



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

"I have come so that you may have life, life in all its fullness"

John 10:10

Issue # 13

8th December 2025

Dear Families,

I want to start by celebrating the amazing Nursery and Reception children and their Nativity performances last week. They were so confident, full of joy and clearly loved their time on the stage; we really hope that you all enjoyed the show and it got your Christmas off to a joyous start!

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and engagement this term. It means the world to us that you continue to support, give up your time and work with us to enable your children to flourish during their time with us. The children have all worked incredibly hard this term and I am sure, just like us, you are incredibly proud of their accomplishments.

I want to let you know that we have received a date for Rev Alistair's funeral, which will take place on the 23rd December at 11:30am at St John's in Axbridge. For those families or individuals who would like to attend and pay their respects, you are most welcome to join for the service.

Don't forget Jumpers for Joy Day on Thursday 11th raising funds for The Space. Any contribution, big or small, will directly support wellbeing services for our pupils. To donate, please scan the QR code on this front page or follow this link - https://www.justgiving.com/page/axbridge-christmas-jumper-day-fundraiser?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas PTA Fair this Friday, which runs from 3:20pm - 5:00pm!

With warmest wishes,

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

EXCEL

We are very proud of Evie, Bettie and Edith for showing such courage by entering and competing in their first gymnastics competition at the weekend! They received their medals from acrobatic gymnast and former student Samuel Austin.



December

- Tuesday 9th - PTA Film Night
- Tuesday 9th @ 7pm - PTA meeting @ The Lamb
- Wednesday 10th @ 9 to 9.30am - Rocksteady Christmas Concert
- Thursday 11th - Jumpers for Joy Day - [The Space](#)
- Friday 12th @ 3.30 to 5pm - PTA Xmas Fair
- Monday 15th @ 6pm - Carol Service at St Johns the Baptist Church
- Tuesday 16th - Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 18th - PTA Craft Session
- Friday 19th @ 9am - Church Service, all welcome!

Friday 19th December - school closes for Christmas Holidays at 3:20pm

Monday 5th January 2026 - Return to school

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!

Attendance was 96.6% last week for the whole school, with Oak having the highest attendance across all classes, at 97.8%.

Our Christian Values are:
Community
Courage
Love

Our Christian Vision is;
"I have come so that you may have life, a life in all its fullness"
John 10:10

Our Learning Skills are:
Thinking
Social
Self-management
Communication
Research

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week, we are so proud of you!

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Paige	Connie	Jude	Annabel	Kip
Christian Values	Bree	Leonie	Charlie	Ted	Cora
Learning Skills	Emmie	Gracie	Betty	Tom	Ollie

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Jacob S Chestnut	Christian Values	Rosie J Oak	Learning Skills	Ottilie Hazel
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	172	101	148	217



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Warm up this winter
**HOT CHOCOLATE
REINDEER CONES**
£2 EACH

**PREORDER VIA WHATSAPP TO KIRSTY
0781 3287154 TO PICK UP AT THE FAYRE**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PTA

The churches of Axbridge, Shipham and Rowberrow warmly invite you to our Christmas services.

We hope that you will be able to share with us the joy of Christmas: a time when we celebrate the gift of the birth of Jesus, the light of the World.

In amongst the busy-ness, we pray that these services will be an opportunity to focus on the Christmas message of love, hope, joy and peace.

As Christmas approaches, our minds will be occupied with our preparations of gifts and time with family and friends.

It would be lovely if you can find time and space to join with us to remember the gift of Jesus Christ, who came into the world as God in person, so we could experience the love, peace and forgiveness which is still available to all.

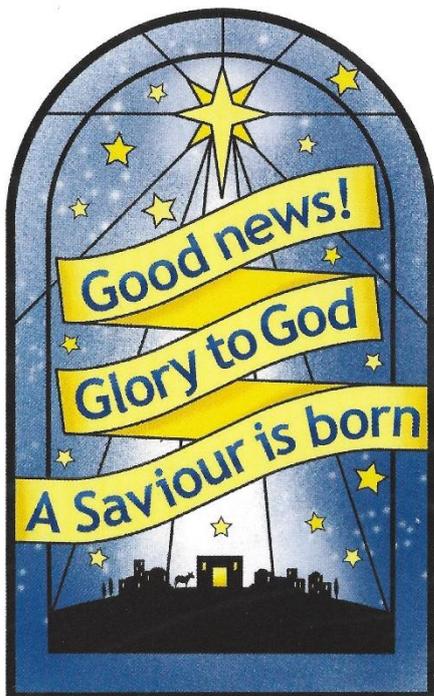
To read more about the seasons and Advent and Christmas, please follow the link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas> or scan the QR code below.

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed Christmas, filled with joy and love.



Happy Christmas

From the Benefice of Axbridge,
Shipham and Rowberrow

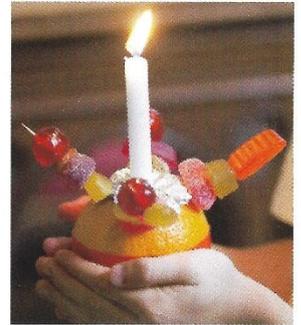


Come and join us at 4pm on Christmas Eve in Shipham or Axbridge!
You will be given a candle when you arrive, to complete the Christingle you bring.

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTINGLE

YOU WILL NEED:

- an orange
- a small square of cooking foil
- 4 cocktail sticks
- a sharp knife
- some small sweets or dried fruit
- a short length of red ribbon (2-3 cm wide)
- a pin



HERE'S WHAT TO DO AT HOME:

1. In the top of the orange, cut a hole 1.5 centimetres across and about 2.5 centimetres deep - this is to hold the candle.
2. Line the hole with cooking foil, leaving a square of foil around the hole to catch the hot wax from the candle.
3. Fasten the ribbon around the middle of the orange by using the pin.
4. Thread the dried fruit or sweets onto the cocktail sticks.
5. Push the cocktail sticks into the orange at 90-degree intervals above the ribbon.

Don't forget to bring your Christingle with you!

St John the Baptist, Axbridge Sunday 21st December 6.00pm

Benefice Carol Service

Come and hear the story of Christmas and sing or listen to your favourite carols, with the Bristol Brass Consort, the Benefice Choir and Helen Mann (organ), directed by Mark Goddard

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Christingle (see over)
11.00pm Carols followed by:
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 10.00am Family Service

St Leonard, Shipham

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Christingle (see over)

Christmas Day 10.00am Family Communion

St Michael & All Angels, Rowberrow

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight

Take some time to enjoy this traditional service in the gentle light of candles

Axbridge Sports & Social Club Present

SANTA IN THE SQUARE

20TH DECEMBER 2025 - FROM 4PM

Santa arrives at 5pm

Pig Roast, BBQ, Mulled Wine, Carols,
Live Music, Childrens Entertainment

Register by e-mail: santainthesquare@gmail.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Try us for FREE!

CHURCHILL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

PLAY CHAT CRAFT SING

Mondays 09.00-11.30
1, 8 & 15 DECEMBER
@Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

- ♥ Friendly group, easy parking
- ♥ Bright hall, lots of toys
- ♥ Yummy snacks; cuppa & cake

Churchill Methodist Church
Contact us:
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Saturday 13 December
4.30pm @Churchill Methodist BS25 5NG

A calm, reflective time offering comfort & hope for every person to feel whatever you're feeling. Please come. YOU will be welcome

HANDLE WITH CARE

Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Jesus is the gift

Feel the Love & peace of Christmas

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER

CAROLS & NATIVITY FOR ALL AGES
Front Street, Churchill BS25 5NG

3.30pm Carols @Cottage Homes, Front Street

3.45pm Follow the Star on Front Street

4pm @Churchill Methodist Nativity & Candles

5pm Sausage rolls & mince pies

Churchill Methodist Church
churchillmethodistchurch@gmail.com churchillmethodistchurch.org.uk

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website