

August 2021

the **Bridge**

A hands-on approach to happiness
at Bridport Community Shed

THIS ISSUE IS

Adrian Gray
Stonebalancing Sculptures

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Cover photo by Eileen Hastie

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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Cupboard Love food bank

Carrie Gamble 07443 596096
cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

Hall bookings Some halls are starting to reopen with certain Covid restrictions. For bookings please contact:

St Swithun's church hall
Details online at www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings
or contact Caroline Whitaker 07787 805711
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Opinions expressed in The Bridge are not necessarily those of either the editorial team or the clergy. 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.

The advertising and copy deadline for the September issue is 5pm Monday 9 August

Contemplative Church: half an hour of meditative reflection in our noisy world

Something new has come to Bridport. It's called 'Contemplative Church', and it has grown out of a small group of local people who meet to explore prayer and silence.

I am part of the founding group of Contemplative Church. We are attempting to create an inclusive, meditative worshipping community, something that is recognisably 'church' but in a different way than is traditionally experienced.

We say it's new – but in fact this approach to prayer is ancient. It feels new and fresh, however, to many who want space to be still. We're responding to the spiritual hunger of our time by offering contemplative practice.

Sarah Bachelard is an Anglican priest who leads a similar project in Canberra, Australia, and she puts it like this: "Christians believe that in the silence we meet a reality beyond us, the source of all life that increases our capacity to receive all that can transform us. More aware of this love and grace, we hope to be better able to be a presence that might help others in the world."

Some people in the founding group have developed a contemplative life over many years, but many are very new to this approach to prayer. Contemplative Church is a way of opening this prayerful community now to others across Bridport. It's for everyone who is searching, including those who simply want to sit in silence with others to see what comes of it, or maybe just to find an open space to feel at home in.

Contemplative Church is based at St Swithun's church in Allington and meets on the first Saturday of the month (from September) at 6pm. Meetings last around 30 minutes

and feature a short period of meditation framed by readings, a reflection and sometimes music, too.

We use a simple form of meditation taught by the Benedictine monk Father John Main. It's a practice based on the teaching of the early desert fathers and mothers and taken

up by the World Community for Christian Meditation.

However, anyone who comes with an existing practice of meditation, such as Centering Prayer, is encouraged to continue in their established way.

In many traditions, meditation is spoken of as a pilgrimage – a pilgrimage to your own centre, your own heart, where you learn to remain awake, alive and still.

Essentially, the basic intention of our worship is to keep us close to the ground and open to God. Whether you belong to an established church, or have never even been inside one, we are exploring what the distinctive and complementary vocation of a contemplative church might be in our small part of this extraordinary world.

If you'd like to explore with us, come to St Swithun's hall on the first Saturday of the month (from Sept) at 6pm. For more information, or just a chat about Contemplative Church, you're welcome to call me on 01308 426514.

The Revd Dan Shackell



The Revd Dan Shackell

'Meditation is spoken of as a pilgrimage to your own centre, where you learn to remain awake, alive and still'

Bridport's community shows its best side again

This month I've been to the Bridport Community Shed, which I first discovered while scrolling through local Facebook pages to keep on top of the news.

I had no idea what I'd find there, and I certainly didn't expect to enjoy my visit as much as I did. The Shed is 'very Bridport' in the best possible way – a group of people fizzing with ideas and energy and having a wonderful time sharing their love of making and mending things. You can meet them, too, on page 6.

I'm also busy setting up a website for The Bridge. In the past the magazine's online presence has

nestled in the pages of the Bridport Team Ministry website, but we thought it was time to branch out. As well as a place to download the digital edition of the magazine, it'll be somewhere to find additional content, especially photos that we just don't have space for in the print magazine. Putting it together means wrestling with Wordpress – oh joy! – but it'll be worth it, I'm sure.

The magazine's longish lead time means I'm writing this before our distributors' coffee morning, which is a chance to get all our volunteers together for a big thank you and a slice of homemade cake. I'm really looking forward to it – a real, live,

'in person' jolly, the first for ages. Let's hope the Delta variant doesn't flex its muscles too much and the relaxation of restrictions goes ahead as promised.

Speaking of volunteers, this is your regular grovelling reminder that we *always* welcome new deliverers, particularly at the moment in the town centre and the Allington area. Please consider joining our team – I promise cake!



Olivia Daly
Editor

MBE for well-known Broadoak man

George Streatfeild, who was High Sheriff of Dorset last year, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to the food industry and the Bridport community. George was also the chair of Bridport Museum Trust between 2012 and 2019, during which period the museum underwent a major £1.3 million redevelopment. He is a non-executive director of his family business, Denhay Farms Ltd of Broadoak.

Learn about sea life from a local expert

Professor Tom Brereton, who lives in Bridport, will be speaking about whales and dolphins in Lyme Bay at the Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis, on Tuesday 3 August at 7pm. Tom is steeped in knowledge of the area's wildlife and has a wealth of experience in ecology and conservation. After the talk he will be joined by a panel of marine ecologists and the evening will end with questions from the audience. This is the third in the 'Help our Planet' series of talks looking at the causes and effects of climate change and ways in which individuals and communities can help to mitigate those effects. Tickets are £7 (£5 under-21s) from www.marinetheatre.com.

Retraction: Bridport Cohousing

Bridport Cohousing would like to retract the comment made in the June issue that the community offers support that could be an alternative to paid carers or social services. A spokesperson for the group said: "It may be that residents could delay external support for longer and certainly find caring friendships with their neighbours but this is not a substitute for professional care."



Refugee group launches Crowdfunder appeal

The Bridport Refugee Support Campaign has launched a Crowdfunder appeal to raise the £7,000 it needs to reach its fundraising target. The group's activities have already brought in £9,000.

The campaign, which is a registered charity, is working to resettle a refugee family in Bridport under the government's Community Sponsorship Scheme. Successful community sponsors are allocated a family identified by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees as vulnerable.

To achieve this aim, the group must secure consent from the local authority, find affordable housing, arrange tuition in English and take other steps to support the family towards independence and employment as they settle into the community.

The Crowdfunder campaign went live in mid-July and can be found by following the link from the group's Facebook page or website: www.bridportrefugee.org.uk.



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Karen Watts

01308 555639

karen.watts@porterodson.co.uk

21 South Street, Bridport

www.porterdodson.co.uk

Cycling Without Age is looking for volunteer 'pilots'

Cycling Without Age Bridport – a scheme that allows elderly people and care home residents to enjoy the excitement of a cycle ride in safety – is looking for volunteer 'pilots' to drive its trishaws this summer.

Non-profit initiative Cycling Without Age (CWA) was first established in Copenhagen in 2012 and now has 'chapters' in 42 countries, including a growing number in the UK. The trishaws, which hold two passengers, are electric and have a platform that can be lowered to make it easy for people to get on and off. Rides are comfortable, fun and free, and the pilot sits behind the passengers so everyone can see where they're going!

The Bridport chapter has been set up by staff from Bridport Medical Centre and volunteers from Bridport Covid-19 Community Support, and is linked with the established CWA Weymouth group. Organisers are currently fundraising to buy their first trishaw, which costs £8,000. About half this money will come from local businesses, and the rest is being sought through Just Giving.

If you're interested in getting involved, or want to find out more, email cwabridport@outlook.com or visit the group's Facebook page. You can also make a donation online at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bridportcwa.

Public services at the Bridport Team Ministry churches during August

Sunday

8am	St Mary's Bridport BCP Communion
9.30am	St Swithun's Eucharist Holy Trinity Bradpole Informal worship service (<i>first & third</i>) Communion (<i>second & fourth</i>)
11am	St Mary's Bridport Communion (<i>first, second & fourth</i>) Service of the Word (<i>third</i>) Holy Trinity Bothenhampton Communion (<i>first and third</i>) Morning Praise (<i>second</i>) Matins (<i>fourth</i>) See p10 for more info St Mary's Walditch Communion (<i>second and fourth</i>) <i>Services on other Sundays TBC</i> St John's West Bay Communion (<i>first and third</i>)

On Sunday 29 August (the fifth Sunday this month) at 11am there will be a team service at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton.

Monday

10am **St John's West Bay** Morning Prayer

Tuesday

2.30pm **Holy Trinity Bradpole**
Communion (*first Tuesday of the month only*)

Wednesday

2.30pm **St Mary's Bridport**
Communion (*first Wednesday of the month only*)

Thursday

10am **St Swithun's** Eucharist followed by private prayer until midday
St Mary's Walditch
Morning Prayer

Saturday

6pm **St John's West Bay** Service of wholeness and healing (*fourth Saturday in the month only*)



Celebration as Helen is ordained priest at Salisbury Cathedral

The Revd Helen Croud – one of two curates in the Bridport Team Ministry (BTM) – was ordained priest at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 26 June.

The following day Helen led her first Sunday service back at St Mary's Bridport, welcoming representatives from each of the six BTM churches to join in her celebration. Those attending included her uncle, who is also a priest and who gave a reading. The weather was sunny so at the end of the service everyone went outside to sing the final hymn.

"The whole week was amazing," says Helen. "When I arrived at the cathedral on Saturday I felt so loved and affirmed. I felt nervous, but ready. When the bishop laid his hands on my head I felt all the years of training and prayers were fulfilled in that moment. Now to walk out that calling! I was overwhelmed, too, with the turnout at St Mary's on the Sunday and I want to thank everyone for their prayers, messages and lovely gifts."

Helen is pictured above at St Mary's Bridport with the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector, and below at Salisbury Cathedral with the Revd Tony Monks, Bishop's Chaplain (left) and the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury



Could you find your joy at B

Continuing our series of features about Bridport community groups, Olivia Daly visits the Bridport Community Shed and discovers a portal to a blissfully creative world of fun and friendship...

The Community Shed is a little piece of heaven right here in Bridport. Tucked away on a quiet lane behind East Street, it announces its presence to passersby through the sounds of practical tasks: sawing, hammering and the occasional buzz of a power tool. There's the homely smell of sheds and sawn wood, and an atmosphere of happy industry.

I visit on a sunny Thursday morning, when the weekly workshop session is in full swing. A break in activity coincides with my arrival as everyone stops what they're doing to inspect an intriguing pull-along caterpillar toy that Jim has made from wooden disks, a waste product donated by Melplash carpenter Asaf Tolkovsky. There are oohs and aahs of admiration, particularly from Richard, who had suggested the design.

Then a van from Eggardon Sawmill turns up at the yard with a delivery of waste offcuts, bought at a bargain price and destined for all sorts of projects from benches to garden planters. Meanwhile,



Above: a Covid-secure work station, equipped with all the tools one person needs

Sarah is putting the finishing touches to her wooden bat box. It's all go.

The workshop morning is one of two regular sessions at the Shed. They're open to absolutely anyone over the age of 18, from complete beginners who want to have a go at making or repairing something to people with decades of experience. Members have been busy recently with mending a bench, making a hexagonal seat for the Allington Hillbillies and knocking up some bird boxes for sale. Many people bring their own projects, use the Shed's tools and ask for advice from other members – some of whom, like retired

carpentry teacher Nigel, have a wealth of knowledge to share. Others have the relevant qualifications to oversee use of the table saw, for instance, and to carry out electrical testing.

The Shed's other weekly session is craft and upcycling on Mondays. Recent projects include a pinboard made from wine corks; organisers and storage solutions made from discarded tetra paks; a lampshade made from bottle tops; and all sorts of fabric creations, including – naturally in these times – facemasks. The craft shed is well stocked with a range of donated textiles and other useful bits and pieces, many of which would otherwise have gone to landfill.

Alongside members' personal projects, some products are made in response to a request from an individual or group, although this isn't a simple commission arrangement and the Shed tries to make each project an active experience for everyone concerned. "There are things we could do easily here," says trustee and active member Raja Jarrah, "but we find that if someone's involved in the creation of an item, they have a more meaningful sense of ownership and they care for it better. So we make



Left: Jim Tigg (left) and Nigel Morgan at work on a new area of decking at the site

Bridport Community Shed?



Above: the Shed held an open day in June so visitors could see what goes on there
Left: recent projects include a pinboard made of waste corks, and a hedgehog house

it into a kit that they can put together themselves. New window boxes for the youth centre, for instance, or a guinea pig paddock for a school can become a learning tool for young people working with their teachers.”

Sociable creativity: a win-win

On the surface, all the sessions have a practical goal – making and mending stuff – but, of course, there’s more to the Shed than that. Just as central to its purpose is the idea of bringing people together, of combating loneliness, and this, combined with the hit of the reward chemical, dopamine, that humans get from completing a task, suggests that community sheds could be a sure route to happiness.

This was the idea behind the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) initiative that helped to launch a national network of community sheds, including Bridport’s. The RVS says these activity sheds are “an opportunity to meet like-minded people with similar interests and talents [and] a great way to share your unique skills and learn some new ones along the

way.” People who might shy away from joining a purely social group to make new friends find it easier – and more satisfying – to bond over a shared task.

The Bridport Shed has been running since summer 2018. In its early days, after a brief period at the Othona Community, it used the Christian Science premises for workshop sessions and the upstairs space at Bridport Library for craft sessions (affectionately known as “noisy Wednesdays”). The move to the current yard coincided with the arrival of Covid, and couldn’t have been better timed. Although the Shed had to close during the lockdowns, creating a Covid-safe environment in time for re-opening has been straightforward. “We have plenty of outside space, and there’s cover for working outdoors in wet weather,” says Raja. “The buildings are well ventilated when the doors are open, and we’ve created ‘tool stations’ with all the basic equipment that one person will need while working. They’re left untouched for a few days between sessions, so there’s no risk of cross-contamination.”

The yard belongs to Bridport Town Council – it used to be a groundsmen’s area – and the Shed has negotiated a 10-year lease for a nominal rent. This and other expenses are covered through a charge to members of £3 per session and donations from groups who use the yard as rehearsal space (these include the Cakehole Choir and the Bridport Mummies). There are also donations from the public and businesses: the Original Factory Shop, for instance, has chosen the Shed as its charity of the year. In common with about 100 similar facilities across the country, Bridport’s Shed has become a registered charity.

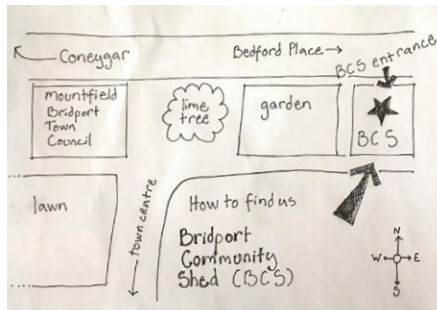
“We’re also lucky to have a few members who are particularly good at securing grant funding,” says trustee Celia Marsh, who runs the Monday craft sessions with colleague Eileen Haste. “This site is working out really well for us and there’s no other demand on it so we should have it for a long time. We have plans to make the best use of the space here – at the moment, for example, we’re creating a new area of decking behind the main shed for outdoor activities.” →

Could you find your joy at Bridport Community Shed? continued

Spreading the message

The Shed has a stall on Bridport Market four times a year to raise its profile locally and sell things members have made. At its most recent appearance, in late June, there was a 'Stitch it, don't ditch it' session inspired by the 'street stitching' mending movement (www.facebook.com/twistedtwee) and organised in collaboration with Becca's Fabric Larder of Beaminstor. Members sat in sunny Bucky Doo Square sewing, knitting and crocheting. "We attracted a lot of interest and loads of people came to talk," says Celia. "Quite a few even brought along their own garments to mend or embellish. It was huge fun."

I leave Celia, Raja and the other Shed members to their work and walk away with a warm glow that isn't just from the sunshine. I'm determined to return – hopefully with my dear old dad, who definitely needs to spend more time with like-minded practical chaps. In these post-pandemic, climate emergency



times, there's beauty in sharing practical tasks and restoring loved objects. If the success of TV's 'Repair Shop' is anything to go by, many people are hungry for this kind of comfort and ready to reject the throwaway, just-buy-a-new-one way of life. Community sheds look set to be an important part of that cultural shift.

Bridport Community Shed is between Mountfield and Bedford Place (see map). It's open on Monday (craft and upcycling) and Thursday (workshop) mornings from 10am, and anyone



Above: Celia Marsh at the recent 'Stitch it, don't ditch it' market stall

over 18 is welcome to drop in. You can also visit their website (www.bridportcommunityshed.org.uk) Facebook page or Instagram account (@bridportshed) or email bridportcommunityshed@gmail.com.

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A new date for St Swithun's birthday plans meeting

St Swithun's church (pictured) will be 200 years old on its current site in 2027.

To mark this significant date, the church community is looking at how it can be ready for the next 200 years. As part of this process, an open meeting at the church had been planned for early July but the delayed lifting of Covid restrictions forced a postponement.

The new date is Saturday 11 September from 10.30 am to 12.30pm. This will also avoid the August holiday period. Project leader Philip Sturrock says: "We are disappointed that we can't keep the momentum going but it's more important that we allow as many people as possible to take part."

Many community leaders had planned to attend the July meeting and the church looks forward to welcoming them and others on 11 September. The Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector, says: "This is such an important project for the Bridport team and for our mission in the town. Involving the community in the discussion is paramount."



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



A new pattern of worship

As Bridport fills with happy holidaymakers – hopefully rejoicing at the freedom from Covid restrictions – the Wednesday and Saturday markets make walking up South Street from St Mary's to the Town Hall rather tricky as we weave our way through dog leads, browsing customers and people just pleased to stop for a chat. It may be a challenge for us, but for stallholders denied of income for so long, families isolated at home for many months, and children able to holiday at last, it is such a joy.

Amid this holiday happiness, our new pattern of services at St Mary's allows holidaymakers and the regular congregation to enjoy a variety of forms of worship. At 8am every Sunday we have a Communion service following the Book of Common Prayer. Then at 11am we have our Parish Communion Service, except on the third Sunday of the month when we have a Service of the Word, a more informal service based around a particular theme. In July the theme was creation and the environment, challenging us to respond to the climate crisis that our world – God's world – is facing. This linked in with the afternoon celebration of our living churchyard. August's theme will be 'holidays are holy days'.

Finally, on 29 August, rather than having a service at St Mary's, we'll be joining the other five churches in the Bridport Team Ministry for a joint service at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton at 10am.

Everyone is very welcome to join us at any or all of these services.
Peter Wright

These are the August services at St Mary's. All are welcome (please remember to wear a mask).

Sunday 1	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 4	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 8	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 15	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Service of the Word
		'Holidays are holy days'
Sunday 22	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 29	10am	No service at St Mary's – team service at Bothenhampton

Covid-19 has made a huge impact in so many ways and many of our regular donors have not been able to support the church as they once did. If you can make a donation, whatever you can give, you will be helping us to maintain our beautiful church and its ministry in the heart of Bridport.



From the treasurer of Holy Trinity

When I last wrote to thank all those who had given to the appeal for repairs to the wall in the Old Churchyard, there were 25 of you and the total raised was £2,000. Now there are 35 of you and the total has risen to £2,700, so thank



you all again for your help and generosity.

Work to repair the wall (pictured) began at the end of June. Steve Elliott thinks he can stick to his budget of £4,000 so we still have a way to go – but, as I said before, I'm sure we'll make it!
Max Watters,
 17 Pasture Way /
 01308 427290

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

Parish editor – Barbara Ffooks 423122
 Churchwarden – Heather Purse 423220
 Children & youth worker –
 Jean Mitchell 422127
 Home communion –
 The Revd Kay Watters 427290
 Director of music – Sue Smith 456955

From the parish editor

The extra fundraising events on the third Saturday of each month have started well, and we are grateful to the social committee for organising them. The cream tea in June was very well supported and raised £188 towards the wall repairs.

On 21 August, 1–3pm, there is a fun dog show in the church garden for well-behaved pets in the village. There are 12 light-hearted classes to enter for a small fee and there's a rosette for the winner of each class. There's also a dog- ➔

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

related raffle, and hot dogs from the barbecue. The show finishes with a dog-and-owner lookalike contest – a chance to brush off those dressing-up outfits! The afternoon is an opportunity for dog owners and friends to get together.

The next coffee morning in Holy Trinity is on Saturday 7 August, 10am to 12 noon, with a raffle, cakes and produce.

Prayer group meetings have started again in the church on the second Wednesday of each month. They offer a time for prayer and meditation within a small gathering. This month's meeting is on 11 August at 2.30pm.

A few volunteers are needed. Could you help in a small way by joining a monthly church cleaning rota? Many of the regular congregation no longer find this task easy. If you can help, please contact Heather Purse, the churchwarden (423220).

Holy Trinity has always been steeped in formal services devised by the Church of England, but for a six-month trial the second Sunday in the month is going to be different. The Morning Praise service will be designed with various thought-provoking themes and activities. The aim is to make it all-age inclusive, so why not come along and see how we get on. We are open to suggestions on how to take these services forward.
Barbara Ffooks

August services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

Sunday 1	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 15	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22	11am	Matins
Sunday 29	11am	Team service at Bothenhampton

Doghampton!

**A fun dog show for the village of Bothenhampton
Saturday 21 August
1–3pm**

Hot dogs from the BBQ • Doggy treat raffle

Fun dog classes to enter:

- Most appealing eyes • Waggiest tail
- Best rollover • Best at sit and stay • Best at retrieve
- Cutest young dog under one year
- Lovable veteran over 10 years
- Loveable misfit • Most wonderful ears • Best trick
- Fancy dress for dog and owner

In the church if wet



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

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Tower captain – vacancy

If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (Wednesday is her day off)

Celebrating our anniversary

Tuesday 4 August 1846 saw the opening of Holy Trinity church, replacing an older building that was considered “entirely unsuitable” at the time! Plans are afoot to mark this 175th anniversary, and provisional dates and times are:

- Wednesday 4 August at 10.30am: Communion service
- Friday 3, Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September: church open from 10am to 4pm each day for commemorative events including a display of vestments, church silverware, artefacts and exhibits depicting the life and work of Holy Trinity.
- Sunday 5 September at 3pm: ‘Songs of Praise’ service

Cream teas will be available in the village hall 2–4pm on Saturday 4 September. All events will follow whatever Covid-related public health advice is in force at the time.

Douglas Baldwin



Michael Day

Parish Council news

At the May meeting, held on Zoom, Councillor Colin Baker was unanimously elected chair of the council and Councillor Chilcott vice-chair. Councillors Wilson, A Smart, W Smart and Trestoet were re-elected and Paul Overall was co-opted. Appointments of representatives on outside bodies were also made: Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan; Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils – Western Area; Bridport Local Area Partnership; Bradpole Village Hall; Right of Ways Liaisons Officers.

Among other items considered were the possibility of providing outdoor fitness equipment at Gore Cross recreation area, investigation of the closure of a footpath in Pymore, and the provision of further allotment ground.

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

Getting Bradpole buzzing!

We are a small group of Bradpole residents who would like to see our village looking a little brighter and more wildlife-friendly. We are working with Bradpole Council to introduce more bee-friendly indigenous plants to Bradpole's open spaces. Would you like to join us? We'd love support in these areas:



- Practical help with planting
- Offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden
- Suggestions and general support

Please email bradpolebuzz@gmail.com or phone Rose Van den Akker on 01308 425756 if you're interested.

Bradpole village hall

The village hall is open for various events, although there are Covid restrictions in place under government regulations. The secretary, Jane Bryant (01308 427493 / oxeyedaisies101@gmail.com) can provide information about bookings.

August services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

Sunday 1	9.30am	Informal worship service
Tuesday 3	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 8	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15	9.30am	Informal worship service
Sunday 22	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29	11am	Team service at Bothenhampton

ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725
craddockjames@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwarden – vacant

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

From the village editor

August 15, the feast of the Assumption, is a traditional harvest feast day when fruits, herbs and flowers are blessed. According to the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church and many Anglo-Catholic Church of England churches, Assumption Day signifies the bodily taking up of Mary, the mother of Jesus, into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

In England before the Reformation herbs were carried to the church on this day for the priest's blessing and were later converted into medicinal uses. In many Catholic countries Assumption Day still marks the period for invoking blessings on vineyards, herbs and plants. This blessing obscures the fact that in Europe's pre-industrial age starvation was commonplace and famine a regular occurrence when crops failed. Only in third-world countries does this still occur.

We can give thanks to God for our good fortune by donating money, food or time to local food banks for those less fortunate than ourselves.

James Craddock

Freedom...

July was an interesting month, with Wimbledon tennis and strawberries, Euro 2020 football, and a step towards the freedom we are all hoping for. Freedom comes at a price, though, and maybe that's a 'jab'...

An acquaintance visited the Bridport Medical Centre recently for a second coronavirus jab and was distressed when accosted by an anti-vaccination 'activist'. This individual shouted across the car park: "Do you know what you're doing? Do you know about the side effects? Let me tell you!" I do understand that we are all entitled to our views, but such confrontation is unacceptable.

Many of us who are 'knocking on a bit' in Walditch are

so thankful for the creation of the vaccine. Although some people do, unfortunately, have more serious side-effects, most do not, apart from a bruised arm and a headache. Surely spending a couple of days recovering is far better than sickness, 'long Covid' or death.

Here in Walditch we all remain hopeful that, one day, St Mary's church and the village hall will be fully open and we can resume activities: our celebratory services, quiz nights, parties, table tennis, yoga, children's games – everything that helps us to create our community.

The valiant work of scientists and the care provided by the medical teams should be honoured; we should show generosity and respect for each other as we search for freedom.

The Revd Ann Ayling

Counting nature in our churchyard

In June we took part in 'Churches Count on Nature' week, a national event involving more than 500 churches including others in the Bridport Team Ministry.

Since the 1930s wildflower meadows have declined by 96% and 41% of insects are threatened with extinction. Bees and insects generally are essential for pollination of around 80% of our



Pictured: a few of the photos taken during the 'Churches Count on Nature' event



ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

food crops. Insects also provide food for birds, bats, fish and frogs, and flies clear up carrion.

When they're managed to include space for wildlife, churchyards are a refuge for our native wild flowers, insects and small mammals. The more extensive the area, and diverse the species, the better.

During the week of the event, we identified wildflowers and grasses in our churchyard, recording 50 species including 11 grasses plus two more that weren't identified. We checked the site twice for insects although we saw only three moths. We also inspected flowers for small insects and saw numerous little flies on the flowers of meadow buttercup and to a lesser extent on rough hawkbit.

We submitted the record, with photos, and it will be made available to all via the National Biodiversity Network Atlas, free of charge.

This was a new initiative. Next year we hope to give the village an opportunity to get involved in an activity.

Robin Stapleton

Walditch Garden Group

The Garden Group plans to restart its monthly meetings on Thursday 26 August, restrictions allowing. All comers are welcome, so do join us at 10am in Walditch village hall.

Over coffee or tea we discuss plant and garden topics, and swap seeds, plants and produce when available. Posters are displayed on Walditch village noticeboards the week before meetings. Do come along!

Jane Mowatt



August services at St Mary's Walditch:

Sunday 1	11am	To be confirmed
Sunday 8	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15	11am	To be confirmed
Sunday 22	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29	11am	Team service at Bothenhampton

Also Thursdays at 10am: Morning Prayer

ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock 07903 558568
Chapel warden – Rosemary Russell 423013

News from St John's

It has been good to return to more regular worship at St John's, with services twice a month on the first and third Sunday at 11am, and we hope some of our regular holidaymakers will be able to join us. The Monday morning prayer session at 10 o'clock will continue. This is held in the Lady Chapel, allowing us to make it a friendly session while still observing social distancing.

Deb and Helen continue to go to Harbour House twice a month and they are regularly getting 12 residents attending worship there. I know, however, that many residents really want to come back into the church and be with regular members of the congregation who they haven't seen for so long. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can welcome them back.

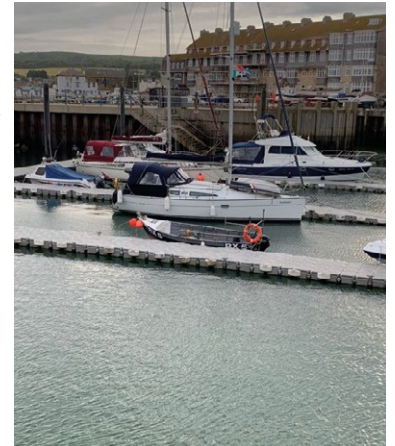
The residents are currently knitting for the homeless and have already made scarves, gloves, hats and blankets. They received some donations of knitting wool for this purpose, allowing them to do something for the community from the safety of the home.

Round and about the Bay

The Discovery Centre continues to open six days a week, although visitor numbers are nowhere near those of 2019 and staff hope that when school breaks up the numbers will increase. There is now a table outside the centre (in fine weather) where visitors can buy souvenirs of West Bay; this attracts people who often then go inside.

The guided walks will continue through July and August and can be booked at the centre or online. The centre also hopes to hold a workshop for children, but this depends on the Covid rules at the time. Recently, children from Symonds Primary School came to see the display of

Right: some rather nice boats that spent the night at West Bay recently



models they had made at a workshop in their school. The models are made from plastic beach debris and are very colourful. The

workshop was funded by the Discovery Centre but because of Covid restrictions couldn't take place there.

At the end of June West Bay hosted a triathlon organised by Beyond Events and attracting 200 people. There were three events (swimming, cycling and running) of varying difficulty and the conditions were testing. The swimming section was held off the west beach, a first for this event.

The camping field in West Bay opened in early July and it will be interesting to see how the running of this will work as the season progresses. Normally people just arrive and set up wherever there is a space, and it can get really full. This year, however, reservations have to be made online and vehicle recognition is required for entry into the field. I think there may be fun and games!

Sue Pollock

Forthcoming events

Unfortunately currently there are no events confirmed as we await the lifting of restrictions, so keep your eyes and ears open as this may well change.

Public services at St John's: First and third Sundays in the month 11am Holy Communion. Mondays 10am Morning Prayer; fourth Saturday in the month 6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing. Sunday 29 August: team service at Bothenhampton.

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock
aejsullock@gmail.com

Churchwarden – vacancy

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

From the parish editor

August is traditionally a holiday to reap the harvest, when the schools would be shut to allow children to help with gathering in the crops. Nowadays, more than ever, the harvest is brought in according to the weather.

The Revd Helen Croud was ordained priest on 26 June and the following day we celebrated with a team service at St Mary's in South Street. Helen gave her first full celebratory service with grace; her uncle – also a vicar – gave the readings; and Graham Williams from St Swithun's read Psalm 103 beautifully.

Miriam, who was celebrating her 10th birthday, was sung to and had a cake presented to her. She was also invited to tell one of her jokes, which she recited confidently: "What do you call a Mexican who's lost his car? Carlos!" (No offence to any Mexican members of our community!)

The last hymn was sung outside as we gathered for drinks and fairy cakes. The forecast storm halted for us to enjoy a rousing sing, and the sun shone on all.

Sunday 20 June – the summer solstice this year – was a celebration for two stalwart St Swithun's women, June Goodburn and Verena Doyle. They were enjoying their 90th birthdays, although Verena's was actually four days later.



Above: the Revd Dan Shackell presented June Goodburn with a beautiful bouquet of flowers to mark her 90th birthday

Father Dan presented a huge bouquet of flowers to June (pictured), while Verena received a bouquet via delivery as she was away visiting the Dartmouth area with her family.
Anna Sullock

Public services at St Swithun's: Sunday 9.30am Eucharist; Thursday 10am Eucharist followed by private prayer until midday.

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Peter Clark 425978

Church secretary – Sue Herman
422598 / bridportsec@gmail.com

incorporating

UPLODERS CHAPEL

Correspondent – Carol Hall
423163 / carol@gribb.plus.com

"Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:11-12)

At the risk of turning into a garden bore, having referred to my new garden and the amazing fruit and vegetable patch in my leader article back in May, I cannot help but report on its progress since then! Having described myself as "not much of a gardener", I am beginning to re-evaluate myself as the patch of muddy earth with a mass of dying strawberry plants that we inherited has turned, with relatively little effort, into a packed area of green fruitfulness!

The strawberries ultimately produced pounds and pounds

of delicious fruit. The runner beans are huge and covered with flowers and a small number of developing beans. I dug up the previous owner's potato plants, which had sprung up all over the place, and replanted them in one area. I expected most to die, but amazingly they have almost all survived and are now flourishing. The leeks my wife grew from seed are now in the ground and clearly developing, as are her salad leaves plus a cucumber plant donated by a neighbour. And, oh, as for the courgette plants (pictured) – they are magnificent and I suspect we are heading for a glut! Many of these I have never grown before. Not much of a gardener? Not on the evidence of my wee patch!

And yet, I can't deny that most of this happens in spite of anything I do. Sure, I have watered the plants during dry spells and given them the occasional feed. I have weeded and battled with the slugs, snails and aphids, too. But to be honest I am humbled by the fact that these magnificent plants just get on with growing, developing, fruiting or whatever because they are simply designed that way by an amazing creator who set the rulebook of fertilisation, germination and proliferation.

And I suppose the church is a bit like that too. We each do our bit, from welcomers, →



BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

office holders, property stewards, members of the leadership team, administrators, leaders of worship and – last but not least – clergy. We each add our two-pennyworth of effort, (and frankly, if we didn't, the place would grind to a halt!) but a great deal of what goes on in our churches is about the fellowship we share and the relationship we have with each other and, of course, with God.

What we've missed most during the Covid restrictions has been our normal interactions. I know that, in normal times, some members of our congregation simply come once a week to a service, sit silently and spiritually throughout most of it, maybe sing along with the hymns, listen to the message and prayers and then leave without any of that major 'interaction' stuff. But I believe even they are a significant part of our togetherness and if, say, they were ignored completely on arrival and exit I suspect they would feel, "What a rotten lot of unfriendly folk! Call themselves Christians?" and probably never darken our door again.

We are all somewhere between that person and the one who has a hand in every activity, service or social event, and we have all had a significant deficit of fellowship time during the last 15 months or so. I pray that as we return to something approaching normality we will re-engage, re-connect and re-energise ourselves and our churches. Blessings and hope, friends!

The Revd Peter Clark

The following Sunday services have been scheduled for August, but please check the United Church website (www.buc.cool) for the latest information. All services start at 10.30am.

1 August	Revd John Yarrien (Communion)
8 August	Revd Peter Clark
15 August	Tony Boyden
22 August	Jennie McGinlay
29 August	Revd Peter Clark (family service)

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Monsignor Keith Mitchell
Presbytery 424754
keith.mitchell@prcdtr.org.uk
Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594
bridport@prcdtr.org.uk

Disfigured or transfigured?

For Catholic priests, moving house is quite a simple thing – the furniture stays in the parish and you just move yourself! However, we do have to be reminded from time to time not to steal choice bits of furniture that we've taken a fancy to. When I was in one parish many years ago, I found an old half-moon table in an outhouse. In an uncharacteristic fit of DIY fervour, I cleaned and stripped it, sanded and polished it, and it looked really beautiful (see picture).

It came to life. It was transfigured – and each time I moved, it moved. What took place in that transfiguration

From Uploders Chapel

Well, our first service with the Revd John Yarrien on 20 June was lovely and we were all able to get to know each other. I think he might put up with us again! Our service on 4 July with Tim Wells was also lovely, especially as we hadn't seen him for some time.

As I write, we are still to have our joint service with Loders Church. However, because of Covid rules, the service won't be at the chapel because it will be easier to cater for more folk in Loders Church. We're also due to enjoy a meal afterwards in the vicarage garden. I'm not sure at this stage if Rev Chris will switch to Chef Chris – he's good at both!

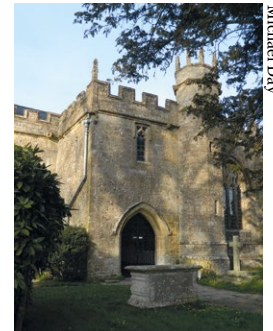
We are hoping that Loders Fete will go ahead on Saturday 7 August, 2–5pm. The chapel will have a bric-a-brac stall there and we'll be pleased to see you. The whole event is lovely and not to be missed.

Dorset Historic Churches Trust has sent us details of this year's Ride & Stride event on Saturday 11 September. Hopefully by then things will be back to normal, whatever that is! We will do our usual thing at the chapel, providing refreshments for the riders and striders plus those who pop in and leave a donation. If you'd like to support the chapel by taking part, let us know and we can sort out the paperwork.

As you all know, only a very few events have been able to go ahead lately, so let's make the most of what we can. Hopefully you've been able to have a Jolly July, and can have an Awesome August followed by a Super September!
Carol Hall

Sunday services at Uploders in August (10.30am)

1 August	Tony Boyden
15 August	Revd Peter Clark

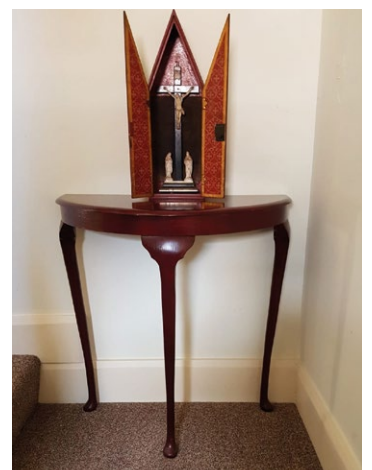


Michael Day

Above: Loders Church, the venue for our joint service in July

was the revelation of a beauty that it had always had. True beauty came to light because someone cared. That is true with us, too. Human life flourishes, grows and shines when it is cared for and affirmed.

Early in August is the feast of our Lord's transfiguration (Matthew 17.1–9) on Mount Tabor. There the disciples saw Jesus: "His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light." What they saw was, potentially, always there. They got a glimpse of the glory of God normally veiled in the depths of his humanity. God indeed was in Jesus. God is as he is in Jesus. Each of us has the potential to be transfigured; we also have the potential to be disfigured. We have the



Right: Cleaning, stripping and polishing this table revealed its inner beauty

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH continued...

potential for evil and for good. We are capable of things such as hatred, bitterness, cruelty, envy – and, in my case, stealing tables! These things disfigure us.

But we also have the potential for good. We are equally capable of such things as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and mercy. These things bring out the best in us. They make us shine, and they flourish when someone cares. Goodness

transfigures us, revealing our true glory as made in God's image. We are at our best when we are good – so let's shine!

Msgr Keith Mitchell

Sunday Mass is at 10am and is streamed online through Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page and at www.bridportcatholics.org.uk. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass in the parish, please see our weekly newsletter on the website.

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

Most groups have not been active during the coronavirus restrictions but we are giving their usual arrangements in the hope that they can resume soon. Please get in touch if you'd like your group to appear in these listings. Unless otherwise stated, all phone numbers are Bridport (01308).

Colmer WI meets at the WI Hall in North Street on the second Thursday in each month at 7.30pm. Contacts are President Gill Smith 301201 and Sarah Nicks 459855.

West Dorset Flower Club (Bridport) meets at the WI Hall in North Street with regular visiting speakers and demonstrations. For details phone 456339.

Bridport Blind Club is a local social club for the visually impaired. It meets twice a month with tea, entertainment and a chat. The club is part of Dorset Blind Association, which provides personal and technical help. Contact Ian Ibbotson 898484

Bridport Stroke Club meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact the secretary, David Lawrence: dandhlawrence@gmail.com.

Bridport Hearing Club meets on the first Monday afternoon of each month at Good Books, Gundry Lane. Cost £1.50pp to cover refreshments. For details phone 862608.

Probus, for retired/semi-retired professional men, meets at the Eype's Mouth Hotel on the third Wednesday each month at noon for lunch. Contact Graham Pitts 01297 561569.

Burton Bradstock Duplicate Bridge Group meets at the village hall Tues 1.45–4.45pm. Contact Kathy 485626.

Bridport Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings at the United Church Hall and hopes to resume soon. The musical director is James Crawshaw. Contact Margaret Foster (Secretary) margefoster1956@gmail.com.

Bridport & District Gardening Club is planning to resume live meetings at the WI Hall from next month. The club's first such event is on Thursday 16 September at 7.30pm when Pam Simpson talks about Dutch flower painters. Details at www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk. Contact Peter Gough 459469.

Bridport Bridge Club meets Wed & Thurs evenings (duplicate bridge, good standard) & the first two Friday afternoons in the month (relaxed bridge) at St Swithun's Hall. Contact Roy Tarsnane 425298.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) hopes to resume monthly talks from September at Bridport Town Hall. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / sandylovelock@btinternet.com.

Dorset Wildlife Trust (West Dorset Group) meets at the United Church Hall on the first Friday in each month. Contact Monty Crook 423442 montycrook@rocketmail.com.

British Sugarcraft Guild meets at Groves' Ivy House cafe on the second Tuesday each month. Contact Jan 281085.

Disabled Carers and Friends meet Thursdays 9am–noon at Vernon's Court Community Room, South St. Call in for a chat or advice. Contact pete.bowditch@hotmail.com / 423620/421213/427819.

Bridport ASCape for young people 7–11 & 11–18, parents and carers affected by autism spectrum conditions (ASC) or social anxiety. Contact Karen Wright wrightmail2@aol.com or visit www.bridportasd.wordpress.com.

Bridport Child Contact Centre facilitates contact in a safe environment for non-resident parents following family breakdown. Volunteers always welcome. Phone 07792 075972. www.bridportchildcontactcentre.org

Bridport Community Fridge redistributes surplus food plus produce from **Bridport Garden Glut** free or for a donation. Usually open Tuesdays and Saturdays 10am–noon at The Chapel in the Garden, East St. Also at St Swithun's Church on Thursdays 9.30am–12.30pm. Updates on their Facebook page or email events@bridportunitarians.co.uk.




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**Bridport & District
RNLI**

We are looking for volunteers to help at our events at various local locations (pandemic allowing). This entails helping to move items to the site and setting up, plus street collections.

We hold 5–6 events each year, of which Seatown BBQ is our most successful. We are an enthusiastic, fun team and we enjoy raising money for a very worthy cause.

For more information or if you'd like to be involved please call Sadie Miles 07811 470127 or Annie Taylor 07790 713156

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Please note that from this month the advertising deadline has been moved back a few days and will in future be the same as the copy deadline (details on p2). Please allow an extra three days, however, if you would like to use our free design service.

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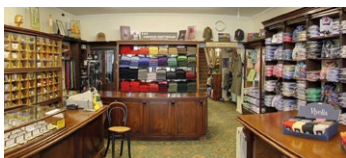
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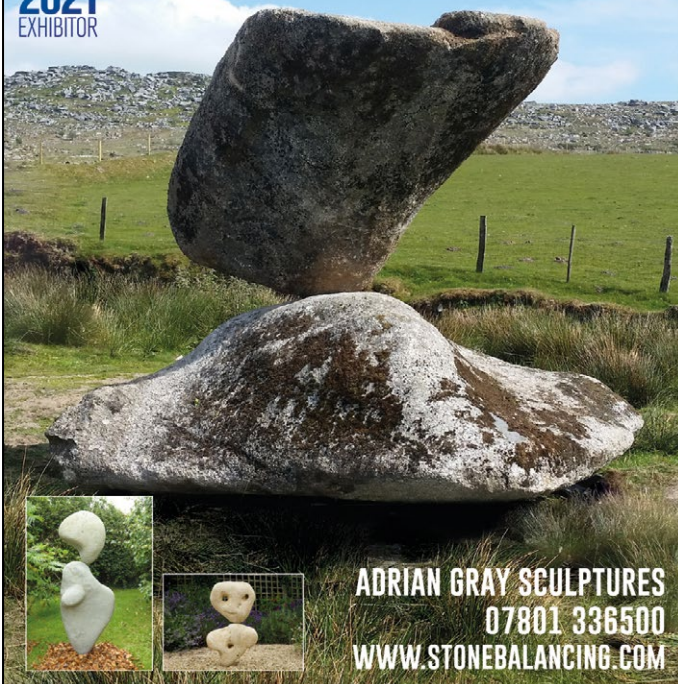
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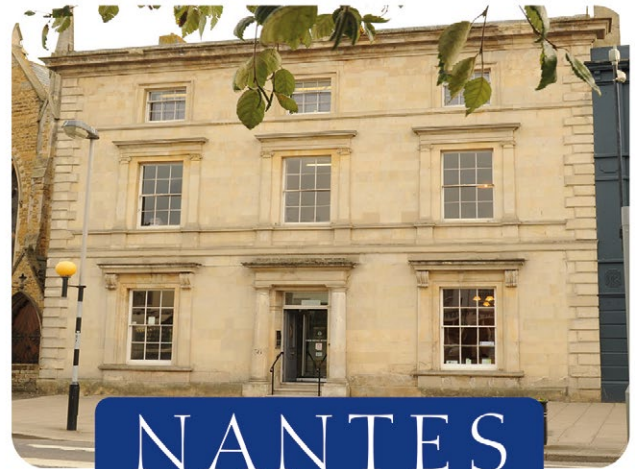
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