

# MOMSS MAGAZINE



**Mum's Last Swim**  
Drawing by Nancy Farmer

## MARCH 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](http://www.middlezoyvillagehall.org.uk)  
and [www.stawellvillage.info](http://www.stawellvillage.info) and  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/](http://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 [momssgeditor@live.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## MOMSS Account details

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This magazine is edition  
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**DON'T FORGET!**  
April edition deadlines:  
Articles 15 March

## ***FROM THE EDITOR***

Dear Friends,

Somewhere out there is a series of bright, sunny, dry days! We have had to endure a very long session of rain and chilly temperatures this winter so we hope for a warmer, gentler, drier spring.

Despite such unpleasant weather the fields and gardens will recover from the deluges of rain and consequent floodings and the soil produce its usual, almost magical, burst of plant life and flowers. Bright white snowdrops have already been flowering and early daffodil buds bursting with lovely golden colours. Farmers and gardeners will eagerly tend their beloved soil and begin the annual work of clearing, preparing, sowing and nurturing the land to again produce the items which fill our hearts and stomachs.

March will soon be in full swing with people and traffic going to and fro, for work or necessity or pleasure, and hopefully the memory of the wettest winter fading away into far distant corners of their minds.

Whether you are staying put or venturing forth enjoy what you can – both in the area around you or inside this magazine with its variety of items lovingly provided by its contributors.

Spring is here! A lovely time of year with its bright promise of nicer, sunnier, drier days. Enjoy!

Sincerely, Anita.

*Anita Winslade, Editor*



Clocks go forward one hour

Sunday 29 March

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## **COVER PICTURE**

"Amidst intermittent torrential showers Mother and I braved Ullswater's choppy waters. Last time I was here, the water was a bracing 7 degrees, this time it was nearly 16. But Mother (age 71 and eleven twelfths), is not an outdoor swimmer and still showed the lake what she was made of." *Nancy Farmer, 2016*

Mum and I both shared a love of art. It is reasonable to say we did not share a love of swimming in freezing cold water; I'm not even sure that I love it, but it's very addictive when enjoyed with friends, has numerous benefits and is something to do whilst waiting for the summer months, when we do exactly the same thing but for longer and with less whingeing.

And because for over a decade I have built a business on illustrating and describing this activity in all its rawness and silliness, it could be argued that I swim in freezing water for a job now.

And so it was that in the summer of 2024, whilst my poor dear mum was dying of cancer, I found myself still having to create pictures of swimmers having a great time. With 11 of 12 calendar drawings done and the year ticking on there really was no possibility of stopping.

What then, under these conditions, could I possibly come up with?

And I remembered twice only had Mum come swimming with me. The first time she got in and straight back out again, but the second time she swam. And I drew a picture and wrote the words you read on the previous page.

We swam in 2016. I re-created the picture that summer in 2024, and that wave we are giving each other was one of the hardest things I have ever put down on paper, containing an unbearable alternative meaning that was never there before. Maybe only I saw that though, working for hours trying to get it right. It was finished in time for her to see it. I drew her as she was in what I might call her 'Dog Days' - the last lovely handful of years when she had Petra the hyper and very, very naughty labrador and she did a lot of walking, a lot of socializing, we visited many concerts and, at 79, she seemed fitter than ever. She never did come swimming again but her time was busy and full, as was her wine glass.

*Nancy Farmer*

## **GENERAL ITEMS**



### **MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS**

**This month we are dedicating our entry to Miss Dawn Mayled**

After an extraordinary 42 years of loyal and dedicated service, we say a fond and deeply heartfelt farewell to someone who has truly been part of the very fabric of our school. Dawn, you have been a constant presence, a source of calm and a quiet pillar of strength for generations of children, staff and families.

Over the decades, many pupils have begun each morning ready for learning because of your hard work. The staff have relied on your friendly smile and steady reliability. You have seen the school go through many changes, grow and now flourish and have remained a warm, reassuring presence throughout it all.

On a personal level, I thank you for the warm welcome you extended to me in July 2020 and your continued support throughout our time working together. Your pride in your work, your attention to detail and the genuine care you put into keeping our school safe, spotless and welcoming have made a difference every single day, for over four decades!

As you step into retirement, please know how deeply appreciated and valued you are. We will miss your kindness, your humour and the many, many stories of years gone by.

On behalf of the children and staff, past and present, thank you for everything. We wish you a long, happy and wonderful well-earned retirement.

With our very best wishes,

*Lindsay Hayward, Headteacher,  
Middlezoy and Othery Primary School*

01823 698465



**Spring Is In The Air**



## **SKY AT NIGHT**

### **March**

#### **Sunrise Sunset**

Beginning of March 6.57am-5.53pm End of March 6.50am-7.43pm

#### **Moon Phases**

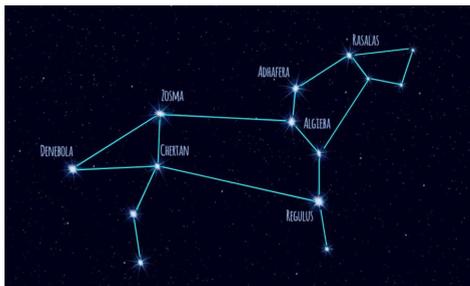
Full Moon 3rd / Last Quarter 11th / New Moon 19th / First Quarter 25th

#### **Planets**

Setting at 7.30pm at the beginning of the month Saturn is lost in the Sun's glare by the month's end. Venus is a brilliant and bright object low in the western sky at sunset outshining Jupiter which is visible all month. With a good pair of binoculars held steady it is possible to see the phases of Venus and the four major moons of Jupiter.

#### **Constellation**

The constellation of Leo the Lion is very prominent high in the sky looking south this month. Interestingly when you look in this direction you are looking in to deep space not the multitude stars in our Milky Way galaxy and although there are many other galaxies on view in this direction optical aid is needed to see them. The stars in Leo form a distinct lion shape. It even has a head and mane, a backward question mark formation of stars at the bottom of which is the bright star Regulus the heart of the Lion.



#### **Phenomena**

The Spring Equinox when day and night are of equal length falls on 20 March then at 1am on 29 March British Summer Time begins and the clocks go forward one hour. On the evening of 29 March the almost full Moon passes in front of (occults) the bright star Regulus in the constellation of Leo the Lion.

*Paul Adamson 01823 698156*

## **SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS**

At our meeting on Wednesday 25 March we are joined once again by Richard Hook a former European Space Agency worker who will be giving a talk on Charles Messier the 18th Century French comet hunter and the Messier Marathon an attempt to see all of the 110 Messier objects (a list of objects not to be confused with actual comets) in one night.

This is with our monthly night sky guide and latest astronomy news.

Admission £3 with membership available.

For details contact

*Paul Adamson*

*01823 698156*

## **WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION**

The next meeting takes place in Othery Village Hall, Fore Street Othery TA7 0QU on Wednesday 11 March at 7.30pm. This month's speaker is Ian Stevenson.

At the outbreak of the war 'Gertrude' signed up with the Red Cross and worked in a

liaison role initially in France and then London with the Wounded and Missing department.

In 1915 because of her knowledge and language of the Arab world she was invited to join the newly formed Arab Bureau in Cairo. Here she worked alongside Middle East specialists including T E Lawrence to destabilize the Ottoman empire and encourage an Arab uprising.

Gertrude continued to work for the British Government throughout the war becoming the only paid female political officer in the Middle East and was awarded a CBE for her efforts.

Members of the WFA and non-members alike are equally welcome. Any new visitors are guaranteed a friendly atmosphere and a warm welcome from a group of like-minded enthusiasts. We ask for a modest £5 donation to defray costs, this will include a free tea or coffee and entry into our raffle.

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](mailto:SomersetWFA@hotmail.com)

*Pat Adamson, Secretary, Somerset branch, WFA, 01823 698156*



## **FARM DIARY**

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

**Peat.** After this article is an article written by Joe Stradling who farms on the north side of the Polden Hills. It highlights the extreme dryness of 2025 and the effect on our peat moors and is a scientific study.

**Politics.** According to Ambrose Evans-Pritchard in the business section of the Daily Telegraph of Friday 13 February, Britain's farmers and agtech industries are in open revolt over Labour's attempt to ram through a food and farm deal with the EU that threatens to do serious harm. Farmers are reeling from the government's actions anyway. Dynamic alignment with the EU is the government's aim and even Labour and Lib Dem members of the EFRA committee are protesting. The biotech industry says this will undermine the UK's lead in biotech innovation. A report by the Commons committee says that the UK now has higher welfare standards than the EU, which still tolerates practices we deem as cruel. The MP's committee is concerned that dynamic alignment has long-term implications for sovereignty and democratic processes and needs proper debate. This will put agriculture back under EU control but without our ability to influence policy. The Lang report highlights the need to restore UK's food security. It is not clear how this affects our Asia-Pacific trade pact which is already agreed by treaty. *Richard Graham*

## **PEAT AND THE SUMMER OF 2025**

A bit of a change from the wet summer of 2024!

For comparison, on 1 Oct 2024, our water table was 6.4cm above normal. On the same date in 2025 it was 96.8cm below normal, so over 1 metre less water in the ditches than the previous year. When you think about that across the whole of the Levels it is a colossal amount of water!

We also have some cameras that monitor the motion of the peat: its shrinkage and expansion throughout the year. Again using the same dates as above, in 2024 the peat was 1cm below normal, however in 2025 it



was 12.6cm below the normal. When you take into consideration that the normal ground level is only around 1.9m above sea level, the shrinkage last year amounts to approximately 7% of its total elevation, which I feel is a lot to lose!

Of course the peat is always moving – shrinking and expanding, as the weather dictates, and this (extremely!) wet period we are now going through, will help to rebalance the moisture in the peat. Although it might be nice if nature could not go to such extremes of wet and dry!

Unfortunately there is no guarantee that the peat will rebound to its previous heights, as the extreme nature of this recent summer may well have caused the uppermost layer to degrade irreparably. We don't yet have the data which will be collected over the coming months to assess the level of recovery. Interestingly though, the amount of carbon emitted over the previous 2 years has remained largely consistent. 157g/m<sup>2</sup> in 2024 compared to 158 g/m<sup>2</sup> in 2025.

Although this measurement takes into account far more than just the weather, it also includes cattle grazing and crop yields from hay and silage, combined with weather and climate data that is collected onsite.

*Joe Stradling*

## **NEWS FROM OUR MPS**

### **Ashley Fox, MP for Middlezoy and Othery**

Flooding remains one of the most serious challenges facing communities across the Somerset Levels and Moors, and it is an issue I continue to raise both locally and in Parliament.

Following a winter of heavy rainfall, I spoke in Parliament about the urgent need to strengthen flood resilience in Somerset. Our drainage systems, river management and pumping infrastructure are under increasing pressure. I made the case that we need sustained national backing to properly protect homes, farmland and local businesses, not short-term measures that simply store up problems for later.

I held a drop-in session at Moorland Village Hall, joined by Othery Parish Councillor Anthony Betty, to hear directly from residents affected by flooding. Listening to families describe the impact on their homes and livelihoods brought home the reality behind the statistics. These conversations matter and they shape the action I take on your behalf.

I also met the Environment Agency team at Northmoor Pumping Station to see operations first hand. We discussed how the pumps are deployed during periods of heavy rainfall and the role they play in reducing flood risk to nearby communities. It reinforced how vital it is that infrastructure is properly maintained and upgraded.

I have since written to the Minister for Water and Flooding setting out a series of proposals for urgent action. These include increased ring-fenced funding for the Environment Agency in Somerset, long-term dredging programmes, embankment improvements, upgrades to key pumping stations, and a review of operational trigger points to reflect changing conditions.

I also called for stronger planning protections on high-risk flood plains, better use of infrastructure funding for drainage projects, more frequent gully clearing, and clearer responsibility for maintaining sustainable drainage systems.

I will continue pressing Ministers and working with local partners to secure the flooding protection and investment Somerset needs.

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

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

It was fab to meet up with Martin and Eleanor Thatcher at the National Association of Cider Makers' event in Parliament. Martin is the NACM's Chair and spoke passionately about the importance of cider-making and its contribution to the environment and the economy. Cider-makers need details of changes to labelling and recycling regulations so they can plan and prepare for the future.

I've asked Ministers to

clarify exactly what's wanted and by when. Whilst the Government has partially reversed its disastrous Budget announcement on Business Rates rises for pubs and other hospitality venues, it's clear support for the wider tourist industry is needed. My colleagues and I will continue to raise this with Ministers.

If you have anything you want to talk about, please write, call or come and see me. I'm running my 13 regular surgeries and 16 extras in March.

The most local are:

Wednesday 4 March from 7pm to 8pm at The Windmill Bar & Bistro, Edithmead

Friday 6 March from 6pm to 7pm at The Pub Night, Village Hall, Ashcott

Friday 13 March from 4pm to 5pm at The Beer Shed, East Huntspill

Saturday 14 March from 9am to 10am at The Bluebird Café, Wedmore

Saturday 21 March from 1pm to 2pm at Leather & Lace Bar & Grill, Chilton Polden

Monday 30 March from 1.30pm to 2.30pm at Rich's Cider Farm, Watchfield



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

Tessa

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone out of office hours)

Email: [tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk)

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

To keep updated on my work as your MP, find me on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and LinkedIn.

## ***GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS***

### **VILLAGE HALL**

At the recent Village Hall Committee Meeting, the following diary dates for 2026 were set: Friday 6 March - **Pub Quiz Night**, £5 entry fee per person. Doors open 6.30pm. The fish and chip van will be there.

Sun 27 Sep (tbc) - **Aller Fun Ride**. This is a horse-riding event which Greinton supports by providing marshals. Contact Denzil for details.

Sat 3 or 10 Oct - **Mouse Racing** at Jimmy's (aka Bere Cider Company) (exact date to be confirmed)

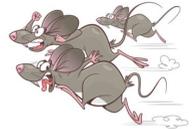
Fri 4 Dec - **Christmas Bingo**, doors open 6.30pm

Sun 20 Dec - **Christmas Singalong**, hopefully we will still be able to hold this in the church. Starts at 5pm

Tue 22 Dec - **Carol Singing** meet outside the church at 4pm

Further details of all the above will follow in due course.

We are also planning to continue our work improving the hall and its surroundings. Last year we held very sociable sessions every Wednesday evening for a couple of hours, starting at about 4pm. It would be great if we can do the same again this year, once the weather gets a bit warmer and the evenings longer (after Easter?). Everyone is welcome, no matter what your skills (gardening, decorating, cleaning are all much appreciated).



### **CHURCH**

The Diocese of Bath & Wells has formally been notified that our parish church has closed. For now, nothing will change - there has not been a clergy-led service in the church for a couple of years and the churchyard remains open for interments.

We understand that we can carry on holding our informal events in the building until we are told otherwise. Ultimately it will be for the Church Commissioners to decide what happens to the building, although I would expect the parish to be consulted.

### **PARISH MEETING MATTERS**

**Drainage news:** the hard work put in by several volunteers over the past couple of years finally seems to be making a difference. So far this winter, despite huge amounts of rain, the A361 has not flooded in Greinton and work is on-going to improve drainage throughout the village. Huge thanks must go to all those who spend countless hours checking, maintaining and reporting drainage issues; we all benefit hugely from their efforts, as does through traffic on the main road.

**Traffic calming:** Greinton Parish Meeting has been working on coming up with ways to improve road safety throughout the village, both in terms of traffic speed along the A361

and pedestrian safety for those who rightly want to be able to walk around the village, especially along the stretch of main road where there is no pavement. Several measures are currently being considered and these will be trialled during the next few months.

*Toby Crispin, greintonvillage@gmail.com*

## **MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS**

### **MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE HALL**

#### **Middlezoy Community Project**

The village hall will have been completely redecorated; it looks great so come down and see what you think.

The music quiz night was a great success so much so we will be putting one on again.

#### **Notes for your diary**

We have the following booked:

Saturday 28 March - Music Bingo. Back by popular demand

Saturday 18 April - Cheese and Wine Night

End of May bank holiday Family Fun Day with silent disco, bouncy castle and BBQ

Saturday 25 July - Jamaican Night

Saturday 12 September - Levi and the Bean

Saturday 10 October - we are holding our October Fest

Saturday 21 November - Mouse racing

For all the details of our events - along with details of the Friday night food wagons - follow us on our Facebook pages.

We have now secured funding from the National Lottery to enable us to go ahead with installing solar panels on the village hall.

Building will soon start to replace the old decking with a proper patio area. We hope that this will be in place by the start of the cricket season at the beginning of May.

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](mailto: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 and we usually aim 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**

Sometime during March the back room of the chapel is to be refurbished.

We hope to run the coffee mornings as normal but will keep everyone updated. It will mean that the books/puzzles etc from the back room will be put away in storage so won't be available during that time. But don't forget there is a good stock of second hand books available in the shop.

If there are any local crafters/artists who would like to have a stall at the coffee morning in the run up to Easter please let me know.

Come along and join us on Mondays 10.00-11.45am at the Methodist Chapel Middlezoy.



Tea/coffee/hot chocolate/biscuits.All are welcome.

*Jill Darby (Co-ordinator)*

## **MIDDLEZOY WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB**

Reminder : Our first fund raising event of 2026 is a Brunch to be held at Middlezoy Village Hall on Saturday 28 March, 10am until midday.

Come along and enjoy a breakfast bap with a nice cuppa.You never know - we may even have sunshine that day.We will be accepting both card and cash payments for the Brunch but the raffle will be cash only.

Hope to see you there.

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

## **WILD MIDDLEZOY**

We are trying to be optimistic and are making plans for the new growing season of 2026.

### **The Allotment**

We feel we had a very successful year last year and are planning to get together on Saturday 14 March at 10am at the Allotment.The aim is to have a tidy-up in preparation for planting etc. Everyone is very welcome; so please feel free to come and join us.You may not want to take on a whole allotment and we give you the opportunity to work with others and produce some very tasty vegetables and fruit.As always there will be tea/coffee and home-baked cake. Chatting and enjoying each other's company is an important part of our group so, even if you just want to come down and find out more, please come and see if it is something you would enjoy.



### **Churchyard**

Another part of Wild Middlezoy has been rewilding the churchyard.Think this has also been successful.

We are meeting on Wednesday 25 February to transplant the snowdrops to other areas. When you read this article this will have happened, but it is important that you know what is going on in this important village space.The transplanting 'in the green' has been very successful in previous years and we wish to make the area an even more beautiful place to wander through.

### **Churchyard Tidy-up Day**

To make rewilding successful we need to maintain the area and to do this we need your help on Saturday 21 March at 10am.

There will be pruning, weeding, leaf collection and many other jobs. If you can help any time between 10am and 12.30pm please come along. Bring tools if you have them. If you are unable to help physically, we do appreciate encouragement therefore come along.Again a meeting at the church or Wild Middlezoy would not be successful without bacon butties and brownies with lots of cups of tea and coffee.



## **MISSION TO SEAFARERS**

For quite a few years Holy Cross Church has been supporting the Mission for Seafarers by knitting hats. Over the years we have sent off quite a few hundred.This all started after our reader, Pauline Davies, delivered an excellent service on Sea Sunday. In it she emphasised the importance of merchant shipping on the day to day life of us in the UK.

This project would not have been so successful if it had not been so well supported by the ladies of the village who spend time knitting and crocheting a wonderful array of warm hats. The hats are sent off to the Mission's headquarters in The Flying Angels Cellar Club, Mill Dam, South Shields, up in Tyne and Wear. From there they are distributed to ports in the UK and globally. We look at it as a way of saying thank you to the men and women who distribute 95% of our goods to and from this country.



Usually we have one big push each year but this year we will be collecting all the year round and will have one big input in late autumn/winter as the hats are desperately needed. Patterns are up in the church and there is a collection box on the table at the back of the church for any hats. When yarn is available, it will be there for you to collect if you have none of your own. Just keep checking .

If you cannot knit we would welcome a ball of yarn as a donation. We hope you can join in on this project as it is very worthwhile. We always say to people one hat can make all the difference as we are showing those brave men and women we care enough to spend time to help them.

Our latest supply of hats was sent off last week. Website [www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)

### **MIDDLEZOY METHODIST CHURCH**

**The Peekaboo Gang Toddler Group** continues to meet on Fridays 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 were so pleased to celebrate the baptism of Ada Roslyn at the beginning of February. Ada has been coming to the toddler group with her mum and gran for a little while.



### **Soup and Sweet at the Chapel:**

Sorry to those of you who were disappointed by the cancellation of our February Soup and Sweet. We are back on Tuesday 17 March – hope you can come! £7 for tasty soup, bread and cheese, and dessert.

### **Renovating the 'Back Room'**

This work is beginning in March, so we look forward to having a completely refurbished space which will be available for village, church and Circuit events. Contact Jill Darby on 01823 698000.

### **March services**

Sunday 8 March, 10.30am – United Service at the Methodist Church led by Mr David Clitheroe

Sunday 22 March, 6.30pm – Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Deborah Kirk

### **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 01823 334854*

*Superintendent Minister, Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit*

*Deputy Chair, SW Peninsula Methodist District*

## ***OTHERY VILLAGE NEWS***

### **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

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.

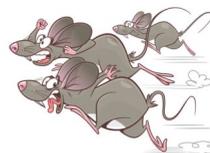
### **OTHERY CHURCH - MOUSE RACES SATURDAY 21 MARCH**

You are invited to come along to Othery Village Hall and enjoy another exciting and fun filled night of mice racing along a series of self-contained lanes in 8 small 'Races'! The mice are all domesticated, not actually from Othery Church, and are used to running in races in other local villages.

Entry to the hall is free and a hot food supper will be on sale from 6.30pm and a bar also available throughout the evening.

Auctions of temporary ownership of racing mice 'competitors' - the owners of the winning mice get cash prizes as do the successful backers - and a cash tote betting system will continue throughout the evening.

Back your choice of mouse, be a lucky winner and win £s but remember you have to be there to win prizes so come along and enjoy the thrill of urging your chosen mouse on! All profits from the evening will be used towards the June Othery Street Fayre running costs. *Anita Winslade, Secretary, Street Fayre Committee 07714 672316*



### **OTHERY BOOK GROUP**

#### ***The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles, published 2021**

The book moves between two eras Paris 1939 and Montana 1983. Paris 1939: Odile Souchet has her dream job at the American Library in Paris, But when the Nazis march into the city, Odile stands to lose everything she holds dear, including her beloved library. The library that stays open despite the dominance of the Nazi officer, the staff try to play their part to help the resistance. Jewish readers are banned from the library, the staff smuggle books out to their banned readers, trying to avoid the Nazi patrols. Montana 1983: Lily is desperate to escape her small town life in Montana and grows close to her reclusive elderly neighbour, Odile. As lives of Odile and Lily are woven together through their shared love of language, they discover a dark secret of the past connects them. The parallel of their lives and relationships is fascinating.

On the whole the reading group enjoyed the book, the style of writing, the in-depth research into the true story of the American library. The focus on control of the main female characters in the book. Some members felt the book lacked the more sinister aspect of the Nazi invasion. However others felt that would have been the same as so many books written about the occupation.

The strong emphasis on the relationship between Odile, her twin brother, her parents and the eclectic mix of volunteers and staff at the library is the backbone of this book. Threads of jealousy, anger



and at times hate influenced decisions and actions. They tried to suppress the Nazi propaganda.

Inspired by the true story of the librarians at the American Library in Paris who risked their lives during the Nazis war on words; a story of courage, defiance and betrayal in Occupied Paris.

March book, *James* by Percival Everett .

*Carole Paterson*

## **OTHERY VILLAGE HALL**

Two months into 2026 and we have had some fantastic events already. For those of you who joined us for the Go Greek night (Opa!) and our first live music event with The Man from Funkle, we hope you enjoyed yourselves and thank you to all our quizzers who took part in the first quiz of the year at the end of January. We still have so much more to come this year and hope to see our regular patrons and look forward to meeting new faces – everyone is welcome!

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

13 March	Live music from Not Like The Others
25 April	Live music from Snappa
23 May	Live music from Twisted Vinyl
27 June	Live music from Levi and the Bean
24 July	Annual Summer Barbecue
26 Sept	Live music from Big Brass Ska
30 Oct	Annual Halloween Party
13 Nov	3rd Annual Beer Festival
6 Dec	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 and are displayed on our village hall noticeboard. You can also speak to a committee member for more information.

### **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.

**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](mailto:otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Website: [www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk) Tel: 07456 653252*



## **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*



## **MOORLINCH VILLAGE NEWS**

### **MOORLINCH PCC AGM**

The Moorlinch (with Stawell and Sutton Mallet) PCC Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 April at 5pm in St Mary's Church, Moorlinch.

Open to everyone, this is an opportunity to learn about the current state of the churches physically and financially and the plans for the proposed change of benefice. The meeting includes the election of churchwardens and members of the PCC, presentation of accounts, safeguarding reports, the review of the Church Electoral Roll and reports from the churches. Only members on the Church Electoral Rolls can vote at these meetings.

### **THANK YOU**

Emma and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has sent cards, walked beside us, propped us up when needed, offered food and support and been so very kind to us following the death of Harry. We have felt very loved and blessed.

Also a big thank you to those who donated to the Donkey Sanctuary in Harry's name.

In addition to being an avid bird watcher, Bolton Wanderer's supporter and enthusiastic fan of Test Match cricket and tennis matches, Harry loved animals. Chippy, our JR rescue dog, was top of his list closely followed by donkeys, pangolins, elephants and anything rescued by the RSPCA.

Thank you

*Jane and Emma Stryker*



### **MOORLINCH PUB QUIZ**

Plenty of advance notice for the next quiz, folks. Being presented by the 'No Idea' team, who gallantly volunteered.

**Where:** Ring O' Bells (otherwise it wouldn't be a pub quiz, would it?)

**When:** Thursday 19 March, start at 8pm.

Teams of up to 4 people, £10 per table. Tables need to be booked in advance.

Half the proceeds to be the first prize, the other half of the proceeds to charity.

Please contact the Ring O' Bells, Moorlinch to book tables and food. Tel. 01458 210358.

**Brain  
OF  
MOORLINCH**

### **DR BIKE AND POP UP CAFÉ**

Bring your bike along for a free 40 point check-up and minor mechanical repairs at Moorlinch Church Hall on Saturday 21 March. Open from 10am to 2pm, this opportunity

is being offered through the Step, Ride, Thrive partnership. It aims to help people get out on their bikes, helping with rural transport and enjoying the area.

While waiting, or if you just fancy cycling, walking or driving over, come and enjoy some goodies from our pop up cafe and see the beautiful views from the church hall grounds. Cafe in aid of Hall upkeep.

Sam Dawe



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY EGG ROLLING AND FIZZ**

### **Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026 at Noon**

Come and join us for our traditional egg rolling competition (with prizes!) in the churchyard.

Open to all in Moorlinch and the benefice.

To wash down the chocolate taste, there will be a glass of the fizzy stuff (or soft drinks for the under 18s!!).



## **OPEN CHURCH WEEKEND**

### **Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April**

A weekend of various events – including have-a-go bellringing, abseiling, a flower festival and an opportunity to look at some of the ‘treasures’ found in St Mary’s.

There will be refreshments - including cream teas.

Further details will be available in the April issue of MOMSS, on the website and Moorlinch Facebook page.

## ***STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE NEWS***

Information is available on the website [www.stawellvillage.info](http://www.stawellvillage.info)

### **STAWELL AND SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE HALL**

All that’s happening at Stawell & Sutton Mallet Village Hall in March.

#### **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 March**

**Saturday 14**, Hub café 10.30am - 1pm & Step Ride Thrive project team who are organising free cycling events in the Avalon and Poldens area will also be in attendance for a FREE 40 point check, tune up and minor repairs.

**Saturday 14**, Film night 7pm for 7.30pm start showing 'I Swear' certificate 15

**Monday 16**, Whist afternoon 2pm - 4pm

**Saturday 21**, 12 noon till 2pm, Lent Lunch. Please feel free to attend this for a soup and roll lunch and bring some cash for the pot for some charity – watch the notice boards and



village website.

**Saturday 21**, St Patricks Theme Hub Pub 7pm-11pm

Advance notice of our Mad Hatter's Spring Ball on Saturday 18 April, 7pm for 7.30pm with 3 course meal and music from Secret Seven Band. £25.00 per person.

To book and pay for seats please contact [Stawellandsuttonmalletvhc@gmail.com](mailto:Stawellandsuttonmalletvhc@gmail.com)

*Maxine Hughes, Chairperson*

## **HOME GROUP**

A Moorlinch and Stawell Home Group is being trialled on Tuesday 10 March. This will be a zoom meeting at 5pm to discuss possibilities. It could be a bible study group or something else. Attend to have your say. Joining details from Fiona Hixon.

Please note the change of date.

*Richard Graham*

## **VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday 28 March, 10am till 12 noon. Monthly coffee morning is being held at Jim and Morag's, The Old Farmhouse. This is free but you can contribute to church funds by putting money in the pot.

*Richard Graham, Churchwarden*



## **ST FRANCIS CHAPELRY REPAIRS**

### **Update**

Further to the article about this last month, the following should be noted.

The building work is proceeding successfully despite the bad weather. This is an attempt to have it invoiced before the possibility of the government stopping us reclaiming the VAT on the work. This is likely at the end of March. Everyone knows that the Church of England is wealthy. The problem for us out in the sticks is that we do not receive any of it directly. In particular, for church repairs of this grade II\* listed building, we have never received any money from the diocese or the central church to cover repairs. All funds have come from within the village or from legacies of people that lived in the village. This work is currently costing about £26,000 and we have 13 members.

*Richard Graham, Churchwarden*

### **Letter received by the Editor**

*Dear Team & Mr Graham*

*Just wanted to thank you for the article on Page 5&6. It was very lovely to read of all the work being carried out on St. Francis' Church.*

*Also, that George Mogg's legacy has been used towards this, a Church he loved.*

*I am a niece of George and his sister Pam. I was able to read the article to Pam over the telephone as she lives away and is not able to use the Internet. She was pleased that she too, had a mention.*

*I used to stay at Gran's (Annie Mogg) in school holidays at Western Cottage. Such happy memories of Stawell with such loving grandparents. Thank you again.*

*Eileen (Moschke)*

## **ST. FRANCIS CHURCH**

### **Future events**

**Monday 2 March**, 7.30pm Joint PCC meeting with the Polden Wheel at Shapwick

church.

**Tuesday 3 March** 5pm - Church committee meets at Ruth's.

**Tuesday 17 March** 7.30pm - Wardens and representatives meeting in the Othery Church Room.

**Saturday 21 March** 12 noon till 2pm - Lent Lunch. Please feel free to attend this for a soup and roll lunch and bring some cash for the pot for some charity – watch the notice boards and village website.

**Saturday 28 March** Easter Bingo in the village hall. 7pm till 10pm. Please donate prizes for this and give to Ruth Peberdy, the Old School. They can be left by her front door.

*Richard Graham, Churchwarden*



## ***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](mailto: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:** Colin Cowles of Othery, musician and composer, died on Tuesday 27 January and his funeral was held on Wednesday 18 February in St Michael's Church, Othery followed by cremation at Taunton.

### **BENEFICE REORGANISATION**

At the present time there is still no definite date for this to happen. Meetings are occurring at both ends of the benefice to effect the splitting of it.

The recent meeting of the Archdeacon of Taunton, Sedgemoor Area Dean, the Athelney

vicar and churchwardens and the Middlezoy and Othery churchwardens has not yet progressed matters any further.

Another meeting is to be arranged soon.

## **DRAW NEAR THIS LENT**



The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is 'Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent'. It's a very different way of thinking about the season. Often, we identify Lent as a time for prayer and fasting when we 'give things up'. More recently many have decided to adopt an opposite approach – of 'taking something up for Lent'. 'Draw near' has a much wider remit. Each week, it invites us to explore a different

aspect of Christian discipleship – worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

The 'Draw Near' approach fits well with how Lent began. During the Church's earliest days, those wishing to become Christians were known as 'catechumens', people who were learning to live as disciples of Jesus. Preparation was intensive. It took place particularly in the 40 days before new Christians were baptised on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. Our season of Lent comes from this ancient practice.

When the Church began, it didn't have the trappings we're used to seeing around us such as buildings, hymn books, pews, or paid ministers. Church wasn't an institution. It was known as 'the Way'. Christians met in each other's homes and sought to work out how to follow Jesus in their everyday lives. This wasn't so much about head knowledge, believing a particular set of doctrines. It was about the habits and practices that Christians constantly cultivated to help them draw nearer to God who is with us, in us, around us and beside us every moment of every day. 'Draw Near' comes out of this heritage. It's an invitation to make Lent a journey that brings us closer to God.

I invite you to make use of 'Draw Near' this Lent. It includes materials for adults, for families and for children, resources for schools and encouragement for churches. More information can be found at [www.cofeio/DrawNear](http://www.cofeio/DrawNear). As we approach Lent, let's draw near and join each other on the journey to God that is the Way.

+ Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells



## ***AROUND AND ABOUT - BEYOND THE BENEFICE***

### **MUSIC ON THE LEVELS**

Music on the Levels announces the free concert with Katie Grace Harris on Sunday 29 March in St Mary's Church, Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP. It starts at 3pm and refreshments are available at a modest charge from 2.15pm.

Katie is a multi-tasking, foot tapping, piano, dulcimer and accordion-playing singer and story-weaver. Inspired by real stories of social injustice and with a fast-growing reputation in the UK folk world, her sound has been described as "boot-thumping, heart-filling acoustic/folk music".

Katie's debut album 'The Toledo Sessions' was released in late summer 2022. It includes two songs developed in collaboration with Reg Meuross and features musical contributions from Phil Beer, Odette Mitchell and Lukas Drinkwater.

Katie's first 'instrument' is her distinctive pure voice - she uses it to draw her audiences into the story she is telling with 'spine-tingling' results. Her engaging live performances usually feature her playing a range of instruments including piano, piano accordion and shruti and she can often be seen toting a homemade chess board stomp box and a pair of sturdy boots for a full one-woman-band experience!



### **Arrangements for this concert**

Music on the Levels no longer has the use of The Old School car park. However, there is parking on most of the roads in the village, including Liney Road and Cheer Lane, TA7 0EX - a short walk from the church, but we ask people not to park in Church Lane.

There is no need to book as the church's capacity have never yet been exceeded, however, 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*

### **THE WI - MORE THAN JAM AND JERUSALEM**

#### **Think fun and frolics, trips, treats and parties**

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**

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

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.

#### **Westonzoyland WI**

The next meeting is on Wednesday 11 March at Westonzoyland Village Hall. This will be our AGM and will include not only information about our planned activities for the coming year but also a talk from an award winning horticulturalist.

You would be most welcome to come and see.

For any further information please email: [zoywisec@gmail.com](mailto:zoywisec@gmail.com) or call Gill Wilkinson on 01823 698429

*Gill Wilkinson*



## EASTER SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

Everyone is welcome to join us at any or all of the services or events taking place in our Benefice during Easter.



### APRIL

<b>2 Maundy Thursday</b>	7.00 pm	Service of Reflection	Holy Cross, Middlezoy
<b>3 Good Friday</b>	10.30 am	Walk of Witness with Stations of the Cross	Holy Cross churchyard, Middlezoy
	2.30 pm	Service of Reflection	Methodists Chapel, Middlezoy
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion Service	St Francis, Stawell

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

		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	(not locked)
Sutton Mallet Telephone Kiosk	TA7 9AT	(not locked)

## HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The recently revised schedules for the MOMSS & G area are:

### MIDDLEZOY

**Recycling Boxes, every week:** Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 March, 1 April

**Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:** Wednesday 18 March, Thursday 9 April

**Garden Waste Bins, every other week:** Mondays 2, 16, 30 March, 13 April

### OTHERY

**Recycling Boxes, every week:** Fridays 6, 13, 20, 27 March, Saturday 4 April

**Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:** Fridays 6, 27 March, 17 April

**Garden Waste Bins, every other week:** Mondays 2, 16, 30 March, 13 April

### MOORLINCH, STAWELL, SUTTON MALLET & GREINTON

**Recycling Boxes, every week:** Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 March, 1, Thursday 9 April

**Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:** Wednesday 18 March, Thursday 9 April

**Garden Waste Bins, every other week:** Fridays 6, 20 March, Saturday 4 April

## 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 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](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries)



# MOMSS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please advise [momssgeditor@live.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## SERVICES CHART FOR CHAPEL AND UB CHURCHES MARCH 2026

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
<b>March 1 Sun</b> <i>(Second of Lent)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Mary's, Moorlinch
<b>8 Sun</b> <i>(Third of Lent)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.30 am	Prayer and Praise Holy Communion Joint Worship For All	St Michael's, Othery St Francis, Stawell Methodists Chapel, Middlezoy
<b>15 Sun</b> <i>(Fourth of Lent)</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service Mothering Sunday Family Service Mothering Sunday Family Service Mothering Sunday Family Service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell
<b>22 Sun</b> <i>(Fifth of Lent)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Prayer and Praise Morning Prayer Morning Worship Circuit Communion Service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell Methodists Chapel, Middlezoy
<b>29 Sun</b> <i>(PALM SUNDAY)</i>	10.00 am	Palm Sunday Service with Blessing of Palms	St Michael's, Othery

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

DATE	SEASON	READINGS
<b>March 1 Sun</b>	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
<b>8 Sun</b>	Third of Lent	OT: Exodus, chapter 17, verses 1 to 7 Psalm: 95 Epistle: Romans, chapter 5, verses 1 to 11 Gospel: John, chapter 4, verses 5 to 42
<b>15 Sun</b>	Fourth of Lent (Mothering Sunday)	OT: 1 Samuel, chapter 1, verses 20 to 28 (the end) Psalm: 127 Epistle: Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12 to 17 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 33 to 40
<b>22 Sun</b>	Fifth of Lent	OT: Ezekiel, chapter 37, verses 1 to 14 Psalm: 130 Epistle: Romans, chapter 8, verses 1 to 11 Gospel: John, chapter 11, verses 1 to 45
<b><u>29 Sun</u></b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	OT: Isaiah, chapter 50, verses 4 to 9a Psalm: 31, verses 9 to 18 Epistle: Philippians, chapter 2, verses 5 to 11 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 27, verses 11 to 54

**Details of Easter Services are on page 19**