

Pucklechurch Parish Council: Chair's Report

The last few months have been an extremely busy period for council. Our full action plan for 2025/26 can be viewed on our website via the Accounts tab. The action plan enables the tracking of progress against milestones, the allocation of appropriate resources/budget and helps us to identify and manage risk. Nevertheless, however much we plan for targeted activity, there will always be additional work that crops up that is not of our making.

Planning responses

As you will recall there are two major speculative outline planning applications for land at Marsh Farm, Pucklechurch and land at Rock House Farm, Shortwood. PPC agreed to submit robust, detailed objections to both proposals. The work required to analyse and assess the applications by PPC has amounted to well over 100 hours of work. In addition, PPC agreed to commission paid-for advice from an expert planning consultant who we have been working with to deliver the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Our responses can be read on the PPC and SGC websites. Thank you to all residents that have also taken the time to respond.

Budget

Discussions regarding PPC's required budget for 2026/27 and its precept request to SGC began last November. The final drafts were reviewed and approved at our January meeting when it was agreed to set its precept at £175,000 which equates to a rise of 50p/week for a Band D property. In setting out its budget requirements, council noted that significant investment was required to address works identified by building surveys of both the Scout Hut and Pucklechurch Community Centre, as well as to address, for example, necessary forthcoming tree works and improvements to play areas.

Repairs and replacements

Several pieces of maintenance and improvement works have been commissioned. The broken rocker at the Recreation Ground play area has been removed and a replacement commissioned at a cost of £4425.70. The replacement will be a new piece of equipment that can accommodate more than one child. The fence that was damaged alongside the steps adjacent to St Aldam's play area has been repaired at a cost of c. £2,300. Repairs to potholes on land owned by PPC at the end of Parkfield Rank have also been commissioned but these can only be done when the rain abates.

And finally, PPC awarded community grants amounting to a total of £2450 to local groups at its meeting in January. Council was however disappointed by the low number of applications it received.

Gail Boyle
Chair, Pucklechurch Parish Council

Mining our parish history (A Bit of Pucklechurch Past: No 4)

Researching family history has become one of the UK's fastest growing leisure pursuits, helped by popular TV programmes and the growth of large online record collections.

Beyond tracing names, one of the most rewarding aspects is understanding why our ancestors chose to settle in places like Pucklechurch. Census records show that the parish's population rose from about 444 people in 1801 to around 910 by 1891, a doubling driven in part by the expansion of the nearby Bristol coalfield. The earliest colliery within the parish boundary was Brandy Bottom, sunk around 1837, followed by Parkfield Colliery in the early 1850s, by which time miners formed one of the largest male occupational groups. Their arrival reshaped the parish, new cottages appeared near Parkfield and Shortwood, roads between Shortwood, Pucklechurch and Westerleigh were improved, and school attendance rose as families settled permanently.

This period also saw the growth of nonconformist chapels such as Shortwood Methodist Chapel and the Pucklechurch Congregational Chapel, all of which offered strong community networks, practical support and working-class centred worship that appealed to mining families. Although once an agricultural community, the advent of mining here did not just bring jobs it reshaped where people lived, how they travelled, where they worshipped, and how the parish functioned.

Our local landscape has been subject to many changes over time, everywhere we live, work and play is a living record of those changes, and every generation brings something new to the story. It is easy to forget the industrial past when just remnants of the buildings remain and old drammways become walking and cycling paths.

Fortunately for us Steve Grudgings, one of the UK's most respected authorities on coal mining history is putting together a new book on the history of Parkfield Colliery, so watch this space for news of its publication.

Gail Boyle

South Gloucestershire Council Report

Planning applications and flooding have been the issues dominating my workload across the Boyd Valley Ward. My comments on the various planning applications, including the Rock House Farm outline application for 280 houses at Shortwood, can be read in full on the SGC planning portal.

Planning Appeal – Land opposite Meadow View, Shortwood Road. I attended and spoke (objected) at the Appeal on 20 January. Despite acknowledging the harmful effect on the character and appearance of the area and the landscape, the Inspector allowed the Appeal and granted planning permission for change of use of the land as a travellers caravan site (residential use) with the erection of a day room, one stable block, siting of two mobile homes and two touring caravans. He cited the shortfall of Gypsy and Traveller sites in South Gloucestershire as the reason for granting consent, for this site in the Siston Conservation Area.

I have attended meetings and a site visit with Bristol Energy Network and the Parish Council regarding the proposal for two wind turbines at Leigh Farm, on SGC owned land alongside the M4. A planning application is expected to be submitted at the end of March.

Pucklechurch Wood: It's exciting to see the progress of this new community woodland which forms part of the UK's new Western Forest. It's being created thanks to SGC providing the land, with funding from the Government's Trees for Climate funding, the Forest of Avon and Pucklechurch Parish Council, who have worked closely with SGC to bring this about.

SGC Budget: There is an increasing demand for statutory services, such as social care for the elderly and disabled, education and children's social services. The cost of maintaining roads and other infrastructure continues to rise. We are proposing the Government's assumed 4.99% increase and the use of reserves to deliver a balanced budget over the next two years, by which time the majority of the financial reserves will have been used. This use of reserves dovetails with the Council's resource allocation process which continues to deliver and define the current and future savings programmes to ensure the Council remains financially stable. During the budget consultation, residents clearly valued the Handy Van and the Pest Control services, so these non-statutory services will be retained.

Westerleigh Road: I contacted Highways about the resurfaced stretch of road from the M4 bridge towards the Crematorium as the road markings and cats' eyes have not yet been reinstated. The lining contractor has been asked to reinstate the centre line by the M4 bridge, which is due to be surface dressed in the summer with the cats eyes being reinstated shortly after.

Cllr Marilyn Palmer

VOTO - Villagers On Their Own

This group has been created for people over the age of 50 and has been running since 2010.

There is a full programme of events for the year which includes meals out, visits to places of interest, theatre trips, a fish & chips evening, beetle drive, darts, tenpin bowling plus horse racing.

For more information contact Elaine on elainejstone15@gmail.com or phone or text on **07940 207559**.

Emersons Green Library

What's on at Emersons Green Library in February and March?

This half term we have a **Monster Mischief** craft activity for all those little monsters! This FREE craft based session takes place on **Tuesday 17th February 2pm – 3pm**. Details of this and all sessions for primary school aged children are available at Holiday activities for children and families BETA - South Gloucestershire Council. These are drop-in sessions, but even if you can't make the date parents can ask staff for a craft bag to take away and do at home (while stocks last).

2026 is National Year of Reading and there will activities running across South Gloucestershire libraries throughout the year to encourage children and adults read for pleasure.

The next event at Emersons Green Library will see popular children's picture book character **Supertato** join us for story time on **Tuesday 3rd March 9.30am and 4pm**. Any Supertato fans can have their photos taken with the superhero after each story time too!

Neil Weston
Group Librarian
Cadbury Heath, Emersons Green,
Hanham, Kingswood and Staple Hill
libraries



Pucklechurch Cricket Club

Although it doesn't seem like it with all the rain falling, spring is just around the corner and that means that the cricket season will soon be with us and, after the hard work of laying a new pitch, we're all looking forward to it.

This year we'll be fielding two adult sides on Saturdays and a mid-week team and we're always looking for new players. Indoor pre-season practice starts at the beginning of March.

Our usual ECB training programme for 5 to 11 year olds will start in early May and this year we also hope to be playing competitive matches at U9s, U11s, U13s and U15s. All of this is for both boys and girls.

So if you or anyone in your family is interested in cricket please look at our website www.pucklechurchcc.co.uk for more details.

REVEL

The Revel planning team, Sarah, Omie, Button, Lori and Abi have been working hard throughout January and February and are delighted to share the latest developments as preparations for this year's celebrations continue to build momentum.

Grant Successes

We are thrilled to confirm success with our grant applications, securing the Sparks Grant, £500 and Parish Grant, £500. This fantastic support means we are able to purchase a PA system, providing long term value for many future events. It also allows us to rent the additional equipment needed for Revel Day, ensuring a professional and well equipped celebration. With funding confirmed, procurement and booking of key equipment will begin shortly.

75th Anniversary 2026 Revel Theme: The 1970s

We will be celebrating with a 1970s theme, marking our 75th birthday, giving a cheerful nod to King Charles turning 78 on his official birthday, alongside Trooping of the Colour on 13th June. Expect colour, nostalgia, and plenty of retro fun!

Entertainment & Performers Planning

We have contacted several performers including Bohemian Bar Thieves, Sam Eason, Stacey Charles and the Marshfield Brass Band. For children and families, DJ Bridgee has been contacted for music and inflatables. We are also looking to secure a children's entertainer.

Special Events & Features

- Gary Fry has verbally confirmed his participation in the Royal Family segment.
- Race Night will be moved to a new date, details to follow.
- Additional side events are being discussed and will be confirmed soon.

Stallholder Bookings

We invite applications from local businesses, makers, and community organisations interested in securing a stall. Pitch fee is £15; however, registered charities are exempt from this fee. Please contact us via email: Pucklechurch.Revel@gmail.com or pass details directly to Omie.

Sparkle Event – Community Thank You

Despite the unfortunate vandalism that severed the tree lights, our Sparkle event was a huge success. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to the GoFundMe, your kindness will keep the event alive and shining. We will be purchasing new lights for Winter 2026, exploring further solar powered options in partnership with the Parish Council to protect the display and improve sustainability.

Revel Contact Details: Pucklechurch.revel@gmail.com or phone/text on **07789 707278**



If you are still looking for a playgroup place, we currently have a few spaces left for September 2025, please call George **07736 713730** or Fi **07545 351364** to arrange a visit.

To fall in line with school drop off and pick up times, we have revised our opening hours. You will be able to drop off from 9am with collection at 12 noon and for full days, collection is 3pm. We are pleased to add a Monday afternoon to our opening hours, so a full day is available from 9-3 on Monday.

"Children are eager to enter this welcoming playgroup and separate from their parents with ease"

- OFSTED Report

Pucklechurch Allotment Association

Now that spring is in the air and the growing season is upon us, how about joining the Pucklechurch Allotment Association?

We currently have a few plots available for any keen novice or green fingered gardeners who live in the Parish. This year you could lease one for £20 per annum, including membership of the National Allotment Society with limited insurance and reduced seed prices from their catalogues.

If interested please contact either Daphne Dunning, the Parish clerk, clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk Or give Mike (chair) a call on **07846 793999** who would be happy to show you around.

NSPCC

Thank you for all your support during 2025.

Our next event is a coffee morning at the PVSSC St Aldams Drive on Saturday 28th March.

Look out for further events during the year.

For more information about fund raising contact Elaine on elainejstone15@gmail.com or **07940 207559**

Pucklechurch Woodland

If you've ventured into the very soggy fields near Parkfield you will have seen how well whip planting is progressing in the new Pucklechurch wood. This is despite the weather which seems to be doing its best to soak everyone who helps. Progress could not have happened without public support and a huge thank you goes out to the small band of regular volunteers who attend come rain or shine. We must also thank those companies who have given staff time off to volunteer, your help is invaluable. We still need your support on Tuesdays and Thursdays so do come along or contact Jetta at pucklechurchwood@southglos.gov.uk and during half term we hope there will be a good turn-out at the family planting day on 18th February.

The next stage in the area supported by the parish council is to look at wild flower planting and other initiatives to improve biodiversity. Look out for updates on social media and the council website.



YOUR WOOD NEEDS YOU!

South Gloucestershire Council
Delivering climate & nature action

We are planting 22,000 trees (whips) this winter and we need your help.

Block A, Block B, Block C, Block D, Block E, Block F, Block G, Block H, Block I

Tree planting areas

Scan me to book your place

Join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am. Meet at Block E. Stay for as long or as little as you can, every bit of help makes a difference.

We provide:
All training
All equipment

Please bring:
Food and water
Sturdy, waterproof footwear

Contact us at pucklechurchwood@southglos.gov.uk

Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme has been able to help a couple of residents over the winter months. We've undertaken a garden blitz with some pruning, weeding, planting and general tidying. We've also helped a resident by changing a lightbulb, which is one of the small tasks we can help with.

As well as changing light bulbs, we're available to help with other small household tasks such as changing batteries and fuses, simple DIY tasks, filling in forms, putting out bins and re-cycling and providing in person or telephone company. We can also help with a "garden blitz", where a number of volunteers will weed and generally tidy your garden if you're unable to do it. 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 **07961 939574** or by emailing goodneighbours@pucklechurch.org. If you leave a message on the phone or email, we'll reply within 48 hours.

Three Shires Medical Practice

We've said in previous articles that we aim to let you know how we are dealing with the many issues facing our GP Practice. We are still waiting to hear from Government about the new contract that GP Practices will be expected to work to from April 2026. Both the doctors and our Patient Participation Group have written to our MP's who have taken our concerns to the Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting, but at the time of preparing this article, no response! Planning for the next year(s) is therefore extremely difficult. Will there be new requirements that we will be expected to undertake and what funding will we be allocated? If we know more by mid February we will include information in our next Patient Newsletter which we aim to publish on our Practice website by early March.

Another issue that is frustrating is availability of some medications. This is a national problem and is not something wrong within our surgeries. The problems of medication supply are being caused by manufacturing issues, shortages of raw materials, distribution problems and increases in demand for certain medication worldwide. Our pharmacists spend hours trying to source the medication that we need to prescribe. It is because of these supply problems that we are now asking you to allow 96 hours, i.e. 4 days from the time you order your medication to the time that you collect it.

Perhaps one piece of good news is that prescription charges from April 2026 are not increasing! The cost of each item of medication remains at £9.90. Prescription Prepayment Certificates stay at £32.05 for three months and £114.50 for twelve months. If you need four or more items over a three month period or thirteen or more items in a twelve month period, a prepayment certificate is the cheapest way to pay for your medication. For more information about prescriptions please go to the front page of our Practice website and click on PRESCRIPTIONS.

You may also have seen in the news that all young children can now be offered a chicken pox vaccine to be given at 12 and 18 months of age. The chicken pox vaccine is to be combined with the measles mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR) now to be known as the MMRV vaccine. We will be making this vaccination available when we receive the necessary supplies.



HMP Ashfield: Green Ambassadors and Community Engagement

HMP Ashfield is proud to share the positive impact of its Green Ambassadors network, a collaborative initiative that brings together staff and prisoners to promote environmental responsibility, learning and meaningful community engagement.

The programme delivers a wide range of sustainability focused activities, including volunteering and hands-on environmental projects. Prisoners take part in environmental and sustainability courses throughout the year, helping them to develop practical skills, environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility for the natural world. Staff are also supported through certificated sustainability training, ensuring environmental best practice is embedded across the establishment.

Community volunteering was a key focus during 2025. Green Ambassadors worked alongside local charities and volunteered at a care home supporting adults with learning difficulties. One particularly successful initiative was the Crisp Packet Project, which transforms waste crisp packets into survival bivvy bags and ponchos for the homeless. Staff volunteers also hit the streets in Bristol, distributing survival bags to people experiencing homelessness. This was achieved with the support of 1st Pucklechurch Brownies and local businesses in collecting crisp packets.

In 2025, HMP Ashfield achieved ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems accreditation, an internationally recognised standard that reflects the establishment's strong commitment to environmental management and continuous improvement. Environmental improvements within the prison continues with a forthcoming tree planting project that will see 48 native saplings planted to enhance biodiversity, delivered through a "Giving Back to Nature" training day for PCOs. An enabling garden is also being developed to support wellbeing, creativity and environmental awareness, including plans for a mini orchard.

Looking ahead to 2026, HMP Ashfield aims to strengthen community partnerships, maintain volunteering activity and expand recycling initiatives. Planned projects include creating children's wigwams from reclaimed wood and crisp packets for local schools. As part of our ongoing community engagement, we will be supporting the new Pucklechurch Ranger Group by allowing them to use our outside bungalow for meetings.

We would like to remind residents of the Big Lemon Bus we fund giving local residents a free service that connects HMP Ashfield with Bristol Parkway Station and Pucklechurch village on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as offering residents improved connections to Emersons Green and Parkway Station.

A weekend trip that starts with a train or just shopping at Emersons Green why not try the service! More details can be found on the website **Bristol Parkway - HMP Ashfield - Pucklechurch | The Big Lemon**



1st Pucklechurch Guides

Throughout January and February our seven eldest Guides took it in turns to each plan and deliver an activity for the whole Unit; their challenge for the Gold Award, their final goal as a Guide. The hardest parts were getting and keeping guides' attention, making sure they understood the activity and managing time. This was a most useful exercise in helping these girls gain the confidence needed to address a group and hold their attention. Their activities included all of us learning football skills, creating and testing obstacle courses, recognising places in Pucklechurch from photos, plus a local knowledge quiz. There was also a challenge to create the tallest tower from newspaper and taking part in a litter based activity.

Following our intriguing version of The Traitors, and with goals complete, Evie, Nancie, Polly, Sophie, Erin, Daisy and Darcy all received their Gold Awards with parents present and celebratory cakes. Issy and Dana received Silver Awards and Jasmine her Bronze. Many other Interest Badges and Theme Awards were presented too.

After much hard work we all managed to make an atomium from Fimo and cocktail sticks to complete the Belgium/Luxembourg challenge. The four guides who went to Brussels visited the giant atomium which is large enough to go inside.

The RFU and our Guiding County teamed up to offer a Rugby training session with Bristol Bears Women's team followed by watching the match against Sale Sharks. Eleven guides took this opportunity and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Some of us helped plant trees in Pucklechurch wood and took part in our wider area Thinking Day event where we 'think' about our sister guides around the world, and donate to an international fund.

We welcome girls aged 10-14 years, whether they have been Rainbows or Brownies, girls aged 14-18 as Young Leaders, or Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, and interested adults too. Contact Ros Abbott **07709 639846** for further information.

RANGERS - The final Section in Girlguiding for girls aged 14-18 years.

I am delighted to report we have opened a Unit in Pucklechurch. Following completion of their Gold Awards, these girls with others, form the nucleus of this new Ranger Unit. Rangers meet on Tuesday evenings during term time. Frances and Izzy, two of our former Guide leaders, have switched to lead the group. For more information contact Frances on **07539 038844**. Our thanks to the prison for allowing this group to meet in the bungalow in the prison car park.

1st Pucklechurch Rainbows

Last term finished with lots of festive fun at Rainbows, including making decorations for the church Christmas Tree Festival, creating Christmas gifts and wrapping paper to earn our Present Maker badge and enjoying a Christmas party at the end of term.

January has been just as busy! Our unit has grown to 20 Rainbows and we've loved getting to know our new friends. We've been crafting, cooking, making keyrings, playing parachute games, junk modelling and even trying some Scottish dancing and designing our own tartans.

We've got lots more fun planned this term, including Valentine's crafts, an Easter egg hunt and a trip out. If you have a daughter aged 4-7 who would like to join Rainbows, contact Izzy on **07921 816504**

Pucklechurch Village Trips

Village trips will start again in April. This year's programme is full and is as follows:

- Tuesday 7th April : Morton in the Marsh/
Chipping Camden
- Tuesday 5th May : Henley on Thames
- Tuesday 2nd June : Weymouth/ Abbotsbury
- Tuesday 7th July : Welsh Botanical Gardens
- Tuesday 4th August : Sidmouth Folk Festival
- Tuesday 1st September : Salisbury
- Tuesday 6th October : Paignton /railway to
Dartmouth
- Tuesday 3rd November : Glastonbury/Street
- Tuesday 1st December: Cardiff for the Christmas
market & shopping

For more information visit pucklechurchvillagetrips@gmail.com or contact Elaine on **07920 407559**

PUCKLECHURCH ANGLING CLUB

This small club was founded in 1908 by the miners of Parkfield Rank as a welcome outdoor activity in the fresh air away from the darkness of the mines. New members are very welcome. Here are our match venues for 2026, do come and join us.

- April 18th : Shiplate, Bleadon
- May 9th : Avalon, Glastonbury
- June 6th : Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater
- July 11th : Durleigh Reservoir, Bridgwater
- August 15th : Windmill, Westerleigh
- September 12th : River Axe, Bleadon
- October 10th : Kings Sedgemoor Drain, Bradney
Bridge, Bridgwater
- November 7th : Kings Sedgemoor Drain,
Parchey Bridge, Bridgwater
- November 28th : Xmas Match, Bitterwell Lake,
Henfield

Contact Pete Humphries on **07900 980935** if you are interested in joining.

Pucklechurch Community Association

The PCA have been kept busy over the Winter months with the weather causing a few headaches and maintenance jobs, such as broken roof tiles, leaks and other issues.

Over recent months we have had building, electrical, fire safety and energy use surveys completed on the building to enable us to create better and more importantly, safer conditions for the people who use it. Work continues, most recently with the electricians being improved to make everything safe and legally compliant. A couple of the worst exterior doors will be replaced to improve security and heat loss.

Some members of the PCA have joined forces with a couple of plucky volunteers from the community to explore the idea of putting on some events in the hall. Planning is at a very early stage with more work to be done before we know if it's possible or not. Keep your eyes peeled for more details in the coming weeks.

Our Community Centre has only ever had the big main hall or the small meeting room for hire which has led to limited space being available for medium sized activities at the right times. The bar on the first floor is now available when the Social Club is closed. It's an ideal space for meetings, classes, etc. For further details to hire one of our spaces, or for information on how to join any of groups that use our Centre, please visit our website:

Pucklechurchcommunitycentre.org.uk

Pucklechurch Ladies Group

At our first meeting of 2026, our members enjoyed seated Zumba with Philomena, to the extent that we have now established a weekly afternoon session for our members. In February Clare Watts will be giving us a talk about the Doynton Memory Café. It will be interesting to hear more about the Memory Café which is well established providing a monthly social drop-in afternoon for those living with dementia and their carers. At the March meeting we will be having a buffet followed by a fun game of 'Killer' skittles, which always brings out the competitive side of our members!

We have 40 members and I'm afraid that we are unable to take new members at present. However, if you would like to join a waiting list, please contact our Membership Secretary on **07962 144404**.



The Memory Cafe at Doynton

Our free get together for those living with dementia in the local area, together with a family member or carer, continues monthly on the first Thursday afternoon of the month from 2-4pm at Doynton Village Hall.

In addition to tea and cake, conversation, craft activities, word games and singing, we try to have a lively programme of activities. In the coming months there will be country dancing, music performances, animals, bingo and a school choir.

Our cafe is run by volunteers, and we welcome enquiries from anyone who is interested in volunteering with us, we have a lot of fun!

We would like to thank all our current volunteers who work hard to keep the cafe lively and fun, as well as all those who have supported us with donations to help us meet our costs.

For more information, please see our Facebook page or email us: **mcdoynton@gmail.com**, we would love to hear from you!



VILLAGE AGENT

Covering Marshfield, Doynton, Dyrham, Cold Ashton, Tormarton, Pucklechurch & Wick



Free confidential one to one support



Help to connect with others



Signposting to information and professional services



Provision of foodbank vouchers



Help with financial concerns (including claiming of benefits)



Advice on transport to medical appointments



HOW TO ACCESS THE SERVICE

- You can reach your local Village Agent by:
- **07985018550** Call, Text or WhatsApp
 - Emailing **sharon@wern.org.uk**
 - Or by visiting **wern.org.uk/southglos-village-agents**

This service is available for anyone over 18 years old

Boyd Valley Benefice News

Hello Pucklechurch, Abson, Wick, Doynton and Dyrham residents. Here is some news for you. For those of you who are new to the villages, Rev'd Elaine Jones is our vicar and works closely with her congregations in all the churches and the residents of Hinton village to provide for all the people living here. Have you ever heard this; "A church exists for the benefit of its non-members?" If you are interested in this idea and contributing to the corporate Christian life of our benefice, please do come and get involved. We are growing together in Christ and growing outwards to others so that all may experience the love of God in this place, now and in the future. Come, experience the light and love of Jesus and help create and carry his light and love to the world. We can do so much more together than on our own.

Easter Services in the Benefice

18th Feb: Ash Wednesday Service, St Peter's Dyrham, 12 pm

2nd Apr: Maundy Thursday Service, Holy Trinity Church, Doynton, 7pm

3rd Apr: Good Friday Last Hour at the Cross Service, St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch, 2pm

5th Apr: Easter Sunday Service, St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch, 10 am.

We hope to see you there!

Pucklechurch Scarecrow Competition and Trail Create a scarecrow!

Calling all residents and organisations in Pucklechurch village! Get your thinking hats on and help us raise funds for our historic church and its services to this community. If you'd like to create a scarecrow, please send your entries in between 28th Feb and 12th April. Please note, no entries will be accepted before or after these dates. We love this event and hope you can contribute in your usual fashion. Thank you so much for your support.

St. Thomas à Becket
Pucklechurch
Raising funds for our village church

Scarecrow
Competition and Trail

Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th May 2026

St Thomas à Becket Church invites all organisations and residents in Pucklechurch to make scarecrows and place them in prominent positions in gardens around Pucklechurch.

If you live on the edge of the village, we may ask you to place it in a garden closer to the centre.

Please leave your scarecrow out until 7pm, weather permitting, but take it in overnight to stop it catching cold or running away!

There is no charge for entering a scarecrow.

Theme: **For a day, I would like to be...**

Enter via e-mail to pucklechurchscarecrow@gmail.com

or ring Gill on 07986 803686 with the following information:

- The character you have chosen.
- A clue to help people guess the scarecrow's name.
- Your name, address and contact number.

Entry open: 28th February

Entries before this will not be accepted

Entry Closing date: Saturday 12th April

Prizes: £25 each for:

- Whoever correctly identifies the most scarecrows. The winner will be notified during the week of the 4th May.
- The most popular scarecrow, voted for by those who enter the trail.
- "Lucky Dip" draw from all the scarecrow entries.

The Trail

On trail days, everyone is invited to take part in the scarecrow trail and have fun!

Trail entry prices: Cash and card payments accepted

Children under 16 / students £1.00 Adults £2.00 Family ticket £5.00

Enjoy a wide variety of refreshments and stalls

Do the Trail

Join us on 3rd and 4th May as usual for a wonderful family day out, starting at St Thomas á Becket church, discovering Pucklechurch and creating lasting memories with neighbours, friends and families.

Let's bring some of the light of Christ into 2026, together.



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If you would like to provide an article for Pucklechurch News, please email it to pucklechurchnews@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk by the deadline.

10th May '26 for June Edition (Summer)
10th August '26 for September Edition (Autumn)
10th September '26 for September Edition (Winter)

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Articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or the parish council unless this is specifically stated.

In line with its agreed Editorial policy, Pucklechurch News Editorial Group reserves the right to edit or omit articles and decisions taken are final.

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