

**Foodbank Donations**  
**Banwell**  
**Banwell Primary School**, is acting as a Foodbank outpost in Banwell for any members of the Parish in need of its services. **Hours of Operation** : Monday 9am – 12noon **Contact** : Jo Arnold **Phone**: 01934 822 498 **Email** [jo.arnold@banwellprimary.co.uk](mailto:jo.arnold@banwellprimary.co.uk)  
**Congresbury**  
Donations can be placed in the box in at **17 Paul's Causeway**, the porch at **St. Andrew's Church, Congresbury**.

**FLARES YOUTH GROUP**  
If you want any information, updates or just to talk please contact Matt. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6pm —via the Facebook Group to look at Christian themes in the film 'The Greatest Showman'  
[rev.matt.thomson@newcreationchurches.org.uk](mailto:rev.matt.thomson@newcreationchurches.org.uk)

**Personal Pastoral Support:**  
Public Worship is no longer possible, but Matt and others are able to support you on an individual basis where needed. This will mainly be by phone but where necessary can be in person. If you have any worries or if you are concerned about someone else,  
**please contact Matt on 0797 0140064**

**Funerals** – can only be held at the graveside or crematorium with a small family group. A Celebration/Memorial Service can be arranged at a later date.

**Weddings and Baptisms** The Church of England has instructed that no weddings or Baptisms(except emergencies) will be carried out in churches in line with Government advice.

**THANK YOU**  
Thank you all so much for your generosity.  
This week Ian has taken 129kg to Weston Foodbank plus two boxes and three bags to St. Andrew's School.  
**The libraries team** have set up **phone support** for people with problems *getting online*, accessing digital information, online shopping etc Sessions can be arranged contacting 01934 426834 or e-mail [libraries@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@n-somerset.gov.uk)

**DO YOU NEED HELP?DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER?**  
Love Banwell and Love Congresbury have been working with the Parish Councils, North Somerset Council and other agencies to target help within our communities.  
For more information, please contact the Facebook pages or email [kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk) or for help with Deliveries and collections contact Ruth Wratten, 01934 820984 [rwratten@btinternet.com](mailto:rwratten@btinternet.com)

**CHURCH @ HOME**  
JOIN US FOR **CHURCH LIVE** ON FACEBOOK EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM!  
AND FOLLOW THE DAILY VIDEO BLOGS, PRAYERS & STORIES ON  
[www.facebook.com/newcreationchurches](https://www.facebook.com/newcreationchurches)

**Church@Home**  
**WEBSITE :**  
[www.newcreationchurches.org.uk](http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk)  
**Facebook :**  
[www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches](https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches)



# New Creation Pew News St Andrew's Churches Banwell and Congresbury

**Sunday 17th May, 6th Sunday of Easter**

## Thought for the Week:

Please pray for our schools. As you may have heard, Primary schools are looking to go back (very littlies and Yr6 – those going to Secondary School next year) beginning after half term (1<sup>st</sup> June). Being married to a Headteacher I have had an insight into the million and one questions, concerns, frustrations, stress, and love so many of the staff have for the children and their wellbeing.

As we move from Easter to Pentecost, and from "Stay at Home" to "Stay Alert," there are likewise many questions, many concerns, quite a few frustrations, and a deep love for people wherever those early disciples went and as we look to our own unknown future.

What we can all learn from those early disciples, perhaps particularly this year, is to not only listen and react to the hundred and one voices out there, whether government departments, media briefings, endless amounts of comment, from TV, Social media, parents or whoever. May we also seek to listen to the deep voice within – the God, "in a gentle whisper" as Elijah calls Him (when He meets with God in 1Kings 19:11-13). More powerful than the wind, more shattering than the earthquake, more healing than the fire. This, for me, is one of the key ways the Holy Spirit is able to speak in today's world and into our lives. We don't know when He will come, we don't always recognise it, at the time, when He does. But we know a peace, or a wholeness, or a right-ness, or a right-timing to what needs to happen or what we are to do next, even if it just to take the next step.

As we begin to look to the next great chapter in all our dramas, both individually and as a Church, may we walk with those early disciples, trust their wisdom, and seek to go forward not on our own, but by first seeking Him.

Matt





### Live Stream Church for Sunday:

"Mission: what message do we have to take out there?"

Thank you for all the photos and anecdotes that people have sent in from Street Parties and a whole variety of experiences to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. We'll try and put something together over the coming weeks to mark the occasion.



This week ALL YOU NEED for our Sunday "Live Stream" service, apart from yourselves, is a Bible.

If you don't have one at home, or access to one on your phone, don't worry. Simply look up the following passage at <https://www.biblegateway.com/> - that way you can print off a copy for each person from your household who is joining you.

**This week we are going to be looking at Luke 24:36-53** as a simple Bible Study together. Its Luke's account of the time between the first Easter evening and Ascension, and one that is often overlooked, which is a shame as it has much to offer us.

So look forward to seeing you, Bible in hand, this Sunday.

Matt

### **A Rule of Life in Lockdown—A Virtual Home Group.**

Howard has started to lead this Homegroup, looking at 1 Thessalonians, when the early Church worked out how to live in a time of lock down and persecution, on a Wednesday evening. If you would like to join in, please get in touch with Howard for joining instructions. Alternatively you can follow a weekly blog posted on the website or Church@Home Facebook group.

### **Iona Trip (late Aug 2021): why not plan something special for the future:**



There are still a few places left for our trip to Iona, staying at Bishop's House (the Church of Scotland Retreat House) at the end of August 2021. Have a look at the information on our website:

[www.newcreationchurches.org.uk](http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk)) and maybe think about coming along. It promises to be a very special time and you'd be very welcome. Matt



Join us for a **SPECIAL "Live Stream" Service** - Ascension Day (Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May at 10.30am) – Live from Cadbury Hill, Congresbury:

The Ascension of Jesus into heaven, is one of those festivals of the Church that waned somewhat in more recent years. That is, until we started going up Cadbury Hill, first thing on Ascension Day morning – looking down over Congresbury and out to Banwell and praying for our communities, the Churches and breaking Bread together. It probably had nothing to do with the Full Cooked English Breakfast and glass of bubbly that followed at "Heathers Coffee Shop" after.

So, this year, undeterred, we are going to share an Agape meal again together, as we did the First Sunday after Easter. To celebrate an Agape on Ascension Day, you will need:

**Some Bread** – this can be an ordinary bread around the house, or you may want to make some, pitta bread, roll, loaf, gluten free – great activity to do with others.

**Some grapes or fruit of some kind** – whatever you have to hand.

**A glass of your favourite drink or a cup of water.**

You may even want to organise some elevenses for afterwards.

Hope you can make it! Matt



### Update on Church Buildings opening:

You may have picked up from the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday (11<sup>th</sup> May) that Places of Worship are being included in a phase of opening scheduled for Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July. Obviously, this is very tentative at present, and there will, no doubt, be lots of conditions and restrictions, but for many of you who love our two churches, something to aim for and look forward to.

Matt.

