



5 ALIVE!

April 2026



**News from
Buckland Dinham, Chantry,
Great Elm, Mells with Vobster and
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FROM THE EDITOR



AS HER MANY FRIENDS, especially those in Chantry and Whatley already know, Hazel Tovey has died. Hazel, or Hazell as she signed the Jottings she contributed to 5Alive every month, was well into her Nineties when she fell over at her home in February after rescuing one of her pills from her precious King Charles spaniel Ebbie. Mercifully, though she then spent some time in hospital, she was at her beloved home, Bird Shadows, close to the church in Chantry when she died.

She and I, or should I say 'we' because my wife and I used to house our dogs with her when we went away on holiday, had been friends for many years and latterly it was always a pleasure to pop round to Bird Shadows to collect her draft Jottings which she had written by hand.

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

Advertising: Peter Corbett 01373 466536

mellsmag@hotmail.com

Deadline for MAY 2026 is APRIL 17th

but do check as it could change

Printed by Frome Printing Company

01373 455222

CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy.

Church laymen and women Church wardens	Parish council chairs and clerks
Buckland Dinham Jenny Waller, 07887 556936	John Reckless 01373 461841 Diane Sleigh 07907 156735 clerk@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk
Chantry Hazel Tovey 836384 Valerie Rawlins 836252	
Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833 900947	
Mells/ Vobster Hilary Ingram 01373 311073	John Earl 01373 812450 Joy Book 07704 584953
Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175	Andrew Bramston 01373 836513 Rachel Nash clerk.whatleyparishcouncil @gmail.com

Roman Catholic Services

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am Frome: Saturdays 5.30pm.
Wednesdays 11.30am Sundays 10.00am

Quaker Services

Quakers, (The Society of Friends) hold a Meeting for Worship every
Sunday.

10.30 - 11.30 Christchurch Hall, Park Road, Frome, BA11 1EU
Children's meeting 10.10

They were always beautifully written and painted a wonderful picture not only of the Holy Trinity churchyard but also of her own garden, and were always, many people told me, the first thing they read when 5Alive dropped through their letterbox.

She was always cheerful and chirpy despite her age, even after she had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and right up till her last days she played a central role in both Chantry and Whatley. I will certainly miss her, and I know that her many friends will too.

The date and time of her funeral are still to be confirmed.

A COUPLE OF THINGS on a lighter note. We still need some help with the admin side of the magazine. The work mainly involves handling advertising enquiries, dealing with advertising renewals and keeping an eye on the financial aspects of 5Alive. Takes possibly



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an hour or so each month. Interested? Let me know. Happy to keep on doing it for a while but...

And while we're on the subject of finance, the future of 5Alive has been assured! Had an email from the widow of Colonel Ghadaffi the other day saying that I was up for a share of many millions of dollars. All I had to do was reply to her, give her my bank details and that was it. I'll let y'all know how it all works out after April 1st!

Finally, if you want me to email you with a PDF version of the magazine (like those on the Buckland Dinham and Great Elm websites), especially if you have moved away from the 5Alive Let me know.

Peter

BUCKLAND DINHAM

Not a lot to report this month due to "technical problems" so check out the Events in April below or the village website, bucklanddinham.org.

Events in April

Mondays – Pilates for Cyclists - 6pm	Tuesdays – Chair Yoga - 10am
Wednesdays - Pilates - 9.30am	Wednesdays – Short-mat Bowls - 2.30pm
7 th – Buckland Buddies - 7.30pm	12 th – Iona/Taize Service – 11am
12 th – Guided Walk 10am	14 th – Lunch Club - 10am
15 th – Comms Group – 7pm	18 th – Coffee Morning - 10am
19 th – Holy Communion - 11am	21 st – Amenities Group – 7.30pm
26 th – Iona/Taize Service – 6pm	27 th – <i>Annual Village Gathering – 7pm</i>
29 th – Game On	June 28 th - <i>Strawberry Fayre</i>

See www.Bucklanddinham.org for details

BUCKLAND HISTORY GROUP

By the time you read this, archiving what we have collected over the years in our room in the Village Hall will be under way. If you'd like to help out or if you want to be involved in organising the kind of events which have over the years been very enjoyable

and popular (and raising lolly to help keep the Group running!)
let me know. *Peter Corbett*

CHANTRY

RIP HAZEL TOVEY

Hazel died peacefully on Friday March 13th after a long illness. She was a valued and respected member of Chantry Church for about 30 years and was church warden for many of these. She was also a trained lay reader and led services both in Chantry and Whatley churches and will be sadly missed by us all.

Hazel loved all forms of nature and as you all know she amused us with her regular tales from the churchyard every month. Jan was with her when she died so she was not alone, her last words were: "I'm going home".




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Mells Group of Churches

April 2026

	5 th April Easter Sunday	12 th April	19 th April	26 th April	3 rd May
Chantry	11.00am Holy Communion Barry Davies	11.00am Matins	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Matins Val Rawlins	
Great Elm			9.30am Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard King	
Mells	9.45am Holy Communion Catherine Llewelyn-Evans	9.30am Holy Communion Martin Weymont			
Whatley				09.30am Holy Communion Anthony Davies	10.00am Group Holy Communion Barry Davies

Mells Every Wednesday at 09.30. Matins/Morning Prayer, in St. Andrew's, Mells

Great Elm At 7.30am on Wednesdays Richard King leads a prayer session in church

Hardington Vale Church Services April 2026

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Wednesday 1 April	08:30	Hemington, Morning Prayer
	09:00	Tellisford, Day of prayer concluding with Compline
	21:00	Rode Chapel, Compline
	21:00	Laverton, Compline
	21:00	Laverton, Compline
Thursday 2 April MAUNDY THURSDAY	18:00	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
	19:00	Rode, Passover Meal
Friday 3 April GOOD FRIDAY	10:00	Rode, March of Witness, St Lawrence, then Short service in Rode Chapel
	11:00	
	14-15:00	Norton St Philip, Hour at the Cross
Sunday 5 April EASTER DAY	06:00	Norton St Philip, sunrise service
	06:30	Buckland Dinham, Sunrise service
	09:00	Farleigh Hungerford, Holy Communion
	10:30	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion
	10:00	Rode, Holy Communion
	11:00	Laverton, Holy Communion
	11:00	Buckland Dinham, Holy Communion
Tuesday 7 April	09:00	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
	11:00	Rode Chapel, Eumenical Holy Communion
Wednesday 8 April	08:30	Hemington, Morning Prayer
	17:00	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
	18:00	Tellisford, Evening Prayer
Thursday 9 April	18:00	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 12 April	09:00	Rode, Informal Breakfast
	10:30	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion
	11:00	Laverton, Matins
	11:00	Buckland Dinham, Iona/Talzé Service
	11:00	Buckland Dinham, Holy Communion
Tuesday 14 April	09:00	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Wednesday 15 April	08:30	Hemington, Morning Prayer
	17:00	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
Thursday 16 April	18:00	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 19 April	09:00	Farleigh Hungerford, Holy Communion
	10:30	Rode, Holy Communion
	10:30	Norton St Philip, Informal Worship
	11:00	Laverton, Matins
	11:00	Buckland Dinham, Holy Communion
Tuesday 21 April	09:00	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 April	08:30	Hemington, Morning Prayer
	17:00	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
	18:00	Tellisford, Evening Prayer
Thursday 23 April	18:00	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 26 April	09:00	Rode, Contemplation and Coffee
	10:30	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion
	10:30	Tellisford, Holy Communion
	11:00	Laverton, Matins
	18:00	Buckland Dinham, Iona/Talzé Service
Tuesday 28 April	09:00	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Wednesday 29 April	08:30	Hemington, Morning Prayer
	17:00	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
Thursday 30 April	18:00	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer

Funeral arrangements not known at the moment but will be posted

Sadly, we had some more bad news on the afternoon of Friday 13th. Robert Lewis died at home. He had not been well for some time, but his death was a big shock to us all. Robert lived in Chantry as a young man then moved to Bristol, coming back to Chantry about 20 years ago. He was a very private person but well-liked by all who knew him.

FRIENDS OF CHANTRY NEWS

Thursday April 9th and Thursday April 16th (7.00pm, Holy Trinity, Chantry).

Simon Briston is a resident of Chantry with an incredible knowledge about World War II, which he is coming to share with us over these two evenings. Doors open at 6:30 ready for a 7.00pm presentation which includes clips from the award-winning World at War.

Both evenings will evoke reverent appreciation for those who either can still remember the war or have a family member they remember going to war, and for all of us who enjoy our lives today because of those who fought for us.

This is a free event with a complimentary drink (donations to Friends of Chantry are welcomed on the night).

The first evening will be as follows:

HOME FIRES (1940-1944). A time of gas masks, Winston Churchill, Dig for Victory, evacuation, George Formby, the Land Army, ITMA, the Squander Bug and the Beveridge Report.

The second evening will be based on:

WOLFPACK (1939-1943). U-Boats and the Battle of the Atlantic. High Technology, underwater detection devices, a

starving Britain as supply ships are targeted and allies hounded in packs.

Thank you to Simon in advance for all the time you are taking putting this together for us.

There will be no **Thirsty Third Thursday** in April, but it will be back with a bang on May 21st.

Saturday May 16th

Save the date for our annual Plant and Bake sale. This has become such a popular event. Gardeners and plant lovers, please get potting up, dividing, planting ready to donate your spare plants to the sale. Bakers – we need your bakes! Your contributions are vital, and funds from this day go to support our Whatley and Chantry community. Volunteers are always needed on the day. More details will follow. Please keep an eye on the village emails and on our community website whatleyandchantry.co.uk – main point of contact from Chantry is Jan Bramston (07938 983409).

GREAT ELM

GREAT ELM CHURCH NEWS

The Mothering Sunday service had a fantastic turn out. Robin got the congregation enlivened by singing a round, Bella Mama with Richard King accompanying with his flute. As the layout of the church is tricky for doing things in the round the posy making had to be done by a representative of each family group. These were distributed to as many as wanted with coffee and cake offered between the Family Service and Holy Communion. Sheila March's funeral service and burial took place on Monday March 9th. Peter Ives'

funeral service was held on Monday March 16th. Although both had been living in Frome, they had long standing family connections with the village.

COMING EVENTS FOR EASTER

April 3rd – GOOD FRIDAY – 10.00am Open Air service opposite Mells Village Shop.

Readings and songs to mark the Crucifixion of Christ.

For those who would like to walk from Great Elm there will be a group meeting at the oak tree/triangle at 9.15-9.20am.

April 4th – Easter Saturday – Decorating the church. Official flower arranging session cancelled as neither Sally nor Judy is able to lead this but if anyone would like to place a vase or pot of flowers on a window ledge to brighten up the church in readiness for Easter Sunday.... Please do.

April 5th – EASTER SUNDAY – at St Andrew's, Mells 9.45am
See poster in church porch.



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Please bring your own tools. Usual bribery of coffee and cake on offer. It's a fun morning.

IN CONSEQUENCE THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT GREAT ELM – PLEASE ATTEND THE SERVICE AT MELLS.



MELLS & GREAT ELM
EASTER SERVICE AT
ST ANDREW'S , MELLS

Easter Service

Sunday
5 April
9.45am

EASTER EGG ROLLING
11am Gay St Mells
11.30 Elm Hill Great Elm

No Easter Service at Great Elm



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Benefice Group Communion. We will be celebrating Easter at Mells.

IN CONSEQUENCE THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT GREAT ELM – PLEASE ATTEND THE SERVICE AT MELLS.

11.30am – EGG ROLLING AT THE TOP OF ELM LANE. Kindly organised by Sarah Bradshaw. Decorate your eggs and bring your dogs to tidy up the road afterwards!

April 18th – SPRING CHURCH YARD CLEAN UP. 10.00AM
Please bring your own tools. Usual bribery of coffee and cake on offer. It's a fun day!

FRIDAY – 10.00am Open Air service opposite Mells Village Shop
rate your eggs and bring your dogs to tidy up the road afterwards!
April 18th – SPRING CHURCH YARD CLEAN UP.
10.00AM

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PALM SUNDAY

Mells Group of Churches

Hosanna in the Highest!

Fiona, Bishop of Taunton

10am
Sunday 29 March
at
St. Andrew's Mells

Let this Holy Week be a time of reflection and renewal as we prepare for the joy of Easter



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MELLS WITH VOBSTER

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mells-pc.gov.uk) Notes of meeting held on Tuesday March 10th, 2026

Somerset Council budget: The Government has rejected the 11% Council Tax Rise which is beyond the 4.99% council tax referendum threshold. The Conservative Group has tabled a budget amendment setting out proposals which could deliver a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan. The Government has confirmed it will pay off up to 90% of Somerset Council's £116 million special educational needs and disabilities deficit, subject to the Council agreeing a plan to bring future spending under control.

Concerns Raised Over Pothole Costs and Repair Standards: Particular issues have been highlighted on the A359 between

Open Air in Mells
Good Friday Witness
ALL WELCOME
Good Friday
3 April 10am
Opposite Mells village shop - near the Penny-Farthings

Readings and songs to mark the
Crucifixion of Christ

If you wish to walk from Great Elm gather at
grass triangle outside the Great Elm Village Hall
at 9 for a 9.10 departure to walk to Mells along the river.

"Truly this was the Son of God!"

Bruton and Nunney. Questions have also been raised about inspection regimes, intervention thresholds, the durability of repairs and the process for assessing vehicle damage compensation claims.

FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Speeding vehicles in Vobster: Cllrs West and Seviour are in the process of completing the paperwork and will present the documentation at the next meeting. Clerk to approach Coleford PC to see if there would be any funding available from the developers of the planned new estate in Coleford, to help alleviate the impact that could arise from the increase in traffic through Vobster village.

CORRESPONDENCE: Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance – grant request: All present agreed a grant of £500.

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Footpaths report: Very grateful thanks were given to Nicki Hillman who had forwarded an extensive list of all the works she had carried out or arranged to be carried out on the footpaths around the parish. She raised concerns regarding footpath FR10/54- 55, adjacent to the Alms houses, which was flagged as being overgrown three times last year. The PC agreed that the contractor would be asked to cut it bi-monthly during the growing season.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Defibrillator/CPR training: Clerk to look into putting on another training session.



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Police meeting: Cllr Brady reported that their main issues in the area are fly tipping (report any sightings to Somerset Council) and hare coursing.

White Bridge – handrail: This requires sanding down and revarnishing. Contractor will submit a quote and fix the Great Elm sign by shop.

Vobster litter pick: Around 30 bags were filled.

Dog fouling and public spaces consultation: Cllr Seewooruttun will complete the consultation and request that the churchyards and play area are included.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 14th, 2026, at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Joy Book, Clerk, Email: clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07704 584952

WHATLEY

CLEANING AND FLOWERS.

April 4th, Alice Kettle; 11th, Sue Pollock; 18th Mary Scott; 25th Marion Ransome

The PCC thank all those who came to help with the annual tidy of the churchyard. It makes a huge difference to have us working together showing our care and determination to preserve our beautiful building as our centre not only for worship, but also for the use of all our community social events.

We celebrate St. George, our church's namesake, on April 23rd.

By the time we read this we will probably have worked our way into methods of getting in and out of Whatley around the road closure. It will be especially difficult for our farmers at a particularly busy time of year. The length of the closure indicates a

great deal of work to be done on the main road through our village, so we hope it will be worth it.

One of our farming families, Laura Baber, has had a bumper crop of lambs this year- nearly eighty little Zwarbles have been born. Some of them will be in the fields by now, skipping about in the (hopefully) spring sunshine. Zwarbles were first imported from Holland forty years ago. They have flourished because of their combination of their good looks and lively character- and, above all, their outstanding maternal instincts! We're so lucky to be able to enjoy watching these cheerful little animals in our Whatley fields. Our social activities continue to flourish with the choice of two 'pub' evenings and a regular monthly coffee morning. Thank you to those who give us so much of their time to provide these occasions for us all.

Dates for your diaries

St George's Church, Whatley



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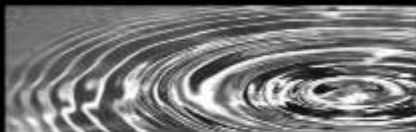
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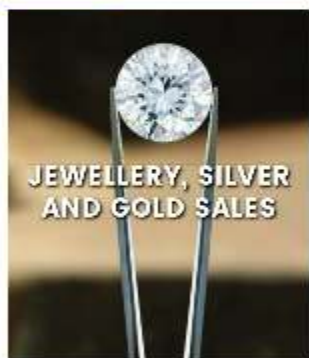
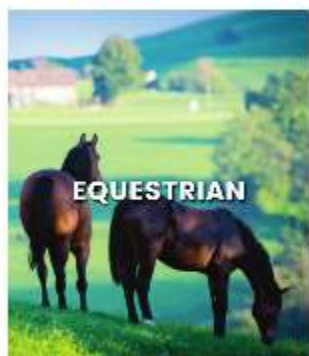
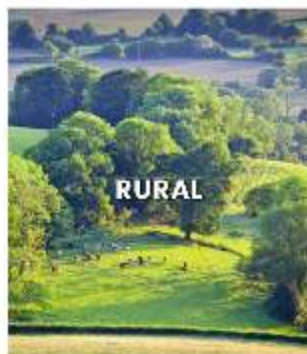
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