

# MOMSS MAGAZINE



Chalice Morris Men  
Drawing by Anne Farmer  
(1944-2024)

## JUNE 2025

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 costs

*Quarter Page: (A7 size):*

Single edition £20; Three editions £50;  
Six editions £90; Annual £175.

*Half Page (A6 size):*

Single edition £40; Three editions £100;  
Six editions £180; Annual £350.

For further pricing information and technical details phone

Jane Stryker Tel: 01458 210661

E-mail [momssgadverts@live.co.uk](mailto:momssgadverts@live.co.uk)

Please note: Copy and payment for adverts must be received by 12<sup>th</sup> of the month (see date of deadlines on this page).

Advertising space is limited. We cannot guarantee single adverts will be accepted for publication.

## MOMSS Account details

Account name: United Benefice MOMSS

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**This magazine is edition  
number 5 of volume 22**

**DON'T FORGET !  
July edition deadlines:  
Adverts 12 June  
Articles 15 June**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are part of our community lives and we are currently experiencing a wave of them; occasions when families, friends and neighbours join together to endorse and encourage friendship, fellowship, fortitude and thanksgiving.

I have a small cushion on my desk which was given to me some years ago by a friend to look at from time to time. On it are the following words: "Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave and impossible to forget."

Spring has continued to flourish with warm dry weather enabling blossoms and vegetation to grow with abundance and beauty. Bees and insects are enjoying this extended period to visit the flowers for food and moisture because locally we have had very little rain. The pollen count this spring has been really high. The ground is hard, the weeds difficult to remove, agricultural crops are being stunted but lawns grow – oh dear, they really do. Gardening beckons, so, time to do some planning for the months ahead especially when the rains return.

June is a favourite month for outdoor events especially fayres, fetes, open gardens, cream teas, music festivals, barbecues, day trips. It is also a favourite month to watch tennis at Wimbledon on the tv!

In the meantime, whatever else you plan to do, be tempted to read through our magazine, hopefully enjoying its reports, adverts, wit, wisdom and all good wishes for everyone.

Anita Winslade, Editor

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## ***GENERAL ITEMS***

### **MIDDLEZOY POST OFFICE**

Middlezoy Post Office is changing its hours.

From Monday 2 June the hours will be: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 1pm, ie. every weekday, starting earlier but closed every afternoon.

### **MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS**

This month has been a whirlwind of learning, activities and trips. The highlight has to be our wonderful VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations.

The children and staff were fully immersed in the significance of VE Day. They all looked phenomenal with a mix of Armed Forces being represented, as well as land girls and



farmers. We even had our own Spitfire on site for the day! This was all finished off with a sprinkle of glamour too! In school, we all observed the two-minute silence at midday. The children never fail to amaze me with the respect they show during these moments, even when it is at the start of their lunchtime!

Following lunch, we made our way to the village hall. I was delighted and quite taken aback to see so many of our parents, carers and villagers there. Thank you so much for coming to support the event. The children performed songs and recounted the significance of VE Day, whole-heartedly supported by the community.

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA, who fully organised the afternoon at the hall. The hall looked beautiful and the cream tea was a great hit. It really cannot be underestimated just how much time and effort goes into preparing such an event: the posters, decorations and the table settings, constant flow of tea and the amazing cakes. Thank you also to the additional helpers on the day. Your support, as always, is very much appreciated.

*With my best wishes,*

*Mrs Lindsay Hayward, Headteacher Phone: 01823 698464 Email: [office@othmid.ppat365.org](mailto:office@othmid.ppat365.org)*

### **SKY AT NIGHT**

#### **Sunrise**

**Beginning of June** 5.02am-9.17pm

#### **Moon Phases**

First Quarter 3rd / Full Moon 11th / Last Quarter 18th / New Moon 25th

#### **Sunset**

**End of June** 5.00am-9.29pm

## Planets

Mars is the only planet on view during the evening now passing through the constellation of Leo and setting at 1am. In the early morning Saturn rises at 2am, followed by the shining beacon which is Venus at 3am.

## Constellation

Late evening find a clear southern horizon and look for the constellation of Scorpius the scorpion. The stars that create the asterism Scorpius actually resemble a scorpion, from England we can see its claws rising to the west but further south its tail and sting are much more visible. The brightest star in the constellation is the very prominent red supergiant Antares. The name deriving from the Greek meaning to rival Ares. In other words Antares is the rival of Mars, due of course to its similar colour.

## Phenomena

On the 16th/17th red Mars will pass above the bright white star Regulus in the constellation of Leo, a great sight in binoculars. Then on the 21st we have the summer solstice and experience the longest day and shortest night of the year.

Paul Adamson 01823698156

## SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS

At our June meeting Richard Hook formerly of the European Southern Observatory presents a talk on *Monster Telescopes*. We also have a night sky guide for the month ahead and astronomy news. Admission is £3



# OTHERY STREET FAYRE Saturday 21st June

## 11am to 4pm

Fayre Opened by Sir Ashley Fox MP  
11am live on air with Sedgemoor FM  
Ice Cream Van, Barbecue,  
Refreshments & Cream Teas,  
Market & Crafts Stalls, Fun Dog Show  
Classic & Vintage Vehicles  
WZ Airfield Exhibition  
Children's Poetry Competition exhibits  
Punch & Judy, Bouncy Castle  
Children's Entertainments  
Games and Challenges, Tug-of-war  
'First Drop'  
'Grand Draw' Ticket Sales  
Bar in the Marquee (open all day)

## 4pm to 11pm

Live Music and Entertainment  
in the Playing Field  
5.30pm Pig Roast (until it's all gone!)  
'Grand Draw' Ticket Sales  
(the draw will be on Sunday 22nd)

Proceeds to St Michael's Church, TA7 0QG

Free car park & entry to the Fayre

Car washes in the car park, £5 cash only

[www.facebook.com/OtheryStreetFayre](http://www.facebook.com/OtheryStreetFayre)

with membership available.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 June in Othery Village Hall, Fore Street, Othery TA7 0QU.

For more details or to be added to our mailing list please contact

[somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com](mailto:somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook

Paul Adamson 01823698156

## **WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION**

The next meeting of the Somerset branch will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11 June in Othery Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings.

We welcome the return of internationally known military historian, author and past oral historian at the Imperial War Museum Peter Hart. Peter's talk will be *Laugh or Fly* which is the title of his latest book.

"The airmen lived from safety to dire danger, and back again in a matter of hours. This created a dreadful strain that could soon shred anyone's mental health. Flying personnel, blessed with beds and blankets, had the mess for entertainment, access to drink and, sometimes visits to local towns. All well away from the squalor and danger of trench life, but in the air, they faced extreme danger. No parachutes and sitting next to a petrol tank waiting to explode. Yet, humour, perhaps dark, was there to be found."

Peter will have a limited amount of his books with him to purchase.

We ask for only £5 to help pay towards speaker and hall hire and for this you not only get an excellent speaker but a mug of tea or coffee and a raffle ticket.

Pat Adamson, Secretary, Somerset branch, WFA 01823 698156

## **FARM DIARY**

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

**In the Field.** At the time of writing in the middle of May, the fields that were being cultivated were having maize drilled. This is one of the last crops to be sown/drilled. In fact, it is precision drilled in that one seed goes down the tube and is planted at a certain distance from the next seed. You can see the effect of this in a stand of maize. The plants are evenly spaced down rows that are quite far apart – typically half a metre. Cereals are sown with different drills. There is bunching or crowding within the rows which are closer together.

**Farm events.** May 29-31 Royal Bath and West show in Shepton Mallet is a fantastic day out for the family.

June 5-7 Royal Cornwall show, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

June 8 Open Farm Sunday. There are several farms open in Somerset where you can meet and chat to the farmer or staff and see around their farm.

June 13-15 Royal Three Counties show, at Malvern.

All details can be found on the internet.

**Rewilding.** There is a huge estate in Scotland and a farm in England that are totally devoted to this. With our level of home produced food at about 60% of our needs, land being lost to solar panels and wind turbines and the unprecedented rise in population that has been seen in the last two years, it does seem inappropriate to take more land out of production.

Rewilding does benefit wild life but eating is important as well. In times of difficulty, we will



not be able to import all that we need. These are huge pressures on farmland use. Likewise, the current government wants to put trees on 19% of the country. Lots of pressures on farmland. Someone has to pay for rewilding. Wildfires are on the increase around the world. Removing vegetation is the best insurance against this. Rewilding does the opposite. In Somerset, we have lots of hedges which are wild places.

*Richard Graham*

## **NEWS FROM OUR MPS**

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



#### **It's been another busy month!**

At Prime Minister's Questions during the week of VE Day, I highlighted the important work of the RAF's Photographic Reconnaissance Unit. Their wartime work was very risky and crucial to the safety of all the Armed Forces. I asked the Prime Minister to join me in paying our respects to the brave men and women once the promised memorial is installed to commemorate their efforts, and particularly to remember the late Capt. Bruce Tilley of Axbridge.

In Parliament I pressed the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero on improving energy efficiency for older homes and those in conservation areas. I also attended the RAC's excellent Westminster

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event to learn about new solutions to help address the country's pothole crisis, and I'm meeting the Highways team to discuss these shortly.

As your MP, it is my privilege to listen to you, your family and neighbours, hear what concerns them and campaign for change where it's needed. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or come to chat with me at a 'surgery'.

I'll be holding my regular 'surgeries' on:

Friday 6 June from 6.00pm to 7.00pm at Ashcott's Pub Night in Ashcott Village Hall.

Saturday 7 June from 11.00am to 12noon at The Bluebird Café in 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.

Thank you.

You can get hold of me in a number of ways:

01934 440639 (answerphone out of office hours) [tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk)

Text: 07714 599669 Post: Tessa Munt, Freepost (you won't need a stamp)

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

#### **Why Local Voices Matter in Planning for Somerset's Future**

A campaign graphic for Ashley Fox MP. At the top left is the Royal Coat of Arms. To its right, 'ASHLEY FOX MP' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Further right, the phrase 'Here to Help!' is written in a large, black, cursive script. Below this, a photograph shows Ashley Fox, a man in a light blue shirt, standing between two police officers in blue uniforms and helmets. On the left side of the graphic, there is a list of contact information: an envelope icon for 'House of Commons London SW1A 0AA', an '@' icon for 'ashley.fox.mp@parliament.uk', a telephone icon for '01278 811 007', and a Facebook icon for 'Ashley7Fox'. At the bottom left, small text reads 'Powered by MySociety's iParliament'. On the right side, there is a QR code with the text 'Sign up to my newsletter' above it and 'SCAN ME' below it in a blue box.

The Government's new Planning and Infrastructure Bill aims to speed up the delivery of homes and infrastructure — a goal I support. But it must not come at the cost of local democracy or proper scrutiny. The Bill would centralise planning powers, allowing the Secretary of State or unelected officers to bypass local councillors. It means residents in places like Middlezoy and Othery could lose their say in decisions that shape their communities.

We've already felt the challenges of centralisation. Since Sedgemoor District Council was



merged into Somerset Council, planning has become slower, less responsive, knowledge has been lost and frustration is growing. It hasn't helped that since 2022, the council has been run by the Liberal Democrats, whose handling of the transition has left much to be desired. The Bill also allows developers to pay into a national nature fund instead of assessing local environmental impact. That might work elsewhere, but Somerset's unique ecosystems, from wetlands to rivers, demand site-specific care.

We do need more homes but with the right roads, schools, surgeries, and green space. Local farmers also need protection from sweeping compulsory purchase powers.

Planning reform is necessary, but it must be shaped *with* communities, not forced *on* them.

[www.ashleyfox.org.uk](http://www.ashleyfox.org.uk) Facebook: Ashley7Fox

## ***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 STREET FAYRE**

#### **Saturday 21 June**

Our annual church fundraising event will be here again and we have organised another day and evening of events and activities. With the June edition of the magazine we will be delivering our annual house-to-house appeal leaflets asking people for donations of items to our own church stalls of Bottle-Tombola, Bric-a-Brac and Produce (NO BOOKS this year please) which we will then collect during the week immediately before the Fayre. Grand Draw tickets will also be available from our collectors.

#### **Cakes Stall**

Elinor Busby is appealing for on-the-day donations of homemade cakes - small, medium and large sizes will be very gratefully received. Also if you feel you could help on the stall for an hour during the day it would be much appreciated. Please contact her at Church Farmhouse, North Lane or phone 01823 690453.

#### **Got something to sell?**

Stall sites booking forms are available from the Street Fayre Secretary, Anita Winslade, Elmgrove Bungalow, Holloway Road, Othery, TA7 0QF. Tel: 07714 672316.

#### **From 11am - 4pm**

Come along to North Lane, the playing field, the Old Vicarage lawn and the church, all of which will be filled with stalls, exhibitions, live entertainments, Dog Show, horses, games, competitions, sales of the Grand Draw raffle tickets for many valuable prizes which have been donated by very generous donors. Hot and cold refreshments, all day bar and classic cars etc to name just a few!

#### **From 4pm to 11pm**

Immediately after the Fayre closes at 4pm the playing field marquee will be the focal point with the bar open and live musical entertainment from 4.30pm; then from 5.30pm a pig

roast. Live music will then continue until closure of the bar and playing field at 11pm.

### **Volunteer Help**

If you are new to the village or have not volunteered before and can spare an hour or two to help on a stall, or setting up etc. please contact Isobel Davis, email [isobeldav@gmail.com](mailto:isobeldav@gmail.com) or phone 01823 698119. You will be made very welcome.

Anita Winslade, Secretary, Street Fayre Committee. 07714 672316 [anitawinslade@gmail.com](mailto:anitawinslade@gmail.com)

### **ALEX BROWN**

It was with sadness that Othery received the news that Alex, former resident and Parish Councillor and a patron to St Michael's church, had died in hospital whilst recovering from surgery after a fall.

His funeral was attended by family, friends, local residents and many people from clubs and organisations that he was a member of, as well as former work colleagues.

The church was full to overflowing with mourners and so a large group had to sit outside the church under a big marquee to watch and hear the proceedings via a televised link.

Thankfully the weather was warm and dry.

Alex, a lovable, quiet Scotsman was a great supporter of local interests and in his commercial life had travelled far and wide across and around the world.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and had experiences and dealings with him.

Anita Winslade

### **OTHERY BOOK READING GROUP**

*If nobody speaks of remarkable things* by Jon McGregor

On a single sleepy day on a street in a town in the North of England, ordinary people are going through the motions of their everyday existence - street cricket, barbecues, painting windows ... A young man is in love with a neighbour who does not even know his name. An old couple make their way up to a nearby bus stop. But then a terrible event shatters the quiet of the early summer evening, a tragedy which is not fully revealed until the end of the book.

The electric story of this street accident, an accidental pregnancy involving the narrator and a story of twins are woven invitingly across the whole but McGregor's central focus is to celebrate ordinary but nonetheless remarkable life. Through the telling of that day he brilliantly evokes the histories and lives of the largely unnamed people in the street to build up an unforgettable human panorama. A breathtakingly original, humane and moving first book. It was long listed for the Booker prize, exalted by many critics and reviled by a few.

Amongst readers there were many superlatives, quite a few struggles and sometimes both. Some struggled with the lack of names or switches of time. Everyone praised the descriptive writing and the inventive play with language, finding endless snippets to delight in. The process of revisiting characters as the day unfolded, each time finding out more was applauded.

Readers connections with the story included the memory of packing up ready to leave student life behind, for another the snap shots of family life resonated with capturing impressions in notes as a social worker and the evocative descriptions of childhood transported many of us back there.

In June we will be discussing *The Rooster House* by Victoria Belim. Liz Wall

### **OTHERY VILLAGE HALL**

For those able to attend, we hope you enjoyed our live music night featuring Steve Mitchell!

We look forward to hosting many more live music events and welcoming you all (please see dates below).

The committee continue to look at ways of improving the hall and during the last month we have installed an external power socket to allow us to hang our new festoon lights throughout the trees. We have also purchased additional seating for our outdoor area as we continue to have this lovely weather. These will make a welcome addition for you to use during our events throughout the summer months.

Our new hall sign has also been put up and thank you to Nigel for replanting our containers outside the front door.

Please keep an eye out for our visiting food vendors every Friday.

#### **Save these upcoming dates!**

7 June – Decades Disco. 7pm, Music from the 50s to the 2000s. FREE entry.

18 July – Summer Barbecue, 6.00pm.

#### **Regular events**

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

Pilates, Western Front Association, Short Mat Bowls, Little Pickles and Somerset Levels Stargazers as advertised on the village hall website [www.othervillagehall.org.uk](http://www.othervillagehall.org.uk)

As ever if you would like to get involved with the Village Hall then please contact us.

*Rachael Selway, Secretary, Othervillage Hall Management Committee*

*Email: [othervillagehall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:othervillagehall@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 07456 653252*



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## **MOORLINCH VILLAGE NEWS**

### **QUICK UPDATE FOLLOWING MOORLINCH CHURCH HALL AGM**

Thanks to everyone who was able to come along to the Church Hall AGM on Thursday 1 May. We had some lively and helpful discussions about the future of the hall and how it can be managed for the village while the input from the current committee reduces. Owned by Moorlinch Church, the hall relies on fundraising, donations and help in order for us to keep it running for people to use. It costs about £3,000 a year just for bills and routine upkeep.

In the last 3 years facilities have been improved thanks to a grant from (what was then) Sedgemoor DC; the pavilion, newly completed gazebo, additional toilet, new shed, insulated ceiling and new audio system plus more. These were all based on feedback from Moorlinch villagers.

We talked a lot about how we could increase the use of the hall and help people realise it

is available for them, and also about how we can accommodate requests and try to undertake further improvements.

We'd welcome with open arms, anyone who could help with little bits of everyday maintenance / gardening or run some different fundraising events in a way that fits in with their own priorities and lifestyle! Please contact me if you can contribute and a huge thanks to those who are already.

*Samantha Dawe sam.eastend@gmail.com*

## **BREAKFAST CAFÉ**

To celebrate Whit Sunday (Pentecost) we will be holding a breakfast café on Sunday 8 June at 9.00am in the Church Hall. All welcome.

## **A BIT OF MIDSUMMER MADNESS**

**Sunday 22 June 3pm – 4.30pm Moorlinch Church Hall and Grounds**

Come and join us for:

Fun and Frivolity

Cream Teas

A Glass of Pimm's

Children's Activities

Games

Stalls

To reserve a stall please contact Jane on [stryker.jps@gmail.com](mailto:stryker.jps@gmail.com)

All money raised will go towards the upkeep of Moorlinch Church Hall.

*Moorlinch Church Hall Committee*



## ***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 June

#### **Groups**

Monday Keep Fit with Liza 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday Yoga with Clare 7pm - 8.15pm

Wednesday Dog training with Sophie 5pm - 7pm

Wednesday Short Mat Bowls 7pm - 9pm

Thursday Zumba with Carole-Anne 9.30am - 10.30am

Thursday Art Group 7pm - 9pm

Friday Yoga with Clare 10am - 11.15am

#### **Specials**

##### **Saturday 14th**

10.30am - 1pm - Hub Cafe

##### **Monday 16th**

2pm - 4pm - Whist

##### **Saturday 21st**

8pm - 11pm - Hub Pub

*Maxine Hughes, Chairperson*



## **ST. FRANCIS CHURCH**

### **Cream teas**

St. Francis Church is having a Cream Teas Afternoon on Saturday 19 July, at Stawell Village Hall, from 3pm until 5pm. Scones will be provided by the talented scone makers of Stawell, Jim and Morag Thorley. Do come along and try them, they are scrummy!!

*Ruth Peberdy, Stawell Church Committee*

## **VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING**

### **Saturday 28 June**

The monthly Coffee Morning is at Jim and Morag Thorley, The Old Farmhouse, Stawell, from 10am 'til 12 noon. All welcome and to meet your neighbours.

## **PARISH MEETING**

A Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 14 May at which the chair, Sam Hearn resigned after 4 years' sterling work. He was thanked enthusiastically for everything he has done, in particular improving the drainage around the village and getting a defibrillator installed in the old telephone box. There were no volunteers to replace him, so the post is now vacant.

Discussions were held about the possibility of forming a small committee to help share the workload in the future. This would not be a formal parish council as the village is too small to warrant one. Essentially the role of the committee would be to act as a communication channel between Somerset Council and the village. Anyone who might be interested in joining the committee or who would like to know more should email

*greintonparishsecretary@gmail.com.*

Early in April, a licensing application was submitted to hold the Godney Gathering in Greinton in 2026. This application has now been withdrawn.

  
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## **GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS**

## **ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH**

By the time you read this the Annual Parochial Church Council will have taken place (on Monday 19 May). A summary of what took place will be in next month's edition but, if you were unable to attend and would like to know what happened before then, please contact Toby Crispin: *greintonvillage@gmail.com*

## **VILLAGE HALL**

The date for our Harvest Barn Dance is now set, so please put it in your diaries/phone

calendars: Saturday 6 September. Live music from Hobson's Choice, one of the best-value cash bars in the area, delicious hot food and tickets held at last year's prices – what more could you ask for? Full details to follow.

*Toby Crispin, greintonvillage@gmail.com*

## **MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS**

### **MIDDLEZOY POST OFFICE**

**Middlezoy Post Office is changing its hours.**

From Monday 2 June the hours will be: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 1pm., i.e. every weekday, starting earlier BUT closed every afternoon.

### **MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE HALL**

**Middlezoy Community Project**

The musical bingo was a fun evening enjoyed by all who attended, and we will possibly be looking at putting this on again in the future.

Our next evening will be the beer band and burgers. This should be a lot of fun and plenty of dancing. To be held on Saturday 21 June, lookout for the posters. Tickets will be available via Middlezoy web page and at the post office. Ticket price £12.50 to include a free drink, either a single spirit, a glass of wine or a pint/bottle of beer.

We would like to welcome Dominie Hutchinson onto the committee and also Louise Batstone who will be looking after the bar roster, taking over from Sally Roulson. Many thanks Sally for looking after the bar roster.

Friday evenings are still a big success, fish and chips being the best attended. We also have other food wagons attending, details are posted on the Middlezoy Facebook page.

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, usually aiming to finish no later than 9pm.

If you can help, please contact me on 07760 887 907. *Paul Baker, MCP Chair*

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

Invitations for the Senior Citizens (aged 65 and over) summer outing to Sidmouth on Tuesday 12 August should be coming through letterboxes by the end of June. It is for residents only. If you are eligible and have not received an invite by 30 June please let me know.

*Jill Darby, Chairman, 01823 698000 [jilldrb@gmail.com](mailto:jilldrb@gmail.com)*

### **WEEKLY MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS**

We meet every Monday (excluding bank holidays) in the Chapel from 10am - 11.45am.

We serve tea/coffee/hot chocolate £1 including biscuits with free refills. Come along to meet old friends and make new ones. All Welcome.

*Jill Darby (Co-ordinator)*





## HOLY CROSS CHURCH

### Open Tower Day

On Monday 5 May despite the weather cooling there was a good turnout for the Open Tower Day to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The views from the top of the tower were still impressive as were the cream teas and cakes (at the bottom of the tower!!). Thank you to all who brought along VE Day memorabilia and decorated the church.

### Bell Restoration Project

The funds are starting to come in for the bells restoration project as will be seen by the rise in the mercury on the 'thermometer' in the churchyard. A grant of £9,000 has been awarded from the Bath and Wells Association of Change Ringers and an application for a grant has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In addition the faculty (planning consent) has been issued by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

As part of the fund raising on Saturday 7 June there will be Breakfast Brunch in the church commencing at 10.30am.

We had planned for a concert in the Church by the Yeovilton Military Wives choir on Saturday 5 July.

Unfortunately they are now unable to perform that evening. An alternative date in September is being arranged,

Details in next month's MOMSS

Middlezoy Churchwarden and PCC



## MIDDLEZOY METHODIST CHURCH

### The Peekaboo Gang Toddler

**Group** continues to meet weekly in termtime and welcome new families.

This is a place of fun and friendship on a Friday morning, 9.30-12.30, come any time, and stay for as long as you want. If you have a little one under 3 years old, pop by and meet some lovely ladies whilst your little one enjoys playing in the small and friendly space.

**Salads and Sweets** are back on Tuesday 17 June from 1pm!!

Our popular Salad and Sweet lunches return in June – an opportunity to get together with friends and have a meal over conversation. Thank you to all our supporters who come from the village and from the Circuit to contribute or to enjoy.

£7 per person.

### June services:

Sunday 8th, 10am – United Service in Holy Cross.

Sunday 22nd, 6.30pm – Service 'in the round'



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**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.

*Rev Deborah Kirk, Superintendent Minister, Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit, Deputy Chair, SW Peninsula Methodist District 01823 334854*

*Ildiko Haraszti Minister-in-Training, [ildikotutor@gmail.com](mailto:ildikotutor@gmail.com)*

## ***BENEFICE, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN ITEMS***

### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

**Myla Louise Seifert** was baptised in Holy Cross Church on Sunday 18 May by Rev Ana Lawrence shortly after the United Benefice Communion service.

#### **Wedding:**

**Ivo Lidums** and **Lisa Rebecca Barnett** were married in St Michael's Church, Othery on Saturday 24 May.

#### **Deaths/Funeral:**

Alexander (Alec) Lawson Brown, formerly of Othery, died on Thursday 10 April and his funeral was held on Thursday 1 May at St Giles church, Thurloxton. (Tribute on page 8)  
The ashes of **Eric Albert George KELLET** were interred at Holy Cross, Middlezoy on 29 April 2025.

### **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

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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*

### **A THANK YOU FROM BISHOP RUTH**

Following her farewell service at Wells Cathedral in April, Bishop Ruth sent a message of thanks to the Diocese of Bath and Wells for the wonderful farewell she received and for all the cards and gifts she was sent. Bishop Ruth was welcomed by the people of Liverpool in a service at Liverpool Cathedral led by Archbishop Stephen. In her letter Bishop Ruth said, "I will be holding you in my prayers in the coming months and ask that you do the same for me. Never forget that you are 'God's chosen ones, holy and beloved' and keep on living and telling the story of Jesus!" With much love and gratitude for you all.  
+Ruth

### **A PRIVILEGE TO BE INVOLVED**

Rev Dr Ian Mills, Rector, Chew Valley West Benefice, reflects on the significance of life events, baptisms, weddings and funerals and shares how these sacred moments offer space for faith and connection.

#### **Why are life events, such as weddings, baptisms and funerals so important?**

Because they involve people choosing to come to the church or include the church in some way in these moments of great joy, great sorrow and vulnerability.

#### **What does it mean to you when someone chooses the church for these life events?**

It is a privilege to be involved. It means the church still holds a place in people's hearts. I also think everyone has some level of spiritual curiosity. These occasions let them explore that safely,



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[facebook.com/TowansCareHome](https://facebook.com/TowansCareHome)

without pressure.

**Why do you think people still seek God's presence at these times?**

Grief, love, new life—these stir a desire for connection and meaning. I think these occasions often give people an opportunity to push at the door a little bit, it gives them an excuse to open a conversation and to explore their faith—curiosity a little bit more.

**What makes a baptism such a special moment for a family?**

We see families who we welcome for the first time through baptism and then we see them again over the years at school services and church events. It's a lovely journey and there is a sense that the children are growing up with the church very much a part of their journey.

**How does the Church ensure people see weddings as more than just a ceremony taking place in a church?**

I always ask couples why they've chosen to marry in church and we discuss their different journeys together. One couple both worked and lived in Glasgow and didn't have a local link, but wanted to marry in one of our churches. To do that, they needed to worship here for six months. At first, I worried they would see it merely as a legal hurdle to jump over, but over time, it became something they really valued. They still talk appreciatively about establishing a connection with the parish here.

**Why do funerals touch people so deeply and sometimes stir questions of faith?**

We have had many families who have been bereaved and received pastoral care from the church. Over time, some have found their way back. Perhaps their faith or church attendance had lapsed, but the process of reconnecting through their bereavement gave them a reason to return.

**CHRIST BESIDE US IN THE JOYS AND SORROWS OF LIFE**

One of the great gifts of the Church, and to the Church, is the way in which we are invited to share in the significant life events of our communities. As we share in baptisms, confirmations and weddings, there is a great opportunity for us to be a part of people's real lives in real ways.

A key moment in the Christian journey is the moment of Baptism. John Chrysostom in the 4<sup>th</sup> century said, "When we immerse our head in water, just as if in a grave, the old man is buried and having sunk down, is entirely hidden once for all; that, when we emerge, a new man arise again. Just as it is easy for us to be immersed and to emerge, so it is easy for God to bury the old man and raise up the new."

For Christians baptism is important as it puts us in the place of Christ and we start a new

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way of life. We become part of Christ's body. Titus 3.5 describes baptism as "the laver of regeneration"; it is an antitype of the Exodus (as we see in 1 Cor 10.1-2). It is us being born again from above (John 3.5). Above all, Baptism is the giving of the Spirit - which is the principle of the Christian Life.

It is our entire life, and indeed death, which are united in the death and resurrection of Christ. In Baptism we are united to God by adoption, having access to the divine life. And in Baptism we find ways of sustaining ourselves on the journey of life. As Lancelot Andrewes put it, "By Him taught all our life long that we know not, put in mind of what we forget, stirred up in what we are dull, helped in our prayers, relieved in our infirmities, comforted in our heaviness".

*Toby Wright, Dean of Wells*

## ***BEYOND THE BENEFICE***

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

**Think fun and frolics, trips and treats and Christmas 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.

#### **WI's near us**

Ashcott and Pedwell	7.30pm	3rd Thurs	Ashcott Village Hall, TA7 9PZ.
Shapwick Starlets	7.30pm	2nd Tues	Village Hall, Station Road, TA7 9NJ
Westonzoyland*	7.30pm	2nd Weds	Village Hall Cheer Lane TA7 0EZ

**\* For the June meeting only the venue will be Sedgemoor Inn TA7 0EB**

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

#### **Westonzoyland WI**

Come to our June meeting on Wednesday 11th and hear about *Trees and all their Wisdom*, not just their incredible communication systems but also the mythology surrounding them. You may also grab a drink from the bar.

Should you fancy a night out with the girls, come and see us. We welcome you.

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

### **MUSIC ON THE LEVELS**

Music on the Levels announces details of its free concert on Sunday 29 June with Steve Graham in St Mary's Church, Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP. The concert starts at 3pm and refreshments are available at modest charge from 2.15pm.

Steve Graham started his musical life as a classical guitarist but gradually became enticed by the beauty and rich repertoire of the lute. The instruments will include: lutes, vihuela, orpharion, guitars and theorbo.

For further information contact:

*Frank Challenger 01278 699071 email: [f.challenger@icloud.com](mailto:f.challenger@icloud.com)*

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## ***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

From the scene of an incident, call 999, ask for Ambulance.

Ascertain the condition of the patient. If a defibrillator is required give the following information about the nearest machine.

		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	

Within 200m of a defibrillator they can give you the code to open the cabinet on post code alone, farther away the call sign is required.

## HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The schedules for the MOMSS & G area are:

### MIDDLEZOY

**Recycling Boxes, every week:** Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 June, 2 July

**Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:** Wednesdays 18 June, 9 July

**Garden Waste Bins, every other week:** Mondays 2, 16, 30 June, 14 July

### OTHERY

**Recycling Boxes, every week:** Fridays 6, 13, 20, 27 June, 4 July

**Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:** Friday 6, 27 June, 18 July

**Garden Waste Bins, every other week:** Thursdays 12, 26 June, 10 July

### MOORLINCH, STAWELL, SUTTON MALLET & GREINTON

**Recycling Boxes, every week:** Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 June, 2 July

**Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:** Wednesdays 18 June, 9 July

**Garden Waste Bins, every other week:** Thursdays 5, 19 June, 3 July

## RECYCLING CENTRES

**Summer opening times (1 April - 30 September)**

All 16 Somerset recycling sites open at weekends

9am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

9am to 6pm weekdays.

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

## MOBILE LIBRARY

**Taunton Area, Route P**

The service continues every 4 weeks on Fridays:

Next visits: 13 June, 11 July

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: Deputy Churchwarden 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, Tues 8.45am-1.00pm, 1.30pm-4.30pm, Wed 8.45am-11am

Thurs, Fri 8.45am-1.00pm, 1.30pm-5pm, Sat 8.45am-12 noon;

P.O. 01823 698981 open Mon to Friday 8.30am to 1.00pm, Afternoons closed.

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 JUNE 2025

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
<b>June 1 Sun</b> (7th of Easter)	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Mary's, Moorlinch
<b>8 Sun</b> ( <b>Pentecost</b> )	10.00 am 10.00 am 09.00 am 10.00 am 12 noon	Joint All Age Worship Holy Communion Breakfast Cafe Morning Worship Family Baptism	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell St Michael's, Othery
<b>15 Sun</b> ( <b>Trinity</b> )	10.15 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Francis, Stawell
<b>22 Sun</b> (1st after Trinity)	10.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Morning Prayer Morning Worship Circuit Communion Service	St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell Methodists Chapel, Middlezoy
<b>29 Sun</b> (2nd after Trinity)	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy
<b>July 6 Sun</b> (3rd after Trinity)	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Michael's, Othery

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

DATE	SEASON	READINGS
<b>June 1 Sun</b>	Seventh Sunday of Easter	OT: Ezekiel, chapter 36, verses 24 to 28 Psalm: 97 Epistle: Acts, chapter 16, verses 16 to 34 Gospel: John, chapter 17, verses 20 to 26 (the end)
<b>8 Sun</b>	<b>Pentecost</b> (Whit Sunday)	OT: Genesis, chapter 11, verses 1 to 9 Psalm: 104, verses 24 to 36 (the end) Epistle: Acts, chapter 2, verses 1 to 21 Gospel: John, chapter 14, verses 1 to 17 and 25 to 27
<b>15 Sun</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	OT: Proverbs, chapter 8, verses 1 to 4 and 22 to 31 Psalm: 8 Epistle: Romans, chapter 5, verses 1 to 5 Gospel: John, chapter 16, verses 12 to 15
<b>22 Sun</b>	First Sunday after Trinity	OT: 1 Kings, chapter 19, verses 1 to 15a Psalm: 42 Epistle: Galatians, chapter 3, verses 23 to 29 (the end) Gospel: Luke, chapter 8, verses 26 to 39
<b>29 Sun</b>	Second Sunday after Trinity	OT: 2 Kings, chapter 2, verses 1 to 14 Psalm: 77, verses 1 and 2 and 11 to 20 (the end) Epistle: Galatians, chapter 5, verses 1 and 13 to 25 Gospel: Luke, chapter 9, verses 51 to 62 (the end)