

# MOMSS MAGAZINE

This edition of the MOMSS magazine has been sponsored anonymously so that it can continue to be delivered free of charge to each home in our villages. We are very grateful to our sponsors.



March Hare

Drawing by Anne Farmer (1944 - 2024)

## MARCH 2025

News & Views for our MOMSS villages of  
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch, Stawell,  
Sutton Mallet and Greinton

Printed by: Media Edge UK Ltd, Bridgwater, 01278 450406

# MOMSS MAGAZINE

This publication is hand delivered  
**FREE to over 1,040 homes within the  
villages in the United Benefice:  
Middlezoy, Othery, Moorlinch,  
Stawell, Sutton Mallet & Greinton**

It can also be found at:

[www.middlezoyvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.middlezoyvillagehall.org.uk)

and [www.stawellvillage.info](http://www.stawellvillage.info) and

[www.achurchnearyou.com/Othery/page](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/Othery/page)

MOMSS is issued 11 times a year (there is a joint December/January issue) and is designed as a Community Magazine. It is produced by volunteers, with the authority of the United Benefice Churchwardens, for the villagers' benefit.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

**Committee:** Richard Graham, Anita Winslade, Jane Stryker and Isobel Davis.

**Editor this month:** Anita Winslade

**Compiler this month:** Isobel Davis

## NEWS ARTICLES

We regret we cannot guarantee inclusion of articles or photographs and may need to edit copy due to space limitations.

**Submitting articles:** Copy preferred in Microsoft Word format.

Email to [momssgeditor@live.co.uk](mailto:momssgeditor@live.co.uk)

300 word limit please.

Submit handwritten copy via one of the members of the committee if you are unable to find someone to help you transfer it to email. We cannot guarantee its accurate inclusion.

**Submitting photos or artwork:**

also [momssgeditor@live.co.uk](mailto:momssgeditor@live.co.uk)

We gladly accept news and views from all groups or individuals, however, the Committee has overriding editorial control. We cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from any error, inaccuracies or omission from any copy or advertising. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the United Benefice, the Editorial teams or the publisher.

## MOMSS Publishing House Style

Articles submitted to the magazine are put into MOMSS house style. This uses Gill Sans 10pt for general text with Gill Sans bold 10pt for sub-headings. Arial Black 10pt is used for main headings. Example of our date format is '25 December' – the st, rd, th are only used after dates with no month alongside. There is no need to insert year unless referring to year ahead. We use a 12 hour time format eg '5.30pm'. Italics, bold or underlining will not be included.

## Advertising costs

*Quarter Page: (A7 size):*

Single edition £20; Three editions £50;

Six editions £90; Annual £175.

*Half Page (A6 size):*

Single edition £40; Three editions £100;

Six editions £180; Annual £350.

For further pricing information and technical details phone

Jane Stryker Tel: 01458 210661

E-mail [momssgadverts@live.co.uk](mailto:momssgadverts@live.co.uk)

Please note: Copy and payment for adverts must be received by 12<sup>th</sup> of the month (see date of deadlines on this page).

Advertising space is limited. We cannot guarantee single adverts will be accepted for publication.

## MOMSS Account details

Account name: United Benefice MOMSS

Sort Code 09.01.53

Account Number 79133288

Reference 'Magazine'.

**This magazine is edition  
number 2 of volume 22**

**DON'T FORGET !  
April edition deadlines:  
Adverts 12 March  
Articles 15 March**

# FROM THE EDITOR

## HERE AND THERE

February! Was here, now gone!

March is a much awaited month with its abundance of new life and growth, more daylight and less dark nights. The weather getting warmer and feelings of looking forward to what will encourage us.

Do some spring cleaning? Start a new project or complete an old one? Get out and about in the garden? Take the air and venture forth on a little outing? Plenty to see, plenty to do. Spring is in the air, let's enjoy it.

Will the month of March deliver to us the peace and tranquillity that we, us, our country, the world want? An end to war, greed, hostility, hatred, envy and selfishness – I do hope so. There is an untapped supply of love and kindness if only people would seek, find and share it.

So seek in this magazine, find and enjoy, share and express, give freely to others whatever goodness there is - because they unknowingly may need it in the coming months.

Sincerely, Anita.

Anita Winslade, Editor

## GENERAL ITEMS

### SKY AT NIGHT March 2025

#### Sunrise Sunset

Beginning of March 6.54am-5.53pm      End of March 6.47-7.43pm

#### Moon Phases

First Quarter 6th / Full Moon 14th / Last Quarter 22nd / New Moon 29th

**Planets** Venus continues as a bright object in the south west at sunset setting at 9pm. It then passes between the Earth and the Sun reappearing as a morning star low in the east before dawn at the end of the month. Jupiter is still on view setting at 1.30am while Mars may be observed until 4.30am.

#### Constellation

Ursa Major the Great Bear is high overhead this month and looks upside down from its usual perspective as it rotates around the North Celestial Pole.

Not many people know that if you would like to find the Pole Star (Polaris) this constellation can help you find it! Take a line bottom to top from the two stars Merak and Dubhe at the front of the constellation, keep going and the next bright star you see is the Pole Star. It is not as bright as many people imagine and although it's also known as the North Star it isn't exactly at the North Celestial Pole.

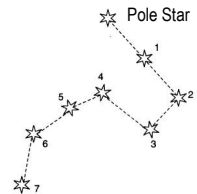
The Pole Star is the star at the tail end of the Constellation Ursa Minor the Little Bear.

#### Phenomena

A busy month starting with a total eclipse of the Moon on the morning of the 14th: unfortunately full eclipse starts at 6.30am just as it sets. On the 20th we have the Spring Equinox when day and night are of equal length then on the 29th there is a partial eclipse of the Sun with mid eclipse at around 11am.

#### WARNING!

**Never look at the Sun with the naked eye as it will blind you. Only use**



proper equipment or at least look through certified eclipse glasses.

Paul Adamson 01823698156

## CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS

British Summer Time (BST) starts on Sunday 30 March at 1am when we put our clocks forward by one hour.



## SOMERSET LEVELS STARGAZERS

At our March meeting club chairman Paul Adamson will be explaining how stars can be used as a window to the past with his presentation *Time and Space, Time travel from your own back Garden.*

We also have a night sky guide for the month ahead and astronomy news.

Admission is £3 with membership available.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 March at 7.30pm in Othery Village Hall, Fore Street, Othery, TA7 0QU.

For more details or to be added to our mailing list please contact [somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com](mailto:somersetlevelsstargazers@hotmail.com) Follow us on Facebook

Paul Adamson 01823 698156

## MIDDLEZOY AND OTHERY SCHOOLS

Wow! We don't know where this half term has disappeared to as we head into our half term break.

Staff have offered the children a variety of after-school clubs including board games, country/maypole dancing, art/gardening and Lego clubs and an externally provided sports club.

Our PTA continue to support the children by raising money that helps us offer a range of enrichment opportunities. Thank you all for your support with this fundraising. The money raised is used to subsidise travel costs for school trips, purchase of equipment such as our new maypole and alongside Richard and Nicola Mannion from Bella Tela, they have also covered the cost of an upcoming science workshop for all children.

When we return after half term, Unicorn class are going on a trip to Dunster Castle as part of their *Kings and Queens* topic and there will be other trips during the summer term for the other classes.

Heidi Braithwaite, Office Assistant – Middlezoy and Othery Schools  
Phone: 01823 698464 Email: [office@othmid.ppat365.org](mailto:office@othmid.ppat365.org)



## ONLINE PRAYER REQUESTS

As many of you know we started an online prayer request group during the Covid-19 pandemic and it was very well used by people from all around the benefice and beyond.

It is still well used but many people, who are new to our villages, may not know about it and how it works. Requests are sent to [middlezoyprayers@gmail.com](mailto:middlezoyprayers@gmail.com) and then the group of 5 are informed of the request and the prayers are included in those individuals' prayer time.

Every prayer request is treated with confidentiality and respect.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch as we are here to listen and help. Jean Campbell



## FARM DIARY

This is written for non-farmers who live surrounded by farmland.

**In the Field.** It is still too wet for much here except sheep grazing. They are called the golden hoof as they tend to enhance pastures. The ultimate enhancement of pasture is a reseed that might include ploughing but that is not always an option and anyway is expensive. Reseeding is also expensive. Ploughing is not an option for example on much loved hilly areas such as parts of the Lake District, Dartmoor and Exmoor. Sheep do the job nearly as well. The goats, that are unlike any other farm animal, are on the way out here partly as they are so inquisitive and so obstreperous that it makes them difficult to handle. They need handling when we vaccinate them, weigh them to check progress and move them amongst other standard management matters. Goats tend to respect our electric fences as do the sheep. Most of us local farmers have lost at least one electric fencing unit to light fingered intruders.

**BNG.** Shades of BFG although this is not a friendly giant but Biodiversity Net Gain. What worries this author about our politicians is that none of them in power appear ever to have run a business. It is business that creates wealth and money for those things we want such as the NHS and good roads. According to a Farmers Weekly article on 14 February by Suzie Horne, BNG requires developers in England to deliver a measurable 10% impact on the biodiversity associated with their sites. This became law in February of last year with small sites added in April of last year and nationally significant infrastructure projects included from, it is thought, the autumn of this year. The gain can be done off site. One simple way is for arable land to be turned into grass land. This can be an income stream of 30 years or so for farmers. In this author's article on 'muddles' last month, he omitted to mention the big one of the ever-increasing numbers of us who live in this country. At 60% food self-sufficiency in this country and BNG and the muddles highlighted, we are making ourselves more vulnerable to global shocks that are inherently unpredictable.

*Richard Graham*

## WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Somerset Western Front Association is on Wednesday 12 March in Othery Village Hall, Fore Street, Othery, TA7 0QU, at 7.30pm.

The subject is *Jutland* and we welcome the return of speaker Brigadier Mike Shaw and his description of the largest sea battle that occurred during the Great War. The controversy of who actually won the



## MOUSE RACES !

(Live mice running along miniature courses)

IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, OTHERY



Saturday 22nd March 2025

from 6.30pm

Othery Village Hall

Families Welcome, Admission Free!

Hot Supper purchases from 6.30pm

(until Sold Out)

Bar available

'Owner' auctions, Betting and Races from 7pm

Cash Prizes!

Further details from 07714 672316

battle still occurs to this day.

WFA and non-members alike are equally welcome to come and find the answer to this question. We ask for a modest £5 on the door to defray costs, this will also entitle you to a free tea or coffee and entry into our raffle.

Pat Adamson, Secretary,  
Somerset branch, WFA 01823 698156

### **KING CHARLES III**

This picture of King Charles III is now hanging on a south wall of St Francis chapelry. It was offered to the Parish Council who have no premises and who offered it to us. According to the letter with it, this picture is from the UK government and marking the start of his new reign. According to the national press, all churches were offered one but I have yet to find a church that was offered it.

The picture was taken in autumn 2023 in Windsor Castle. His majesty is shown in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet wearing the Garter Collar and Sovereign's Badge, Garter Star, Thistle Star, the Bath Sovereign's Badge, the Order of Merit, the Royal Victorian Order's Royal Victorian Chain and GCVO Sash.

*Richard Graham*



### **UPDATE FROM TESSA MUNT, MP**

Thank you to MOMSS Magazine for the opportunity to share some of my work as the MP for Moorlinch, Stawell, Sutton Mallet and Greinton.

In January, I supported both the Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill, which sets ambitious UK climate and nature targets and the New Homes (Solar Generation) Bill, which sets a standard for all new homes to be built with solar panels, something I've long believed in. I've spoken in support of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which enables churches and chapels to reclaim VAT on building works. With places of worship also providing cultural landmarks in our communities, I was delighted that the scheme has been continued for another year.

As a long-standing campaigner for Radiotherapy machines, I was fortunate to host Bryan Robson with Radiotherapy UK on World Cancer Day. Radiotherapy is more precise, effective and far less expensive than cancer drugs. I'm pressing Government to ensure our NHS has the best, most up-to-date machines.

I've also signed a Motion celebrating our annual Wassailing tradition, asking Government to strengthen support for Somerset's cider-producing orchards and ensuring fair prices throughout the supply chain.

Thank you for all your letters, messages and questions. If you'd like more information or have anything which concerns you, please don't hesitate to let me know.

I'll be holding my regular monthly surgery on Friday 7 March from 5.30 until 6.30pm at Ashcott village pub night in the village hall. No appointment is necessary - it's first come,



first served. If you can't come to meet me, I'll come to see you.

You can get hold of me in several ways:

Call: 01934 440639 (answerphone out of office hours)

Email: [tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk)

Text: 07714 599669

Post: Tessa Munt, Freepost (you won't need a stamp)

## ***STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE NEWS***

Information is available on the website [www.stawellvillage.info](http://www.stawellvillage.info)

### **STAWELL & SUTTON MALLET PARISH COUNCIL**

Contact details for the Clerk to the Parish Council are:

Mr Chris Fry, 101 Bradney Lane, Bawdrip, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8PQ.

Email address: [cnfry@talktalk.net](mailto:cnfry@talktalk.net) Mobile: 07796 794037

### **ST. FRANCIS CHURCH**

We will be having a Lent Lunch on Saturday 15 March from 12 midday until 2pm, at Stawell Village Hall. There will be delicious home-made soups with bread and cheese plus tea and coffee. Donations to a charity not yet decided upon.

*Ruth Peberdy (Chair, St Francis Church Committee)*

### **COMING EVENTS**

Saturday 29 March monthly Coffee Morning at Brian and Janet Scowcroft's, Willow Cottage. 10am until 12 noon.



### **STAWELL AND SUTTON MALLET VILLAGE HALL**

#### **Groups at Stawell Village Hall**

Monday, Keep Fit with Liza, 7pm - 8pm                      Tuesday, Yoga with Clare, 7pm - 8pm

Wednesday, Dog training with Sophie, 5pm - 7pm      Short Mat Bowls, 7pm - 9pm

Thursday, Zumba with Carole-Anne, 9.30am 10.30am      Art Group, 7pm - 9pm

#### **Events at Stawell Village Hall**

Saturday 8th, Hub Café, 10.30am - 1pm                      Saturday 8th, Film night, 7pm for 7.30pm

Saturday 15th, straight after Lent Lunch, from 2pm, Six Nations; watch on the big screen, bar will be open

Monday 17th, Whist afternoon, 2pm - 4pm

Saturday 22nd, Hub Pub, with Glastonbury Woodfired Pizza in attendance, 7pm - 11pm

*Maxine Hughes, Chairperson*

## ***GREINTON VILLAGE NEWS***

### **CHURCH and PCC**

We are making slow progress in determining the long-term future of the church. The church architect has visited to assess the material condition of the church, and we have a visit from the Deputy Area Dean planned in the next few weeks. We are hoping to hold another village meeting to discuss progress after Easter.

Alongside this, we are due to renew the Electoral Roll for the church, a process which happens every 6 years. This is nothing to do with your right to vote in local or Parliamentary elections but the Church of England's way of recording its membership. It is a way to welcome those new to church life, or to the community, and is a practical symbol of commitment to the church, enabling us to take part in decisions which affect the church and parish, to take part in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), and to stand for the Parochial Church Council. If you would like to be on the Electoral Roll, or are interested to know more, please contact Toby or Georgie Crispin at West Town Farm: [greintonvillage@gmail.com](mailto:greintonvillage@gmail.com).

## **PARISH MEETING**

If you saw last month's edition of MOMSS, you will know a parish meeting was held to discuss what level of precept the parish should levy as part of next year's council tax. This will be used primarily to try to reduce both the frequency and volume of rainwater collecting on the roads through the village. We have successfully applied for some grant funding, but need to demonstrate our own commitment as well. As a result of a vote, next year's council tax bill will include a parish element of between about £23 for a Band A home and about £69 for a Band H home, so less than £1 a week for all but the most highly rated homes. This will be reviewed for the following year but may become a regular feature that will give us more flexibility and choices to better support our community. In the meantime, work continues to clear and improve drainage channels through the village. We have also received grant funding from Somerset Prepared to buy a drain camera so we can check the condition of drains ourselves.

A condition of the grant is that we agree to lend the camera to any neighbouring parishes that may have a similar need. If you would like to borrow it, please contact Sam Hearn: [greintonparish@gmail.com](mailto:greintonparish@gmail.com)

## **VILLAGE HALL**

Pub nights continue on the first Friday of the month at the Village Hall.

*Toby Crispin, [greintonvillage@gmail.com](mailto:greintonvillage@gmail.com)*

# **MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE NEWS**

## **MIDDLEZOY VILLAGE HALL Middlezoy Community Project**

On Saturday 8 March we have Crystal Bliss playing along with a local musician. There will also be a raffle. The bar will be open from 7pm till late. The tickets are £10. Money raised will go towards the defibrillator fund. They can be purchased online, at the village post office and on the door on the night. Also the pizza wagon will be there with pizzas starting from £7.50.

The next event that we are planning will be on Saturday 12 April. It will be a casino evening and cocktails with a James Bond theme.

Following that on Saturday 10 May we are looking to have a musical bingo evening and in June a beer, bands and food evening.

Friday evenings are still a big success - fish and chips being the best attended. We also have other food wagons attending. Details are posted on the Middlezoy Facebook page. We are still looking for more volunteers to help run and organise events for the future.



If you would like to come along to one of our meetings, we hold them on the first Monday of every month starting at 7pm, usually aiming to finish no later than 9pm.

If you can help or have details of organisations who run horse racing evenings, please contact me on 07760 887907. *Paul Baker, MCP Chair*

### **MIDDLEZOY SHOP AND POST OFFICE**

We have noticed some errors in our opening times inside the February edition of the magazine. The times were also incorrect on the inside back page under Community Information. The corrections required are:

**Village Shop** Wed 8.45am-11am

**Post Office** Thurs, Fri 10am-1pm

*The Middlezoy Village Shop Committee*

### **MIDDLEZOY WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB**

Some dates for your diary:

#### **Saturday 29 March**

Brunch at Middlezoy Village Hall 10am-12noon. All proceeds for the Village Defibrillator Replacement Fund. Any donations of raffle prizes would be welcomed. Please note that this event will be **cash only**.

#### **Tuesday 12 August**

Annual summer outing. We will be going to Sidmouth with a visit on route at Darts Farm Shop. Note change of date so as not to clash with folk festival. *Jill Darby (Chair)*

### **WEEKLY MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS**

Please come along and meet friends old and new on a Monday in the chapel at 10am-12noon. £1 for tea/coffee/hot chocolate and a free refill. Biscuits are also available free of charge. We have a weekly raffle with shop vouchers as prizes and usually chocolates too. There are also books and puzzles for you to peruse in the back room.

Easter will be upon us before we know it.

In the run up to Easter we will be giving local crafters/artists the opportunity to come along on a Monday with a stall to display and sell their items. This starts on 31 March with Somersata Designs.

If there are local people interested in having a stall do let me know. We do have slots available.



## **iSWEEP**

### **CHIMNEY SWEEPING SERVICES**

Trained and fully insured with certificate on completion

*Chimney sweeping*

*Birds nest removal*

*CCTV inspections*

*Stove servicing*

**Bridgwater & surrounding areas**

07824888526 | james@isweep.co.uk  
www.isweep.co.uk



*Jill Darby (Co-ordinator)*

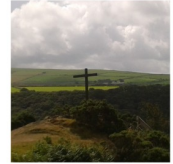
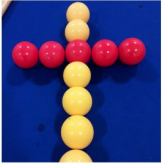
## HOLY CROSS CHURCH Lent Cross Challenge

This Lent Middlezoy PCC is encouraging families and individuals to join in with the Diocese's Lent Cross Challenge - a simple daily focus in the 40 days leading up to Easter aiming to keep the cross at the heart of Lent.

The challenge is to spot, find, discover, make, bake or create a cross shape each day during Lent. If you wish you can bring your crosses and display them in the church or maybe in your window for people passing by to notice and reflect on.

The following site gives ideas and also daily readings to help you fulfil this challenge:

Lent Cross Challenge 2025 - Bath and Wells Diocese. *Middlezoy Churchwarden and PCC*



## MIDDLEZOY METHODIST CHURCH

### The Peekaboo Gang

The Peekaboo Gang Toddler Group celebrated 1 year in February!

We invited all the children who had been visiting over the past year, and we had a lovely

number join us for the party – 8 children with their grown-ups. Ildi had bought a wooden train set and some soft toys with some donated money, and each child took away a party bag with some little treats. We had a chocolate birthday cake, and danced, and a wonderful time was had by all. Thank you to Jean from Bridgwater, who came along to meet everyone, and shared some of her experience with us.

### Soup and Sweet at the Chapel

Thank you to all who plan and prepare the lunches and support in any way. The lunch in February raised an impressive £296.70 – we served 40 people. Thank you to friends in the village and Circuit who come along and help.

Our next lunch will be on Tuesday 11 March. £7 for tasty soup, bread and cheese and dessert.

Look forward to seeing you!



## PHOENIX HEATING PLUMBING & RENEWABLES LTD

For all your Gas, Oil, Plumbing  
and Renewable Heating Needs

- ANNUAL SERVICING
- REPAIR & BREAKDOWNS
- PLUMBING
- CALL OUT SERVICE
- NEW INSTALLATIONS
- LANDLORD GAS & EICR CERTIFICATES
- OFTEC & GAS SAFE REGISTERED
- SOLAR PV INSTALLS
- ASHP INSTALLS
- GENERAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Freephone: 0800 999 1412

Telephone: 01823 765143

Mobile: 07391 049398

Email: [info@phr.ltd](mailto:info@phr.ltd)



## Award

Thank you to the District Grants Committee for our award of a Seed Corn Grant. We shall be using the money to further develop the outside space and have plans with the shop/PO for a pop-up café for the nicer weather.

## Services during March:

Sunday 9th, 10.30am – United Service in the Chapel led by Rev Deborah Kirk.

Sunday 23rd, 6.30pm – Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Deborah Kirk.

## Booking the Methodist Church for your events:

Don't forget that the Chapel space and Back Room are available to hire - phone Jill Darby on 01823 698000.

*Rev Deborah Kirk, Minister, [deborah.m.kirk@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.m.kirk@gmail.com) 01823 334854  
Ildiko Haraszti Minister-in-Training, [ildikotutor@gmail.com](mailto:ildikotutor@gmail.com)*



## ***OTHERY VILLAGE NEWS***

### **CHURCH ANNUAL MOUSE RACES SATURDAY 22 MARCH, FROM 6.30PM**

Don't forget! Come along to Othery Village Hall and enjoy another exciting and fun filled night of mice racing along a series of self-contained lanes in 8 small races! The charming and pretty mice are all domesticated and have run in races in other local villages events.

Entry to the hall is free and a hot food supper will be on sale from 6.30pm and a bar also available throughout the evening.

Auctions of temporary ownership of racing mice 'competitors' - the owners of the winning mice get cash prizes as do the successful backers - and a cash tote betting system will continue throughout the evening.

Back your choice of mouse, be a lucky winner and win £s but remember you have to be there to win prizes so come along and enjoy the thrill of urging your chosen mouse on! All profits from the evening will be used towards the annual June Othery Street Fayre set-up and running costs.

*Anita Winslade, Secretary, Street Fayre Committee 07714 672316*



### **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

The church is currently only open from 9am to 3.30pm, Mondays to Fridays during school term days and for church services. Genuine visitors can phone 07714 672316 to arrange for access at other times.

*Churchwardens and PCC*



## **OTHERY STREET FAYRE**

The thirty-third annual daytime Street Fayre and the evening entertainments and Pig Roast are on Saturday 21 June. Events all day and evening from 11am to closure at 11pm. Street stall forms for sites in North Lane and the Old Vicarage Garden are available from Anita Winslade, contact details below.

We are also preparing this year's Street Fayre Programme booklet - 1,040 copies of which are delivered free to all homes and properties in Othery, in local and neighbouring areas shops etc. If you would like to advertise in the programme contact Anita Winslade for details of sizes and prices.

*Anita Winslade, Secretary, Street Fayre Committee, 07714 672316 [anitawinslade@gmail.com](mailto:anitawinslade@gmail.com)*

## **OTHERY BOOK READING GROUP**

Despite the roadworks on the A361 through Othery, we had 95% attendance at our meeting with members enjoying a detailed discussion of *A Mad Woman Ball* by Victoria Mas, a first novel published in 2019.

The book is set in the Salpêtrière asylum Paris in 1885, initially built to house the homeless, prostitutes and other undesirables locked away and left to rot, in the 19th century. Dr Charcot took charge and changed it into a teaching and containment hospital. Behind the walls of Salpêtrière, lay grief, trauma and the corrupt powers of the patriarchy. Paris is enthralled by Dr Charcot, his displays of hypnotism of women who have been deemed mad or hysterical. The truth is much more complicated. The inpatients

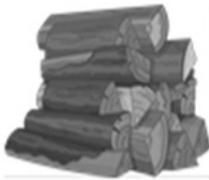


are women often inconvenient, unwanted wives or strong willed daughters. Once a year a ball is held, the Mad Women's Ball, for the Parisian elite. That night seals the fate of many of the characters in a surprising twist. Genevieve, a senior nurse, meets a new patient, Eugenie, the daughter of a bourgeois family. Genevieve saw Dr Charcot as God and attended to his patients as he required. Eugenie changed all that.

The treatment, containment and control of the women is shocking and cruel. No one could say they enjoyed the book as the story was not enjoyable but it was gripping and hard to put down. The story covered spiritualism, feminism, loyalty and the power of men.

Overall the book was well received, well written and very readable - some members reading it twice to absorb the details. The in-depth discussion recognised how society today still struggles with mental illness and how to treat patients, maintain safety and

## **Seasoned Hardwood Logs**



**Free Delivery  
within a 15 mile radius  
(based in the Middlezoy area)**

**For more information, please call Julie  
on 07775352542**

control yet try and  
release patients back into  
the community.

New members welcome,  
contact Martin Wall for  
information.

[martinwall1@mac.com](mailto:martinwall1@mac.com)

Carole Paterson

## **OTHERY HISTORY EXHIBITION**

Thank you to all those  
who visited this exhibition  
in the Othery Church  
Room (the former  
School) on Friday 14 and

Saturday 15 February. We hope you enjoyed seeing some of the many pictures we have in the archives out on display. We have some homework to do for some of you and will try and get answers as soon as we can.

Thank you for also telling us many bits of history about your houses or local families which are not previously recorded. The 1939 register is the last currently available public document naming who lived where. It would be interesting if we could compile a list of who lived in village houses after this as some have changed hands many times.

Maybe if you grew up here or have lived in the village for many years you could let us have your recollections of the changes you have seen. There have been many differences in the village - new houses built, old ones demolished, shops and other facilities opened and closed. Your memories of these are important for future residents in a fast changing world. Lastly would anyone be interested in joining together to discuss local and general genealogical and historical information on a fairly informal basis? If so please get in touch.

Pat Adamson ([epadamson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:epadamson@hotmail.co.uk)) 01823 698156  
and Kath Cowles ([ce.cowles@btopenworld.com](mailto:ce.cowles@btopenworld.com)) 01823 698162

## **OTHERY VILLAGE HALL SAVE THE DATES!**

Mouse Racing – 22 March, 6.30pm Othery Church fund raiser. Entry free.

Decades Disco – 29 March, 7pm – midnight. Music from the 50s through to the 2000s £5 entry per adult.

PTA Bingo – 4 April, Doors open 7pm eyes down 7.30pm, Children welcome.

Quiz – 25 April, Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, max 6 per team.

### **Regular events**

Happy hour (and a half) at the Village Hall bar on the first Friday of the month. All drinks and snacks 50% off from 7pm to 8.30pm.

Local groups including Pilates, Western Front Association, Short Mat Bowls, Little Pickles and Somerset Levels Stargazers as advertised on our website.

### **And finally**

If you are new to the village or haven't had a chance to join us yet then it would be lovely

# **M. Franks & Sons**

## **Independent Family Funeral Directors**

- \* Private Chapel of Rest \*
- \* 24 Hour Personal & Caring Service \*
- \* Home Visiting Service \*

Bath Road, Ashcott,  
Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 9QT

**Telephone: 01458 210627 or 01458 860157**

Email: [mfranksandsons@gmail.com](mailto:mfranksandsons@gmail.com)

**Website: [www.mfranksandsons.co.uk](http://www.mfranksandsons.co.uk)**



to meet you at our regular Friday night bar socials, starting at 7pm. We need volunteers to either help set up, run or tidy up after our events or help run the bar on a Friday night. If you would like to get involved, then please speak to a member of the committee or contact us on the details below. Thank you.

Rachael Selway, Secretary, Othery Village Hall Management Committee  
otheryvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk 07456 653252 www.otheryvillagehall.org.uk

## **MOORLINCH VILLAGE NEWS**

### **MOORLINCH COMMEMORATIVE TEXTILE**

On Saturday 8 March, there will be a Show and Tell on the progress made on the village's commemorative textile. People in the village have been very busy stitching and wonderful progress has been made. We would like to share this with the rest of the village. Come and chat to us about our work, whilst also stopping for a cuppa and a slice of cake. We will be in the church hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

*The Village Textile Stitchers & MGNSC*

### **MOORLINCH PLANT SALE**

#### **Sunday 18th May 2pm-4pm Moorlinch Church Hall Grounds**

'March winds and April Showers bring forth May flowers' - let's hope that old saying is true this year! It's time to start sowing seeds, taking cuttings and potting up some plants and vegetables for the Plant Sale. It's the perfect time to sow tomatoes, peas, beans courgettes and cucumbers under cover. If you have space in a greenhouse or windowsill, you can get going with annual flowers – cosmos, larkspur, nicotiana will all do well. Many garden plants can be lifted and split now, especially asters, phlox, hardy geraniums, rudbeckias, and hostas – it's good to keep clumps of plants from being overcrowded. If you have any spare plants, pot them up now and they'll be ready to plant in the garden by mid-May.

Tea and cakes will be served! All proceeds for Church Hall upkeep. For more info contact Jenny Hayward-Karlsson 07807 505 693 [jennyhaywardk@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyhaywardk@hotmail.com)

## **BENEFICE, DEANERY AND DIOCESAN NEWS**

### **PROCESSES WHILE WE ARE IN VACANCY**

The Churchwardens are the people to contact for arranging baptisms, weddings and funerals during the vacancy of the post of Priest-in-Charge for the United Benefice of MOMSS&G.

Details of normal regular services are being arranged with the Area Dean and will be published as usual in this magazine and on posters.

*UB Churchwardens*

### **CHURCHES AND CHAPELS**

**Open Daily** The United Benefice churches in Middlezoy and Stawell are open daily for private prayer; see their notice boards for their opening times. Othery church is currently only open from 9am to 3.30pm, Mondays-Fridays during school term days and for church services. Genuine visitors can phone 07714 672316 to arrange for access at other times.

## **BENEFICE/MIDDLEZOY PRAYER GROUP**

Please do not think you have to be a member of the local churches as we are very willing to pray for anyone who asks. The prayer group feel it is needed so please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing [middlezoyprayers@gmail.com](mailto:middlezoyprayers@gmail.com). *The Prayer Group*

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Deaths/Funerals:**

Ann Meade of Greinton died on Sunday 5 January and her funeral was held on Wednesday 12 February at Sedgemoor Crematorium.

Alan ('Fuzzy') Pimm of Othery died on Saturday 25 January and his funeral was held in St Michael's church, Othery on Saturday 22 February followed by burial in Othery village cemetery.

Brian Mindel of Othery died on Monday 27 January and his funeral was held on Friday 28 February at Taunton Crematorium.



## **LENT COURSE**

All sessions start at 7pm prompt but coffee etc. will be available before that and the sessions will finish at 8.30pm.

### **Dates and venues**

Tuesday 11 March, Othery Church Room.

Tuesday 18 March, Richard and Lianne's, The Manor, Stawell TA7 9AD.

Tuesday 25 March, Middlezoy Methodists Chapel.

Tuesday 1 April, Ian Wells, Stable Cottage, Moor Road, Moorlinch TA7 9BU - between the Old Bakehouse and Polden houses. Please park opposite the Old Bakehouse on Moor Road and not in the courtyard as there will be other comings and goings that night.

Tuesday 8 April, Othery Church Room.

We will discuss Rowan Williams' reflections to largely lay audiences published in *Being Disciples – the essentials of the Christian life* by SPCK in 2016. Chapter one for the first session and chapter two for the second.

He is encouraging us to be a learning community. Are we up for that, folks?

*Richard Graham*

## **OPEN YOURSELF AFRESH**



Did you ever wonder where the term 'Lent' comes from? The word is a gift from our Anglo-Saxon past. It means lengthen, a naming of the longed-for reality of this time of year when we become aware

that, at last, the short days of winter are coming to an end, the nights are drawing



## **GREINTON SERVICE STATION**

**CHRIS CLEVERLY**

**MOT testing on petrol and diesel vehicles**

- **Car sales and servicing**
- **All repairs undertaken**
- **Air conditioning and service and repair**

**Taunton Road  
Greinton, Bridgwater, TA7 9BP  
Telephone 01458 210094**

out and the days are getting longer, they're lengthening. As well as naming what we're seeing, Lent has its meaning within the life of the Church. Its season of 40 days is a time of preparation for the coming of Easter, our annual celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. It reflects the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism. So, for much of Christian history it's been a time of prayer and fasting - the origin of our 'giving something up for Lent'.

Lent developed from the practice of the early Church. Back then, as still happens today, converts entered into the faith through baptism. The main time baptism took place was Easter Eve, the night before Easter Sunday. Lent marked the final, intensive 40 days of preparation experienced by those to be baptised (known as catechumens) in readiness for their embarking fully on their new life with Christ.

The time to get ready for Lent is now. This year its first day, Ash Wednesday, falls on 5 March. There's so much we can do to bring this season home into our hearts. Why not join your church's Lent Group? Read one of the Lent books available at this time of year? Take something up? Commit to a regular time of prayer? Find out about getting confirmed? Lent is a rich gift to us to go deeper into our Christian life. As the days lengthen and the light comes, I encourage you to use this time to open yourself afresh to the one who comes to us afresh with new life at Easter - the risen Lord, Jesus Christ himself.

*Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells*

## ***AROUND AND ABOUT BEYOND THE BENEFICE***

### **MUSIC ON THE LEVELS**

Music on the Levels announces details of its free concert with Rolling Harmony on Sunday 30 March in St Mary's Church, Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP. Starting at 3pm with refreshments served from 2.15pm. Rolling Harmony is a vibrant vocal ensemble of experienced singers from the South West, passionate about the music they sing and excited about the sound they create as a group. Their performances showcase the group's rich range of voices and are infused with their sheer enjoyment of singing together.



Rolling Harmony has performed to great acclaim across the South West of England, including Bath Abbey, Halsway Manor, Shaftesbury Fringe, Calstock Arts and in the far west of Cornwall. They are delighted to be performing for the first time at Music on the Levels. Glorious music and gorgeous vocal harmonies, rooted in English and American harmony singing traditions. Songs with compelling lyrics, captivating rhythms and interweaving vocal lines, and delicious arrangements of much loved jazz standards. There's something for everyone... There is no need to book as the church's capacity have never yet been exceeded. However, it should be noted that seats are available on a first come, first served basis. In order to help with the artists' and other costs a raffle is held. In addition, donations are encouraged. It costs over £400 to put on a concert.

There is limited parking on the road by the church but there is additional parking at Somerset Young Farmers on School Road TA7 0LN. Visitors are asked not to park in Church Lane as this prevents resident access.

For further information contact: *Frank Challenger 01278 699071 fchallenger@icloud.com*



## MIDDLEZOY ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB Special Event:

Saturday 15 March, Previous Players, Friends and Sponsors Day. From 1pm Live football on the large screen; 3pm Kick Off with 1st Team v Axminster; 5pm Pig Roast. A great chance to catch up with old team mates, reminisce and see how far the club has come. Bar available.



07881 504050 middlezoyroversfc@gmail.com www.middlezoyrovers.co.uk  
Craig Berry, Secretary,

## THE WI - MORE THAN JAM AND JERUSALEM

Think fun and frolics, trips and treats and Christmas parties

There are talks, activities and events for every woman, single or wed. You can have a bit of fun, make friends, try a new hobby or just explore a new venue. Whichever WI you attend you can be sure of a warm welcome.



### WIs near us

Ashcott and Pedwell	7.30pm	Third Thursday	Ashcott Village Hall, TA7 9PZ
Shapwick Starlets	7.30pm	Second Tuesday	Village Hall, Station Rd, TA7 9NJ
Westonzoyland	7.15pm	Second Wednesday	Village Hall Cheer Lane TA7 0EZ

Local times can vary so it is best to contact Somerset Federation before attending for the first time 01278 287034.

### Westonzoyland WI

Come to our March meeting on Wednesday 12th and learn some more about the history of Maundy Money.

Should you fancy a night out with the girls, come and see us. We welcome you.

For any further information please email: [zoywisec@gmail.com](mailto:zoywisec@gmail.com) or call Gill Wilkinson on 01823 698429.

Gill Wilkinson, Secretary

## Useful INFORMATION

### FOODBANKS

#### DONATION POINTS

**Middlezoy:** Holy Cross Church, Village Coffee Mornings or Meadowbank, 11a Main Rd.

**Othery:** St Michael's Church Porch.

**Moorlinch:** Spring Cottage, Pit Hill Lane, Moorlinch or St Mary's Church Porch.

**Stawell:** The Old Post Office, Stawell

**Cash Donation:** By contacting the relevant Foodbank you can make either a single or a regular donation. If you are in a position to give via Gift Aid, the Foodbank will be able to claim back the tax you have paid on this.

**To obtain assistance from a Foodbank** you need a referral from Citizens Advice Somerset, St. Mary's House, Magdalene St, Taunton, TA1 1SB (08082 787842) or your Village Agent, local GP surgery, schools, health visitors and social workers.

**Bridgwater Foodbank** can be contacted by email [info@bridgwater.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@bridgwater.foodbank.org.uk) or phone 01278 434636 or 07804 119273 (Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays). They will help put you in touch with one of the agencies that can help with a referral.

**Langport Cares** email [langportcares/foodbank@gmail.com](mailto:langportcares/foodbank@gmail.com)



## DEFIBRILLATOR MACHINES

From the scene of an incident, call 999, ask for Ambulance.

Ascertain the condition of the patient. If a defibrillator is required give the following information about the nearest machine.

### Call sign

Greinton Phone Box	TA7 9BW	CHT-RT-1583	
Middlezoy Chapel	TA7 0NZ	SC0253	
Middlezoy Village Hall	TA7 0PG	SC0254	(machine at car park end)
Moorlinch Farm	TA7 9BU		
Othery Village Hall	TA7 0QU		
Stawell Village Hall	TA7 9AD		

Within 200m of a defibrillator they can give you the code to open the cabinet on post code alone, farther away the call sign is required.



## HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The schedules for the MOMSS & G area are:

### MIDDLEZOY

<b>Recycling Boxes, every week:</b>	Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 March, 2 April
<b>Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:</b>	Wednesdays 5, 26 March
<b>Garden Waste Bins, every other week:</b>	Mondays 10, 24 March, 7 April

### OTHERY

<b>Recycling Boxes, every week:</b>	Fridays 7, 14, 21, 28 March
<b>Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:</b>	Friday 14 March, 4 April
<b>Garden Waste Bins, every other week:</b>	Thursdays 6, 20 March, 3 April



### MOORLINCH, STAWELL, SUTTON MALLET & GREINTON

<b>Recycling Boxes, every week:</b>	Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 March, 2 April
<b>Black Wheeled Bins, every 3 weeks:</b>	Wednesdays 5, 26 March
<b>Garden Waste Bins, every other week:</b>	Thursdays 13, 27 March

## RECYCLING CENTRES

### Winter opening times

All 16 Somerset recycling sites open at weekends, 9am-4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Open 9am to 5pm weekdays.

Full details of each site, location, opening times, materials they will accept etc. can be found at:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre/>

## MOBILE LIBRARY Taunton Area, Route P

The service continues every 4 weeks on Fridays:

Next visit: 21 March

Stawell Village Hall	10.10am - 10.40am
Moorlinch Tapmoor Road Junction	10.55am - 11.15am
Middlezoy Main Road Bus Stop	12.20pm - 1pm



For further information about reading books online contact Libraries Direct on 0300 123 2224 or visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries)

# MOMSS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please advise [momssgeditor@live.co.uk](mailto:momssgeditor@live.co.uk) of amendments/additions

## ANGLICAN CHURCH INFORMATION

### Priest-in-Charge: Vacancy

Contact your village Churchwarden or contact person listed below

### United Benefice Readers

Pauline Davies 01278 451280 and Richard Graham 01278 722284

### Parish Auxiliary Lay Minister

Ruth Peberdy (Stawell)

### Churchwardens

Middlezoy: Ian Campbell 01823 698790

Othery: Anthony Betty 07801 233676

Moorlinch: Fiona Hixon 07767 763628

Stawell Deputy Warden: Richard Graham 01278 722284

Sutton Mallet contact: Brian Lishman 01278 722579

Greinton contact: Jean Heywood 01458 210497

## METHODIST CHAPEL MIDDLEZOY

**Minister:** Rev Deborah Kirk 01823 334854

Local Contact: Jill Darby [jilldrb@gmail.com](mailto:jilldrb@gmail.com) 01823 698000

Bookings: <https://middlezoychapeluk.wordpress.com/bookings/> or Jill Darby (above)

## PARISH COUNCILS/MEETINGS

Middlezoy - Chairman: Paul Baker 01823 698082

Othery - Chairman: Andrew Tizzard 01823 690284

Moorlinch - Meeting Clerk: Richard Henna email: [themoorlinchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:themoorlinchclerk@gmail.com)

Stawell and Sutton Mallet - Clerk: Mr Chris Fry 07796 794037

Greinton - Enquiries: Toby Crispin 01458 210227

## VILLAGE AMENITIES

**Middlezoy:** The George Inn 01823 698215;

Shop 01823 587222 open Mon, Tues 8.45am-1pm, 1.30pm-4.30pm, Wed 8.45am-11am,

Thurs, Fri 8.45am-1pm, 1.30pm-5pm, Sat 8.45am-12 noon;

P.O. 01823 698981 open Mon, Tues 10am-1pm, 1.30pm-4.30pm, Wed closed,

Thurs, Fri 10am-1pm, 1.30pm-5pm, Sat closed; Village Hall 07885 195418

**Othery:** School 01823 698464; Othery Village Hall 01823 690482

**Moorlinch:** Ring O'Bells 01458 210358; Church Hall 01458 210755

**Stawell & Sutton Mallet:** Village Hall 01278 723665

**Greinton:** Village Hall 01458 210277

**POLICE:** Emergencies only tel: 999 ; Non emergencies tel: 101

**CRIMESTOPPERS:** 8am-10pm Weekdays 0800 555111;

**NHS:** Tel: 111

**DISTRICT PCSOs:** Georgia Coles 07889 659466; Tom Russell 07935 013566

## VILLAGE AGENTS

To contact a Village Agent ring 01823 331222 and they will find the most suitable person to deal with your query. Referrals can also be made via doctors' surgeries.

## SERVICES CHART FOR CHAPEL AND UB CHURCHES MARCH 2025

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
<b>March 2 Sun</b> <i>(Next before Lent)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Sung Eucharist	St Michael's, Othery
5 Wed <i>(Ash Wednesday)</i>	5.00 pm	United Benefice Holy Communion with Ashes	St Francis, Stawell
9 Sun <i>(First of Lent)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.30 am	Prayer and Praise All Age Worship Morning Worship Joint Worship For All	St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell Methodists Chapel, M'zoy
16 Sun <i>(Second of Lent)</i>	10.00 am	United Benefice Communion service	St Mary's, Moorlinch
23 Sun <i>(Third of Lent)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Morning Worship Circuit Communion Service	St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell Methodists Chapel, M'zoy
30 Sun <i>Mothering Sunday</i> <i>(Fourth of Lent)</i>	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am 10.00 am	Mothering Sunday service Mothering Sunday service Mothering Sunday service Mothering Sunday service	Holy Cross, Middlezoy St Michael's, Othery St Mary's, Moorlinch St Francis, Stawell

### The Common Worship (Year C) readings and lessons for the following services:

DATE	SEASON	READINGS
<b>March 2 Sun</b>	Sunday next before Lent	OT: Exodus, chapter 34, verses 29 to 35 (the end) Psalm: 99 Epistle: 2 Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 12 to chapter 4, verse 2 Gospel: Luke, chapter 9, verses 28 to 36
5 Wed	Ash Wednesday	OT: Joel, chapter 2, verses 1 and 2 and 12 to 17 Psalm: 51, verses 1 to 18 Epistle: 2 Corinthians, ch. 5, verse 16 to ch. 6, verse 10 Gospel: Matthew, chapter 6, verses 1 to 24
9 Sun	First Sunday of Lent	OT: Deuteronomy, chapter 26, verses 1 to 11 Psalm: 91 Epistle: Romans, chapter 10, verses 8b to 13 Gospel: Luke, chapter 4, verses 1 to 13
16 Sun	Second Sunday of Lent	OT: Genesis, chapter 15, verses 1 to 18 Psalm: 27 Epistle: Philippians, chapter 3, verse 17 to chapter 4, verse 1 Gospel: Luke, chapter 13, verses 31 to 35 (the end)
23 Sun	Third Sunday of Lent	OT: Isaiah, chapter 55, verses 1 to 9 Psalm: 63 Epistle: 1 Corinthians, chapter 10, verses 1 to 13 Gospel: Luke, chapter 13, verses 1 to 9
30 Sun	Mothering Sunday	OT: 1 Samuel, chapter 1, verses 20 to 28 (the end) Psalm: 127 Epistle: Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12 to 17 Gospel: Luke, chapter 2, verses 33 to 40