

THE LINK



THE UNITED PARISH OF
HOLY TRINITY, ABBOTS LEIGH
WITH
ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN, LEIGH WOODS

Website:

www.theparishchurch.com

MARCH 2026

£1.00

Dates for the Diary



MARCH		
Sun 8	10am-noon Abbots Pool Working Party	Page 5
Mon 9	Abbots Leigh Parish Council, 7pm	Page 7
Tues 10	Abbots Leigh WI	Page 8
Wed 11	Abbots Leigh Wildlife Group	Page 5
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Sat 14	Mother's Day posy-making, St Mary's vestry	Page 5
Mon 16	Tea Time Special	Page 8
Fri 20	Celebration of Murray Stewart's life, 2pm, Holy Trinity Church	Page 4
Tues 24	Herb Group, Abbots Leigh Village Hall	Page 5
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Wed 25	Community Lent Ploughman's Lunch, St Mary's vestry	Page 4
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Weekly village hall events

Mondays 10-11am: Exercise Class for the older adult. www.exercisewithlailibrooks.com
Wednesdays 12.10-12.55: Exercise Class
Thursdays 10am-12.30: Art Group
 6.30-8.30pm: Yoga

Monthly events

1st Tuesday: Men's Social Group, The George 5-7pm
2nd Tuesday: WI 7.30-9.30pm, Village Hall

YOUR LINK

The Link is commissioned by the United Parish Parochial Church Council to be a blessing to the whole parish. We hope to provide a platform for a variety of advertisements and opinions, but these don't all represent the PCC's views.

Subscriptions – suggested donation minimum £10.

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From our new vicar, the Reverend Rosemary Radcliffe

Welcome to March



Hello, welcome to March.

This past month I've particularly been trying to remember names and faces and something about each person. Memory is important isn't it? We try to remember people, important dates and where we put our keys. We study hard to remember information to pass exams. But, memory is so much more than just those details, it builds who we are, it shapes our identities, it binds us together. Memories are made through repeated experiences or significant events, they can be collective or individual. Memories are triggered by sights, smells, stories and songs. All around the world different cultures remember their heritage through the songs and stories they sing and share.

In the Bible the Israelites retold the story of their heritage at specific times of the year. Their exodus from Egypt, the wandering in the wilderness and finally the founding of a new land, retelling times of pain and waiting, and times of trust. Throughout Lent we will be telling stories of Jesus' life, including his time in the wilderness and his last week before the crucifixion.

On Good Friday from 10 am at Holy Trinity Church, we will be offering an Easter Experience; a different way of retelling the story of the Last Supper and following events with activities and refreshments, for people of all ages. All are welcome, it's an opportunity to imagine what it might have been like, a story to retell or remember. A different style of service will take place at 2pm, a time to reflect more quietly with music on those final hours, an opportunity for stillness and contemplation.

Memory, music and wellbeing are connected. We often remember songs from our childhood, and many songs tell stories. The psalms in particular are both song and prayer. They were memorised and sung regularly, they cover a range of emotions, including lament and joy, praise and thanksgiving. They can be used today to connect us to the natural world

Many people are seeking a more spiritual element in their lives. They have a desire to connect with themselves or with the natural world around them.

With that in mind, I offer you this psalm to support you through the month.

Psalm 103:1-2:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

Psalm 104:10-13:

10 You make springs pour into the ravines. They flow between the mountains.

11 They water all the wild animals. The wild donkeys come there to drink.

12 Wild birds make nests by the water. They sing among the tree branches.

13 You water the mountains from above. The earth is full of the things you made.

Church Services: Page 12

Children's Society collection boxes

Easter is the time to open the Children's Society boxes once again. If you have a box, please could you contact me with a time that would be convenient to you for me to come over and swap your box for an empty one. Even if there isn't much money in your box, it all adds up. If you don't have a box and would like one to collect your pennies for this worthwhile cause, let me know and I can provide you with one.

Many thanks on behalf of the Children's Society.

christina@imagexsys.co.uk / 07765 971948

Christina Taylor

Celebration of the life of Murray Stewart

There will be a Celebration of Murray's life in Holy Trinity Church, Abbots Leigh on Friday, March 20, at 2 pm. Come and join his family for refreshments in The George afterwards. The congregation will be accompanied by a piper whilst walking from the church to The George.

Community Lent ploughman's lunch

Wednesday, March 25, in St Mary's vestry, noon-2pm: home-made soups, bread, cheese, pickle, and fruit, free! All we ask is a donation to North Bristol Foodbank, which does such wonderful work supporting those less fortunate. It is a great opportunity to meet up with neighbours and friends, and donate to this worthy cause, through cash or non-perishable items.

Village Agent For Abbots Leigh & Leigh Woods

Sian Taylor is the Village Agent for Abbots Leigh & Leigh Woods. She can connect people with advice and support services to help them maintain independent living. Call 0798 5017655 or email sian@wern.org.uk.

CHURCH CONTACTS

PARISH ADMIN: Contact Wendy Mortimer (Area Dean's secretary) for enquiries about weddings, funerals or baptisms

Email: office@allsaintsclifton.org Tel: 0117 9741355

For inquiries about Holy Trinity or St Mary's please contact Michael Bothamley (Churchwarden)

Email: michaelbothamley@hotmail.com Tel: 07747101752

If you have information about those who are ill, at home or in hospital, who would like to be visited, please contact our Pastoral Team co-ordinator Alan Shellard, tel: 0117 974 1494 alanshellard@gmail.com

Websites: Leigh Woods leighwoods.org - St Mary's, BS8 3PG
Abbots Leigh www.abbotsleigh.org.uk - Holy Trinity, BS8 3QU
United Parish website: www.theparishchurch.com

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.theparishchurch.com
Keep up-to-date on the events and highlights of our united parish.

Abbots Leigh churchwardens

Leigh Woods churchwardens:

Michael Bothamley 07747 101752

Alan Shellard 0117 974 1494

Ginny Owen 07477 581337 (Sacristan)

Deputies:

Treasurers: Carole Nicholls 01275 373888 Michael Bothamley 07747 101752

United Parish Treasurer: Siân Narracott sian.narracott@googlemail.com 01275 375619

Organist: John Talbot 0117 942 8344

Abbots Pool working party

At February's working party we cleared a mud slide caused by cyclists dropping down onto the bridle path. The purpose of clearing it is to keep the path free of mud so that vegetation does not take hold and reduce the width of the path, making access difficult for prams and wheelchairs.

A thorough litter pick was undertaken, with team members getting right into the brambles and even out into the pool to retrieve rubbish. It is a great time of year to do this, as much of the undergrowth has died back. We collected three large bags in total.

We also continued the ongoing removal of logs and debris that accumulate in the cave and lower pools. We are mindful that toads will soon start laying their eggs, so we wanted to clear out as much as we could beforehand. The steps up from the hump bridge towards the bridle path were cleared, and we pulled out many small laurels on the slope above the wooden bridge. John kindly baked delicious brownies to reward us for all our hard work, which were very much appreciated.

The next working party is scheduled for **Sunday, March 8**, 10am-noon, meet at the car park. The focus will be on rewiring the dead hedges that were pulled apart last summer and which we have been rebuilding over the winter, as well as clearing the vegetation that is encroaching along the pool side of the dam.



Jo Chiverton

Abbots Leigh Wildlife Group presents Britain's Underwater Wildlife



Speaker Miranda Krestovnikoff.
Wednesday, March 11, 7.30pm,
Abbots Leigh Village Hall. £8 on the door (cash or card), kids free

Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday - March 15 - we like to show our appreciation to all those ladies who have 'mothered' us, by giving them a small posy. We would be delighted if you and your family would join us in the vestry at Leigh Woods to make these on Saturday, March 14, at 10.30am. If you could bring some small leaved foliage that would be wonderful but by no means essential. It usually takes us about an hour and choccy biscuits are provided. Come and have a happy time...

ST MARY'S CHURCH GARDENING

Join us on Saturday, March 14 and Saturday April 11, from 10am to noon. All ages welcome. Please bring gloves (and tools, if you wish). Meet neighbours and help to keep the church gardens looking cared for.

West of England Herb Group

Tuesday, March 24, at 7.30pm at Abbots Leigh village hall: 'Kefir and Kombucha' - talk by Caroline Gilmartin, fermentologist - with tips to support your gut microflora. Visitors welcome, £7 per meeting.

News from Abbots Leigh Parish Council

A369 temporary road closure

As part of the continuing programme to deal with ash die-back and the necessary felling of trees, North Somerset Council plans to close the A369 between the junction with Pill Road and The George. The proposed dates are March 2-11, 9.15am-3pm. It is hoped the work can be completed in five days to minimise disruption.

Traffic matters

Speedwatch volunteers are hoping to be back in action later this month. New members are very welcome, contact ros@abbotsleigh.org.uk if you could help for an hour a month.

Booking system for Portishead Recycling Centre

This is a reminder that from March 2 a pre-booked time slot needs to be made for any visit to the recycling centre. A link is available on the Council Recycling page or on the North Somerset Council App. The online option is recommended, but there is also a phone option. Slots may be available to book as little as 10 minutes ahead.

Recycling bulky waste

North Somerset Council will continue to offer a collection service for bulky household items such as furniture and domestic appliances. This service is carried out by Changing Lives, a local charity. Bulky household items include sofas and armchairs, tables, chairs, mattresses, bed frames, white goods and wooden doors. Visit the changinglives.org.uk website to book a bulky waste collection.

If you use a private company to clear your bulky waste items, you still have a duty of care to make sure your waste is disposed of legally. To help avoid fly tipping, please ask to see their waste carriers' licence and ask where they are taking the waste.

Planning Applications

Application	Site	Proposal	PC Comment	NSC Outcome
25/P/2595/ FUL Bristol and	Clifton Golf Club Land West of Weir Lane Failand	Proposed academy golf facility and creation of irrigation ponds	Object. The importation of 326,135 tonnes of fill resulting in an average of one 8-wheeler lorry movement every six minutes on Weir lane (a single track road with a 4 tonne weight limit) would make the road unusable for two years for all pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders who use the road. The environmental impact on the local water courses which drain into Abbots Pool Local Nature Reserve would have a disastrous effect on local wildlife including thousands of toads.	Registered
25/P/2447/ FUH	11 Church Road Abbots Leigh BS8 3QP	Demolition of single storey side extension, pitched roof and proposed erection of first floor side extension above with pitched roof and rear dormer. Replacement of rear loft dormer and demolition of rear first floor terrace and erection of single-storey rear extension. Alterations to front driveway, and improvements to front and rear landscaping.	No comment	Approve
25/P/2307/ EA1	Land West of Pill Road Abbots Leigh (Opposite St Katherine's School)	Formal Screening Opinion request to determine if proposed development is EIA development. Plan for of up to 100 dwellings and a 72-bed care home with associated access, landscaping and other works. NOT A PLANNING APPLICATION	Object. Site immediately abuts Leigh Wood/ Markham Bottom, a DEFRA-designated ancient and semi natural woodland through which Markham Brook flows therefore a full environmental impact assessment should be carried out.	TBC
25/P/2375/ CRA	Kingcott Farm Beggar Bush Lane BS83TF	Application to determine if prior approval is required for change of use of 3 existing barns to office accommodation (use class E).	No comment	TBC
25/P/2007/ FUL	Denny House Pill Road BS8 3QY	Convert and extend an existing house in a poor state of repair into 3 self-contained dwelling units including associated works	No objection	Approve

Join the village litter pick



Abbots Leigh Village 22nd Annual Spring Clean and Litter Pick – Sunday March 22, 10am-noon

Come and join us for this sociable and worthwhile annual Sunday morning event, when teams of volunteers armed with black sacks and litter-pickers work their way back from the far ends of the parish to clean up verges and hedgerows. This year we gather together again afterwards for a well-earned snack lunch at the George.

Congregate outside the Village Hall at 10am, with your boots and gloves. We will provide high-visibility vests, rubbish bags and litter pickers (and gloves for those who don't have them). Then off you go in pairs to bag a haul (it can get very competitive!) A great way for newcomers to the village to get involved. Children also welcome. It is amazing how much can be collected in such a short time into such a large pile outside the phone box!

If you think that you can come, please let Jenna Ho Marris or Simon Talbot-Ponsonby know at jenna@abbotsleigh.org.uk or simon@abbotsleigh.org.uk, so we can confirm numbers for lunch.

Garden waste

North Somerset Council has started contacting customers about annual renewal for green bins - the annual subscription runs out on March 31. The subscription rate for 2026-2027 is £70 per garden waste bin. Renew online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste. The booking system at Portishead recycling centre also applies to garden waste.

Parish Council meetings

Residents are very welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, usually held on the second Monday of each month. If you would like to discuss a parish matter at the beginning of the meeting, contact Nic Rice, Clerk to the Parish Council, in advance.

Our next meeting is on Monday, March 9 at 7pm in the John Butler Room in the village hall. The agenda and minutes are available on the village website.

Meet the Parish Councillors

Surgeries are held on the second Saturday of the month, 9.30-10.30am, in the Bike Shed Café, when at least two parish councillors are available to chat with residents about village matters. The next surgery is scheduled for Saturday, March 14.

Parish Councillors

Simon Talbot-Ponsonby (Chair) Planning, Village Hall, Old School Field, Skittle Alley

Kamala Das (Vice-chair) Highways, Cycle Network, Verges

Ros Delany Community Groups, Civic Society Liaison, Link Contributions, Village Green, Abbots Leigh Charities

Jenna Ho Marris (also North Somerset Councillor) Liaison with District Council, Recycling and Rubbish (including litter pick), Community Innovation

Martin Walker Finance, Abbots Pool, Public Footpaths, Website

Nic Rice Clerk to the Council who works out of the Resource Centre in Pill. Secretariat, Insurance, Police Coordination, Village Orderly

If you have a concern or query, contact the relevant councillor via email:

simon@abbotsleigh.org.uk kamala@abbotsleigh.org.uk ros@abbotsleigh.org.uk

jenna@abbotsleigh.org.uk martin@abbotsleigh.org.uk

Contact the Parish Clerk on parishclerk@abbotsleigh.org.uk or phone 01275 374442



Message from Pill Ward Councillor Jenna Ho Marris

A hard-won right - don't be afraid to use it

As we go to print, North Somerset Council is preparing its 2026-27 Budget which will be debated on February 24. That makes awkward timing for this edition of The Link, which gives me an excuse to write about something else.

FOI Requests - a tool to keep your council on its toes

When very newly elected I received the dreaded internal email: *Urgent! Freedom of Information Request. Please send us copies of all correspondence or documents which contain any reference to [very contentious local matter].*

It was a useful reminder that all information held by a "public authority" can be disclosed, unless certain exemptions apply (personal information is not published). This includes councillor and officer emails, but also any email that someone sends to the council. The Freedom of Information Act came into force 20 years ago last year. We can thank it for shedding light on MPs' expenses, and much more.

As a councillor, I don't have automatic access to council emails or files. I am also often tempted to FOI the council too, although I shouldn't need to. Officers work with councillors based on trust and subject knowledge (rule by fear is no good). If you don't know what you don't know, then it is hard getting things at the council to change.

It is straightforward to make an FOI request. For council matters, email the Information Governance team, foi@n-somerset.gov.uk (or write to them at Town Hall) with your name and an address for correspondence. The council is required by law to respond within 20 working days.

Be specific about the information you want. NSC guidance includes these examples: "*planning application 04/P3205/F; records from 1997-1999; information held by council officer x*". If you try to be too broad this will backfire as the team may say that there is too much to process and you have reached the 18-hour limit of their time for one request.

Every public authority will have a system for processing FOI requests, look on their website or call them to ask about procedure. FOI is a hard won right and also essential for a healthy governing system - don't be afraid to use it.

Get in touch Email jenna.homarris@n-somerset.gov.uk or jenna@abbotsleigh.org.uk or call 07385 010 137 (leave a message). Sorry, I can't make Saturday mornings anymore due to family commitments. I am often available Friday mornings at the Bike Shed, get in touch.

ABBOTS LEIGH WI



The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 10 at 7.30pm in Abbots Leigh Village Hall. Sarah Bell will tell us about 'Running an Alpaca Farm'. O Tuesday, April 14, Kerris Harrop will give an illustrated talk on Ladies Mile. Visitors are always very welcome. *Louise Wall* louiseaw@aol.com

TEA TIME SPECIAL

Monday, March 16: Back by public demand, Steve Livings will tell us more stories about his long association with the police and his connections with Abbots Leigh. Don't miss it!

Are you free on a Monday afternoon? Come for a chat, a cup of tea and delicious cake. We meet in the vestry at St Mary's Church, Leigh Woods, at 2.30pm on the third Monday of each month. Inclusive price of £2.50.



alanshellard@gmail.com



News from Leigh Woods Residents Group

Thanks for 22 years of service



Martyn Harris has retired after more than 22 years of service on Long Ashton and Leigh Woods Parish Council. He has done a magnificent job during these years on behalf of the residents of Leigh Woods.

Until very recently, Leigh Woods residents have only had two councillors representing them. Martyn (pictured right) has consistently travelled to the Jubilee Pavilion to attend full council meetings and the committees to which he was attached.

Martyn has quietly and consistently played a prominent part in all issues affecting Leigh Woods, from small everyday ones to large projects. On his watch we have seen the rejection of the proposed nursing home on the Bracken Hill site, creation of the Village Design Statement, parking regulation achieved and the rejection of bus lanes on the A369. He has been a key figure in all of these.

Alan Johnson, parish councillor for Long Ashton and Leigh Woods, said: "Through challenges and achievements alike, Martyn has remained focused on doing what was right for Leigh Woods.

"Martyn Harris is, above all, a true gentleman and a true friend. His wise counsel and measured approach will be greatly missed as a colleague. While his retirement marks the end of an era, the legacy of his service will continue to benefit the community for many years to come."

Thank you, Martyn, for giving such a huge amount of time and effort to looking after Leigh Woods. He is continuing to be a member of the LWRG team, where his efforts also deserve admiration. Always smiling, dependable and wise!

Tricia Bedford LWRG

Real Tennis

There's a chance to see Bristol Real Tennis Club playing in a National League competition on Saturday, March 7, starting 2pm. Their opponents are Middlesex RTC. There will be two singles matches and one doubles. A great opportunity to see some really good tennis. If you can't make the match but are out and about anytime, pop in to watch another game (tea and cake and a warm welcome guaranteed). Games are played indoors so are not ruled by the weather.

Clifton College Playing Fields, Abbots Leigh Road, BS8 3QD

www.bristolrealtennisclub.com 0117 973 3444 / email@bristolrealtennisclub.org.uk

Leigh Woods Residents Group

Get involved with helping Leigh Woods social events and become a member. We only meet occasionally, usually when there is an event coming up; it's fun and good for our community. Get in touch with any of the LWRG members or email Alex@alexburgh.co.uk; lynne.bothamley@btinternet.com; trish.bedford@gmail.com or annalucyboss@gmail.com

What makes our woodland so special

Anna Stevens, Biodiversity Engagement Manager with Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project, on the woodland pleasures to be enjoyed in Leigh Woods.

Did you know that large parts of Leigh Woods are part of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designations which encompass the Avon Gorge?

In fact, the principle reason that the Avon Gorge holds its European SAC designation is because Leigh Woods is host to an unusual 'Tilio-Acerion' forest habitat, of slopes, screes and ravines (mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes)! The important trees here are the small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*) and the rare whitebeam (*Sorbus*) species. Add to that pockets of limestone grassland in the quarries which hosts other rare botanical species such as Bristol rockcress (*Arabis scabra*), fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) and honewort (*Trinia glauca*) – and you can see why it's so special!

Enjoy woodland bathing amongst the stunning trees in March as they enter springtime. Things to look out for include 'honing in' on the differently shaped and coloured buds on the trees just before they begin to unfurl. Spot the long chestnut brown cigar-shaped buds of the beech trees with their smooth grey bark, and the prominent velvety black buds of the ash. Notice how the English oaks with their fissured and cracked bark sport clusters of brown buds, quite unlike any other tree in the woodland.



Bristol rockcress by Denice Stout

Some trees are already showing flowers such as the long, dangling, yellow male catkins of the hazel which are very striking at this time of year. If you look very closely you may also see the tiny pink female flowers on the same tree. The blackthorn is one of the earliest shrubs to blossom with its beautiful bright white flowers which appear as early as February well before the leaves, followed by striking wild cherry blossom.

Looking downwards, keep your eyes peeled for early spring woodland flowers along the sides of the open paths, rides and clearings which take advantage of the light before the trees come into leaf. These include the wood anemone, with its delicate white flowers and yellow centres; the golden yellow flowers of the lesser celandine (a bit similar to the buttercups which come out later in the year); early dog or sweet violets with their little 'bunny ear petals' and pretty pale yellow primroses. Other flowers appearing in early spring include moschatel and dogs mercury.

Best of all - listen for the array of stunning passerine songbirds singing for a mate, preparing to nest, and defending their patches. Get out as early as you can to hear the 'orchestra' as one by one the birds add their tune to the mix. There are too many woodland species to list, but ones to look and listen out for are the blackcaps which have overwintered further south and return to the woodland to breed; the song of the chiff-chaff which heralds the return of spring; and if you're really lucky, you may spot or even hear the shy bullfinch - so hard to spot for the rest of the year.

And finally, don't forget to notice any early pollinators feeding on sources of early nectar available in the woodland. Queens of the recently established tree bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*) or the early bumblebees (*Bombus pratorum*) are often the first fliers of the year!

Leigh Woods National Trust

NT Volunteers conduct monthly bird surveys in Leigh Woods.

Knowing which birds use the woods can help us understand the effect of the NT's woodland management. The hope is to show a positive link between the management and greater bird numbers and diversity of species over time. Birds have to be visually identified and not solely on the use of song/call recognition apps.



To assess the impact of different habitats, two separate survey routes were set up. One covers the more open areas around the hill-fort (the historic wood pasture) while the other passes through the denser ancient woodland.

A single year's data is insufficient to draw firm conclusions, but there were about 25% more birds seen on the open hill-fort, which aligns with expectations. Both routes yielded a total of 31 distinct species and overall, 35 species were recorded.

Woodpigeons were by far the most numerous, great spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches, treecreepers, goldcrests and various tits - especially coal tits - were regularly spotted. Many corvids (crow family) were seen, including the distinctive jay. Of the birds of prey, buzzards are the most common, with peregrine falcons and sparrow hawks always creating a buzz of excitement.

Seeing and hearing song thrushes is also a pleasure, along with now regular sightings of the related redwing. The surveys have already started in 2026 and, as spring approaches, we are looking forward to seeing the return of our spring migrants, blackcaps usually soonest, with swifts or maybe house martins as the weather warms and blue skies are seen again.

Haydn Davies, NT Volunteer



The Ballad of Wallis Island

When: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Where: St Mary's Church, Leigh Woods

Time: Doors open 6.45pm. Film starts 7.30pm. Complimentary glass of wine or soft drink included in ticket price.

Tickets: Valid season tickets or £6 each showing, payable on the door. Please have correct change if possible.

An eccentric lottery winner hires his favourite musicians to play a private gig for him on his secluded island. Set on the beautiful Carmarthenshire coast, this quirky, charming and bittersweet comedy about moving on without our past was nominated for three Baftas. Wonderful acting and music. Tom Basden wrote and performed all the songs.

Stars: Tom Basden, Carey Mulligan, Tim Key; Director: James Griffiths

BBFC rating 12A UK 2025 99mins All films shown with sub-titles.

For information: contact angelaprobryn@gmail.com. You are welcome to invite friends and neighbours.

Church services

	CHURCH	SERVICE	READERS	READINGS
1 Mar	Lent 2	Purple		
9.30am	Holy Trinity	Family Worship	Talbot family	John 3: 1-17
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Parish Communion	Vicky Dominey	Rom.4: 1-5, 13-17
			Nick Ball	John 3: 1-17
8 Mar	Lent 3	Purple		
10.30am	St Mary's	Parish Communion	Christina Lopez	Rom. 5: 1-11
			John Viney	John 4: 5-42
15 Mar	Mothering Sunday	Purple		
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Family Communion	Robert Narracott	Col. 3: 12-17
			Nick Ball	John 19: 25-27
22 Mar	Lent 5	Purple		
10.30am	St Mary's	Family Communion	Talbot family	John 11: 1-45
6.30pm	St Mary's	Taize'	TBA	TBA
29 Mar	Palm Sunday	Red		
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Palm Sunday Service with Procession	Michael Bothamley	Matt. 21: 1-11
3 Apr	Good Friday	Red		
10.00am	Holy Trinity	All-age Family Service*		
2-3pm	Holy Trinity	Church open for reflections & live music		
5 Apr	Easter Day	White/Gold		
10.30am	St Mary's	Family Communion**	TBA	Acts 10: 34-43
			Alan Shellard	John: 20: 1-18

*Activities during the service, and refreshments

**Child-friendly activities & Easter egg hunt after the service

ABBOTS LEIGH CIVIC SOCIETY

My tenure as chair has now run its two-year course and time for me to hand on the baton to a newly structured committee.



All the events over the past couple years would not have been possible without an amazing and incredibly supportive committee and fellow villagers. The hard work and incredible effort the committee put in is inspiring and a true privilege to be involved with. There are too many committee members and volunteers to name here, but you know who you are, and "thank you" for all your hard work and support.

The Annual Report for 2025 is now available on the Abbots Leigh village website. The report looks back on the great events and interest groups within the village. Our finances remain strong and are dedicated to be spent on Village events and projects. Don't forget, it is your Civic Society and is there for you to enjoy and engage with. Please continue to support the Civic Society and the work it does to make Abbots Leigh a great place to live!

I wish the new chair and all the committee the very best going forward, as I take up my role on the back benches!

Jon Brewer

It's an exciting year ahead - the Civic Society is in a good position to put on two main events: the Festival in the Field in June and Bonfire & Fireworks Night on November 5. Any offer of help for either event (or both!) is always welcome whether you've been in the village for generations or just arrived. Or just come along and enjoy it – all part of the fun!

We also aim to support a couple of quiz nights at The George, a village tennis tournament, a village cricket match and it would be great to reinstate the village children's Christmas party this year and continue to support the New Year's Day breakfast in the village hall. The Civic Society can help with provision of prizes, subsidised tickets or refreshments for these and other ideas out there.

We are going to miss some members of the committee and huge thanks to all of them. Murray was a stalwart and a mine of information. Massive thanks to Debbie and Paulina who have both been a tour de force in terms of time and effort. Of course, huge thanks to Jon for all the careful thought and attention he has put in as chair and we are fortunate to have him continue as part of the team.

Get involved

We always welcome suggestions and ideas so please do get in touch. Please ignore any historic email addresses and only use abbotsleighcivicsociety@gmail.com to get in touch – we look forward to hearing from you!

Henry, Eleni, Neil, Rosie, Jon, Adri and Rachael (Civic Society Committee)

Mobile library visits

Users have been enjoying the arrival of the new electric Mobile Library vehicle. The Mobile Library visits every two weeks.

March visits: March 12 & 26 (Thursdays)

Church Road, Leigh Woods, 1.30-2pm;

Church Road, Abbots Leigh, 2.10-3.10pm

Please note that stops and timings may be subject to change.

For more information call 01275 888 864 or email mobile.

library@n-somerset.gov.uk. Visit www.librarieswest.org.uk or the LibrariesWest App.

Pictured: The new Library Bus has access for disabled users



Link subscription 2026

Dear Link readers.

We hope you have enjoyed the past year of The Link, bringing all the news to our communities in Abbots Leigh and Leigh Woods. Donations for this year's Link deliveries are now due and you will be pleased to know we have been able to hold the suggested price to £10 for yet another year.

Very many thanks to all involved in the production and distribution of The Link, and to our contributors and advertisers - and particularly our readers!

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City of Bristol Choir - That Friday Feeling 20 March - 7pm for Complimentary Refreshments

then 7.45pm Concert. **All Saints Church, Clifton BS8 3ED.** Inspiring choral and organ music to invigorate, refresh and soothe the soul. Tickets £16.50 adults, £5 students and under 18s. Book online at www.cityofbristolchoir.org.uk/shop.



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