opportunity to say farewell to Anne at Wells Cathedral Evensong, on Sunday, 10 May before she leaves the diocese at the end of May.



BISHOP OF TAUNTON

The Venerable Dr Fiona Gibson, Archdeacon of Ludlow, will be consecrated as Bishop of Taunton at a service in Southwark Cathedral, London on Friday 6 February.

This will be followed by a service of Welcome and Installation at Wells Cathedral on Sunday, 8 February, at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Following this Fiona will take up her role in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

GENERATIONS GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Our extended family recently got together for a celebration. We were nine adults from 24-68, one toddler, and one dog, and it was glorious! The joy was simply in being

together, whatever our age.

I sometimes wonder what would happen in the life of our churches if we could adopt the same outlook there? Each generation glad that the other is there. Each generation contributing something to the whole. Each generation looking to the interests of the others, making sure there was something that spoke to the others even if not to them. The writer of the Chronicles records something you could miss if you weren't looking for it. In 2 Chronicles 20, when Judah was facing attack from Ammon and Moab, King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and summoned the people. This is what it says in verse 13: "All Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children." At a time of great peril, when the king was seeking the LORD, all generations came together to pray.

We often think of intergenerational meaning us older ones passing on wisdom to the younger ones, and that's certainly part of it. But a truly intergenerational family, which the church is, means all generations welcoming one another, valuing one another, learning from one another, and praying with and for one another. It's not a one-way thing.

Our younger generations are ambassadors from the future, with wisdom to give us about their culture, and how to share the timeless truths of the gospel with their peers. They are leaders and learners, just as we all are.

What might it look like across our diocese if we committed to making room for other generations? What might it look like if, like the people of God in ancient times, we came together in our year of especial focus on prayer - adults, young people, and little ones - and sought the power and wisdom of God together? I have a feeling we'd be surprised!

+ Fiona Gibson, Next Bishop of Taunton

NEWS FROM OUR MPs

ASHLEY FOX, MP FOR MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY

Jury Trials

Trial by jury is one of the oldest and most important safeguards in our justice system. It exists to ensure that the power of the state is balanced by the judgment of ordinary citizens. That is why I oppose the Government's proposals to restrict jury trials.

There is a genuine problem in the criminal justice system. The Crown Court backlog is too high and delays are failing victims and defendants alike. But jury trials did not create that backlog and abolishing them will not solve it.

What rarely gets mentioned is the scale of the management failure inside the Ministry of Justice. Government figures show that, over the last two years, staff in the court service lost an average of 10.7 working days per person each year due to sickness and absence. That is more than two full working weeks for every member of staff. It is over 30% higher than the civil service average and more than double the UK average when the private sector is included.

With around 16,400 staff in the courts service, simply reducing sickness levels to the civil service average would release close to 50,000 additional working days. That is the equivalent of hundreds of extra staff working full time for a year. Those days could be used to list more cases, clear backlogs and speed up justice, without stripping away a fundamental right.

Instead of tackling these obvious inefficiencies, the Government has chosen the easy

option, removing jury trials for offences carrying sentences of three years or less. Combined with the Government proposals for digital ID, it reveals a very authoritarian attitude. It marks a significant shift in the balance of power between the citizen and the state, and I oppose it.

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

(Please see page 20 for article received from Tessa Munt MP)

AROUND AND ABOUT BEYOND THE BENEFICE

THE WI - MORE THAN JAM AND JERUSALEM

Today's Women Working For Tomorrow's World

There are talks, activities and events for every woman, single or wed. You can have a bit of fun, make friends, try a new hobby or just explore a new venue. Whichever WI you attend you can be sure of a warm welcome.



WIs near us

Ashcott and Pedwell	7.30pm	Third Thursday	Ashcott Village Hall, TA7 9PZ
Shapwick Starlets	7.30pm	Second Tuesday	Village Hall, Station Rd, TA7 9NJ
Westonzoyland	7.15pm	Second Wednesday	Village Hall Cheer Lane TA7 0EZ

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

Westonzoyland WI

The next meeting is on Wednesday 11 February at Westonzoyland Village Hall. We will have a demonstration of cooking a range of locally grown vegetables and how to turn potential discards into tasty meals. When I looked at the ingredients and suggested soup, my colleague said I lacked imagination and to be sure to come along. You would be most welcome to come and see.

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

Gill Wilkinson

THE ARTS SOCIETY SEDGEMOOR (TASS) February meeting

The Arts Society Sedgemoor meeting in February is possibly our last one and is on Wednesday the 4th in Woolavington Village Hall starting at 1.30pm with refreshments before the talk. Our Guest Speaker will be Lucia Gahlin and the talk will be *The garden in ancient Egyptian art*. 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

Free concert with Trio Paradis on Sunday 22 February in St Mary's Church, Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP.

The concert starts at 3pm and refreshments are available at a modest charge from 2.15pm. This offering from Somerset-based Trio Paradis is called Bohemian Rhapsody and will be an exciting programme inspired by the romance of travelling peoples, from traditional Czardas and 'gypsy' tunes to music by Dvořák, Haydn and Bartók.



Trio Paradis consists of Jacquelyn Bevan - piano, Ruth O'Shea - violin and Linda Stocks - cello. "We are a classical piano trio based in Bath", says founder Jacquelyn Bevan, "and we perform Café Concerts at community venues across Somerset and Wiltshire. We perform music in a variety of styles, brought together in a themed programme, and the atmosphere is informal and welcoming. Our aim is to develop 'Friendship through Music.'"

Arrangements for this concert

We no longer have the use of The Old School car park. Since the 2026 Music on the Levels leaflet was printed, The Young Farmers (owner of The Old School) have decided to charge for use of the car park with a fee that would amount to over a quarter of Music of the Levels' annual income. This was considered unacceptable consequently that space is no longer available to audiences. There is parking on most of the roads in the village, including Liney Road - a short walk from the church, but we ask people not to park in Church Lane. The Village Hall (Cheer Lane, TA7 0EX) and playground car park may also be used. There are signs to that and there is a footpath from there leading to the church.

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. Music on the Levels is a registered charity, number 1214857. <https://musiconthelevels.com> For further information contact:

Frank Challenger 01278 699071 email: f.challenger@icloud.com

RECEIVED JUST IN TIME FOR INCLUSION

UPDATE FROM TESSA MUNT, MP for Moorlinch, Stawell, Sutton Mallet and Greinton

Now we're well into 2026, I'm flat out representing you both in Parliament and here in Somerset.

I'm glad there's a reprieve for farming as our campaign to raise the inheritance tax threshold from its £1 million base was supported by many locals, bolstering the calls of farmers who met my colleague Alistair Carmichael MP, Chair of Parliament's Environment Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee at Yeo Valley Canteen last February. I'll continue to do all I can, alongside my colleagues, to demand the Government scraps this tax in full. Next, it's sorting out fair business rate bills for pubs, hospitality and our High Streets. Locally, I met farmers to discuss the problems of hare coursing, theft and the serious organised crime which is driving a rise in rural crime incidents in Somerset. Don't hesitate to call 101 if you see something suspicious, and 999 if a crime is in progress - but please don't tackle these situations yourself, as it's not safe to do so.

As ever, if you have any concerns or anything you'd like to talk to me about, please write, call or come and see me. I'll be running my regular surgeries throughout 2026, the most local of which are:

Friday 6 February from 6pm-7pm at Ashcott Pub Night
Saturday 14 February from 9am-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!)

TO MAKE US THINK OR RAISE A SMILE

1. In which battle did Napoleon die?

His last one

2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom of the page

3. The Ravi River flows in which state?

Liquid state

4. What is the main reason for divorce?

MARRIAGE

A+ for creativity

F

Useful INFORMATION

FOODBANKS - DONATION POINTS

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

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 Somerset, St. Mary's House, Magdalene St, 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.



USEFUL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

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.



		Call sign
Greinton Phone box	TA7 9BW	CHT-RT-1583
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	
Sutton Mallet Phone box	TA7 9AT	

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The schedules for the MOMSS & G area are:



MIDDLEZOY

Recycling Boxes, every week:	Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 February, 4 March
Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:	Wednesdays 4, 25 February
Garden Waste Bins, every other week:	Mondays 2, 16 February, 2 March

OTHERY

Recycling Boxes, every week:	Fridays 6, 13, 20, 27 February, 6 March
Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:	Friday 13 February, 6 March
Garden Waste Bins, every other week:	Mondays 2, 16 February, 2 March

MOORLINCH, STAWELL, SUTTON MALLET & GREINTON

Recycling Boxes, every week:	Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 February, 4 March
Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:	Wednesdays 4, 25 February, 18 March
Garden Waste Bins, every other week:	Fridays 6, 20 February, 6 March

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 visit: 6 February, 6 March
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



MOMSS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please advise momssgeditor@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-Fri 8.30am-1pm and 3pm-5pm, Sat 8.45am-12 noon;

P.O. 01823 698981 open Mon-Fri 8.30-1pm;

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

SERVICES CHART FOR CHAPEL AND UB CHURCHES FEBRUARY 2026

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
February Sun <i>(Fourth of Epiphany)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy
8 Sun <i>(Second before Lent)</i>	9.30 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Breakfast Café Joint Worship For All Morning Prayer Morning Worship	The Church Room, Othery Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell
15 Sun <i>(Next before Lent)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Sung Eucharist	St Michael's, Othery
18 Wed ASH WEDNESDAY	5.00 pm	United Benefice Communion with Imposition of Ashes	Holy Cross, Middlezoy
22 Sun <i>(First of Lent)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Morning Worship Circuit Communion Service	St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell Methodists Chapel, Middlezoy
March Sun <i>(Second of Lent)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Mary's, Moorlinch

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

DATE	SEASON	READINGS
February 1 Sun	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	OT: 1 Kings, chapter 17, verses 8 to 16 Psalm: 36, verses 5 to 10 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 18 to 31 (the end) Gospel: John, chapter 2, verses 1 to 11
8 Sun	Second before Lent	OT: Genesis chapter 1, verse 1 to chapter 2, verse 3 Psalm: 136 Epistle: Romans, chapter 8, verses 18 to 27 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 6, verses 24 to 34 (the end)
15 Sun	Next before Lent	OT: Exodus, chapter 24, verses 12 to 18 (the end) Psalm: 2 Epistle: 2 Peter, chapter 1, verses 16 to 21 (the end) Gospel: Matthew, chapter 17, verses 1 to 9
18 Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY	OT: Joel, chapter 2, verses 1 to 17 Psalm: 51, verses 1 to 18 Epistle: 2 Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 16 to chapter 6, v. 10 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 6, verses 1 to 21
22 Sun	First of Lent	OT: Genesis, ch. 2, verses 15 to 17 and ch. 3, vs. 1 to 7 Psalm: 32 Epistle: Romans, chapter 5, verses 12 to 19 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1 to 11
March 1 Sun	Second of Lent	OT: Genesis, chapter 12, verses 1 to 9 Psalm: 121 Epistle: Romans, chapter 4, verses 1 to 8 and 13 to 17 Gospel: John, chapter 3, verses 1 to 17