

# the **Bridge**

July 2021  
July 2021



Cover photo of West Bay by James Lovelidge

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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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** 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](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings)  
or contact Yvonne Welch 459587  
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Deadlines for the August issue: Advertising Friday 2 July · Copy Monday 5 July

# ‘Are you sure, Lord?’ Taking the big steps

**As I write this, I am preparing to be ordained priest in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 26 June by Bishop Nicholas. I will then continue to serve here as part of the Bridport team for the next few years. My journey to this point has been an incredible adventure. I have often had to step out in faith, not knowing exactly what would come next but being prepared to make the big moves so I could follow my calling.**

I wonder whether you have ever wanted to take a big scary step in your own life but felt the risk was perhaps too high. This was my feeling for quite a long time. Four years ago, when I was accepted to train with the Church of England as an ordained minister, I decided the risk was worth taking and moved with my three daughters to Oxford so I could start my training.

We packed up our house, said goodbye to our friends and family, then made the journey from Shaftesbury to Oxford. This was scary but so worthwhile, and I learnt so much about my faith during this time.

After I had finished my training, the bishop wrote to tell me I would serve my curacy in Bridport. Again we packed up our home, said goodbye to new friends, and made the move. We didn't know anyone here in Bridport but looked forward to settling into the community.

I have no regrets about this move. Bridport has been so kind to us and we have been welcomed into the community with open arms. We have met people I know will be lifelong friends and I have been able to start walking in my calling, enjoying my role within the clergy team here.

Why am I telling you this? Because sometimes taking those big scary steps, where the risks seem way too high, is worth it. I had a huge advantage in that I was able to trust

that God was guiding my choices and this was my calling. But I also know from my experience of being a Christian that we all have callings, and we all have gifts and experience to offer others. Often it's not the skills that we lack but the confidence to believe in ourselves and step out.



**The Revd Helen Croud  
Bridport Team Curate**

*‘Often it’s not the skills we lack but the confidence to believe in ourselves and step out’*

I honestly never thought when I first felt called that five years later I would be sitting in my vicarage garden preparing to become a priest. I thank God every day for giving me the strength, for sustaining me during the difficult times, and for putting amazing people around me on my journey.

I think we're all very fortunate living in Bridport; there's something unique in the way we 'do' community, something incredibly special about the way we care for one another and welcome new people to settle and become family with us. I'm excited that as we come out of lockdown I will be able to meet more of the amazing people in this community and share opportunities to gather and to celebrate the wonderful place where we live.

I also encourage any of you who are sitting at home today wondering about stepping out and taking on new adventures or experiences to listen to those around you, to trust your instincts and to step out in faith. You never know where God will lead you if you trust in him.

*The Revd Helen Croud*

## Fair shares for all in our generous town

**For this month's magazine I met some of the people behind the Bridport Community Fridge and Garden Glut, two groups helping to make sure the town doesn't go hungry, while keeping usable grub out of the food waste bin.**



**Olivia Daly  
Editor**

I was reminded of this quote (its source is lost in the mists of time): "If you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence." This is a sentiment that the people of Bridport have certainly taken to heart. The willingness to share, and the speed at which donations pour into the collective larder, prove that as generous towns go, we have one of the longest tables of all. Turn to page 6 to read all about it.

*Don't forget the 'Community Car Boot Plus' fundraiser at St Swithun's church on Saturday 24 July from 9am to 1pm. There will be an outdoor jazz cafe with live band, stalls selling cake, produce and plants, a 'posh tombola', a children's lucky dip and much more. Car boot pitches are £10, while charity tabletop and suitcase pitches are available for free. To book, contact the Revd Lorna Johnson on 07501 408221.*



**ST MARY'S CHURCH HOUSE HALL TRUST RCN:1184940**

**The trust/management committee has a vacancy for a minutes secretary.** This will involve four to six evening meetings a year at the hall. Terms on application

Email: [montycrook@rocketmail.com](mailto:montycrook@rocketmail.com)  
[www.stmaryschurchhousehall.org](http://www.stmaryschurchhousehall.org)

### Bridport Hospital League of Friends needs help

The League of Friends supports NHS services in Bridport, supplying equipment and helping with building projects that enhance patients' experience. They raise money through events such as the hospital fete, and through donations and legacies. NHS capital funding has improved in recent years, but the league's support is still needed when other funding is not available. Of course, it also runs the coffee shop (unfortunately closed at the moment).

Sadly, the long-standing committee is getting frail with age and needs fresh blood. The league is seeking a number of volunteer committee members (especially a treasurer), to act as trustees and attend quarterly committee meetings. A short interview and DBS check will be necessary.

Anyone willing to take up this role can contact Heather Purse (01308 423220 / heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk).

The league's AGM is on Monday 12 July at 6pm in the seminar room at Bridport Hospital, and is open to all.

### Pop over to Lyme for climate change talks

'Help our Planet' is a series of monthly lectures by environmental experts at the Marine Theatre in Lyme Regis. The speakers will examine the causes of climate change and the effects it is having on the local and global environment, as well as what individuals and communities can do to help mitigate those effects. The next talk is on Thursday 1 July at 7pm and is called 'Citizen Science can help our planet'. The speaker is Professor Jenny Preece, a leading authority on human/computer interaction and editor-in-chief of the Citizen Science Journal. The talk will be presented on screen and followed by a discussion on Zoom. Tickets £7 (£5 under-21s) [www.marinetheatre.com](http://www.marinetheatre.com)



## D-Day commemoration marks death of US soldier

**This year's service of commemoration for D-Day on 6 June was led by the Revd Pete Stone at Mountfield House, beside the memorial to US soldiers stationed in Bridport from November 1943 to June 1944.**

During the service, local historian Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard spoke about one of those soldiers, Staff Sgt Ray Lambert, who died in April this year at his home in North Carolina, aged 100. He was one of the last surviving soldiers from the first wave of the D-Day invasion of Omaha Beach.

Ray was an army medic and his medical detachment was housed in the Literary and Scientific Institute in East Street and houses in Barrack Street, while other American soldiers were billeted in Walditch (including Ray's brother, Bill) and in Mountfield House.

Ray was just 23 on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was wounded twice in the morning but managed to save more than a dozen men before finally suffering a broken back and being put on a boat back to England. He is pictured above (on the right).



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## Support for life beyond lockdown

**As we emerge from the restrictions of the last year, Seeding our Future is holding a workshop where people can consider how they will use their unfamiliar freedom.**

The event will offer a hopeful, supportive space for exploration, harvesting the lessons of the pandemic, and forming a vision of a hoped-for life, both as individuals and in the community. There will be processes for exploration, sharing time, skills, tips and a simple ritual to help each person step into the future.

The workshop leaders are Alan Heeks and John Harley. Alan is behind the Bridport cohousing project and the Bridport Food Matters initiative on food security, while John is a facilitator, drama therapist and Unitarian minister.

The venue is the Yellow Room at the Chapel in the Garden, East Street. Places are £10 (concessions £8). See below for contact details.



### EMERGING FROM EMERGENCY

Saturday 17 July, 2–5pm in Bridport  
with Alan Heeks and John Harley  
Hopes, joys, skills and support for life beyond lockdown.

A supportive place to explore the outlook for ourselves and our community.

[www.seedingourfuture.org.uk/events](http://www.seedingourfuture.org.uk/events) / Alan 07976 602787

## Services at the Bridport Team Ministry churches from Sunday 4 July

### Sunday

8am	<b>St Mary's Bridport</b> BCP Communion
9.30am	<b>St Swithun's</b> Eucharist <b>Holy Trinity Bradpole</b> Service of the Word ( <i>first &amp; third</i> ) Communion ( <i>second &amp; fourth</i> )
11am	<b>St Mary's Bridport</b> Communion ( <i>first, second &amp; fourth</i> ) Service of the Word ( <i>third</i> ) <b>Holy Trinity Bothenhampton</b> Communion ( <i>first and third</i> ) <i>Services on other Sundays TBC</i> <b>St Mary's Walditch</b> Communion ( <i>second and fourth</i> ) <i>Services on other Sundays TBC</i> <b>St John's West Bay</b> Communion ( <i>first and third</i> ) <i>Services on other Sundays TBC</i>

### 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** Communion (*first, third and fifth*) or Morning Prayer (*second and fourth*)

### Saturday

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

## BTM churches move forward to a new pattern of worship

**The Bridport Team Ministry (BTM) is starting a slightly different pattern of services this month as lockdown restrictions ease further. The new schedule includes Sunday services at all six BTM churches.**



**The Revd Deb Smith  
Team Rector**

The changes come partly in response to the results of a recent BTM survey designed to give the clergy a snapshot of how worshippers feel about returning to church after lockdown. Churchgoers were asked where they regularly worship and what is most important to them in gathering as a community of faith. More than 130 people returned the survey form, and 70% of respondents said they would like to attend church every Sunday. Asked about the factors they consider in deciding which service to go to, more than 40% said the location was most important, followed by style of worship (31%) and the service time (20%). Just over 65% said they would be prepared to attend another church if their usual church was not open on a Sunday, and more than 90% said they would understand the need for changing the time of the Sunday service. Currently 44% attend a mid-week service as well as or instead of on a Sunday.

“Going back to church after lockdown restrictions relax doesn't mean going back to normal,” says the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector. “We can't go back – we have to go forward. For members of our congregations, everything changed overnight last year when our churches had to close. The experience of lockdown has been tough, but we know we can learn lessons from this period of upheaval. It has forced us to think about how and why we gather, how we can be more appealing to families, how we might explore a range of styles of worship at different times and on different days, and how we can continue online, too, and welcome those who choose to join us in that way.”

From July the churches at Bothenhampton, West Bay and Walditch will each be open for services of Holy Communion twice a month. On the other two Sundays congregations will have time to explore new ways of gathering.

At Bradpole services will take place at 9.30am every Sunday, alternating services of Holy Communion and Services of the Word. At St Swithun's there will continue to be a 9.30am Eucharist service each Sunday.

At St Mary's Bridport there will be a weekly 8am service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer, and at 11am Holy Communion three Sundays in a month and a Service of the Word on one Sunday.

The number of mid-week services has grown since lockdown. Some of those will end, but others have been thriving and will continue.

The full schedule is shown in the table on this page. The new pattern will be reviewed after six months.

## Live music at the Ivy House

There's live music at Groves Nurseries' Ivy House cafe every Saturday in July from 11am to 1pm. The outdoor 'busker' sessions are organised by Bridport Folk Festival to raise money for this year's event.

The series started at the beginning of June and performers last month included Artey Williams and Laura Savina, Sacrificial Sam, DND and Bill Cain. As we went to press, artists playing in July were still to be announced, so visit [www.bridportfolkfestival.com](http://www.bridportfolkfestival.com) for the latest news.



# Two community groups

The combined forces of the Bridport Community Fridge and Garden Glut have been a real lifesaver during Covid – a source of free, fresh food for hundreds of people across the town, many of whom suddenly found themselves struggling. We take a look at how these valuable initiatives came into being...

**O**ne of the simplest ways to help someone in need is to give them food, and that's just what Bridport Community Fridge has been doing for the last three years. The organisation is run from the Chapel in the Garden by a team of volunteers and is the perfect example of a 'win-win': feeding hungry people and preventing surplus food going to waste.

The Fridge opened in April 2018 after a year of planning and forging links with local shops and suppliers. It works with FareShare, a national network of food redistributors operating in partnership with several supermarkets (in Bridport this means regular donations of surplus food from Waitrose) and has also made independent connections with the



Above: The Fridge's stall at St Swithun's, packed with donations from local businesses

Co-op and Morrisons plus local shops including Leakers and Rise bakeries and Washingpool Farm. Members of the public also make generous donations of food and money, which all helps the Fridge to continue its valuable work.

"We've been really well supported by the local community," says Lizzie Harley, student minister at Bridport's Chapel in the Garden, who has been involved from

the start. "We complement what the wonderful food bank [Cupboard Love] does, but we're not a food bank and people don't need a referral to get help from us. I want to take the stigma away from needing free food – absolutely anyone can come to us, and they do – and of course we're saving good food from being wasted. I'm really proud of the whole thing."

## Adapting in a pandemic

Before Covid, the Fridge was open as much as possible – often six days a week, depending on what food was available – at the Chapel in the Garden in East Street. The pandemic, however, brought inevitable restrictions. During lockdown the Fridge couldn't open to the public, but volunteers made deliveries and re-routed food to people who were cooking for those in need.

In September organisers teamed up with Bridport Garden Glut to open a



Left: Not just food! There were toys and games at a special stall earlier this year

# Ups feeding the town for free

weekly stall in St Swithun's church car park on Thursdays, and it soon became extremely popular – there was often a queue at opening time. Hot, fresh meals were sometimes available alongside the two groups' usual offering, as restaurant owners who weren't able to open their own premises cooked free food for the public instead. The stall is continuing as Covid restrictions are relaxed.

"We're now open two days a week at the chapel, too," says Lizzie. "People can't come inside, so we have a table at the door, and this summer we're having a gazebo so we can serve teas. We really want to open at the chapel as much as possible, but being able to have the stall at St Swithun's has been wonderful during Covid."

The Fridge was originally a joint initiative between the Chapel and NHS mental health resource START (Support, Transition and Recovery Team) and it came about when Sarah Jones, who works for the team, realised that volunteering for a community project could aid clients' recovery. The mental health benefits of the Fridge have spread far wider than this, however, as Sarah explains. "It's turned out better than I'd hoped," she says. "Working at the Fridge has brought people together, and those who come along to collect food also get the chance for a chat, maintaining connections and helping to prevent isolation."

"I approached the Chapel to work with us because it's a very supportive place and could provide an existing hub of support, but really it reflects Bridport as a whole. The town is a truly compassionate community, where volunteers come forward naturally to help others. I've seen community fridges elsewhere and they're not quite like ours!"

*Bridport Community Fridge is now usually open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at the Chapel in the Garden, East Street, but please check their Facebook page for updates. The stall at St Swithun's is open 9.30am to 12.30pm on Thursdays. You can contact the Fridge through Facebook or email [events@bridportunitarians.co.uk](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk)*

## Food from the garden

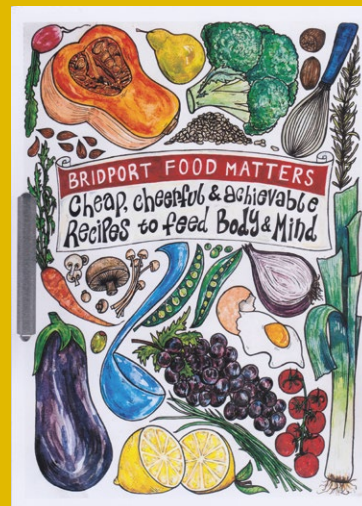
**Bridport Garden Glut is another group that's busy keeping the town fed and preventing food waste.**

It started at St Mary's School last year, giving away produce from the edible garden there during the lockdown closure and summer holidays. When the school re-opened in September, however, the group had to find another outlet, and this led to the stall at St Swithun's, where it now works hand in hand with the Community Fridge.

The group has adapted and grown amid the restrictions of Covid. "Now people bring us surplus fruit and veg from their gardens and allotments," says volunteer Peter Wilson. "We started by wanting to help people in a crisis, and we had no idea how it was going to work, but it's been great. There has been so much support for the stall and people have volunteered week after week – that shows the strength of our community."

The Glut has used its Thursday stall at St Swithun's to promote healthy eating and has suggested ways to use the produce it gives away. Sometimes hot food is given out with a recipe and instructions on how to prepare it at home. Dishes have included pizza and veggie lasagne (pictured).

Right: There's often hot food, too, thanks to generous local people such as Kitty Ford, who made this delicious veggie lasagne



Local allotment holder and keen grower Rachel Millson has written a book of 'Cheap, cheerful and achievable recipes to feed body and mind' for the Glut (produced in association with Bridport Food Matters), which they have been giving out.

*The Garden Glut has a Facebook page where members can swap plants and produce and ask for tips.*



# Bridport Museum asks: is this The Right Stuff?

**Bridport Museum is marking its reopening with a brand new exhibition asking visitors what they value about the museum and its collection.**

‘The Right Stuff’ is an exciting three-and-a-half-year project that seeks to engage the local community in helping to shape what the museum collects now and into the future. The brief is bold: what should the museum keep, and why?

Museum Director Emily Hicks says: ‘The museum has around 20,000 objects in its stores, many of which are of national and international significance, such as our rope, net and fossil collections. We display only about 5% of them, and the rest are a challenge to manage, costly to maintain and in some cases, difficult to justify. We want to ask some tricky questions: why do we have certain things? Should we have them? If not, where should they go? We also want to create space for future collections – how would Bridport like to represent itself for future generations?’

‘The Right Stuff?’ introduces visitors to some of the



challenges that the museum faces in caring for its collections – with lots of opportunities for people to have their say! It runs until the end of this year and entry is included with a museum ticket (just £5 for a year’s pass).

This project is funded by the Museums Association and by the Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund, which helps projects that develop collections to achieve social impact.

[www.bridportmuseum.co.uk](http://www.bridportmuseum.co.uk)

## Trading Standards is fighting to stop illegal dog imports

**Cropping dogs’ ears and docking their tails has been banned in the UK and most of Europe for many years, although sadly there is still a demand.**

To exploit this, a Dorset man set up a company called UK Dobermans and claimed to be able to source doberman puppies from Romania that would be cropped, docked and delivered to the UK. These puppies cost up to £3,000.

Dogs being imported from the EU to the UK must be a minimum of 15 weeks old, while dogs from outside the EU must be at least seven months. It was long suspected that

the owner of the business was importing dogs from outside the EU but Trading Standards (TS) couldn’t prove it.

In 2019 a UK Dobermans consignment of puppies was stopped at the Eurotunnel with Serbian (non-EU) microchips. They appeared far younger than seven months, which meant TS could execute a warrant on the business, revealing that nearly 200 dogs had been brought in with false papers. The owner was sentenced in May this year to 28 months in jail.

If you suspect dogs are being imported illegally, please call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

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## Gardens open for local causes

Keen gardeners in the picturesque village of Netherbury will be showing off the results of their hard work this month and raising money for charity, too. There’s an amazing variety, from small enclosed village gardens to large plots with sweeping views of the surrounding countryside – something for everyone! Delicious homemade refreshments are available, plus plant stalls and a tombola. Netherbury is four miles north of Bridport and is signposted from the A3066.

### **NETHERBURY OPEN GARDENS**

**Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July, 1–5pm**

Beautiful gardens in an idyllic village  
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## 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

### Looking forward

As I write, it is still not clear whether all lockdown measures will be eased on 21 June. However, after such a long period of isolation, St Mary's is planning two celebrations to encourage us to enjoy our outside spaces:

### Celebrating our living churchyard

*Sunday 18 July • 3–6pm • St Mary's churchyard*

You are invited to take some time out to enjoy and reflect on the work done in St Mary's churchyard to promote nature and wildlife in the centre of town.

- Enjoy a guided tour of the churchyard led by Alan Bowley, retired nature reserve warden
- Free tea and cake (please bring a chair or picnic rug to sit on)
- A chance to relax, chat and enjoy the surroundings
- A short final reflection by the Revd Pete Stone

All are welcome so please do join us. Covid guidelines will be followed. For up-to-date information see the noticeboard outside the church or contact Lesley Hill, the churchwarden (lesleyhill2017@btinternet.com / 01308 422417).

### St Mary's summer garden party and sale

*Saturday 31 July • 2.30–5.30pm • In the garden at The Rectory, South Street (next to the church)*

As we celebrate the easing of lockdown, we hope to encourage visitors to join us in the rectory garden for refreshments and to browse the bric-a-brac and book stalls.  
*Peter Wright*

**These are the July services at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome (please remember to wear a mask).**

<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>BCP Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Wednesday 7</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>BCP Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>BCP Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>BCP Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>



*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.*



## 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

What a lot of chatter! The first of our monthly Saturday coffee mornings since March last year went ahead in Holy Trinity on 5 June. These occasions had been missed enormously during the Covid-19 restrictions, so everyone was delighted to be back. There was an air of excitement and laughter as over 50 people greeted each other, many not having met for a long time.

As well as coffee and tea, there was a raffle, cakes and plants to buy, and a bookstall outside to browse, all raising £183.07 towards the cost of rebuilding the wall in the Old Churchyard. We are also grateful for further donations that we've received recently, and are very happy to say that three-quarters of the total cost of the wall has now been raised.

***The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 3 July from 10am to 12 noon in Holy Trinity Church. →***



## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

Following the delicious cream tea on 19 June, our next mid-month event will be a barbecue on Saturday 17 July. The fete in 2019 started with a barbecue, which was a great success, so here is another opportunity to enjoy a meal with friends. See the panel on the right for more details

Graham and Heather Purse would like to thank all those who sponsored them for the 300,000 step challenge during May for Christian Aid. They raised £80 towards the charity's Climate Crisis Appeal.

Holy Trinity celebrated its patronal festival on Trinity Sunday, 30 May. The flower arrangers had produced some beautiful displays, making the church very attractive and welcoming. The service of Holy Communion was led by the Revd Lorna Johnson, and the Revd Helen Croud preached. The small church choir sang hymns as well as an anthem during communion. As Sue Smith, Holy Trinity's director of music, was unable to be there, Bruce Upton kindly gave his services as guest organist. For the final hymn everyone moved outside so the congregation could join in the singing.  
*Barbara Ffooks*

## Village barbecue



Holy Trinity Church garden

Saturday 17 July

12 noon–2pm



Please bring your own chairs and preferred drink. Fruit juice provided

*If it's raining we'll eat in the church*

### Public services at Holy Trinity in July:

Sunday 4	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11	11am	To be confirmed
Sunday 18	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25	11am	To be confirmed

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232

douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com

Distribution – John Adams 425766

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)

### From the parish editor

After the service on 30 May, presentations were made to the retiring churchwardens, Lyn Roe and John Adams, in recognition of their contributions to the work of Holy Trinity over many years. Churchwardens are the bishop's officers, admitted to office each year by the archdeacon on behalf of the bishop. They are vital to the health and wellbeing of the church community and fulfil an important and, at times, demanding role. Lyn has also been proactive in the past in organising the annual Christian Aid collections in the town.

Presentations were also made to Wendy and Peter Carnell, who have been very active in various roles in the church over many years including as members of the district church council responsible for the running and maintenance of the church and churchyard, as director of music, playing the organ, bellringing and representing the Bridport Team on the Lyme Bay Deanery Synod.

Look out for the information in the next issue about celebrations for the 175th anniversary of Holy Trinity church, which falls on Wednesday 4 August. A special service will probably be held on that day.

*Douglas Baldwin*

### Parish council news

The parish council fingerpost project is progressing well, with the first fingerpost at Watford Lane now fully restored to its former glory and back in position there. Work to refurbish



The Watford Lane fingerpost before...



...and after!

the Mangerton Lane fingerpost is now under way and will be followed by refurbishment of the post at Higher Street, Bradpole. Funded by the parish council and a grant from the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England), this project has been possible thanks to the work of volunteers and assistance from the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.  
[www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

The council has two councillor vacancies, which can be filled by co-option. If you'd like to represent your community and have the time and commitment to get involved, please email the clerk: bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk.

### Bradpole village hall

The village hall is now open for various events, although

there are Covid restrictions in place. Contact the secretary, Jane Bryant (01308 427493 / oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com).

### Public services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>
<b>Tuesday 6</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

## 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

This month we remember Saint Fiacre, the patron saint of gardeners and herbalists. He was Irish-born but died in Breuil, France, in 670 AD, having created a renowned vegetable and herb garden and cared for the sick and disabled at a time when such people were outcasts in their society. Throughout the medieval period herbalist monks and nuns provided necessary medical care for the sick in their society, especially the poor and destitute.

*James Craddock*



James Walsh

**Above: a ceramic image of St Fiacre at the Alcazar gardens in Seville**

### Two groups contributing to the beauty of Walditch

The Walditch Garden Group is a monthly informal and friendly gathering of Walditch and non-Walditch residents with the common interest of our gardens.

Over coffee or tea the group members discuss plant or garden problems and successes and share ideas, plants and seeds. All are very welcome to come along to meetings. All being well with the proposed lifting of restrictions, these meetings will have resumed on Thursday 24 June at

10am in Walditch Village Hall. Posters will be displayed on Walditch noticeboards with any updated information.

There is also the Walditch Churchyard Conservation Group, which looks after the area around St Mary's Church. The group's Walditch Living Churchyard Project aims to enhance the existing flora, increase the range of appropriate wild flowers, encourage insect activity and improve the attractiveness of the site for birds and small mammals.

Volunteers have been making progress with this project for the last three years. The allocated area is small and is in three sections, including a long bank, so provides differing growing conditions. The project team has worked hard, developing a management plan, making monthly records and welcoming the interest from other conservation and wildlife groups.

The rare find of the pink waxcap fungus ('pink ballerina') last December was a 2020 highlight, confirmed by a fungus expert and now entered into county records. Wildflowers, grasses and insects are recorded monthly. These are displayed on the Walditch church noticeboard, but if anyone would like further details or has questions or comments, please do let the team know.

The project would love to welcome some new volunteers! *Jane Mowatt, coordinator of both groups*

On Sunday 25 July there will be a first birthday celebration for the Lower Walditch Play Area & Community Orchard. Organisers are seeking volunteers to help, as well as donations of raffle prizes and produce, cakes, jams and chutneys. Please contact the group through their Facebook page or email playareaandorchard@gmail.com if you can help.

### Public services at St Mary's Walditch:

<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

**Also Thursdays at 10am, Communion (first, third & fifth) or Morning Prayer (second & fourth).**

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock 07903 558568

Chapel warden – Rosemary Russell 423013

### News from St John's

On bank holiday Monday there were just three of us at morning prayer, so Philip reminded us of the reading from Matthew: "For where two or three are gathered together in

my name, I am there among them." Very fitting.

We held a service at St John's to celebrate Corpus Christi on 3 June at 6pm. It was attended by 16 worshippers and was followed by a fish-and-chip supper on the green where everyone could enjoy the great weather and the setting sun. It was also lovely to worship on the following Sunday morning at a service led by Pete, and to see some faces that we haven't seen for so long.

### Round and about the Bay

The Discovery Centre recently reopened and proved very popular during the half-term holiday. There was a steady →

## ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

stream of visitors. Unfortunately the children can't make the most of the centre at the moment as current restrictions mean none of the interactive activities are in use.

The 'From Street to Sea' litter pick was a great success and a lot of litter was picked up, some of which was displayed afterwards outside the Discovery Centre (pictured). It is hoped that with this event, and the regular beach cleans, the message will get across to residents and visitors alike that they should pick up their litter – and, if the bins are full, they should take it home with them.

The weather held fine over the bank holiday weekend for the powerboat racing, which included a display on a flyboard and also jet ski racing. The esplanade was packed with boats and motorhomes.

Inevitably parking was a big problem on the Sunday and Monday, but I am amazed at how thoughtless people can be, often parking so residents cannot get out of their drives, and more importantly making it impossible for emergency vehicles to get through.

*Sue Pollock*

### Forthcoming events

The rearranged 'Bride Valley and Beyond' concert will now be on Sunday 25 July at 7pm in St John's church. David Powell, a former headteacher at Burton Bradstock School has set some poems by Douglas Northover (also of Burton Bradstock) to music as well as writing many songs capturing



**Above: Bags of rubbish on display outside the Discovery Centre after the recent litter pick**

the magic of this part of Dorset. Rough Assembly will play the songs, which relate to the life of West Bay and Bridport.

Tickets are £8 (to include a drink at half time) and are on sale at Bridport Tourist Information, West Bay Discovery Centre and online at [www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets). Profits will be shared between the Discovery Centre and St John's.

**Public services at St John's: Sundays 11am Holy Communion (first & third), others to be confirmed. Mondays 10am Morning Prayer; fourth Saturday in the month 6pm, Service of Wholeness and Healing.**

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock

[aejsullock@gmail.com](mailto:aejsullock@gmail.com)

Churchwarden – vacancy

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

### From the parish editor

When the beaches are full, rivers are good, cool places to head for. St Swithun's is between two rivers – the Brit and the Simene – and much of the space between them is clothed in fizzing colour and texture. There are brimstone, citron and occasionally blue butterflies, and a slow worm basking on the woodland path reminds me of those of us who like to sit peacefully or in meditative pose on the back pews.

By the river, pied wagtails feed their young while perched on ash wands. White petals flow along the river's current, pairs circling each other in an anti-clockwise dance. Germander speedwell – known as 'St Mary's wort' in Ireland – grows at ankle height, showing its blue eyes, and in the fields wheat, corn and potato furrows are in evidence. Rose campion and buttercups in equal number dazzle the attention along from the ancient sheep dip.



Tubular comfrey florets are there, in colours from lilac and blue to pink and deep mauve, reminding me of the lane in

**Left: A brimstone butterfly**

### Right: St Swithun's memorial shrine in Winchester Cathedral

Abbotsbury that's lined with a startling parade of various hues. Meanwhile, scents of philadelphus (mock orange) and roses delight and carry us on our way.

St Swithun's day is 15 July. Born around 800 in the kingdom of Wessex, he was Bishop of Winchester from October 852 until his death in July 863. He is now the patron saint of the city and its cathedral.

There is a St Swithun bridge over the River Itchen by Winchester high street. Legend has it that a young woman was carrying a basket of eggs to market and tripped while crossing the bridge, her eggs spilling out onto the cobbles. St Swithun greeted her and offered assistance. As he bent down and touched each broken eggshell, it became whole and good enough to be placed back in the basket. Another version has it as an older woman who had her eggs broken by workmen building a church. St Swithun picked them up and they became whole. Sometimes we fall and break, and somehow get to be made whole again for another chance...

*Anna Sullock*

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



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## 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

### From the minister

Many years ago I was part of a group that met in our United Reformed Church in Billericay (which sounds as if it's in Ireland but is actually in Essex). We sought to work together by offering worship and fellowship in mutual support for those of us with young families. Yes, I said it was many years ago!

Anyway, I remember at one session a reflection by one of the group on the way that geese fly and why they do so in the well-known 'V' formation. This boiled down to the fact that leading from the front is extra tiring for several reasons.

First, there is the physical explanation. Apparently there is greater wind resistance at the front of the V and the leader meets it head on, breaking it up to some degree and creating a slipstream in which those following find it easier to fly. I suppose it's the same for Formula 1 drivers who do likewise.

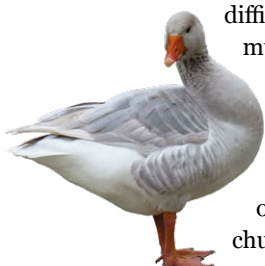
Second, there is the psychological burden of deciding the rate and direction of flight, which together add to the tiring effect of being at the front.

My friend explained that the geese deal with these challenges in two ways, the first of which is sharing the burden of being leader and taking it in turns to be at the front (in much the same way as cycling teams do in competitions such as the Tour de France). Also, as they fly, the geese at the back encourage those at the front. This apparently explains the constant honking as the group flies overhead, which translates as: "Go on, Dave, you're doing a great job!" and "Hey, Janet, keep it up, not long until someone else takes a turn."

This memory led me to realise that church life is not dissimilar. All leadership roles, whether they involve leading worship, offering musical input, maintaining the buildings, beautifying the church with flowers or managing the rotas, take time, effort and jolly hard work. It's good, then, that the jobs are shared and others within the church fellowship take a turn in sharing those burdens, just as the geese do. And it's good when folk, having taken a rest from a role, feel refreshed and can stand again and offer their time and gifts.

Not only that, it's good to say thank you, to encourage folk in such positions and tell them what a great job they're doing. I am amazed how many lovely emails, phone calls and comments of appreciation I've received for what the church has been able to offer during these last difficult 15 months or so and I want say how much they have meant.

In turn, I'd like to express my own appreciation for what others have done, from delivering or preparing written services, phoning and supporting each other when we couldn't meet, preparing the church for re-opening and offering additional



stewarding and cleaning once we could. So, on the basis that I don't suppose a honk would do the job, can I just say a huge and heartfelt thank you, friends! Let's keep the goose model going, shall we?

The Revd Peter Clark

**The following Sunday services have been scheduled for July, but please check the United Church website ([www.buc.cool](http://www.buc.cool)) for the latest information. All services start at 10.30am.**

<b>4 July</b>	<b>Revd Peter Clark (Communion)</b>
<b>11 July</b>	<b>Revd Peter Clark (Family service)</b>
<b>18 July</b>	<b>Gill Bumphrey</b>
<b>25 July</b>	<b>Peter Kershaw</b>

*Contrary to what I said last month about the hoped-for resumption of Soul Space live worship, for a variety of reasons we will delay this until September and continue with video services for now.*

### From Uploders Chapel

As I write this we have just completed the first week in June and have enjoyed a lovely service taken by Gill Bumphrey. We are now looking forward to having our first service with the Revd John Yarrien on 20 June.

The Scarecrow Festival went well (see photos below) and once again I am pleased to be able to say a BIG thank you to all of you kind folk who contributed to helping the chapel, in so many ways, with its first fundraiser since Ride & Stride back in September last year. Apart from the usual →



Jane Pickles

**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...**

contributions of cakes (all individually wrapped to fulfil Covid specifications!), help with serving drinks over the three days and people coming along to give donations, we had the addition this year of being able to set up tables in the front garden of our good neighbours, Iris and Andy. This was much appreciated as people could enjoy sitting out in the sunshine and enjoying refreshments while socially distancing. It was so lovely to be doing something that made life feel more like normal.

We are also looking forward to our services in July. This

year our joint service with Loders Church will hopefully be able to go ahead unless there are changes to the Covid rules (which we won't know until 21 June). Still, it's better to look forward in a positive way and enjoy each day as it comes. So let's look forward to a Jolly July!

*Carol Hall*

**Sunday services at Uploders (10.30am)**

**4 July** Tim Wells

**18 July** Revd John Yarrien and Revd Chris Grasske  
*(Joint service with Loders Church including holy communion)*

**St MARY & St CATHERINE  
Roman Catholic Church**

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

**The glory of God shown in nature**

In his encyclical letter 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis says: "Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. 'Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.'"

We are greatly blessed in Bridport to live so close to such wonders of Mother Earth. Like many others I have walked more locally in the past 18 months than ever before. I have discovered footpaths and fields, downs and woodland, and of course our beautiful Jurassic Coast. Some walks have been in the company of a friend, some alone, and some with the household of five who have made up my 'bubble' in these difficult times.

As I've walked, seeing our wonderful views, skies and wild flowers, it has been often been easy to think of God the Creator. And that's been helped too by seeing – and sometimes visiting – some of our local churches, and knowing that God has been praised here down the centuries to the present day.

As Fr Keith mentioned in last month's magazine, at the Catholic Church we are lucky to have a prayer garden, which is increasingly managed for biodiversity. It's a lovely spot to

sit in for some quiet time or prayer, just off the town centre. It's just behind the church: from the front of the church go round to the left, from the back go round to the right. Please feel free to stop and pray there, and reflect on the glory of God shown in nature.

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.  
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;  
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil  
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?  
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;  
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;  
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.*

*And for all this, nature is never spent;  
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black West went  
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.*  
Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

Psalm 95:3-5

*Louise Heatley*

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



Louise Heatley





# 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** has been holding lecture evenings over Zoom. The next event is on Thursday 15 July at 7.30pm when Nancy Stevens

presents *The Exceedingly Curious Tale of 'A Curious Herbal'*, about Elizabeth Blackwell's 1737 book of plants for the medical profession. More details online at [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk). Contact Peter Gough 459469.

**The Arts Society** (West Dorset) hopes to resume monthly talks from September at Bridport Town Hall. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / [sandylovelock@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pete.bowditch@hotmail.com)/423620/421213/427819.

**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. Roy Tarsnane 425298.

**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](mailto:wrightmail2@aol.com). [www.bridportasd.wordpress.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk) (see also our feature on p6).

## Help St Swithun's to plan its next 200 years!

**In 2027 the current St Swithun's church will be 200 years old.**

The old medieval church of Allington stood a quarter of a mile north of its current site but population shifts inspired the then church council to build a new church nearer the main road. To celebrate its birthday, the church community – now part of the Bridport Team Ministry – is considering the best way to be a 'lighthouse' in this part of the town.



Groups of parishioners have been working through various ideas involving building works, interior design, stewardship of the churchyard, and, as in 1827, how the church can serve the community. Organisers would now like as many people as possible to join this process as plans are developed. They have some initial ideas but would like to involve others in discerning their mission.

On Saturday 11 September\*, 10.30am–12.30pm, there will be an open meeting at the church, led by the Revd Keith Elford, who teaches at Sarum College. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come and help to plot this very special church's next 200 years! (\*Please note: this is different from the date published in this month's print edition of *The Bridge*.)

### Citizens Advice is here to help

Need advice on benefits, debt, employment or other issues? Pick up the phone and talk to us on Freephone 0800 144 8848. You can also email us via the contact form at [www.bridportca.org.uk](http://www.bridportca.org.uk) or leave a message on 01308 456594 – we will call you back.



# Bridge

Advertising in The Bridge is a cost-effective way to reach thousands of potential customers right across Bridport.

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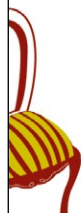
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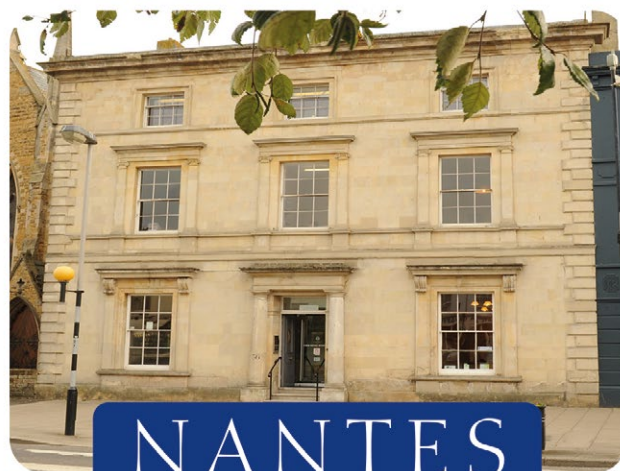
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