



Social Distancing will make Christmas 2020 a little different, but no matter what the media says – with Christ, **Christmas is NEVER cancelled!** Christmas is ALWAYS!

Please see the website for further details of Christmas services and other ways to get involved over the Festive period. Just snap the QR code to go straight to our dedicated Christmas page or look out for further updates.



Christmas Window Trail



This is a community project which will get your imagination going and brighten up your house and street.

We would like you to put a window display up, something like a stain glass window display, from

19th December 2020 through to 6th January 2021.

You can be as detailed as you can with silhouettes or as bold as you want with many colours and any design you can think of. The crib design above is a simple one.

Love Banwell and Love Congresbury are giving away **100 Free packs of tissue paper** available from Banwell News and Congar's Cafe from

28th Nov – 10th December.

The trail list will be available on 18th December

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER CHRIST THE KING, SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Thought for the Week :

"For all the Saints" – St Congar (27th Nov) and St Andrew (30th Nov).

The month of November in the Church year is dedicated to the lives of those who have gone before us: All Saints Day (1st Nov), All Souls Day – remembering our own loved ones (2nd Nov), the four Sundays Bible readings, and then, in our case in Congresbury and Banwell, remembering the lives of two saints in particular, St Andrew (a disciple of Jesus and in whose name both Churches, in Banwell and Congresbury, are named after), and St Congar (the founder of the small Christian community in Congresbury, and of the village that then took his name – 'bury' meaning the 'enclosure' or 'stronghold' of St Congar).



And this weekend or next we would normally have had gatherings in both communities to celebrate the fact. In Banwell we have had all manner of celebrations including last year when we had the Craft Market organised by 'Love Banwell' over St Andrew's weekend and a great time was had by all. In Congresbury, there has been a number of events over the years usually involving taking the pews out, organising all manner of festivities, food, bonfires and, of course, the cultural highlight, a rendition of the Congar around and through the Church. Sadly, none of these are going to be possible this year.

But what do we know of these two characters that in some way or other influence and contribute to the 'DNA' of these two Churches and to our two Church communities?

Much more is known and written about St Andrew of course. Like his more famous brother, Peter, he was a fisherman and so well versed with outdoor life. As well as being a close follower during Jesus' lifetime, after Jesus ascended into heaven Andrew seems to have taken himself on a fairly extensive missionary journey walking up through Asia Minor, modern day Turkey, founding the Byzantine Church and Empire at Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) and then journeying further into Romania, Belarus, Ukraine, and even Russia (some say as far as Kiev), basically circumnavigating the Black Sea. He returned to Greece and to Patras (Greece's third largest city) where he was martyred in approx AD60.



Less is known about St Congar, and what we do know varies quite widely depending on what sources one looks at. The most common legend has Congar coming to Cadbury Hill to found a Christian community, probably from a sending monastery in Barry, the other side of the Bristol Channel in Wales in approx 530AD. Known as a 'Celtic' saint, it means he led a life of simplicity, prayer, reading the Bible, living close to nature, and of building community. He is meant to have gone on various travels from Congresbury, with Churches being dedicated in his memory in Badgworth (nr Wedmore), Cornwall, and even in Brittany. Some accounts of his life have him dying on his way, on pilgrimage, to Jerusalem, and it is believed his body was returned to his founding monastery in Congresbury where it is buried under the arch in the Merle Chapel.

Second Lockdown:

Unfortunately as England remains in a Second Lockdown this has an impact on our worship life particularly as a Christian community.

The good news is that the two Church Buildings are able to be open each day for personal prayer, to light a candle to remember a loved one, and to sit and to be, and to pray.

Sunday Services will need to be online only for the time being – Howard and myself, with the help of Kirsty and George acting as the technology team, are able to Livestream the service each week from our two Churches, so tomorrow we will be live-streaming from **Congresbury** and next week we will be in Banwell, where we will continue our journey through the themes of John's Gospel.

So please join us for a simple service that will seek to include those at home and will last about an hour.

You can access the Service by watching us **LIVE** via the "New Creation Facebook Page": <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> or catch up later on Facebook, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>

And afterwards, join us for our NEW 'Virtual' Coffee catch up.

Afterwards, why not join us for the next of our 'virtual' Coffee and catch up? Click the URL below, see further details on our New Creation Facebook page or click on the link that will be posted in the live chat during Sunday's service.

Virtual Coffee Morning Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81722148561>

Details of How to share in an Agape Feast at Home:

Some people have kindly asked if they can share in an Agape Meal at Home either after the Live Stream service on a Sunday morning or at some other point during the week? Kirsty has kindly put a link to the words we have used during the various times we have shared similar meals as part of the Service on a Sunday on the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/>

Matt Thomson

Daily Blog – What's happening this week?

This week we are going to continue looking at the theme of **FREEDOM**, in our "Themes in John's Gospel" the freedom Mary and John the disciple discovered strangely at the Cross (John 19:25-36).

If you would like to follow the Daily Blog as part of your journey of faith, you can access via the "New Creation Facebook Page": <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/>, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmO1M1KbBw/>



Help in the Community

Once again as we find ourselves amid a National Lockdown. Coronavirus has changed the landscape of our lives in so many ways and people within our communities find themselves in need help. Whether that be because they are vulnerable and shielding or because they had been furloughed and made redundant.

Love Congresbury and Love Banwell are still working with other local agencies under the North Somerset Together Initiative to ensure that everyone in our communities have the basic supplies that they need.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity thus far, but it is still a long road ahead and the winter months make for a cold and difficult time for many.

The Marcus Rashford Campaign has been well received, but there are many other ways in which we can help, particularly this Christmas.



A Message from Dinah and Eric

Somewhere to Go, the day centre in Weston-super-Mare who provide meals and support for homeless people during the day and help them find emergency overnight accommodation. They will be grateful for gifts of:

- sleeping bags, blankets
- warm second hand-clothing (male & female): jogging bottoms, hoodies/jumpers, trainers
- socks & underwear (m&f), preferably new, but clean second-hand in good condition will be accepted
- toiletries (m&f)
- non-perishable food: tinned veg, corned beef, cereal (Weetabix & cornflakes), coffee, sugar, long life milk, jars of hot dogs, snacks (nuts, cereal bars etc), and tinned meals (macaroni cheese, meatballs, beans and sausages etc.)

Please take your gifts to the Youth and Community Centre at the far end of Banwell Car Park on a Tuesday or Thursday morning between 10am and 12 noon. Parish Clerk Liz Shayler has kindly offered to store donated goods there for 72hr quarantine before goods are taken into Weston.

Donations of money are always welcomed by any of these charities helping the homeless:

Somewhere to Go, Registered Charity No. 1080963 You can post a cheque, payable to **Somewhere to Go**, to: The Treasurer, Somewhere to Go, St. John's Hall, 4-6 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1NA or donate online at www.somewheretogo.org.uk

Caring in Bristol, Registered Charity No. 1151645 You can post a cheque, payable to **Caring in Bristol**, to: Caring in Bristol, The Night Shelter, 14 Little Bishop St., St. Paul's, Bristol, BS2 9JF or donate online at www.caringinbristol.co.uk

The Julian Trust, Registered Charity No. 294751 You can post a cheque, payable to **The Julian Trust**, to The Julian Trust, The Night Shelter, 16 Little Bishop St., St. Paul's, Bristol, BS2 9JF or donate online at www.juliantrust.org.uk

Thank you so much for caring about the homeless.