

Pucklechurch Parish Council: Notes from the Vice-Chair

At the annual council meeting in May, Gail Boyle was elected Chair of Council and myself as Vice Chair for the current year. We are also delighted to welcome Lynne English who was co-opted to the council so we now have a full complement of councillors.

Behind the scenes, a lot of work has been taking place to ensure the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and all the associated supporting evidence has been prepared and submitted as required in law. Following the statutory period of public 'rights', we are now awaiting the external audit by BDO.

The parish council is very grateful to SERCO who provided volunteers in June under their Social Value Volunteering Opportunity scheme. Despite poor weather on the day, the team did a sterling job painting both the Scout hut and youth shelter and ground clearance around the Community Centre. I am sure you will all join us in thanking the prison for their help in improving our local environment.

The parish council has been actively engaged in the South Gloucestershire Council's (SGC) 'special expenses' consultation, attending briefings, meetings and highlighting the impact these proposals will have on smaller councils like Pucklechurch. The policy, now re-branded Local Choices and Special Expenses, was approved by SGC Cabinet and will see discretionary local services such as parks and public open spaces, other green spaces, play areas, public conveniences and allotments that were managed by SGC under the old system of special expenses passed over to parish councils in a three-year phased process.

The parish council will now carefully evaluate the impact of this policy on Pucklechurch as there will be cost implications for residents before deciding when and how to proceed.

Finally, a plea, if the weather continues to be hot and dry, please continue to look out for neighbours and take small actions like leaving out water which will help our local birds and other wildlife.

Rick Dunning

Vice-Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council

When Pucklechurch Stood its 'Recreation' Ground

A Bit of Pucklechurch Past: No 6

The Recreation Ground has been central to village life for more than a thousand years. It was probably a Saxon fortified enclosure, it appears on the 1843 tithe map as The Burrell, a name likely linked to the Saxon burh, meaning a defended site.

The Parish Council began leasing the field for public use from the Ashton Gate Brewery Company in 1921, giving the village a stable home for football, cricket, fêtes and children's play. Three years later, the Miners' Welfare Committee built a recreation room there, further embedding the site in community life.

By the early 1930s, however, its future was under threat. Ashton Gate Brewery had been taken over by Georges & Co., and the new owners decided to auction the White Hart Hotel and all adjoining land, including the Recreation Ground. When the Parish Council asked to buy the field separately, the Brewery refused, insisting that splitting the property would spoil the sale.

The Council had already tried to secure the field in 1933, but without success. With no alternative land available, it applied for compulsory purchase powers. A Local Inquiry was held on 20th February 1935, where councillors and Trustees described the field's daily use by children, the annual sports, and the significant investment in pitches and buildings. The Brewery argued that compulsory purchase would inconvenience the owner and disrupt the integrity of their estate.

Discussions continued into late 1935, including negotiations with Chipping Sodbury District Council over purchasing part of the land for housing (now Hill View Road). Agreement was eventually reached, and at a parish meeting on 5th March 1936 residents unanimously resolved to give the Parish Council power to borrow £1,100 to buy the field outright.

It was a clear statement of intent: Pucklechurch was determined to keep the space that had shaped its community for centuries.

Gail Boyle

South Gloucestershire Council Report

A46 Tormarton Junction Traffic Lights

I usually write about something specific to Pucklechurch, but this article is about something that affects parishioners who drive along the B4465 Westerleigh Road to the Tormarton junction on the A46.

In 2023, National Highways funded temporary traffic lights at the junction whilst the M4 over-bridge at Badminton Road was closed. As soon as it reopened, National Highways removed the temporary lights to the dismay of everyone who uses that junction. This was because the traffic lights improved traffic flow and made access to the A46 safer, reducing dangerous situations for road users.

I recently attended a Tormarton Parish Council meeting and without the traffic lights in place, I did not feel safe negotiating that junction, crossing the A46 to Tormarton, with high speed, two way traffic

Tormarton, Dodington and Westerleigh Parish Councils have all written to South Gloucestershire Council to express serious concern about highway safety at that junction with no traffic lights.

I am working with South Gloucestershire Council colleagues and Claire Young MP to have traffic lights installed permanently. Funding the lights will be costly, but with 2,000 new homes planned from the Science Park at Emersons Green, to the Abattoir site at Westerleigh, it is inevitable that traffic will increase dramatically at this junction, particularly traffic turning right to reach the motorway. We feel that the developers of those new homes should have to contribute to the cost of permanent traffic lights (through Section 106).

A big show of public support would be helpful in persuading Highways to accept that a permanent solution is needed. If you would like to add your name to Claire Young's petition, go to: claireyoung.org.uk/tormarton-lights.

Cllr Marilyn Palmer



Mr A's Bakery - History

The picture of the bakery dates back to 1892 when our shop was a butcher's shop. To the left of the shop was a slaughterhouse, serving the local residents and neighbouring villages of Dyrham and Hinton.

In the 1960's, it changed for several years to a hardware store, then reverting back to a Butchers shop, until we took it over as Anstees Bakery in 1995.

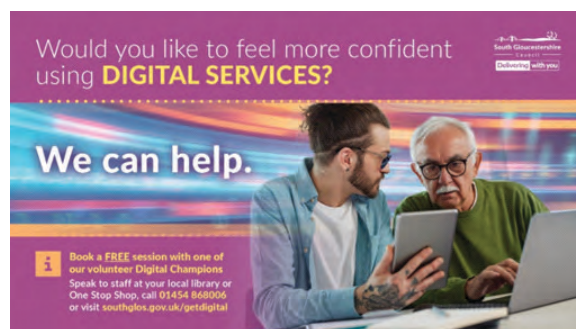
In 2021 Anstees Bakery rebranded to the name of Mr A's Bakehouse, specialising in sandwiches and savouries which we bake daily on the premises. We also cook our own ham, sweet treats and serve Barista coffee.

Emersons Green Library

IT Services and Support available at Emersons Green Library

Did you know that Emersons Green Library has free WiFi? Well, it does. This is available whenever we are staffed and in Open Access (unstaffed) hours.

We also have Wifi printing facilities, so you can print most documents direct from your smartphone or tablet, a small charge applies, as well as from our desktop PCs, which can also be used for free.



Do you need some help with a specific IT issue or with your smartphone or laptop? In many cases our Digital Champion can help with these or provide some basic training. This is a free service but please book in advance at **Learn online skills | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council**, speak to library staff or email:

emersonsgreen.library@southglos.gov.uk

Staffed opening hours are:

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10am – 5pm
Saturdays 10am – 1pm

See also www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries or find us on Facebook.

Pucklechurch Village Trips

1st October: Paignton & train to Dartmouth
3rd November: Glastonbury and Street.
1st December: Cardiff for the Christmas market and shopping

For further details please visit:
pucklechurchvillagetrips@gmail.com or
contact Elaine on **07940207559**

NSPCC

A date for your diary: -
Saturday 24th October: Horse racing at the village hall social club.

If you are interested in helping to raise funds for NSPCC please contact Elaine on elainejstone15@gmail.com or **07940207559**

Pucklechurch Community Association

It's been a busy time for the PCA. Now that the results of the various surveys on the Community Centre are known, a lot of the work that had been placed on hold is starting to move ahead. Replacement of the exterior doors has continued with the old wooden boiler room door being replaced with a steel one and the Social Club fire escape stairs are being refurbished. Originally, the plan was to weld new coverings over the existing surfaces, but once work began, it became clear that the corrosion was far worse than first thought and it was unsafe to use in its current state. This meant that complete replacement of the steps and platforms was required which left the Club without a fire escape.

The Social Club closing for a couple of nights at short notice was far from ideal, but everyone's safety must be the priority and legally there was no alternative. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

You may not be aware, but the PCA is run by volunteers. We run the Community Centre as a charity in our spare time for the benefit of the residents of Pucklechurch and surrounding area. We currently have a couple of vacancies and would love to hear from anyone willing to donate their time and effort to the cause.

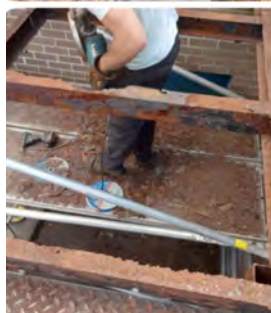
Firstly, we are after a Bookings Secretary to take over from May 2027. The role involves managing regular bookings, monthly invoicing/payments, unlocking/locking for non-regular bookings, etc. This role would suit someone who isn't working full-time, as the demands of the role can fluctuate, depending on the bookings. In the months leading up to May, our current Booking Secretary, Steve, will be happy to share his knowledge of the role with anyone who would seriously consider taking it on.

Secondly, we are also looking for someone to take over the Maintenance Manager role to manage the regular maintenance checks, liaising with tradesmen to fulfil the checks together with any other maintenance issues as they arise.

Our committee works as a team to help each other out when necessary, so help is always at hand if you decide to join us.

If you would like to know more about either role, please get in touch by email at pcacomms2026@gmail.com or through Facebook Messenger or Instagram.

Tim Wallace



Tower Playgroup

We have had another fantastic year, and we would like to thank everyone for continuing to support us.

We ended the year with a trip to the zoo and a party, which was great fun. We will miss everyone going off to school and would like to wish them lots of luck. We are looking forward to seeing our returning children and meeting the new starters.

We have limited places available in September. If you are looking for a place for your child, please pop in, we are still in the room attached to the church.

Preschool is now closed for the summer holidays. We will endeavour to reply to any emails we may receive, although this may not be until we return on 3rd September.

For urgent enquiries and child places, please call us on **07722 029077** and leave a message or send us an email: towerplaygroup@gmail.com

Thank you,

Katherine and Maria



The Little Village Childcare

September

Wednesday 16th: Crib Drive 8pm
Saturday 19th: Reggae bottomless brunch followed by Neil Sartain

October

Wednesday 21st: Crib Drive 8pm
Saturday 24th: PVSSC Quiz
Saturday 31st: Family Halloween Disco

November

Saturday 14th: Abba bottomless brunch followed by The Abbaholics
Wednesday 18th: Crib Drive 8pm
Saturday 28th: PVSSC Quiz
Sunday 29th: Joans Velvet Jacket 7pm to late

Bingo every Sunday. Eyes down at 7.30pm, cash prizes

Membership is due Tuesday 1st September, Adults £14, OAP's £10
Membership includes 40p off all alcoholic drinks and discounts on ticketed functions.

Thank you to all our loyal customers for your continued support.

Pucklechurch Allotment Association

Well, 2026 is yet again another strange growing year at the allotments. As we all know it's been very dry and very hot. This has been good for some plants and bad for others so perhaps a bit of a mixed blessing. Some of the more traditional crops like runner beans and French beans have suffered badly, needing watering and misting daily to help set their pods but are finally paying us back for all our hard work. However, other more exotic plants like tromboncinos and different varieties of courgettes have flourished in the heat. If this is to be the new norm for our summers, perhaps we have to look at different crops and become more Mediterranean in our plantings.



We had a great turnout of our allotmenters at the Revel, and a very enjoyable day was had by all. The ping pong ball drop, village stocks and grass head making were very popular and kept our volunteer helpers very busy. A quick thanks to everyone who helped out and also the Revel committee for their hard work and another success. Long may the Revel continue, we need to keep our village identity and traditions alive and well.

If you are interested in taking on an allotment we unfortunately have no vacant plots at present, but we do have a very short waiting list. So why not put your name down and see if we can get you growing your own soon.

If you would like to know more about our allotment association please contact me, Mike Bathgate on **07846793999**, and I'll be happy to have a chat and maybe show you around the plots. Alternatively, contact Daphne, our Parish Council Clerk, who could put you on the waiting list at clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Village Agent, Boy Valley, South Gloucestershire

As your Village Agent, I wanted to let you know about an upcoming change that will affect households across our villages. Over the coming months, telephone providers will be finalising moving customers from the old analogue telephone network to a new digital phone service. Your provider will contact you by letter or email to let you know when this change is due to happen.

For most people, the switch will be simple and straightforward. However, I appreciate that it may be a little worrying if you're not sure what it means for you, especially if you use an alarm, pendant, telecare service or other equipment connected to your phone line. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch. I would be very happy to talk through the changes with you, help you understand what to expect, and ensure you have the support you need so that everything goes as smoothly as possible.

The Village Agent Service is free, confidential and here to help, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sharon Wood

Village Agent

 **07985 018550**  sharon@wern.org.uk

Good Neighbour Scheme

A bit like last summer, it's been a dry and sometimes hot few months. The Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have helped residents with their gardens where health issues have meant they can't currently do it themselves. We gather together a few volunteers and 'blitz' the gardens. We spend a couple of hours or so weeding, pruning, mowing and generally tidying up. If you or someone you know has mobility issues and could benefit by having a few people round to do a 'garden blitz' please contact us.

As well as gardening, we can provide company for residents so that they have someone to spend time with for a chat and cup of tea. Members of families spend a lot of time with people, but it's nice to see someone different every now and again, which is where we may be able to help.

We can also help with a variety of small household tasks such as changing bulbs, batteries and fuses, simple DIY tasks, filling in forms, putting out bins and re-cycling, providing in person or telephone company or doing a 'garden blitz'. If you have regular helpers, we may be able to help if they are unavailable due to holidays or illness.

This is not an exhaustive list so if you have anything you think we could help with please contact us and we can come to have a chat with you.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know would benefit from our help please contact us on **07961939574** or email goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. If you leave a message on the phone or email, we'll reply within 48 hours.



Pucklechurch Players

Pucklechurch Players will be performing *Secondary Cause of Death* by Peter Gordon. It is 1939 when storm clouds are gathering over Europe. Bagshot House is the setting for this production, where we meet an eclectic group of people gathered for a murder mystery evening. Add a certain Inspector Pratt, by name and by nature, you have the makings of a comedy thriller!

The play will be performed on 27th and 28th November in the village Community Centre. The doors will open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30pm start. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Tickets available from Evenbrite from October 18th.



Gardeners Club

There's no doubt, it's certainly been a lovely summer for being out in the garden, with sultry evenings & a glass of something cold....

Unfortunately, with the constant heat & no rain in sight yet, our gardens are looking very dry, especially the lawns. The good news is that they will recover eventually once we get some long awaited rain, so we can forget mowing for a while.

The club's two night stay in Peterborough at the beginning of June was excellent according to the feedback from our visit to Belvoir Castle, The Sandringham Estate and Anglesey Abbey. Our thanks to Duncan & Margaret for putting in the hard work of arranging the trip.



The club's last social gathering was held in July, when we were invited to the home of Kate & Brian Cudlip at Bridehill Farm to celebrate the 50th anniversary. Over 70 members enjoyed a lovely buffet supper, a complimentary glass of Prosecco & celebration cake, along with a ukulele band playing in the background. With a lovely warm evening, we all enjoyed a great ending to the club program.

The new Autumn program 2026/27 commences on Wednesday 7th October at 8.00pm. We've invited Fiona Warin back again to talk about her work with Allotments. Visitors are welcome to come along to the Community Centre Hall, doors open at 7.30pm. Light refreshments available

Club News 2026 Contact Sallie Brooks: sallie61@me.com

D. Kemps Garden Centre & Elmwood Nurseries offer members 10% discount on plants when a recent membership card is presented.

Pucklechurch Bat Walk

After the delay caused by heavy downpours on Tuesday, the bat walk finally took place on Thursday 6th August. Led by Amie Cook, the group was taken on a fascinating walk and talk around the new Pucklechurch wood. We started at the Parkfield play area as the sun was setting where Amie talked about the 18 different bat species found in Britain including the common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's and greater and lesser horseshoe bats and where they might be found around Pucklechurch.

Many are surprisingly long lived, with a lifespan of up to 30 years and each year they produce one pup. Bats are nocturnal animals, well adapted to a life in darkness away from daytime predators. Bats eat insects and need a variety of habitats throughout the year to forage, roost and travel. They are not, as many believe, blind in fact they can see quite well. However, it's their ears that are more important as bats use echo location to gather information about what's ahead of them. The frequencies are so high that they are inaudible to us, but these can be picked up on a bat detector.

Our first stop was at the scrape or seasonal pond. Amie outlined the new planting planned for this Autumn to encourage invertebrates as ponds and watercourses are important because they attract midges and other insects as well as providing water for bats to hydrate.

Everyone can help bats by taking a few simple steps to make their own gardens bat friendly by:

- planting nectar rich plants, trees, shrubs and night scented flowers.
- providing a pond
- attracting insect with compost heaps, bug hotels or 'wild' areas of garden.
- avoiding chemicals
- minimising artificial lighting

The next stop was near the motorway in an area of new trees and open grassland which will provide another good hunting habitat. Evidence of owls was found, and we managed to disturb one of the local deer which was not impressed. We finished by walking alongside one of the older hedgerows. Amie outlined the importance of hedgerows and how they provide vital corridors for bats to use to connect areas for roosting and feeding. Other vital corridors include woodland edges and tree lined footpaths as these all attract a wide variety of insects.

Finally, we were treated to a few bats busily foraging. Although the recent extreme heat may have impacted the number of bats flying, we discovered just how important a diverse range of habitats are to help bats flourish.

 Thank you, *Amie*

Thank you to Amie for organising the Bat Walk
Daphne Dunning



1st Pucklechurch Guides

The Guides spent most of the summer outside. Entomology Badge: Found mini beasts living on the ground and made nets to capture flying insects. At Dennisworth, (thanks Lyn) Young Leader Katie lit a fire for traditional campfire songs and toasted marshmallows. Leaders demonstrated how to lay and light a fire, whilst giving safety instructions. Each Guide lit a match, quite a challenge for some! Small groups lit fires, cooked burgers/sausages, and bananas stuffed with chocolate baked in foil. All fires were properly extinguished before the meeting ended. Useful, basic skills, but fun too. The only downside, the evocative wood-smoke 'perfume' that lingers.

The Swedish Challenge was completed by maypole dancing, tangling many ribbons, playing Swedish Kubb and icing biscuits as Swedish flags. Revel: 1970's Hippie theme achieved with tie-dyed tee-shirts which looked great and were worn proudly in the Parade.

Gold Challenge: Issy compiled the stall rota, helped set up and dismantle the stall, and helped all day. All guides took their turn, and collected litter, part of the Take Action badge. The Guides understand that by taking part in community activities they can make things happen.

More games outside. Just as well as one involved splattering, dripping and flicking paint to

create interesting abstract patterns, wishing ours would sell for millions.

The only Tuesday it poured with rain we had intended to pitch tents, especially as several were camping at the weekend. Undaunted, we pitched them inside the scout hut and were amazed at their size. Getting soaked was so refreshing. Extreme heat the following week was no problem with water games to play.

To complete the Engineering badge, Guides built suspension bridges using marshmallows and cocktail sticks and tested their ability to carry weight with pennies.

After party games, parents were invited to our final meeting to see every Guide receive badges. A few to mention, Artist Badge: Sophia, Flo, Bookworm: Esme, Camp Stage 4: Dana, Flo & Jasmine. Having completed four Themes, Maisy and Jasmine received Silver Awards. Issy has completed all six Themes plus a Gold Challenge, receiving her Gold Award. Well done to ALL our Guides. Best wishes to Katie, off to Swedish jamboree, thanks to leaders for making the programme happen, and to our supportive parents.

Enjoy the summer, we restart September 8th. If you've read this, are aged 10+ and would like to join Guides, contact Rosa Abbott on rosabbott@hotmail.com. You do not need to have been in Guiding before. Adult help also very welcome.

1st Pucklechurch Rangers

Several of our Guides aged 14+ wanted to remain in Girl Guiding, so we opened a Ranger Unit which is specifically for girls aged 14-18.

During their first term the girls went on a chip shop walk to Emersons Green, revisited Rainbow activities, and went to the cinema to see *Toy Story 5*.

St Patrick's Day was celebrated making Celtic style jewellery and quite a few weeks were spent cooking with chocolate; Chocolate fondue, Swedish chocobolla and an Easter egg cheesecake. They took on a Relaxation Station challenge but found it difficult to lie still, reflect and not talk to their friends. This is only a snapshot of the wide variety of activities open to this age group.

This small, friendly Unit is actively looking for more girls to join them. There is no need to have been in Guiding previously, all girls aged 14-18 are welcome.

Meetings are every Tuesday, 7pm – 8.30pm during term times. For more information, please email Frances Fahy at francesfahy@btinternet.com She'd love to hear from you.

Pucklefest 2026 - What a Weekend!

What a fantastic three days of Pucklefest!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the village for coming along, supporting the event and helping to create such a brilliant, family friendly atmosphere throughout the weekend.

From the fantastic live bands and acts to the community choirs, there was plenty of entertainment across all three days. It was wonderful to see so many local families enjoying themselves and making the most of everything Pucklefest had to offer.

A special thank you also goes to the Fire Brigade and Avon and Somerset Police, who brought their vehicles along for the children to explore and enjoy. The inflatable rodeo sheep certainly provided plenty of laughs and entertainment, while the BBQ kept everyone well fed.

Most importantly Pucklefest was also about bringing the village together and seeing everyone enjoying themselves, chatting, laughing and making memories made all the hard work worthwhile.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend such a success, our performers, volunteers, local organisations, staff, suppliers and, of course, everyone who came along and supported us.

We hope you enjoyed Pucklefest as much as we did.

We'll see you all again next year!

REVEL

🏰 PUCKLECHURCH REVEL 2026 - WHAT A DAY! 🏰

Well... what can we say?! 😊

Revel's 75th birthday certainly went out with a bang, despite a few moments where we wondered whether we'd make it to the end of the day, **YOU LOT ABSOLUTELY SMASHED IT!**

First up, the food.

One of our booked caterers decided to abandon us at the last minute. Panic stations! But this is Pucklechurch, and within no time at all, Facebook and our amazing villagers came to the rescue. We managed to locate alternative caterers offering kebabs, Indian food and with both offering vegetarian and vegan options.

And what happened? **THEY BOTH SOLD OUT!** So perhaps we should just deliberately lose a caterer every year?!

We kicked off the day with our fabulous parade, with **Tower Playgroup** taking the crown! A huge thank you to our very important judges from the Rose & Crown, **Tara** and **Sammy**

Entertainment was supplied by the **Marshfield Brass Band** who got the party started with a fantastic mix of music for all ages, followed by brilliant performances from **Stacey Charles**, **Warren Amos** and the **School Choir**.

And then the **BOHEMIAN BAR THIEVES**, what a way to finish! A finale to end finales with lots of Dad dancing!

And the final verdict?

- **SOLD-OUT STALLS**
- **SOLD-OUT FOOD**
- **SOLD-OUT CIDER**
- **ONE VERY HAPPY VILLAGE**

Behind every successful Revel is a slightly exhausted group of people wondering why they ever volunteered in the first place, so I would like to give a **MASSIVE** thank you to:

Sarah, Emily, Eden, Eren, Iain, Abi, Dan, Piper, Freya, Louis, Omie, Dillon, Callun, Kev, George, Nicky, Izzy, Charlie, Shannon, Tyler and Button, and Pucklechurch Parish Council.

You all gave up your time, energy and sanity to help make this happen, and we genuinely couldn't do it without you.

And finally, a HUGE thank you to **everyone who came along**. You supported the stalls, drank the cider, ate the food, cheered the parade, listened to the music, danced, laughed and generally made Revel exactly what it should be, a brilliant community day!



WANT TO JOIN THE MADNESS?

If you fancy joining the committee and helping us continue putting on events for the village, come along to our AGM which is being held on Thursday 10th September, 7pm at the PVSSC club.

We promise that no previous experience is required, questionable decision making is apparently already covered.

Thank you all again for making **Pucklechurch Revel 2026** one to remember, 75 years young and still going strong

Revel Chair

Boyd Valley Painting Group

The Boyd Valley painting group consists of a small band of like-minded amateur artists who meet at Dyrham and Hinton village hall every Thursday morning from 10.00am until 1.00pm.

The group, mainly retired residents, consists of mixed artistic abilities using any medium they choose. We are a friendly group aiming to provide encouragement and painting tips that enable beginners to develop and improve their chosen medium, creating a sense of achievement for those participants just starting out.

The group is run on a "not for profit" principle whereby all members share the modest cost of the hall hire between them. However, we have been successful in obtaining grant funding that will enable us to offer free membership until the end of the year and hopefully beyond.

Have you thought that you would like to paint or draw but didn't know how to start? Come along to one of our sessions to see how we operate and feel comfortable before committing. Equipment is not provided but it would be wise to wait and see which paint medium you would like to take up before purchasing any equipment.

You have to start somewhere. With practice comes knowledge and experience but remember all art in whatever form is relevant, some you like, some you don't like, allowing you to discover and adopt your favoured approach. Practice makes perfect but as each painting is different it doesn't feel like practicing. You just subconsciously learn as well as teaching yourself to be observant. You just need to be interested in getting better.

If you would like to have a go and be part of our friendly group, call Andrew Hedges on **01179372928** or **07764371493** to learn more and register your interest. You will be made to feel most welcome.

Pucklechurch Cricket Club

As some of you will know, last year Pucklechurch Cricket Club, supported by the Parish Council, secured a grant to re-lay the pitch at the heart of the Rec. Despite the extreme weather this summer, the pitch has proved to be a huge success with several visiting teams commenting on its quality. Thanks go to Bob Wiltshire and Ali Young for keeping the water flowing.

What's on in Boyd Valley Benefice and at St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch and St James, Abson?

News flash!

The five village churches are now officially Boyd Valley Benefice. The vicarage for all the villages is now based in Wick, 57 High Street, Wick, Bristol, BS30 5QQ, where you can contact Rev'd Elaine Jones.

A variety of church services are held at Wick with Doynton and Dyrham, Pucklechurch and Abson. We hope you will enjoy meeting Jesus, exploring your identity, the meaning of life, finding a place to belong and creating a community in church through the love of Jesus this year, taking the love of Jesus to our homes, villages, workplaces and schools.

Alpha Courses:

Two new alpha courses are running this autumn, one during the day in Doynton and the other in the evening in Pucklechurch. These free courses are for everyone, no matter your background or beliefs. They run for 10 weeks and consist of food, a talk and conversation. They are relaxed spaces to explore how Jesus can impact your life for good. There's never a pressure to share thoughts, but the floor is yours if you do want to say something.

For course details, scan the QR code. Both courses start on Tuesday 8th September.

Pucklechurch course: 7 – 9 pm St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch

Doynton course: 12 – 2 pm at Holy Trinity, Doynton

To find out more or sign up, please email Sophia Taylor, at officepawdd@gmail.com or call her **07935 590033**



Services:

Services at St Thomas a Becket are at 10 am on Sunday mornings, weekly. We hold joint church services on the fifth Sunday of the month, visiting each of the five churches in the Benefice in turn.

Harvest Festival and celebrations:

Look out for harvest services and associated celebrations on notice boards at the churches, on our Facebook page and websites. We give thanks for God's provision and lament and walk with those where there is hardship.

New Facebook page for the Scarecrow Trail:

After last year's difficulties with Facebook bots, we have created a new Scarecrow Trail page. Please like it or follow us to stay up to date for 2027. We had over 700 followers on the old page and it would be a huge help if you can encourage friends and family to like the new page too. Thank you!

[@pucklechurchscarecrow/](https://www.facebook.com/BoydValleyBenefice/)

For online information:

For Boyd Valley Benefice, please see our joint Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BoydValleyBenefice/>

For St Thomas a Becket church, Pucklechurch, see our website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11799/>

For St James, Abson, see their website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11800/>

For Wick with Doynton and Dyrham churches, see their website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/05-163BT/>



Julie Gardner

on behalf of St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch and St James, Abson.

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10th November '26 for December Edition (Winter)

10th February '27 for March Edition (Spring)

10th May '27 for June Edition (Summer)

10th August '27 for September Edition (Autumn)

Your parish councillors.

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Dean Freestone

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