

TEMPLECOMBE MESSENGER

April 2026
edition



April Newsletter

April marks a transition in terms of our weather. It is a pivotal spring month in the Northern Hemisphere, known for the “awakening” of nature, warmer weather, and blooming flowers. It is characterized by significant, varied, and often unpredictable weather patterns, bringing both sunshine and showers. The month is special for its blend of major holidays and unique, fun observances like April Fools’ Day.

Today when I began writing this, I was looking out on the stunning display of daffodils in my garden and the cold clear blue sky in contrast to yesterday when I drove through hailstorms and driving rain! This reminded me of how diverse and unpredictable life is and how we need to make the best of everything God gives us. Presently the world is in a very unsafe place with the Middle East conflict which will ultimately affect the cost of living amongst other things; despite this we need to make the best of what we have. Family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, the places we live, the people we meet all make up the rich pattern of the world we live in and something we need to be thankful for, especially when so many in the world have so little.

April is a time of celebration particularly for Christians. In the church we celebrate Easter, the pinnacle of the Christian year, it is the time when we think about Jesus, his journey to the Cross during Holy Week, his death on Good Friday and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. He conquered death for us so that we have the gift of life everlasting. This is a life that goes beyond the physical and embraces the spiritual side of our lives. We have hope, a future and a God who loves us beyond anything we can ever imagine. Then inspired by this we want others to understand that Church isn’t about a building, it is about people who come together under a banner of love, this motivates us to find out who Jesus can be in each of our lives and how we can become the extraordinary people God has created us to be. He is there for all of us, waiting to be invited into our lives.

We pray that this month it won’t rain on your parade but will be a good one for you, full of hope and love.

St Mary’s Team

Church Services for April 2026

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.00pm Joint Benefice Holy Communion at Templecombe

Good Friday 3rd April

10.00am Joint Benefice Morning Worship at Templecombe (Social Club)

2.00pm Joint Benefice Reflections on the Passion of Christ at St John, Horsington

6.00pm Joint Benefice Music & Readings at St Nicholas, Henstridge

Easter Sunday 5th April

10.30am Family Holy Communion at St Mary’s

Sunday 12th April

10.30am Worship for Everyone at St Mary’s Templecombe

Sunday 19th April

9.30am Bubble Church at Templecombe (Village Hall)

10.30am Morning Worship at St Mary’s

Sunday 26th April

9.30am Bubble Church at Templecombe (Village Hall)

10.30am Joint Benefice St George’s Parade Service at St Mary’s



DON'T FORGET TO
**SPRING
FORWARD**

Saturday

28th March

Coffee Morning



At the Sports and Social Club

Recreation Ground Vine Street

11.00am to 12 noon

Wednesday's

**1st 15th and 29th APRIL
2026**

All Welcome

Contact tel. no 01963 370527

For more details.

MEN WHO LIKE TO TALK

A relaxed group for men who enjoy conversation, company and a cup of tea.

No pressure. No agenda.
Just a friendly place to chat.



First Friday of each month

First meeting: Friday 3rd April
(Good Friday)

2:30 – 4:00 pm

TEMPLECOMBE VILLAGE HALL

Tea, coffee and biscuits available

All men welcome

Provided by Templecombe Together





Awarding winning local amateur group MPO Musical Theatre's latest production takes the stage 8-11 April at Milborne Port Village Hall.

Betty Blue Eyes is a joyous mix of post-war nostalgia and very British humour with toe-tapping numbers that will stay with you long after the curtain falls.

Where else would you find members of the royal family sharing the stage with a porcine dream and a chiropodist taking on the town council while his mother-in-law steals his sandwiches? The story marries farce and fantasy, seduction and snobbery, in a rib tickling and ultimately heartwarming adventure that will send you home with a smile on your face and belief in the goodness of humanity restored. Tickets now on sale from www.mpopera.co.uk or Wayne Pullen Butchers (Milborne Port).

Templecombe Twilighters

Meets every other Wednesday in the

Social Club

8th and 22nd April

Subs are £3—this includes tea, coffee and biscuits

2pm—4pm

Please feel free to pop along for a cuppa and a chat

Some weeks there will be activities.

For further details please call

Donna on 371241 (salon number)



April 2026 Events

FRIDAY
APRIL

10

6PM - 9PM
STEAK NIGHT

SUNDAY
APRIL

12

6PM - 9PM
PRIZE BINGO



SUNDAY
APRIL

19

9.30AM - 12.30PM
BRUNCH CLUB



WEDNESDAY
APRIL

22

7PM - 9PM
QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY
APRIL

25

7PM - 10PM
**TASTE OF THE ORIENT
5 COURSE BANQUET**

FOLLOW US ON



for more info on each
event

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
FOR ALL EVENTS

CALL 01963 548088 OR

EMAIL:
info@bunterstemplecombe.co.uk

TEMPLECOMBE VILLAGE MARKET

AT THE SOCIAL CLUB

Forthcoming dates for 2026

11th April

9th May

13th June

11th July

8th August



TABLES £5 ANYONE INTERESTED IN HAVING A TABLE PLEASE

CONTACT MARILYN CHILDS ON 07535047128

NEXT MARKET

SATURDAY 11th April 2026 10—1

ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE

PARISH COUNCIL

Great news! After two years of planning and raising the necessary finance we can announce that the first phase of our already published plan to reinvigorate the recreation ground will get underway on April 7th. It is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks to complete the works.

This first phase will see the creation of the surfaced path around the upper field allowing for greater accessibility for pushchairs, wheelchairs and all those who find walking across the grass difficult. The circular path will be over 400 metres long. Linked to the car park it will also provide all weather access to the tennis court and will also link to the 'kissing gate' entrance where the muddy slope will be stabilised.

We have applied for funding from the Lottery to help with the cost of phases 2 and 3 which will see an enhanced Multi Use Games Area and outdoor gym, both sited adjacent to the clubhouse and within easy reach of the car park.

Whilst the recreation ground will remain open during these works, some areas will be cordoned off for the contractors to operate safely. We would ask user of the recreation ground to take extra care whilst the works are carried out and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE

PARISH COUNCIL

Meet at 7.15 pm every second Tuesday of the month

At Templecombe Village Hall, School Lane, BA8 0HP

All Parishioners are welcome to attend

Enquiries :

clerk@abbasandtemplecombe-pc.gov.uk

Tel no 01963 370527

If any Parishioner has any concerns or incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour, they can report them to Avon and Somerset Police Authority by either calling 101 or on their website www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

The Truth About Dick Turpin: Britain's Most Notorious Highwayman

Despite his legend as a charming rogue riding Black Bess from London to York, the real Dick Turpin was far from a heroic figure. He was a violent criminal, involved in theft, burglary, and even murder. Born in Hempstead, Essex, Turpin started life as a butcher's apprentice before turning to a life of crime. Far from the dashing highwayman portrayed in popular folklore, the truth about Turpin is far more sinister, and far more interesting.

Richard Turpin was the fifth of six children born to John Turpin, a butcher and innkeeper, and Mary Parmenter. Raised at the Blue Bell Inn, he married Elizabeth Millington and opened a butcher's shop in Essex. By the late 1720's, Turpin had left his trade behind to join the Essex Gang, also known as the Gregory Gang, a group of violent deer poachers turned burglars.

Turpin's role in the gang was to sell illegally poached deer, but it wasn't long before he was involved in violent home invasions, including a robbery in December 1734 that netted £300 (over £50,000 today). His crimes escalated quickly.

In one famous incident in Croydon, Turpin broke into a reverend's home while masked and armed, supervising the assault of a servant. These brutal burglaries drew attention, and after the arrest of fellow gang member John Wheeler, most of the gang was captured or executed.

With his gang dismantled, Turpin became what he's most famous for: a highway robber. He targeted travellers around Epping Forest, often alongside accomplice Thomas Rowden. Their robberies became so frequent that Turpin had to keep moving to avoid capture. Despite the romantic image of him galloping across the countryside, Turpin was essentially a violent thug on horseback, notorious for threatening, robbing, and in some cases, killing his victims.

In 1737, a series of events sealed Turpin's fate. After a horse theft in Whitechapel, the animal was traced to a pub Turpin was using as a hideout. One of his gang members was killed in the chaos—some say by Turpin himself.

Later, Turpin shot and killed Thomas Morris, a forest keeper, who tried to apprehend him. A £200 reward was placed on his head, forcing him into hiding under the alias John Palmer in Yorkshire. While posing as Palmer, Turpin was arrested for shooting a man's fighting cock and making threats. Committed to the House of Correction in Beverley, he didn't attempt to escape. His identity was revealed after he sent a letter to his brother-in-law. The letter was rejected and ended up at a post office in Saffron Walden, where someone recognised his handwriting. He was soon identified as Dick Turpin and charged with horse theft which was a capital crime at the time.

On 7th April 1739, Turpin was taken to Knavesmire, the city's execution site. York had no official hangman, so fellow highwayman Thomas Hadfield acted as his executioner. Travellers throughout England breathed a sigh of relief, safe in the knowledge that Dick Turpin had been hanged that day.

Turpin did not ride from London to York on his loyal steed Black Bess—that tale was entirely fabricated by 18th-century writers to romanticise his story. In reality his capture was down to poor decision making and back luck.



T Birds

Events calendar April–August 2026



13th April Somerset and Dorset Animal Rescue (and AGM)

11th May Healthy Eating

15th June Art Session

13th July Living in the Appellations

10th August Members only afternoon tea.

Come along and meet us all—We really don't take ourselves too seriously!
Primarily we are a women's group, although gentlemen are welcome to attend
any of our talks.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of every month, in the Village Hall,
7.30–9.30p.m.

Refreshments available

£3.50 for guests/non members **Everyone welcome.**

Contact Sarah on 07890 543769

Booking the Village Hall

To book the Village Hall, please contact the booking Secretary

Mrs Tina Chapman

7 Slades Hill

Templecombe BA8 0HF

Tel : 01963 370527

Email : chap.mans@hotmail.co.uk

The fees are now £20.00 per session (£25.00 with heating)

£12.00 per hour (£15.00 with heating)

If the use of the cooking equipment is required there will be an additional charge of £10.00 per session

The Hall is also popular for children's parties

FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH

Saturday 18th April

At the Social Club

12.00 – 1.30

All Welcome



**Baked potato with
sausages, beans or cheese**



**Tea & coffee
available**



Lunch provided by our Community Group

Templecombe Together

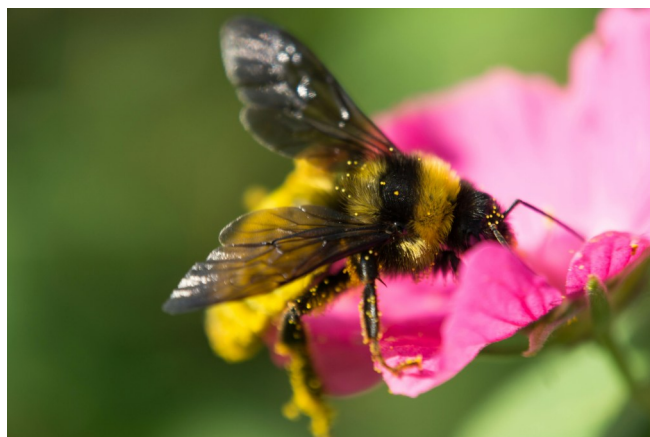


Hairy-footed Flower Bee

March can be a cold month and not one we associate with insects, the majority of which will emerge a little later in the year. Bumblebees are amongst the first to appear as their hairy bodies give them some insulation against the changeable weather of March; but have a look for another bee, which looks at first glance like a small bumblebee, but which is actually the delightfully named Hairy-footed Flower Bee. The males emerge first and can be found from late February onwards. The male is a rusty brown with a yellow face and long hairs on the middle pair of its six legs. It is these long hairs that give the bee the name of 'hairy footed'. About two weeks later the females emerge, looking completely different. Females are mainly black with orange hairs on their back pair of legs which act like little brushes, collecting pollen as they visit flowers. Hairy-footed flower bees have a long tongue which they use to probe into flask-shaped spring flowers such as primrose and lungwort (or pulmonaria). It is worth checking primroses and lungworts for this little bee, they have a faster, more zippy flight than a bumblebee and also a shrill buzz.

As spring progresses, have a look at the walls of your church or churchyard if they are lime mortared or cobb. The female will nest within the mortar of an old wall, making a small hole in which to lay eggs. These are 'solitary' bees, so they do not nest in a colony like honey bees and bumblebees.

Hairy-footed flower bees are a good example of the need to provide a range of flowers for pollinators, including both spring and autumn blooms. This bee is active until June and relies on early pollen to give them energy for their brief breeding season. Most churchyards contain primroses and perhaps you can include lungwort and comfrey in flower beds or planters as well. Please let us know if you see a hairy-footed flower bee, for those who love a phone or computer app, take a look at iNaturalist ([uk.inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)) to confirm your identification and make a record of your spot.





LEANNE JACKSON

LIVE AT TEMPLECOMBE SOCIAL CLUB

18TH APRIL

— 9PM - 11PM —

Members Free

Non Members £5





THRIFT CLUB

Save as little or as much
as you want



Every Friday in the Bar
7:30 - 9:30pm



**TEMPLECOMBE
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

**LINE DANCING
WEEKLY SESSIONS**

STARTS: TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026
TIME: 7:00PM PRICE: £5 PER SESSION

Join Maggie for fun, friendly Line Dancing
sessions in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME –
BEGINNERS TO
EXPERIENCED DANCERS!**

**Templecombe Sports
& Social Club**
All Welcome



All Welcome



Are you interested in becoming a friend of Templecombe Station? Can you spare a few hours to help look after the station, or have some other experience you can offer such as fundraising, promotion or DIY? We would be interested in hearing from you.

Contact details.

Email: friendsof templecombestation@gmail.com

Tel: Christine Hillman (Co Chair) 07484277549

Peter Hillman (Co Chair) 07549953808

Sandra Pearson (Treasurer/Secretary) 07977937986

BA mobile barbers

07394 074011

Children under 12—£8.00

Over 12 and adults—£10.00

O.A.P. 65 and over—£8.00

Beard trim £4.00



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Useful Information:

Police – 999 (emergency)
101 (non emergency)

Bunter's

Opening times—Wednesday to Saturday
9.00am—2.30pm

Thurs, Fri, Sat—6.00—10.00

Tel : 01963 548088

Bus & Coach Services –

Berry's coaches Wincanton to London
01823 331345

www.berryscoaches.co.uk

First Bus 03456 646 0707

(No. 58 Wincanton to Yeovil)

CAT (Community Accessible Transport)

Booking 01963 33864 (2/3 day's notice).
Small fee.

Citizens Advice Bureau 03444 889 623

Doctors – Station Road 01963 250334

NHS—111 (non-emergency)

Parish Council Secretary

Tina Chapman 01963 370527

Recycling Centre—Dimmer Lane, Castle
Cary, BA7 7NR 01963 350743

Somerset Waste Partnership 0300 123
2224

www.somersetwaste.gov.uk

Taxis – Terry's taxis 07795465492
Crabbs taxis 07950826962

Templecombe Social Club—01963

370710**Train services** – Templecombe,
Castle Cary

National Rail enquiries 03457 484950

Camelot Explorer Scout Unit



Looking for fun, adventure and challenges:

We are open to any young person between
the ages of 14 to 18 years old.

If you want adventure, learn new skills, meet new
friends or just have fun. We have our meeting on a
Monday evening between 7—9pm

We meet at 2nd Templecombe Scout Hut, behind
Templecombe Village Hall BA8 0HP

Please contact:

Jason 07793 433375

Maria 07885 987350

2nd Templecombe Scout Group

Looking for fun,
adventure and
challenges?

Come and join us.

New members (boys and girls)
are always welcome.



Cubs	8 - 10½yrs	Wednesday	6:30-8:00pm
Scouts	10½ - 14yrs	Thursday	7:00-9:00pm

**For more information please
contact:**

Scouts: Geoff Crabb 07976 885130

Cubs: Andy Smith 07733 000573

group email:
templecombe.gsl@btinternet.com

Templars Tennis Club



New Members
Always Welcome
Single adult and
family

memberships available.

Casual hire £5.00 per court per
2 hours

Membership:

Family £60.00

Single Adult £40.00

Please contact:

Peter Andrew (secretary)
01963 371053

or

Paul Hawkins (treasurer)
01963 370045

Templecombe Indoor Bowling Club (Short Mat)



Join us in Village Hall

Monday 2.00 to 4.00pm
Thursday 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Please contact

Chris Jeans (Secretary)
01963 364287

Or

Terry Loader (Chair)
terrence666@uwclub.net

Space for Artists! Every Friday morning

10.00—13.00

Horsington Village Hall

Time and space to draw, paint, relax and grow.

Join us!

Alison 01963 370866



Horsington Art Group

Horsington Village Hall
Thursday mornings
10:00am — 1:00pm



A friendly group who exchange ideas. Some members are very experienced and can give advice.

New members are very welcome whether they are talented or beginners

Come and join in for a no-cost trial session.

John 07510 260457
Rhonwen 01935 389690

Music Night



Third
Wednesday of
every month
7:30 until 10:30pm

Templecombe Village Hall

We usually sit in a circle and bring our own instruments to play, sing or recite a poem.

£3.00 for the evening

Enquiries: Alan Berry 01963 370716
alanberry215@btinternet.com

Templecombe Ladies Choir

Rehearsals every
Tuesday
7:00 to 8:30pm.
In the School Hall.



email:
annemarielees@gmail.com

TEMPLECOMBE ART CLASSES

Come and draw or paint for 2 hours a week on a Tuesday afternoon in the Templecombe Village hall and forget about the world!

Art teacher guidance
Beginners welcome
All materials provided

If you would like to find out more, please contact me:

Sally Ridout:

Either by phone LL: 01963 370020

Or by email: s.ridout180@gmail.com



10:30 Second Sunday

Refreshments from 10am

A graphic with a background of colorful, abstract paint strokes in blue, pink, yellow, and green. The word 'TOGETHER' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the phrase 'with the big family of God' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

TOGETHER
with the big family of God

St Mary's Church

Quiz night

Last Sunday of the month

At the Social Club

The next quiz will be on

26th April

7.30pm

£2.00 per person—just turn up!

Raffle

Bar open

A vibrant, colorful graphic for 'Bubble Church'. It features two cartoon puppets, a boy and a girl, with large, open mouths as if singing or shouting. The background is a bright blue with green and yellow splashes at the bottom. A small white outline of a church is in the top left. The text 'St Mary's Abbas & Templecombe' is in white. 'BUBBLE CHURCH' is written in large, bold, yellow and pink letters. '9:30 every Sunday' is in white, and 'BOOK NOW!' is in large, bold, white letters. The website 'www.bubblechurch.org' is at the bottom in white.

St Mary's
Abbas & Templecombe

**BUBBLE
CHURCH**

9:30 every Sunday
BOOK NOW!

www.bubblechurch.org

A graphic for 'Daisy Chain Baby & Toddler Group'. It features a decorative border at the top with a string of colorful daisies (red, yellow, pink, blue) with smiling faces. The text 'DAISY CHAIN BABY & TODDLER GROUP' is in a large, black, hand-drawn font. Below it, 'Templecombe Village Hall' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. 'BA8 0HQ' is in a black, sans-serif font. 'Thursdays 9:15 - 11:15 Term time' is in a black, sans-serif font. 'Suggested donation £2.50 per family' is in a black, sans-serif font. 'Refreshments for parents and children included' is in a black, sans-serif font. A contact box at the bottom contains the email 'Contact jessmr91@aol.com' and two social media links: 'https://www.facebook.com/daisychainbabytoddlers' and 'https://www.instagram.com/daisychain_toddlers'. The box is decorated with small daisy icons.

DAISY CHAIN BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Templecombe Village Hall

BA8 0HQ

Thursdays 9:15 - 11:15 Term time

Suggested donation £2.50 per family

Refreshments for parents and children included

Contact jessmr91@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/daisychainbabytoddlers>
https://www.instagram.com/daisychain_toddlers



**Templecombe
United Reformed
Church**

**Morning
Worship
Every Sunday
11am**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

TEMPLECOMBE SOCIAL CLUB

Club Opening times:

Friday—19:30—23.30

Saturday—16:00—23:30

Sunday—16:00 - 22:30

The club will also be open on other occasions when Pool or Skittles games are arranged.

**New members always welcome—
£12.00 per yearly membership.**

Function Room hire.

Tel: 01963 371354

Email: tsportssc25@gmail.com

**SOCIAL
CRAFT
GROUP**

Thursdays 7pm

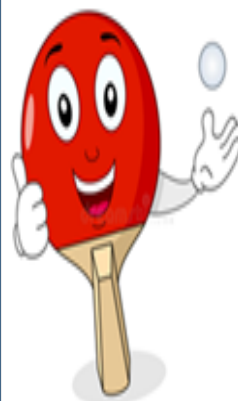
At Templecombe United Reformed Church



Bring your project and come and chat to others with similar interests. Share your skills or maybe learn something new. 50p donation per session



For more information please contact Helen on 01963 370818 or email helen55@outlook.com



**SOCIAL
TABLE
TENNIS**

Thursdays at 8pm

**All ages and abilities welcome
(minors should be accompanied by a parent / guardian)**

At Templecombe United Reformed Church

For more information please
contact Helen on 01963 370818
or email helen55@outlook.com
50p donation per session





Find The Below Words



W S Q D Y T F X U M Q T S P X C X O F V X W P
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GROW



For Templecombe Messenger articles and advertising,
 please get in touch with

Sarah Horn Tel: 07890 543769 Email: sarah1260.sh@gmail.com

Cut off date for submission—15th of the month

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