

August 2020

the Bridge

A community magazine sponsored
by the Anglican Church



Hydrangeas from Pixabay/Conleur

Although the lockdown restrictions are gradually being lifted and churches are beginning to open, it's still not possible for us to deliver printed copies of The Bridge across the town, so we're continuing to publish online only. We plan to resume printing with the October issue. Meanwhile, we'd love to read your feedback: BridgeEditor@icloud.com

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If you cannot get to church and would like home communion or a visit, please contact one of the lay pastoral assistants.

Cupboard Love food bank

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Hall bookings Halls are currently closed, but to discuss their future use you can contact:

St Swithun's church hall
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Bothenhampton village hall
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Bradpole village hall
please email bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
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Please contact Laura Taylor for all advertising including clubs, charity events, concerts, etc. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise copy must be sent to village correspondents (details on parish pages inside) no less than three days before the deadline above, or a week in the case of handwritten or typed copy. We will try to include late copy in the following issue as appropriate.

Opinions expressed in The Bridge are not necessarily those of either the clergy or the editorial team. While we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the magazine's contents, we cannot accept responsibility for information given or claims made by our contributors or advertisers.

Deadlines for the September issue: Copy Friday 7 August · Advertising Monday 3 August

Let's consider what really matters

What have we lost that must remain lost? What have we lost that must be regained?

These are questions the church is asking itself in these bewildering days as we emerge out of lockdown, as we begin to go back to the future.

The questions acknowledge that whatever our experience has been – a breathing space or a suffocating isolation (and it's probably a bit of both) – we have all experienced loss.

Our newly installed Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has described lockdown as “painful and illuminating in equal measure... this time has brought us all face to face with ourselves and helped us discover that we are the places where God is to be encountered.”

We may long to be the gathered community once more, to return to the sacred, beautiful space of our church buildings, with all their vital and much-missed resonances of continuity. But as we return it won't be business as usual.

We have been changed. The demarcation lines between those inside and outside of the church have been blurred. We've all been working this out as we go. Worship online has trashed some of the barriers for those who don't often come into our buildings but who want to pray and to give thanks.

And for those usually in church but cut adrift because they can't access the technology, prayer over the phone has become a means to connect. Others are simply agreeing to say prayers at home at set times in solidarity with others.

We have discovered new ways of serving our communities, new and imaginative ways of expressing faith, keeping in touch

and being good neighbours. We have seen prayer in action by those who do shopping or pick up prescriptions for the shielded, those who volunteer at the food bank or take the time to keep in touch with those who live alone.

We have been living through a period of rapid and dramatic change. And now we are starting to take stock, look around, see where we are and consider where we might be going.

So what have you lost that you want to regain? What is it that this time has taught you really matters? And what can you gladly live without?



The Revd Deb Smith
Team Rector

*One day we will talk about
how our blue moon wish came true.
How, when the universe finally released the
pins that held us so remote,
we did not fall, suddenly and all at once,
but rather drifted
toward each other
with the whimsical grace
of dandelion clocks.*

Amanda Torroni

The Revd Deb Smith

Our team ministry is returning to public worship

Following the government's announcement that places of worship may reopen for services, Bridport Team Ministry is returning to public worship in church on Sunday 26 July at St Swithun's, Allington.

There will be a Eucharist service at 9.30am and a service of Morning Prayer at 11am, after which the church will remain open until 2pm for quiet prayer.

Anyone who wants to attend worship should contact the Revd Pete Stone on 01308 426459 or by email at pete@bridport-team-ministry.org, indicating which service you'll be coming to. This is to ensure everyone can be accommodated safely



Michael Day

while adhering to current social distancing restrictions.

The Church of England has provided detailed guidance and advice to churches across the country as they prepare to reopen. “We will not be returning to normality

St Swithun's Church, Allington, is the first BTM church to reopen for public worship after lockdown

overnight – this is the next step on a journey,” says the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally, who leads the CofE Recovery Group. “It is important to say that the change in government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive... There will still be restrictions and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus to protect each other, especially the most vulnerable.

“This has been an incredibly difficult time for the whole country, especially for those who have been ill, who have suffered financial hardship, the loss of livelihoods and indeed, for many, those they love. We know that this is not over and the Church has a task ahead to bring consolation and hope.”

The online Sunday services will continue and can be found on the BTM website at www.bridport-team-ministry.org/worship/ and on Pete's YouTube channel here.

St John's in West Bay is open for funeral services although mourner numbers are restricted so that social distancing can be maintained.

The other five BTM churches are continuing to open for private prayer on a rota basis as follows:

Mondays	10am–12noon	St Mary's, Bridport
Tuesdays	10am–12noon	St Mary's, Walditch
Wednesdays	10am–12noon	Holy Trinity, Bradpole
Thursdays	10am–2pm	St Swithun's, Allington
Fridays	10am–12noon	Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton

Do you have a future museum piece at home?

Bridport Museum Trust is working with the Bridport Lockdown project to create a collection of objects connected with the Covid-19 crisis to add to its archive of these times.

At the moment museum staff are asking people to submit photos of objects relating to different themes, and these photos will become part of the Bridport Lockdown digital archive. Members of the community will then choose which of the objects themselves will be archived by the museum.

The first theme was NHS Rainbows. Eddy Pearce, who set up the Bridport Lockdown project, says, "Local people have been sending in photos of their most creative NHS rainbows, and we've had some lovely submissions. Although our project is based around photos, we are asking everyone to include a few words to tell the story behind their image. It adds so much to the overall picture when people share their thoughts on what lockdown has meant to them and those around them, or what inspired the artwork and what it means to show support for the people who have worked so hard to keep our world turning and safe."

Museum Director Emily Hicks says: "We are living right through 'history'. It's the museum's job to capture this history, but we want the local community to help us decide what to keep. We can't keep everything – we'd run out of space in our stores – but we do want to capture the essence and the heart of Bridport's response. We have some initial ideas for different themes, but we'd love to know if you can think of more – we want to capture objects that tell the unique story of our town."

To get involved, keep an eye on the Bridport Museum and Bridport Lockdown websites or their Instagram and Facebook pages.

Below: Recent submissions include Clarissa Parkin's photo of her daughter Lillia's painted rainbow hearts



Home-Start seeks volunteers to help families in need

Do you have parenting experience and two to three hours a week free to visit a local family in need?

Home-Start West Dorset is looking for volunteers who can offer practical and emotional support to families with children under five.

Families require help for many different reasons, including loneliness and isolation, multiple births, poor mental health, illness or disability, housing or financial stresses – or maybe they are just finding parenting a struggle. The Covid-19 crisis has also meant many families in Dorset have been finding life particularly hard for the last few months.

Home-Start is a well-known local independent charity that has operated across West Dorset, Weymouth, Portland and Sherborne since 2009. All volunteers take a 26-hour training course (spread over multiple weeks) which gives them all the skills and tools they'll need. Once matched with a suitable family, our volunteers continue to be fully supported, including a personal supervision every six weeks.

During this time of social distancing the charity has successfully moved its support online, maintaining weekly support through phone and video calls, texts and posts. Kelly Rolfe, one of the charity's organisers says, "As lockdown guidelines have eased, many more families have been pushed towards a vulnerable status and we're getting more and more referrals. We are aiming to organise a new volunteer training course as soon as it is safe to do so, and are looking for men and women aged 18 and over who have parenting experience to apply now so we can get going again as soon as possible."

For more information or an application form please contact Home-Start on 01305 265072 or email office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk.

Good Books has reopened

Good Books, the Christian bookshop in Gundry Lane, has now re-opened following its lockdown closure.

Opening times are now 10am to 1pm, Monday to Thursday and staff are looking forward to welcoming regular and new customers alike. "We have a range of Bibles, prayer books, gift and colouring books to uplift and encourage us during these difficult times," says manager Janice Brown. "We also stock a large selection of secondhand Christian books written over many decades, including some classics by well-known authors such as CS Lewis."

Helen Croud is the new BTM curate

Helen Croud has now joined the Bridport Team Ministry as the team curate. She moved into her new home in South Street on 6 July, having recently finished training at Ripon College Cuddesdon.

Helen's ordination as a deacon has been postponed until September because of the social distancing restrictions. Meanwhile, she and 12 other new curates were licensed online on 28 June by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, using video conferencing website Zoom. This deviation from the usual order of things has allowed her to move into the parish and start her new job.

Helen is from Hampshire and she has lived in Dorset for about six years. Having completed a business degree, then worked as a business consultant for a lighting company in Blandford, she went to work at Father's House, a Christian outreach centre in Shaftesbury. While there she set up and ran Open House, which provides practical help, advice and emergency food aid to people in the community.

At this time Helen started to be drawn towards a role in the church. "I was involved with an evangelical church and I felt called to a more visible representation of my commitment to Christian work in the community," she says. "It was clear that the time had come to move on, and to carry out this vocation in a different way. The sacraments are important to me, but the community is what motivates me most of all."

Helen studied for two years at Cuddesdon, where she lived with other students in the monastic community. "It was incredible and challenging – really formational," she says. "We lived together, prayed together and learnt together. It was fun, and I've grown a lot through the experience, but it's time now to get back out into the world and work with the community."

Helen has three daughters, who she says are all very excited



Helen Croud with her daughters, Molly, Jessica and Chloe

about their move to Bridport. "They're also intrigued by the idea of Mum becoming a vicar!" she adds. Jessica will be studying at Weymouth College, while Chloe is entering the sixth form locally and Molly will be at Colfox. They have two dogs, shih-poo Lola and cockerpoo Teddy.

Helen says she has really enjoyed her first couple of weeks in Bridport. "We've been visiting local places and Molly has been to see her new school. The timing hasn't been ideal – such a big change during the coronavirus restrictions – but I've been able to start meeting people and finding out about the various projects I'll be getting involved in. And, of course, the team is preparing for the gradual move towards having public worship again. It's all very exciting."

Praise for IT hotline

A couple from Wareham have praised the work of the Dorset Digital Hotline for helping them connect with loved ones and the outside world during lockdown.

Arthur and Daniel Brown moved to new sheltered accommodation just hours before lockdown began, and they found themselves isolated in a new town with no connection to the outside world save their GP surgery.

"We were on our own for 10 weeks in all," says Arthur. "We have always been loathed to go digital but our motivations changed during lockdown. It became clear that all essential services and human contact relied on us getting online.

"We tried some internet service providers but the cost was too high and neither of us can work. Our GP surgery suggested we call the Dorset Digital Hotline, who recommended the BT Basic Broadband package, and this was installed efficiently and safely. The advisers have been on the end of the phone throughout to make sure the technology is working for us."

"Anyone who needs IT or digital support should get in touch with the hotline – we thoroughly recommend it," adds Daniel.

For help with an IT query, call the hotline on 01305 221000 (Option 2) weekdays 10am–12 noon, or leave a message.

Mencap reopens its Bridport shop

West Dorset Mencap are happy to announce that their shop in East Street, Bridport, will reopen on Tuesday 4 August. The new opening hours will be 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.



One customer will be allowed in the shop at a time to ease volunteers, customers and staff back into the unknown. Donations will be welcome during opening times (no electrical items or duvets, please).

Mencap's day centre in Bridport had to close during lockdown but staff continued to reach out to service users, distributing activity worksheets, drawing pads, pens and paints to those who would normally attend the weekly art groups. They also spent time getting the new day centre in St Andrew's Road ready for reopening.

My ancestor: anti-slavery leader William Wilberforce

In the wake of the killing of George Floyd in the US and the the Black Lives Matter protests that followed, the Revd Carole Peters-King has spoken powerfully on the subject – and about her ancestor, William Wilberforce, who led the British movement to abolish the slave trade.

Carole is the director of communications for the Diocese of Salisbury and is among those who have been delivering a midweek video message to our neighbours in the Golden Cap team of churches during the lockdown. She has also written an article about Wilberforce for the Golden Cap magazine, and we're delighted to reproduce it here...

In a recent midweek message I mentioned that my five-times (I think) great-grandfather was William Wilberforce, and how proud I was of that heritage.

The connection is on my paternal grandmother's side of the family, and my father remembered that the house he grew up in on Clapham Common proudly displayed a collection of William's pipes and watches in a cabinet in the front sitting room. Sadly, in the 1950s the house was converted into flats and rented out, and much of the furniture was stored in the attic. It must have been too much of a temptation to one set of tenants who cleared the attic along with their flat when they left.

As a family we may have lost some physical connections with William, but his legacy, as a deeply religious social reformer who was very influential in the abolition of the slave trade and eventually slavery itself in the British Empire, continues to make us proud.

William was born on 24 August 1759 in Hull. The son of a wealthy merchant, he went to Cambridge University, where he met and began a lasting friendship with the future prime minister William Pitt the Younger. No doubt influenced by this friendship, in 1780 and aged just 21, our William became the MP for Hull, later representing the whole of Yorkshire.

Reports say that he had led a rather



**The Revd Carole Peters-King,
Director of Communications,
Diocese of Salisbury**



**An engraved portrait of
William Wilberforce (1759–1833)
by Joseph John Jenkins**

dissolute life, but this changed completely when he became an evangelical Christian, and in 1790 he joined a leading group known as the Clapham Sect, which was named after their meeting site.

One man who had an enormous influence on William and the Clapham Sect was the abolitionist Thomas Clarkson. William was persuaded to lobby for the abolition of the slave trade and for 18 years he regularly introduced anti-slavery motions in parliament.

All the same, it wasn't until 1807 that the slave trade was finally abolished. And it took another 26 years of continual campaigning before an Act of Parliament was passed that gave freedom to all slaves across the British Empire.

William fought poverty as well as slavery. His Christian faith prompted him to become interested in social reform, particularly the improvement of factory conditions in Britain. He worked with the reformer Hannah

More to provide all children with regular education in reading, personal hygiene and religion. He was also closely involved with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (another thing we have in common) and was instrumental in encouraging Christian missionaries to go to India.

William finally retired from politics in 1825 and died on 29 July 1833, shortly after he had seen the act to free slaves in the British Empire passed through the House of Commons.

He is buried near his friend Pitt in Westminster Abbey and I have visited his grave on more than one occasion. I have also been to Madame Tussauds to see his wax replica, which incidentally bears a striking resemblance to my grandmother.

Thanks to Ruth Mattock at the Golden Cap Team magazine and to Carole for allowing us to reprint this article.

ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Churchwarden – Lesley Hill 422417

Director of music – Tim Linsley 07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

The door of St Mary's is open!

I have read that our churches have been closed this year for longer than at any time since an interdict during the reign of King John, when Pope Innocent III banned all services between March 1208 and May 1213.

How would it feel to have the church door closed for more than five years? Our first opening of the door of St Mary's for private prayer last month was an occasion of real joy and we look forward to a full reopening of our beautiful church building.

However, is it realistic to ask what makes the church building so important when we believe that God is with us always and everywhere?

The Domesday Book of 1086 records that Bridport had a church on the site that is the present-day St Mary's and we also know that around 1225 a new church was built on the same site. The transepts of our present-day church are part of that 'new building'.

Maybe it is not just the location, the architecture or the decoration, but something intrinsically different about our church buildings. Our team rector, the Revd Deb Smith, often talks about the importance of these sacred spaces where 'the stones are soaked with prayer'. So many key life events have been marked here and down through the ages it has been a place of pilgrimage and worship for many.

St Mary's is a place of peace and prayer for the people of Bridport. Now that the door is open, please do take the opportunity to step into this place of history and find your own stillness in this place of prayer.

Lesley Hill, churchwarden

St Mary's Living Churchyard project

As the lockdown eases, individual members have been doing some gardening in the churchyard, weeding for exercise and getting some fresh air!

The bug hotel area is looking very colourful and buzzing with bees, and the poppies look amazing.

Our grasslands are also coming along well and this year we have planted some wildflower plugs. Have you spotted the oxeye daisies and yellow rattle?



There was much scrubbing and mopping as St Mary's prepared to open its doors after lockdown

We hope to begin our stumpery in the shaded part of the churchyard soon, so keep a look out and do make time to enjoy this peaceful space in the middle of town. Meanwhile, thank you to all our volunteers for your help so far.

Jane Trower



ST JOHN'S West Bay

Village editor – Sue Pollock 07903 558568

Chapel warden – Rosemary Russell 423013

The holiday season has finally got going in West Bay. The caravan park officially opened to the public in early July – as could be witnessed by the number of motorhomes, etc., arriving throughout that day – although the campsite on the West Bay Road will not open this year. I was talking with the man who runs the site, and he said it was just too difficult to operate under the present circumstances as there was

no way that social distancing could be policed. I imagine that some of the campers who return year in year out may well have checked into the touring site at the caravan park. The new 'glamping' section there is open and it is full – I would love to go and have a peek, so maybe at the end of the season I will get the chance. Of course the pool is not yet open but I imagine they are hoping this won't be too far off.

So what can the holidaymakers do while they are here? Well, all the kiosks are all open and now of course the pubs and restaurants can do the same. The new arrangement by the Hub seems to be working well although at busy times it is still hard to keep one's distance. A regular feature of the summer months is John the boatman and it is good →

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

to see that his boats are now out of hibernation (see photo). When the weather is right I am sure visitors will be flocking to be taken down the river to Palmers Brewery. West Bay Canoes are also operating, although I understand that it's essential to book if you want to use them. Let's hope we don't see any more base jumpers throwing themselves off the cliff from a height of 150ft. Sadly it does not look as though there will be any of the usual annual events this year in the Bay, which is a shame as they raise much-needed funds for charities.



The annual dredging of the harbour has started, considerably later than normal this year, so I hope the weather remains calm enough for the work to be completed as quickly as possible. We also have the arrival of the RNLI lifeguards, which is good to see. I am afraid that many visitors do not appreciate how quickly conditions can change in the sea.

St John's will not be reopening for private prayer. The decision was taken to use it to hold funerals on behalf of all the six BTM churches. I know our regular visitors will be saddened that they can't go into the church, as are the members of our regular congregation, but one of the other churches is open each day for private prayer, at least.

It has been good to see some of the congregation while I have been out on my daily exercise but it was especially lovely for me to meet one of our members on Tuesday

morning. It was her first day out in over 15 weeks; she had been shielding owing to many health issues. We stopped and chatted and I learnt that in fact she had seen me every morning as she watched from her window. You just never know who is watching you!

Sue Pollock

Making friends in a pandemic

I have lived in this area for many years, but following a change in circumstances 13 years ago I moved to a flat in West Bay. For five years I was on dialysis, so lost touch with many friends, and made no new ones. West Bay was a lonely place to be.

Then this year the coronavirus arrived. As I had had a transplant, I was told to shut myself away in my flat and see no one.

It was glorious weather right from the start, so I sat by my window and looked out at the comings and goings round the harbour. One day a lovely couple looked up and waved to me, then over time others did too. Some had dogs (I love dogs and really miss mine) and I learned a few dogs' names – Benjy, Bella, Daisy, Bruce, to name a few – but no human names! Some people also posted letters for me that I dropped down to them from my balcony. I soon felt I was surrounded by friends, and it was lovely.

Two very kind people who volunteered through Age UK have also been wonderful. One rings me most days to check I haven't gone round the bend, and another very kindly fetches my prescription each month. Two more friends who I didn't know before the pandemic.

I would really like to thank all my new friends who wave to me. You cannot believe what a difference it has made. When I am eventually allowed out, I would love to meet you and get to know you properly. Thank you x
Penelope Slocock

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

Village editor – Barbara Ffooks 423122

Churchwarden – Heather Purse 423220

Children & youth worker – Jean Mitchell 422127

Home communion – Revd Kay Watters 427290

Director of music – Sue Smith 456955

Bothenhampton has been busy during the summer months with building works and outside maintenance being carried out, including repairs to Holy Trinity. On the rose window at the west end of the church the joints between the panes of glass have been made good and the metalwork treated.

The village hall (pictured) is no exception to receiving attention either, as the whole interior has been cleaned and redecorated ready for use when activities can be resumed.



The premises started life as a church hall, built by public subscriptions on land donated by Joseph Gundry, who laid the foundation stone on

30 April 1914. The hall was opened in January 1915 and managed by the vicar and churchwardens. A group called the Bothenhampton Helpers was formed in support of the hall, and they carried out maintenance as well as organising the annual flower show and other functions for villagers to enjoy.

By the late 1990s it was evident that the hall was in need of modernisation. Money was needed for the work but grants were not available to church halls. With the help of Dorset Community Action, a new constitution was proposed, and in July 2002 the building became Bothenhampton Village Hall and a registered charity, thereby becoming eligible for funding applications.

Since then the hall has been well looked after by the management committee, who have kept it up to date and made it attractive to users in the village and the wider community. A small business grant of £10,000 has been secured from Dorset Council for upkeep of the hall during the coronavirus closure while it is not earning any income. It will remain closed until September when the situation will be reviewed. We look forward to the time when we can come together again and enjoy activities there.

Holy Trinity Church is now open for private prayer only on Friday mornings, 10am till 12 noon, but there will be no services in Bothenhampton yet. The first public worship in church is at St Swithun's on Sunday 26 July.

Barbara Ffooks



ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Village editor – June Goodburn 423061
 Churchwardens – Mandi Sturrock 420304
 Jo George 426457
 Children and youth worker – 423061

In recent months local people have rediscovered the importance of green spaces in increasing wellbeing as well as providing fresh air and somewhere to exercise. We are very lucky to have more than 40 acres of woodland, meadow and wild grassland right on our doorstep.

Allington Hill provides a focal point and is visible from almost anywhere in the parish. It has been an important part of Allington for hundreds of years and records of the

hill date back to the 12th century. At the top of the hill there used to be a quarry, which operated until the 19th century. This local stone was used to build a leper hospital in West Allington – one of the first in the UK – as well as the original church in North Allington and many of the surrounding houses, some of which are still standing.

More recently, much of the hill was farmland and Cooper's Field was allotments until the 1950s. The Woodland Trust bought the farm in the 1980s and later the two fields on the north side, securing the land for the local community so future generations would have open access to the area.

During lockdown the hill has allowed people to appreciate the abundant wildlife and its rich tapestry of habitats. Improvements have also taken place and an area on the edge of Cooper's Wood has been designed for wellbeing with an all-weather surface for year-round activities. We hope the area will have a work bench and seating by the autumn and community groups will be able to use it.

These days many local people belong to the volunteer group that helps to look after the area. Allington Parish Council now leases Cooper's Wood and Cooper's Field from the Woodland Trust, giving the community more say in how the area is cared for. This has seen the field slowly turn in to a wildflower meadow, play trail and forest school area, and new seating allows people to sit quietly and enjoy the sounds of nature. Woodland activities are held for all ages and we hope to resume these in the autumn.

We always welcome people from the community to help with projects large or small and to suit all abilities. There is more information online at www.allingtonhillbillies.org.uk and see Facebook ('Allington Hillbillies') for daily updates. Alternatively you can email allingtonhill@gmail.com.

Cathy Harvey

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Village editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com
 Churchwardens – John Adams 425766
 Lyn Roe 425804
 Tower captain – Peter Carnell 420716
 If you have any pastoral or personal issues,
 please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644
 (Wednesday is her day off)

and when you leave. The church will be cleaned before and after each prayer session.

Access is through the north door and exit through the south door, which are marked accordingly.

Morning Prayer is said in the church at 10am on Wednesday and Friday by one church leader only. If there is something you would like to be prayed about, please email bradpoleprayers@gmail.com.

God's garden

*The Kiss of the sun for pardon,
 The song of the birds for mirth –
 One is nearer God's heart in a garden
 Than anywhere else on earth.*

These words from the poem 'God's Garden' by Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858–1932) are often seen on plaques in shops, and in cemeteries.

Our gardens have been a source of pleasure, hope and rest during the pandemic. I have heard many people comment "The garden is looking the best it has ever looked!" and I am sure this is because we have had more time for gardening. Interestingly, our Bible, the Word of God, begins in a garden, and in this pandemic the first easing of lockdown allowed us to meet with other households in a garden. We are fortunate in Bridport to have community gardens where we can meet friends and enjoy God's bountiful creation. During my daily walk I make time to visit the allotments →



Church opening

The church is open from 10am to 12 noon each Wednesday for private individual prayer only. Please be guided by the stewards on duty. The church seat layout has been altered to allow for social distancing using wooden chairs, which are easier to clean. Please use the hand gel provided when you enter the church

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

around the town. It has been encouraging to see families and people of all ages tending and nurturing their space.

Gardens great and small have become very important during the lockdown; may they continue to be a source of joy as we journey through this unprecedented time.

There is a wonderful Spiritual song, 'There is a Balm in Gilead' (from the words of Jeremiah 8). In Old Testament times Gilead was the mountainous region north of the Jordan river.

We need this balm today and in the coming days, to restore and heal our world.

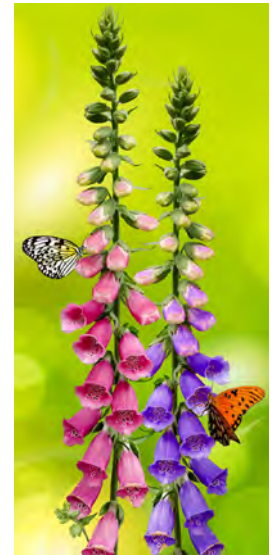
*There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.*

*1. Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.
(Refrain)*

*2. Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend,
who, if you ask for knowledge,
will never fail to lend.
(Refrain)*

*3. If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus,
who died to save us all.
(Refrain)*

The Revd Janis Moore



ST MARY'S Walditch

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If you have any pastoral or personal issues,
please contact the Revd Ann Ayling 424896
(Wednesday is her day off)



Chris Wellman-Herold

Eggstra special

Time may have slowed during lockdown but the easing of restrictions has also created a sense of time travel when we celebrate the things we missed during the first 100 or so days of isolation.

On a warm Sunday in July we held an Easter egg hunt on the village green to squeals of delight and triumphant shouts of "I've found one!" as parents, grandparents and friends rediscovered old traditions wrapped up in new conventions like mask wearing and social distancing.

The village green (pictured) became a symbol of what we had lost during lockdown, a place where we Walditchers gather to chat, laugh, empathise and have fun at our summer fete. It is the heartbeat of our community.

All our comings and goings on the green are watched over by a majestic horse chestnut tree, a haven for wildlife and a special place of contemplation. There is a seat beneath its heavy boughs and a view towards the ridge beyond that has not changed in centuries. Our village green is a place of peace as well as people.

So, despite the delay, the Easter egg hunt was indeed a sign of rebirth. Of life returning albeit slowly, cautiously and in a new form but nevertheless proof our soul is still beating strong. That whatever we must endure, however hard the news, we will get through it, together.

Mimi Moore

Wheatfields

To take time to be apart... is not a luxury, it is essential. These are the opening words of 'Lost in Wonder', a book about spirituality by Esther de Waal. It was written long

before the time of coronavirus, in 2003, when 'being apart' had a rather different meaning.

Many of us have been forced to be apart over the last months, unable to meet our families, self-isolating for our own and others' protection, 'social distancing'. It has been essential. But perhaps we have been able to use this isolation to reflect on what is really important to us. Our lives have been transformed and the journey ahead seems formidable. But we must live in hope.

Vincent Van Gogh's paintings came out of his own suffering. His 'Wheatfields' depict the cycle of death and rebirth: intensely blue and turbulent skies are symbols of God; the yellow fields represent the resurrection; wheat speaks of the cycle of sowing and harvesting, of life and rebirth. So, in the wheatfield we have a sign of hope.

The vibrant roads that run hither and thither through the wheatfield are, for Van Gogh, the journey of life. This is what he wrote:

*Our life is a pilgrim's progress...
sorrowful yet always rejoicing,
rejoicing because it is so far off
and the road so long;
hopeful as he looks up to the eternal city far away,
resplendent in the evening glow.
And he thinks of the old saying
Much strife must be striven,
Much suffering must be suffered.
Much prayer must be prayed,
and then there will be peace.*

Soon it will be harvest time again: a time of hope for us.
The Revd Ann Ayling

All adverts with monthly events have been removed from this issue as no events will be held until further notice.

Credits will be given to paid advertisers when things are back to normal.

You can download this magazine from the team website:

www.bridport-team-ministry.org

If you have neighbours/friends who cannot access the internet and it is safe and legal to do so please let them have a copy.

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New freephone number for the Citizens Advice Consumer Service: 0808 223 1133

This is who to contact with consumer problems, where consumer advice is needed or if you want to report something to Trading Standards?

There is a new freephone number for residents to use to call the national Citizens Advice Consumer Service – this service is funded by central Government and is the first point of contact for any consumers needing advice on unfair trading, or unsatisfactory goods and services they have bought, or to report a matter to local Trading Standards, at Dorset Council.

This replaces the normal rate 03454 04 05 06 number, which will still work and carry an introductory message to invite callers to make use of the freephone number.

An adviser will answer your call as soon as possible, usually within a few minutes. Once you are speaking to an adviser your call should take an average of 8 to 10 minutes

Calls are free from mobiles and landlines using the new number: 0808 223 1133.

More details on the Dorset Council website, Trading Standards pages: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/business-consumers-licences/trading-standards/trading-standards-consumer-advice/trading-standards-consumer-advice.aspx>

To enable Trading Standards to investigate offences and intervene in appropriate cases, referrals from Citizens Advice are made electronically overnight or by instant call contact where required.

Citizens Advice

Although the local bureau is closed, it is maintaining, albeit restricted timewise, an online and phone service. Should you or someone you know need advice on any subject – maybe relating to the present circumstances – you can ring 03444 111 444 (Adviceline). This is a free national number, but the system recognises where you are calling from and directs your call to the nearest CA, which will answer if available. Otherwise your call will be diverted to another bureau in Dorset.

You can also email enquiries to: advice@bridport-cab.org.uk. The CA website www.citizensadvice.org.uk has a comprehensive range of information, and the Government has been updating its website daily: www.gov.uk

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