

THE LINK



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

Website:

www.theparishchurch.com

JULY/AUGUST 2026

£1.00

Dates for the Diary



JULY

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AUGUST

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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.

Thanks to all who pay by BACS - to UPALandLW Sort code **40-52-40**.
 Account No. **00010334**. Please include LINK in your reference (these details are correct and do work despite messages you may get on your screen. Some banks don't recognise our account name but payments do reach us!)
 If paying by cash (or cheque to UPALandLW) please put in an envelope and give it to your deliverer or Siân Narracott, Trinity House, Harris Lane, Abbots Leigh, BS8 3QX.

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From our vicar, the Reverend Rosemary Radcliffe

Much more to life than exams

As June moves into July and we hope for a summer filled with good weather, and plentiful opportunities to relax and renew ourselves, my thoughts go to all the students who have just sat their exams, and what the next couple of months might mean for them.

I hope that they are able to use these months between school years to meet with friends in person as well as online, to have opportunities to try new activities that build on existing skills or help them develop new ones and think about all the possibilities that life has in store for them.

There is so much more to life than exams and results. Those matter, of course they do, but only for a moment, as a stepping stone to the next thing. There was a TV game show in the 1980s called Blockbusters - you had to get across a board by answering questions based on the letter you chose. The competing team might block your path, so you'd have to find another way through. I wonder how many of us have experienced something like that in our lives. One way is blocked, so we have to choose an alternative. It can be really hard making that adjustment. Disappointment is a difficult emotion to deal with, and yet it happens frequently at different levels.

When I was growing up, my mum would tell me to "do my best" before every exam. I'm not sure I always did, and I certainly didn't get the grades I needed to go to my first choice of university. In fact I had to reapply the following year, but, and I believe this to be true, God was in that process: I grew as a person, developed different skills and made the best of what I could. Some of the friends I have today came as a result of that change in direction. I think Jeremiah 17:7-8 speaks into this:

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

When we trust in God, in Christ who loves us, and ask the Holy Spirit to sustain us when we need it the most, then we can be that tree: rooted in God's love, even in the difficulty of waiting, even when life disappoints us, we can still bear fruit. We are more than the sum of our academic qualifications. We are loved and precious in the sight of God, and my prayers will continue to be with all who are studying and waiting for those important results over the coming months.

God bless,
Rosemary



Pet Service: Holy Trinity Church, July 5 at 10.30am: A service of blessing and thanksgiving for the animals that enrich our lives. Please bring your pets along or send photos to AL&LWChurches@gmail.com

Church Services: Page 12

TEA TIME SPECIAL

Monday, July 20: meet at 2.30pm at Penny Brohn (Ham Green) for a short introductory talk, tea and cakes and a chance to see round the lovely gardens. £4, pre-booking only, places limited - contact Ginny before July 9 on 07477 581337. There will be no meeting in August.

Monday, September 21, 2.30pm at St Mary's, Leigh Woods. Kate Groves will talk about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. £2.50 to include tea and cakes. All welcome. Please do come along.

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.
alanshellard@gmail.com



ABBOTS LEIGH WI



At the meeting on Tuesday, July 14, Mark Rutherford will be coming to tell us some short stories.

There will be no meeting in August. At the next meeting on September 8, guest speaker Andy Stowe will talk on 'Interesting items at auctions'.

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm in Abbots Leigh Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

Louise Wall louiseaw@aol.com

WEST OF ENGLAND HERB GROUP

Tuesday, July 21, 7.30pm at Abbots Leigh Village Hall. Helen Gray from Malago Medicinals will talk about 'Herbs from your garden for stress and anxiety'. Visitors £7. All welcome.

CHURCH CONTACTS

PARISH ADMIN: Contact Abi Kirby for enquiries about weddings, funerals or baptisms.

Email: alandlwchurches@gmail.com Tel: 07587 649391

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.abbotsleighparish.gov.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 LEIGH CIVIC SOCIETY

Festival in the Field

Despite the pressure of looming rain, the jazz flowed and the sun shone whilst the barbecues fired up and the bar got into full swing – the Festival in the Field was on!

There was an amazing display of cakes vying for this year's Bake Off prizes – the theme 'Cakes of the World' attracted great efforts by all the entrants.

Abbots Leigh's Annual Dog Show brought in some of the finest dogs around and it all ran incredibly smoothly – dogs and their owners impeccably behaved.

The welly wanging and tug-of-war were again immensely popular and the children held their champions title for the second year in a row. Face painting, bunting, stalls and the village boules competition all contributed to more fun and entertainment.

We were very lucky to have Tracy Dodds as compere for the afternoon, and we were also entertained by Truffle Shuffle, a new addition to this year's festival. We're sure everyone would agree they were fantastic.

The raffle wrapped up the afternoon and there were some great prizes all kindly donated locally. Thanks to the prize donors: Shiner Skateboards, Paradise Cakes, Alice Roberts, Henry Kenyon, Cat Abel, Branch Cider, ALCS voucher for The George.

The FitF would not be complete without a well-stocked bar and a stout bar team and the smoking coals of the grinning barbecue chefs working tirelessly with the Butcher's Block sausage hotdogs.

The organising team know who they are and we as a village are incredibly fortunate to have them give their time and effort to do so much work behind the scenes. If you'd like to be involved in the next village event – Fireworks Night on November 5 - then please do get in touch – all help gratefully received.

Abbots Leigh Civic Society 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 if you'd like to enquire or help out – we look forward to hearing from you!

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



News from Abbots Leigh Parish Council

Recycling News

Garden waste is collected on a fortnightly basis for most of the year for those who have subscribed to this facility. Items to put in the bins can include grass cuttings, flowers, leaves, plants and weeds, garden hedge and conifer clippings and bedding from vegetarian pets (this should be at least 60 per cent garden waste to 40 per cent pet bedding). If you have a green bin that you no longer use, you can request for it to be removed through MyAccount on the North Somerset Council website.

Home composting is an easy, cheap and an environmentally friendly way to manage garden waste as it provides free nutrient rich compost for use in your garden.

Discounted 220 litre compost bins made from 100% recycled plastic can be purchased from the council for £25. To buy a wider range of compost bins and accessories, visit Get Composting. Enter your postcode into the Get Composting website to buy wormeries, bokashi bins, water butts and more.

Community Payback

The Payback team had another productive session in the churchyard in June, clearing ivy from overgrown graves. Another session is planned for July.

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, July 13 at 7pm in the John Butler Room in the village hall. We do not usually hold a parish council meeting in August unless there are planning applications to discuss, in which case the meeting would be on Monday, August 10 at 7pm. The agenda and minutes are available on the village website.

Meet the Parish Councillors

Surgeries are held on the second Saturday of the month, 9.30am-10.30am in the Bike Shed Café, when at least two parish councillors are available to chat with residents about village matters. The next surgeries are scheduled for Saturday, July 11 and August 8. Dates of these surgeries are also on the website.

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.

The Parish website is now abbotsleighparish.gov.uk and parish email addresses are now:

simon@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk

ros@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk

martin@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk

kamala@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk

jenna@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk

villagehall@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Clerk on parishclerk@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk or phone 01275 374442

Abbots Pool Working Party Update

In June, our focus was on addressing the fallen ash tree North Somerset Council removed from the top of the cave.

This tree, which had stood for many years, posed a risk to the integrity of the cave structure due to its roots being intertwined with the cave's roof. By felling the tree, NSC relieved the pressure on the cave. Our team then worked to winch the branches out of the pool.

As a result, tasks planned for June will now be carried over to July. Our next efforts will concentrate on clearing nettles from pathways, so please wear long pants and sleeves, and remember to bring loppers and gloves. Additionally, we will need to remove logs and other debris from the cave and lower pools. If you're interested in joining the working party, please contact Jo at 07989 514048 to be added to our WhatsApp group.

A gentle reminder: Dogs should only be allowed to swim in the lower pools, not the main pool. The splash from dogs jumping into the main area can disrupt local wildlife, and chemicals from tick collars can harm the environment. The lower pool is free from wildlife, so feel free to let your dogs splash around there - just remember to remove their tick collars first. Thank you for your support!

Working party dates: Sunday July 12; Sunday, Aug 9, 10am-noon, meet at carpark.



Winching logs from the pool

ABBOTS POOL CELEBRATION

On Saturday, October 3 an exhibition will be held in the Village Hall 10am-4pm. It is 20 years since we were awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant to improve Abbots Pool and surrounding woodland. Much has happened since then so displays will record this. Put the date in your diary!

Parish Council: Planning applications

Application	Site	Proposal	PC Comment	NSC Outcome
26/P/0295/ FUL	Land North West Of Stoke Leigh Lodge Abbots Leigh Road Abbots Leigh	Proposed erection of an agricultural polytunnel.	Object: Polytunnel is a permanent structure in an agricultural holding of only 2 acres which will have significant effect on the openness of the green belt adjacent to a SSSI and Grade II listed park and garden and which cannot be easily screened for mitigation.	Registered
26/P/0409/ FUL	Mere Green, Glen Avenue, Abbots Leigh BS8 3SD	Proposed replacement dwelling and associated landscaping.	No objections. This is a replacement of a previously approved extension to an existing property with similar proportions 23/P/2527/FUH	Registered
26/P/0813/ FUH	Whiteoaks Manor Road Abbots Leigh BS8 3RT	Proposed erection of a detached triple garage and carport alongside expansion of hard- standing.	Object: Inappropriate development in the Green Belt, affecting its openness. The site is not part of the original rebuild planning application 09/P/0034/F. It is separate from the property and formed part of the garden of the house the other side of the private track.	Refuse
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.	Registered
25/P/2307/ EA1	Land West of Pill Rd (opposite St Katherine's School)	Formal Screening Opinion request as to whether EIA is required.	Object: The site immediately abuts Leigh Wood/ Markham Bottom, a DEFRA designated Ancient Woodland through which Markham Brook flows.	Decided, EIA not required



Message from Pill Ward Councillor Jenna Ho Marris

'Getting Britain bulding'

The Government has pledged to 'Get Britain Building' - we've seen this in the new housebuilding targets (not that great) and £39bn being invested into affordable housing (this is great). For those of us interested in local housing, development and climate/nature, or are planning a project, here are three changes to know about.

Planning Committee powers being cut back

Under the 'National Scheme of Delegation', it will no longer be possible to challenge Planning Officer decisions by 'call-in' to be heard democratically by the Planning Committee, which is made up of elected councillors. Exemptions will apply for the most complex and controversial applications - but the majority of applications including householder applications (like extensions) will no longer be able to be 'called-in'. This will come into force on October 31.

Simplified procedure for appeals

The process for planning appeals is being streamlined so that, among other changes, no new information will be allowed to be presented at the appeals stage. This came into force in April.

For both of these changes, the onus will be on Planning Officers to make the 'right' decision, and engage earlier with applicants (and take on board comments from third parties). NSC's planners are making changes to their team and how they operate, which sounds sensible and positive.

For example, the issue of notifications has come up as many of us have rural addresses that NSC has trouble finding (eg to put up notices). The planning department has said that the NSC App should soon have the function to set 'push notifications' for planning applications in your area, hopefully by the end of the year. In the meantime, you can register for local updates through NSC's planning website.

BNG exemption for sites under 0.2ha

The Government has announced that it will only require Biodiversity Net Gain for sites larger than 0.2ha. This is quite different from the current regime (only introduced in 2024) which only exempts sites under 25sqm, householder applications like extensions, or self build sites under 0.5ha. Planning says this will reduce the volume of applications they handle by 50%. However, we also know from the RHS, CPRE, Wildlife Trusts (and the recent BBC series 'Secret Gardens') that UK gardens together are larger than all National Nature Reserves combined and form an essential ecological network. Abbots Leigh Wildlife Group, what can we do?! These changes are likely to become law by Summer.

Get in touch If you need to contact me please email jenna.homarris@n-somerset.gov.uk or jenna@abbotsleighparish.gov.uk or call 07385 010 137 (leave a message). I am now back attending Pill Repair Café which is every 2nd Saturday of the month, 10:30-12:30, please come and say hello.

News from Leigh Woods Residents Group



Leigh Woods Residents Safari Supper

Thursday, August 20, 6pm til 10(ish)

This is a great fun evening, where you get to eat one course with your neighbours before you move on to the next course with other neighbours. It's all a mystery except for the course you prepare (though you don't know who is coming!)

There are only two hosting places left! So can you seat six people (including yourselves) for just one course? Starter, main or pudding.

Get in touch quickly to book a slot. If you are a single Leigh Woods household don't be put off – find a friend to do it with or let Lynne know and she might be able to partner you with another neighbour. Those of you who have already booked your place, Lynne will contact you in July/early August with the next stage.

Please get in touch with any questions, email Lynne.bothamley@btinternet.com.

Leigh Woods National Trust News

It is midsummer and we are preparing for the return of cattle by making sure all the fences and gates in the area they occupy are in good condition and stock proof.

We will also be 'raising the yew' by removing low-hanging branches. Yew is poisonous and cattle dying in Leigh Woods in recent years has been attributed to yew poisoning; there may have been other factors at play, such as intense heat and drought. It is curious why only a single animal has ever succumbed in a year, given the herd behaviour of cows, or why in other years there have been no issues. However, we do all we can to mitigate the risk. As always, if you see a cow in distress, please ring the stock-person whose mobile number will soon be displayed at all entrances.

The NT employees are due to do the annual ash dieback surveys. These assess the health of, and risks posed by, each tree. Some may be removed as a result. It is worth remembering that ash dieback surveys are not all about signing a death warrant for a tree. They also identify which are not succumbing to the infection. This may be because there are some naturally more resistant trees in Leigh Woods, or some that do better in certain positions.

Did you know that there are elms trees in Leigh Woods that survived the Dutch elm disease outbreak of the 1960s and '70s? The loss of elms was a disaster for the English countryside and for species like the white-letter hairstreak butterfly which depend on it; elms are the caterpillar food plant for this species.

Leigh Woods' surviving elms carry with them the hope that white-letter hairstreaks are surviving here too. So, it was a delight to find one on a patch of brambles under an elm where woodland management has created a sunny glade. Alongside the recent sighting of purple hairstreak (an oak specialist) and the regular summer speciality the silver-washed fritillary, Leigh Woods is a great place for butterflies!

May and June's bird surveys have been completed. In May a tawny owl was spotted in broad daylight. That's unusual; although many of us hear them at night. There were a greater variety of species in June than May, including several great spotted woodpeckers and the always impressive buzzard.

Haydn Davies, NT Volunteer



National Trust

Nature Notes

With the mix of sunshine and rain we've had over the spring and early summer the woodland is feeling lush and rich - it almost feels like a rainforest. Notice the variety of earthy aromas which are released following a downpour and compare it with the completely different woodland smell emanating after a period of hot weather.

Walking through the woods, you may notice the coppiced stands which provide an excellent scrub habitat for those birds, such as the **chiff-chaff**, to make their nests in rather than higher up in a tree. Some of our bird species, such as **robins**, **blackbirds** and **song thrushes**, will be having second or even third broods during this summer period, if the weather is favourable. Birdsong will quieten right down now when compared with the spring and in July and August you may become aware that you are not seeing or hearing our birds at all, and if you do they may look scruffy. This is all due to the moulting process which happens at this time of year in the UK. Old feathers are lost as new ones are grown, providing birds with a lovely new set of feathers by the autumn.



In the less wooded areas of the Leigh Woods, where there are large limestone grassland areas, for example near Stokeleigh Camp and the Plain off North Road, you will notice the array of grassland species have grown up high and their flowers are in full evidence. Take a moment to watch the **grasses**' swaying beauty in the wind and bend down to take a closer look at the variety of shapes the flower florets take. Among the grasses look out for the **common spotted orchid** with its pretty pink flowers, varieties of bulbous and meadow **buttercup**. You may even be lucky enough to spot a striking **pyramidal orchid** (pictured) with its bright pink cone-shaped floret.

At the path edges, where the light is peeping through the canopy, look out for the pretty **speedwells** – **germander** with its bright blue flower with bright white eye and **wood speedwell**, which is more of a lilac shade. **Yellow archangel** will be growing up tall with nettle like leaves and pretty yellow flowers distributed all the way up the stem in 'bunches'. Another smaller yellow flower is **yellow pimpernel**, with its wheel-shaped flower – an ancient woodland indicator. **Bugle** flowers now, with lovely spikes of blue/purple flowers, as does **enchanter's nightshade**, with its long spikes of pretty little white flowers.

Finally, keep your eyes skywards to catch a glimpse of the Avon Gorge's juvenile **peregrine falcons**, which have now started leaving the scrape (nest) to practise their flying, diving, landing and hunting skills. On a breezy day it is a great spectacle to see how their parents perform a food-pass mid-air to prepare their young for the day when they need to hunt for themselves!

Anna Stevens, Avon Gorge & Downs Biodiversity Engagement Manager

Get in touch: For general information email: leighwoodsg@gmail.com
Facebook: 'Leigh Woods Residents Group' Website: www.leighwoods.org

Leigh Woods local history

Burwalls Camp: the other bit

One of the most memorable moments in writing ahousehistory.com was my late-in-the-day discovery that I had been walking past the remains of the old Burwalls (or Burgh Walls) Camp every day for many years. Having read that there were parts of the old Iron Age (350BC) wall still visible in the local area (outside of the better preserved section south of the bridge), I spoke to the Bristol and Avon Archaeology Society to confirm the location. I twisted my head looking at various maps, re-read their email and various notes trying to understand where this site could possibly be.

It turned out to be very familiar indeed - right outside my window. I think I can be forgiven for having missed this structure for so long; most people do. Or rather - most adults do. I see children running up and down the slopes of the old wall all the time. It is actually directly opposite St Ambrose on North Road and is a series of bumps in the grass next to the pavement.

I have been hoping to get Scheduled Monument status for the remains for a few years, as well as some signage from the site's owners, the National Trust. I am pleased to say I have the support of our local MP, Sadik Al-Hassan. It may not look like much but that is exactly the point: it encourages us to use a bit of our imagination and to reflect on some of the planning decisions of yesteryear. The Victorians knocked down most of the rest of the wall to build the properties that lie to the east of this location.

Next time you are at this spot, imagine the wall sweeping out before you and the lives of the people who made Leigh Woods their home hundreds of years ago.

Ashley Coates, author of Know Bristol: A Compendium of 365 Bristolian Facts



Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again

When: Wednesday, July 22

Where: St Mary's Church, Leigh Woods

Picnic & film time: Bring your own Picnic

- doors open 6pm. Film will be shown inside the Church at 7.30pm. A complimentary glass of prosecco or soft drink included in your ticket price.

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

Set five years after the original, Sophie is preparing to open the newly renovated Hotel Bella Donna. The film switches between Donna's early life and the present. Sophie enlists the help of Donna's friends for the Grand Reopening and there is a surprise visit from her grandmother - the one and only Cher. This sequel is as good as the original - fun, nostalgic, beautiful Greek scenery and, of course, lots and lots of ABBA songs.

Stars: Cher, Meryl Streep, Celia Imrie, Lily James, Dominic Cooper, Julie Walters, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth. Director: Ol Parker BBFC rating PG USA 2018 140 mins 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
5 July	Trinity 5	Green		
9.00am	Holy Trinity	BCP Communion	TBA	1 Kings 19: 19-21 1 Peter 3: 8-15a
			TBA	Luke 5: 1-11
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Pet Service	Nikki Ball	Genesis 1: 20-25
			Nick Ball	Psalm 104: 11-26
12 July	Trinity 6	Green		
10.30am	St Mary's	Parish Communion	David Linstead	Rom. 8: 1-11
			Gill Millar	Matt. 13: 1-9, 18-23
19 July	Trinity 7	Green		
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Parish Communion	Heather Wraith	Rom. 8: 12-25
			David Wraith	Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43
26 July	Trinity 8	Green		
10.30am	St Mary's	Family Communion	TBA	Matt. 13: 31-33, 44-52
6.30pm	St Mary's	Taizé	TBA	TBA
2 Aug	Trinity 9		Green	
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Parish Communion	Heather Wraith	Rom. 9: 1-5
			David Wraith	Matt. 14: 13-21
9 Aug	Trinity 10	Green		
10.30am	St Mary's	Parish Communion	Phillippa Scriven	Rom. 10: 5-15
			Peter Innocent	Matt. 14: 22-33
16 Aug	Trinity 11	Green		
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Parish Communion	Robert Narracott	Rom. 11: 1-2a, 29-32
			Vicky Dominey	Matt 15: 21-28
23 Aug	Trinity 12	Green		
10.30am	St Mary's	Parish Communion	Michael Bothamley	Rom. 12: 1-8
			John Viney	Matt. 16: 13-20
6.30pm	St Mary's	Taizé	TBA	TBA
30 Aug	Trinity 13	Green		
10.30am	St Mary's	Family Communion	Talbot Family	Matt. 16: 21-end
6 Sep	Trinity 14	Green		
9.30am	Holy Trinity	Family Worship	Nicky Walker	Matt. 18: 15-20
10.30am	Holy Trinity	Parish Communion	Annabel Watkinson	Rom. 13: 8-end
			Nick Ball	Matt. 18: 15-20

Community Speedwatch in Abbots Leigh and Leigh Woods

Volunteers helping to make our roads safer

Our Community Speedwatch teams have been working hard to slow down the traffic passing through our area. Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where members of local communities, with the support of local police, use approved detection devices to record details of speeding vehicles.

Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted, initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. While many offenders are from other cities and towns, there are also a considerable number of offenders who are from our area!

Unfortunately, the number of road traffic accidents has increased in recent years in our area, to the point where collisions are normalised as part of everyday life for residents living near some junctions. For example, between late April 2023 and May 2026, at least 16 road collisions have occurred in and around Abbots Leigh, particularly between The George and Dennyview Road. Whether pulling out from side roads as drivers, or crossing roads as pedestrians, the safety of residents is at risk, because of the speed at which drivers are travelling, especially along Bridge Road and the A369.



Photo: Roz Stewart-Hall

A group of residents from Dennyview Road and surrounding roads expressed their fears about the speed of traffic in a recent letter to North Somerset Council and hope to work with the parish council to expediate action to bring about increased traffic calming strategies.

As members of Speedwatch teams, we know our presence slows drivers down, making roads safer for all members of our community. We also know another effective way of slowing down traffic is if we, as members of the community, adhere to the speed limit ourselves.

Please help us to make our roads safer and reduce the risks to residents by complying with the speed limits - and if you fancy having a go with a speed gun, please let us know, as we are keen to recruit new members in both Speedwatch teams.

Since February 2025, when the Abbots Leigh scheme began, the team has reported almost 1,000 vehicles for exceeding the speed limit. The Leigh Woods team has reported 150 vehicles since it began in January. However, we could report far more speeding drivers if there were more volunteers able to spend an hour, whenever they have the time, to join us on the roadside.

We are also keen to hear from anyone who would like to join a strategy group for developing greater speed awareness of drivers travelling through our area.

If you would like to join the strategy group or volunteer for Speedwatch, contact:

- Leigh Woods Speedwatch: jennystoodley3@gmail.com
- Abbots Leigh Speedwatch: drrozhall@gmail.com
- Strategy Group: clarestewarthall@gmail.com

Link subscription 2026

Donations for this year's Link deliveries have been held to a suggested price of £10. Please make your donation by cash to your deliverer or **BACS payments to UPALandLW. Sort code 40-52-40 Account no. 00010334.** (Please be advised that these details are correct and do work despite messages you may get on your screen!)

Mobile library visits in July

July 2, 16 & 30 (Thursdays): **Leigh Woods**, Church Road, 1.30-2pm;
Abbots Leigh, Church Road, 2.10-3.10pm.

Please note 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.



Children's Society collection boxes

It is 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 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

Abbots Leigh food bank boxes

Sadly for the last few months we have been down on our contributions to the food bank and home bank in Avonmouth. I have therefore moved the box to The George Inn. So, when you go to the pub or Bike Shed, maybe it would be an opportunity to put some things in the box. Also ... are you free, just once a month, to take our box and the Leigh Woods box to the food bank? If so, please contact me: jansayers48@btinternet.com

**** ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES ****

Contact **ROBERT NARRACOTT** - 07773 368311 - robert.narracott@gmail.com

If you wish to advertise in this section of The Link please note adverts are priced at a discount if for charity purposes and / or not for commercial profit. The minimum period is one month. There is no maximum period. Accurate prices can be given on request.



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Advert feature

Clifton Arts 120th Celebrations

Clifton Arts was established in 1906 as a vibrant community for painters, musicians and actors. The club was founded by four artists and members of the Royal West of England Academy, welcoming women and men with excellent artistic skills and ambitious goals. The first President, Jacques Emile Blanche, a student of Manet, brought Impressionism to the region.

Clifton Arts' 250 members, 120 years later, continue the tradition of annual exhibitions, marking this milestone with three free events.

The Club's Heritage featuring "art then!" July 3-August 3

This is a collaboration with the RWA's outreach programme. Neuro-diverse students from the city are curating and presenting an exhibition at the RWA, drawing on artworks by former Clifton Arts members from its extensive archive.

Contemporary Members' works "art now!" July 8-July 18

'art now!', showcases the work of current club members in the Sanctuary of Victoria Methodist Church, adjacent to the RWA, offering the public the opportunity to compare and contrast the club's artistic legacy and its present-day creativity.

The 2026 Clifton Arts Fair

In the Undercroft of the church, also from July 8-18, the Clifton Arts Fair features works for sale, opportunities for the public to engage in art-making, demonstrations by artists, and musical interludes.



Deception, Gossip and Lust
• Oil on canvas • 40x30cm
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art now!

Celebrating 120 years of Clifton Arts



An exhibition of art
and a sale of artists' work

Victoria Methodist Church

1 Whiteladies Road, BS8 1NU

8 - 18 July

Open daily 10.00 - 5.00*

* Sunday 12 July, open 2.00 - 5.00

admission free

www.cliftonarts.org