

June 2020

# *the* Bridge

A community magazine sponsored  
by the Anglican Church



Germander speedwell and daisy by Hans Braxmeier

**The ongoing social distancing measures mean we are still unable to distribute a printed magazine, so this issue of The Bridge is being published online only. Some articles contain clickable links that will take you straight to a relevant website for more information. We'd love to receive your comments: please email [BridgeEditor@icloud.com](mailto:BridgeEditor@icloud.com)**

# POINTS OF CONTACT Team website: [www.bridport-team-ministry.org](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org)

All phone numbers are Bridport (01308) unless otherwise stated

## Team Rector

The Revd Deb Smith 301457  
revdebsmith@gmail.com Day off Friday

## Team Vicar / Community Mission Partner

The Revd Pete Stone 426459  
pete@bridport-team-ministry.org Day off Monday

## Team Deacon

The Revd Lorna Johnson  
ms.lorna.dee.johnson@googlemail.com

## Permission to officiate

The Revd Janis Moore 425644  
janis@bridport-team-ministry.org Day off Wednesday

The Revd Ann Ayling 424896  
ann@bridport-team-ministry.org Day off Wednesday

The Revd Dan Shackell 426514  
danshackell@gmail.com

The Revd Kay Watters 427290  
kay@bridport-team-ministry

## Hospital Chaplain

The Revd Philip Ringer 425774  
philpringer@aol.com

## Other church leaders in the area

Beacon Church Bridport, Priory Lane  
Geoff Vaine 456031

The Christian Fellowship  
David Collins 458227

St Mary & St Catherine (Roman Catholic)  
Monsignor Keith Mitchell Office 422594  
bridport@predtr.org.uk Presbytery 424754

Bridport Quaker Meeting  
clerkb@bridportquakers.org

United Church (Methodist & United Reformed Church)  
The Revd Peter Clark 425978

## Team Administrator

Dianne Sinclair 424747  
di@bridport-team-ministry.org  
The office is currently closed but Di is available by email  
Post: The Administrator, c/o The Rectory, 84 South Street,  
Bridport DT6 3NW

## Secretary to the PCC

Rosemary Russell 423013

## Team licensed worship leader

Martin Whiting

## Licensed lay ministers

Phil Doughty 422096  
Graham Purse 423220  
Peter Wright 456967  
Coral Hatton

## Lay pastoral assistants

Caroline Cook 07859 803734  
Anne Stone 426459  
Diana Wright 456967

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

Carrie Gamble 07443 596096  
cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

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

St Swithun's vestry  
Yvonne Welch 459587  
Bothenhampton village hall  
Ray Gibbs 423071  
Bradpole village hall  
please email bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk  
Church House, South St, Bridport  
Tony Nott 425897  
Walditch village hall  
Peter & Jill Tobutt 458999  
Christian Fellowship, King Street  
Jacquie Webb 425738  
United Church  
Sue Herman 01297 489658

## The Bridge

Editor & production: Olivia Daly 07710 805029 bridgeeditor@icloud.com  
Advertising manager: Laura Taylor 420732 lauraldt@btinternet.com

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

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

Deadlines for the July issue: Copy Friday 5 June · Advertising Monday 1 June

# We can learn to live in a new way

## **Our lives have been turned upside down.**

From the moment the seriousness of the Covid-19 pandemic started to hit – whenever that was for you – almost every part of our lives has been up-ended.

Mundane tasks like nipping out to the shop, calling in on a friend or member of the family, taking the dog for a walk or getting your hair cut are now a big deal.

There's the wider-world stuff we contend with, too. The daily updates on the rising death toll, the images of hard-pressed NHS staff fearful because they don't have the right protective gear. The statistics about how lockdown is making life even harder for those whose lives are already hard. Predictions on the scale of the economic crisis we're sinking into and the impact it will have on us for years to come.

And if these things are not happening to us personally, we know they are happening to people like us, to people in our town, our street.

In this new upside-down reality the people who are important to us are not celebrities, not the rich and powerful, but the ones who look after us, the carers, those who work in supermarkets and shops, delivery people, the ones who keep us going.

Now those who are used to taking care of themselves are relying on help from others in this time of furlough. Now homeless people are being housed in hotels, now volunteers are

holding communities together, now we really see how we all need other people, and how help can be given... and received.

Now the skies are clearing of pollution, now we're all listening to the birdsong, now wildlife is returning to newly clear waters, and changes are being seen that a few months ago environmentalists could only dream of.

So when the crisis subsides, when lockdown is eased, do we want to go back to what it was before?

The pandemic has shown us we can change the way we live. It has shown us we will change for the health of the ones we love.

Can we emerge from this with a healthier respect for the earth and our common humanity?

The virus that is turning the world upside down is destroying the world as we know it; in the process can we learn to hold it together in a new way?

*The Revd Deb Smith*



**The Revd Deb Smith**  
Team Rector

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## A strong online presence during lockdown

### **While 'live' services are cancelled and churches remain closed, the dedicated people at the Bridport Team Ministry (BTM) have been busy keeping in touch with parishioners using a number of online channels.**

Sunday services, lasting about 40 minutes, are taking place every week at 11am and are available live on the BTM Facebook page. Each service is led by either the Revd Deb Smith or the Revd Pete Stone – broadcasting from their gardens if weather permits – and includes readings, prayers and music. The videos remain on Facebook for those who want to watch later, and many are also available on Pete's YouTube channel.

The services are often themed and leaders ask worshippers (via Facebook) to get involved by sending in photos in advance to [pete@bridport-team-ministry.org](mailto:pete@bridport-team-ministry.org). For example, a service that included the 23rd Psalm used contributors' images of green pastures, still waters – and sheep.

Live, interactive Compline (night prayer) services are taking place every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9pm. Each service lasts about 15 minutes and anyone can join in online using Zoom, a video conferencing website, by emailing [maggiecrosbie@hotmail.com](mailto:maggiecrosbie@hotmail.com) in advance for a link.

Some Compline prayers and other meditations are available on Pete's YouTube channel, while the BTM Facebook page also offers a wealth of information, messages, prayers and links to other items of interest. There are links to the services on the BTM website.

On Friday 8 May there was a 'virtual' Act of Remembrance to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day, and Pete led the online



community in prayers to remember those who took part in World War II. The video, which is available on the usual BTM channels, also included film of British Legion members taking part at home, plus the Last Post and the two minutes' silence. More videos, including the mayor's speech and the town crier's 'cry for peace', are available on the Bridport Town Council website.

### **And a bit further afield...**

Our friends in neighbouring ministries have also been working on some online activities. The Golden Cap Team website ([www.goldencapteamofchurches.org.uk](http://www.goldencapteamofchurches.org.uk)) for instance, has Sunday and midweek messages from its new Team Rector, the Revd Chris Martin, plus poetry and Bible readings by the silken-voiced Revd John Eade and Sunday services led by the Revd Ginny Lockett.

The Eggardon and Colmer's Benefice is also live-streaming services via its Facebook page, and service sheets are available to download.

Each of these church groups has a magazine, too, and like The Bridge these are being produced solely online during the lockdown period. The Golden Cap magazine and the Eggardon and Colmer's View are available from the churches' respective websites here and here.

*[Click here for the Bridport Team Ministry Facebook page](#)*

*[Click here for Pete Stone's YouTube channel](#)*

*[Click here for the BTM website](#)*

*[Click here for Pete's Twitter page](#)*



## New photo project documents lockdown

**The Bridport Lockdown Project aims to create a shared visual archive of life in the area during the coronavirus pandemic.**

The project will bring together photos that convey people's stories, feelings and experiences during this extraordinary period. It's for anyone, of any age, living in and around Bridport.

"We are all living in a unique time and learning about our 'new normal'," says Eddy Pearce, the project's founder. "Some parts of our lives are very different, but other parts are almost hyper-normal as many of us are spending long periods at home. This may mean being creative, spending time with our closest family and perhaps doing things we've always wanted to do but have never quite found the time. Or it may mean a very simple, or complex, version of your 'normal' life."

There are three main themes: the changes that are due to lockdown (rainbows, queues, PPE, emptiness, etc); the creativity that's flourishing in lockdown (innovation and adaptations making our lives easier, more bearable or more fun); and the normality that is evolving in lockdown (the smaller details of our lives at home or work with the stories behind them).

Within this framework there's room for a multitude of other themes, such as 'my daily exercise', 'the view from my window', 'our dinner table' and many more.

The team behind the project stress that it's about photos, but concentrating on the stories and the people behind them, giving people a positive story-telling outlet at a time when we are particularly focused on how we engage and interact with our community. "The storm we are all in has many rainclouds as well as the rainbows we are seeing on the streets. It has been brutally tough for many and we have been really touched by the openness and honesty that has come through in submissions so far. We really hope the final picture painted by this project shows the widest possible view of how these times have affected the lives of local people."

Ideally photos will be accompanied by some text explaining the story behind them. For people who aren't so confident about writing, however, the project team can help with putting some words together.

Ultimately, all the photos and their stories will be added to the Covid-19 archive at the Dorset History Centre. The team also hope to exhibit a wide selection of the submissions.

Full details are online at [www.bridportlockdown.org](http://www.bridportlockdown.org) along with instructions on submitting photos, via either the website or Instagram. Submissions are being displayed on Instagram and there are updates and photos on Facebook.

# Digital solutions for Christian Aid Week

**Think of Christian Aid Week and you might picture red envelopes through doors, plant sales, Big Brekkies, banners in front of churches, special services and much more.**



Since 1957 the week has brought communities together in action and prayer, and while the coronavirus pandemic meant that Christian Aid Week 2020 (10–16 May) was different, churches across the country stood in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable people in new and innovative ways.

With daily quizzes and live-streamed worship, supporters were involved from their own homes. People were invited to send an electronic donation envelope – an 'e-envelope' – to friends and family. On Sunday 10 May at 11 am, the Bridport Team Ministry broadcast a special service on Facebook and YouTube to mark the beginning of Christian Aid Week, with a special 'visiting' preacher – the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

Christian Aid Week manager Sophie Brightwell says: "Coronavirus is teaching us what it feels like to feel vulnerable, to fear, to be separated and experience scarcity. It's at times like these – testing and painful times – that we recognise we are all in this together. Coronavirus impacts everyone, but love unites us all. Christian Aid Week has always been a joyful celebration of what we can achieve together for the world's poorest people and in this time of global crisis Christian Aid's work is needed as much as ever before.

"The most vulnerable and marginalised people are at the greatest risk from coronavirus. In Sierra Leone there are no ICU beds and in Malawi there is one ICU bed for every one million people. In refugee camps, people just cannot socially distance themselves from one other, and 40% of the world's population do not have access to soap and water.

"Christian Aid was established after the Second World War when people across this country had lost so much but knew that refugees across Europe were in a desperate situation. My hope is that we can show that same compassion and resolve as we saw in a different time of crisis, and show together that love never fails."

Further information is available at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) including details of how to make a donation. Here in Bridport, one way is to send a cheque made out to 'Christian Aid' to the Churches Together Christian Aid area coordinator, the Revd Lorna Johnson, 60a West Street, Bridport DT6 3QP.



# Salisbury Cathedral's anniversary celebrations go ahead online

## Salisbury Cathedral has been marking its 800th anniversary with a number of 'virtual' celebrations.

On Sunday 3 May a special morning service was broadcast on BBC Radio 4, led remotely by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, with the Canon Precentor, the Revd Anna Macham, and the Dean of Salisbury, the Very Revd Nicholas Papadopoulos.

The service was a culmination of a week of celebrations that because of the coronavirus lockdown were somewhat more low-key than intended. "We could never have imagined that we wouldn't be able to celebrate the 800th anniversary in the building as planned," said Anna during the service. "But, as I've been putting together online acts of worship to mark it this week, the story of Old Sarum and the vision that inspired the Bishop, Dean and Canons to move the cathedral has given me comfort. Then, as now, there were many barriers that prevented the whole community from meeting and praying together ... but [that] didn't stop them from fulfilling their vision."

The service – which is available on BBC Sounds until the end of May – also included recorded hymns and an anthem sung by Salisbury Cathedral Choir, plus a reading by Simon Russell Beale of a poem, 'How the ancient church of Salisbury was moved and a new one built' written by Henry d'Avranches in the 13th century.

## Singers get involved with a new anthem

Meanwhile, members of the public are being invited to take part in the virtual premiere of 'The Salisbury Anthem' to mark the anniversary. Originally planned as a performance in the cathedral on 28 April, the premiere was cancelled amid the lockdown and has been converted into a virtual performance, led remotely by the cathedral choir and its musical director, David Halls.

"The process is relatively simple," says Andrea McDermott, Salisbury Cathedral Liturgy and Music Manager and the project's coordinator. "All you need is a device that can record video, like a phone, tablet or computer, then follow the instructions on the cathedral website. You don't have to be a fabulous singer – every voice counts."

The words, sheet music and a recording of the refrain are available online here, along with full instructions on how to sign up and take part. The anthem will be released online on 31 May as part of the Salisbury 2020 Big Weekend, the city's special programme of online activities.

## 'Walk through' a contemporary art exhibition

For art lovers, a commemorative exhibition, 'Celebrating 800 years of Spirit and Endeavour' is currently in place inside the cathedral, and an online 'walk-through' version has been launched so people can see it while the building is closed.

The cathedral's largest contemporary art show for nearly 20 years, it includes new commissioned pieces from Bruce Munro and Daniel Chadwick and work by Antony Gormley, Shirazeh Houshiary, Henry Moore, Grayson Perry, Conrad Shawcross, Stanza and Mark Wallinger. Pieces from the cathedral's permanent collection have also been included, such



David Merritt

as sculptures by Elisabeth Frink and Barbara Hepworth.

"The exhibition was conceived as a celebration of the human spirit and human endeavour, manifested through the faith and skill that drove the builders and their community on," says curator Jacqueline Creswell, who is the cathedral's visual arts adviser. "I hope it encourages viewers to look forward with hope."

The online exhibition is available via the Salisbury Cathedral website here.

In February the cathedral was illuminated inside and out during 'Sarum Lights', a stunning week-long celebration involving projections and light installations. Images depicting the building's history were projected on to the west front, while inside the cathedral an immersive light and sound installation honoured the people who shaped the city.

## Safe, peaceful worship for 800 years

In 1220 foundations were laid for a cathedral on the current site, in 'New Sarum', and the building was finished 38 years later, providing the impetus for the city's growth. The original cathedral had been completed at Old Sarum in 1092 under Osmund, the first Bishop of Salisbury. The old cathedral was built on a windy hill with no water supply, in the shadow of the king's castle and in full view of his soldiers. Worshipping there was dangerous as well as inconvenient, particularly in the context of the murder of Thomas Becket at Canterbury just a few years earlier. The move to the new site brought the cathedral community beyond the reach of royal power.

## A message from Good Books

Good Books – the Christian bookshop in Gundry Lane – is currently closed because of the lockdown. However, we're looking forward to re-opening in due course and seeing our regular and valued customers again.

*Janice Brown, Manager*

# An ancient role fit for the 21st ce

**We meet the new High Sheriff of Dorset for 2020–21, George Streatfeild. George is well known locally; he is a non-executive director of his family business, Denhay Farms Ltd of Broadoak, near Bridport, and has held a number of charitable roles in the area.**

George's tenure began at the end of March, just after the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. Social distancing restrictions prevented the customary declaration ceremony taking place, but video conferencing technology allowed 30 people – including the previous High Sheriff, the Under Sheriff, a magistrate and the Chaplain to the Shrievalty – to join George, his wife, Amanda, and their immediate family in the garden at Denhay as he made his declaration and signed the paperwork.

Officially, each county's High Sheriff is the Queen's legal representative there. "It's an ancient role, dating back more than a thousand years," says George. "Originally it involved maintaining law and order and collecting the monarch's revenue; the modern role is one of support, encouragement and championing outstanding contributions from individuals, although we are still expected to entertain the judiciary when they sit in our county."

George explains that as High Sheriff he supports organisations and individuals involved in the administration of justice, law and order in the county. This includes the courts; the probation and witness services; the prison service; the police, fire and rescue services; and local government officers, mayors and councillors. Voluntary organisations benefiting from this support include those involved in

offender rehabilitation, victim support and preventing crime. "We should take as close an interest in preventing people getting into the criminal justice system as in supporting those already in it," he says.

However, the current restrictions have changed the way George is approaching his role. "Under normal circumstances I would be meeting people, asking them what they do and discussing their successes and the challenges they face. Obviously I'm now unable to do that, which is frustrating, but my position allows me to seek out ways of providing practical help to people in need during the current crisis. The role of High Sheriff doesn't usually include getting involved in fundraising, but these are extraordinary times and we should respond to the new situation in whatever way we can."

## **Targeted help for local initiatives**

Dorset is one of 42 counties in the UK Community Foundations network, which exists to make a difference to people's lives through grants to local initiatives. At the start of the coronavirus crisis, the Dorset Community Foundation (DCF) set up the Dorset Coronavirus Community Fund to support those helping vulnerable people in the county. With initial funding from the National Emergencies Trust, generous financial support from local charitable trusts and individuals, and a public fundraiser (the Dorset Coronavirus Community Appeal), they have secured a magnificent total of £400,000.

This has allowed the DCF to make targeted grants that are already making a real impact on people's health and wellbeing. This includes help for foodbanks, community transport, older people's groups, community volunteers, food deliveries and homeless people, as well as support for mental health, disability and family needs. The fund is helping both in the short term, by addressing practical needs, and in the longer term by helping to prevent the social problems that are often caused by hardship.

"Arguably, our communities have never needed our help more than they do now," says George. "And the effects of the pandemic will be felt for years



**George Streatfeild at his unusual declaration ceremony in the garden at Denhay**

# Century: Dorset's new High Sheriff

to come: stress and illness, whether physical or mental, will lead some people to turn to alcohol or drugs, to lose respect for themselves or others, to withdraw from society, and perhaps to display uncontrolled anger and aggression. Any of these things has the potential to lead them into the criminal justice system.”

## Bridport's 'exceptional work'

The fund is receiving requests for help from right across Dorset, including from the Bridport area, and George is quick to praise the town and its surrounding villages for the community spirit and organisational skills that are helping its people deal with the crisis. “I've seen some truly exceptional work going on in Bridport during the current situation,” he says. “There's a real collaborative character to the place, which comes from individuals being prepared to work together towards a common aim. It's partly because the town is a retirement 'magnet' for effective people who have been successful in their working life and want to get involved in local projects, but also because we have some excellent individuals in organisations like the town council – I'm going to name the town clerk, Will Austin, and the council's surveyor, Daryl Chambers, but there are many others.”

## A broad range of experience

George has a wealth of experience in working with organisations at a strategic level. As owner and managing director, he steered Denhay Farms – a dairy and pig farm founded by Commander Streatfeild (George's father) and Lord Hood – through three decades of a changing market, including the business's diversification into bacon curing in 1994. Having won many awards and secured a Royal Warrant, Denhay now supplies national retailers including Waitrose and Sainsbury's.

George's voluntary roles have included Chair of Bridport Museum Trustees, Chair of Governors of Symondsburry Church of England Primary School, joint organiser of Discover Farming, an agricultural education initiative run by the Melplash Agricultural Society. He is currently churchwarden at St John the Baptist Church, Symondsburry.



George with his wife, Amanda

## You can support Dorset communities in lockdown

If you would like to donate to the Dorset Community Foundation, please do so online via [www.localgiving.org](http://www.localgiving.org) (this allows you to add Gift Aid if you're eligible) or via a bank transfer to Dorset Community Foundation, Charities Aid Foundation, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00083897. Please use 'CV' as the reference if your donation is in response to the coronavirus appeal.

Please do not send cheques, as their small team is working from home in line with current government

recommendations.

If you represent a charitable trust or company and would like to support the appeal, please contact Grant Robson at the Dorset Community Foundation, email [grant@dorsetcf.org](mailto:grant@dorsetcf.org).

If you are aware of a group that might need support, please ask them to contact Grant as above.



**Dorset  
Community  
Foundation**

# The Harmony Centre provides mental health support during the pandemic

**Many more people have been using the mental health support services provided by the Harmony Centre in Bridport in recent weeks.**

Almost a quarter of adults living under lockdown in the UK have felt loneliness, according to the Mental Health Foundation Longitudinal Study.

And although it has had to close its doors during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Harmony Centre is still providing a valuable service by phone, email and social media.

The benefits of Harmony's services are best described by its users. One of them, Jane (not her real name), writes:



## **A letter in lockdown**

*I have found these past few weeks very challenging. I love being alone but this enforced isolation and confinement is something quite different. I often feel imprisoned in my flat. I long to see the sea, get on a bus, have a coffee in a café with a friend or with a book!*

*It is impossible to avoid the underlying world anxiety. My own anxiety and depression are magnified by the lack of external distractions, and it is all too easy for thoughts to become unbearable and intrusive.*

*But, oh, thank goodness for Harmony. All who work in this amazing place are here for us, at the end of the phone. Every time I call, I feel welcomed as a beloved friend or one of the family. The warmth I've felt is almost as good as a real hug!*

*Whenever I've spoken to someone at Harmony, I've felt so much better at the end of the call. Sharing thoughts, worries, grief and sometimes despair has helped to put things into perspective, to see seemingly overwhelming worries in a different way. Sometimes all I've needed is to 'off-load'; often I've needed to be reminded about self-care: if I don't look after myself, I'll be no good to anyone else!*

*... Whatever the situation, the empathy is almost tangible. The comfort of knowing that help, support and a friendly caring voice are only a phone call away, is the most wonderful gift, and truly is a lifeline.*

*Coronavirus will pass, and perhaps we may all learn something about ourselves and about each other during these strange times. I feel we have survived so much; we will survive this too.*

*I want to say a huge thank you to all who work at Harmony for being there for us. I know we'll meet again in person as soon as we are able to do so. Meanwhile, we'll take care of ourselves, and by doing that, we'll take care of each other...*

Harmony offers support for people living with mental health problems, helping them on their recovery and integration into their communities. It aims to be a friendly, welcoming, informal service offering peer support, information, signposting and a variety of activities to local people.

You can contact Harmony by phone on 07597 379290 or via the Bridport Community Support Helpline on 01308 808900; by email at [harmonyinfo@harmonydropin.org.uk](mailto:harmonyinfo@harmonydropin.org.uk); on Facebook at 'Harmony Mental Health Bridport Dorset'. The website is [www.harmonydropin.org.uk](http://www.harmonydropin.org.uk)

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## Business help from Trading Standards

### **During the lockdown, local authorities are responsible for helping to ensure compliance among businesses.**

Dorset Council's Trading Standards team have led on this across the county for non-food businesses, working with environmental health officers for food businesses.

The new measures came into effect very quickly, and the team immediately set up processes for staff to work at home and to deal with businesses via phone and email. Not all businesses have had to close and the team has been giving advice based on individual circumstances.

As the situation changes, business operators can rest assured that Trading Standards will continue to adapt, fulfilling their duties in helping to keep businesses trading legally and safely.

People in affected businesses in Dorset can speak with a Trading Standards business advisor on 01305 224702, or find a range of information at the council's website here.

## The Bridge is looking for two volunteers

**Looking forward to a time when The Bridge is once more published as hard copy as well as online, we are looking for two people to join the core group.**

We need a circulation manager who will review the current system of house-to-house delivery (which has certain weak spots), will identify other pick-up points for printed copies (such as shops and public

centres), and will develop the online email delivery in line with privacy regulations. This is a crucial role, as the advertising revenue that keeps the magazine going is predicated on a guaranteed reach to potential customers.

Second, we need an advertising sales manager who will market the magazine to potential advertisers and put together the information that will

persuade them that The Bridge can be an effective way of reaching their customers.

Both jobs are conceived of as voluntary, although for the right person a small fee might be possible.

If you would like to talk about either of these roles, with no commitment, please email Philip Sturrock, the chair of the Bridge team: [chair@thebridgemagazine.org](mailto:chair@thebridgemagazine.org)



# The Cats' Ball in Stoke Abbott

**Thanks to Melanie Elliott for sending us this amusing poem. It was originally published in 1989 in the Beaminster Parish News, the forerunner to the current Beaminster Team magazine.**

The cats of the village were bored to tears,  
They wanted some music to gladden their ears  
And, so they said, some real fun and frivolity.  
But how could they get this much-desired jollity?

Some thought a cats' concert would fill the bill  
Or maybe a dance with lots of quadrilles.  
The talk was of bagpipes and a bugle call  
But they finally chose to have a good ball.

Every cat in the village wanted to come  
So the hall was booked for a modest sum.  
Those who were willing polished the floor  
And up went a notice on the main door.

Excitement rose as the day drew near.  
The chat was of dress and appropriate gear.  
Whether to wear that ridiculous sash  
Or find something else that would cut a real dash.

The steps of the polka were practised by some;  
Others wondered if their beans would come.  
Kittens and old folk, they all turned to prancing  
So Tabitha Tabb gave some lessons in dancing.

All were agog on the night of the ball  
And the cats they came flocking right up to the hall.  
Candles were lit and the lanterns shone out  
For this was to be no ordinary rout.

Here come Sooty and Sweep from the neighbouring town:  
She wears a pink veil and a flowing white gown.  
And then close up behind them come Mopsy and Tigger:  
She's been trying to diet, to neaten her figure.

Algernon Snagglepuss, as smart as ever,  
Wears his best bib, is undoubtedly clever,  
But not to be bettered by Algernon's finery  
Percy Puss wears a top hat – it's very shinary!

Morag McGregor, the Queen of the Ball  
Made her entrance wrapped in a tartan shawl.  
And Matty attended with Lupin Clough  
(She said he was just a little bit rough).

For music they had a fiddle  
and drum  
(The piper, sadly, was too  
drunk to come).  
The buffet set up by Stoke's  
Mouseteria  
Was on a white cloth – it was  
very superior!

Master of Ceremonies was  
Septimus Pym  
Few were more ceremonious than him.  
Smart as a button, a very Beau Brummel,  
He and his missus lived up at the Tunnel.

"Please take your partners," came his cry.  
"No need to be bashful, please don't be shy!"  
Algernon swept Morag onto the floor  
And twirled her around like a revolving door.

This made her giddy and slightly fey  
But she clung to her partner with laughter so gay.  
After the waltz came a quite stylish tango –  
It's amazing to see how fast pussy cats can go!

Matty and Lupin then joined in the Lancers –  
Everyone said they were very good dancers.  
Sir Roger de Coverley went with a swing  
But somehow they all ended up in a ring.

In the Paul Jones the cat from Higher Dairy  
Rushed into the fray with a loud "Hail Mary!"  
Tails and paws were all of a flurry  
As dancers found partners in a scurrying hurry.

"Supper is served," was greeted with purrs.  
"I've not been so hungry for years and years!"  
"Will you have Whiskas or Go-Cat or liver?"  
"Give me some underdone beef – just a sliver!"

So then Matty chose some ripe mouse pie  
And Lupin selected some vole on rye.  
Milk was on tap for all to drink  
And consumption was much more than you'd ever think.

Wonder of wonders, and strange to tell,  
The dancing went on until one by the bell.  
Laughter and revelry filled the whole hall  
As the cats responded to one last call.

All good things, like this ball, must end at last  
So the candles were snuffed and the doors made fast.  
By the light of the moon, dim figures were seen  
Cavorting and jiggling down to the green.

The revellers went home to basket or bed  
To houses, to barns, to lofts or to shed.  
And for days after, the gossip was rife:  
All agreed they'd had the time of their life.



Peaches & Cream, our dear  
marmalade cat,  
Was once a fine dancer but  
is now rather fat.  
She caused a sensation with  
elbow-length gloves,  
And she is the sort of cat  
everyone loves.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

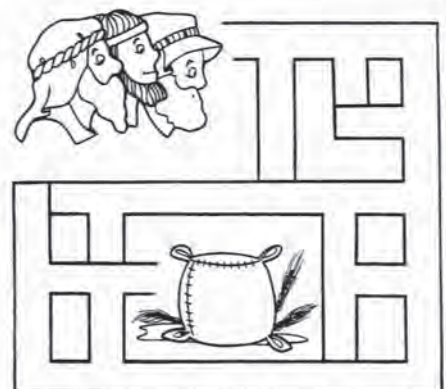
In this issue, we continue with the Bible story of Joseph. Joseph had dreams that seemed to predict the future, and his angry brothers sold him as a slave to Egypt, where he ended up in prison for something he didn't do. His dreams continued, and he was able to help the King look after the people of Egypt at a time of great difficulty and hardship. He was also able to help his own family, and forgive them.



Activities for older children, or for you to do together:

- Complete the colouring page showing Joseph explaining the dream about seven heavy cows and seven skinny cows. He interpreted this dream to show Pharaoh how to save his harvest to look after his people in a time of famine.
- Think about what dreams you have. Try and keep a notepad by your bed and jot down any you remember. How do different dreams make you feel?
- Get out in the garden and try planting some vegetable seeds. Hopefully you will be able to grow and get a good harvest!
- Can you research Egypt, and the Pharaohs. What facts can you find out? Can you make your own Pharaoh headdress?
- Think about how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers, even though they had done him a great wrong. Is there something or someone in your life who you feel ready to forgive?
- Joseph trusted God to help him, even when he felt abandoned at the bottom of the well his brothers threw him into, or while he was held in prison. Try and greet each day with a smile.

### Joseph Is Kind



Can the brothers have a sack of food?  
Joseph says okay  
Even though they treated him  
in such a terrible way.

# Joseph's dream

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Village editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232  
douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com  
Churchwardens – John Adams 425766  
Lyn Roe 425804

Tower captain – Peter Carnell 420716  
If you have any pastoral or personal issues,  
please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644  
(Wednesday is her day off)

### Obituary

Sadly we record that Diane Ellis died in May. For many years Diane was a parish councillor and the booking secretary for the village hall and she will be much missed.

### From Janis:

Psalm 27 begins with the words “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.”

Eight hundred years ago, on 28 April, the foundation stone was laid for the new Salisbury Cathedral. The building was completed in 38 years. Now, from its unique setting in the Close, and with its magnificent spire – the tallest in Britain – the cathedral reaches out to the world, while pilgrims and visitors from across the globe usually visit throughout the year. This remarkable Wiltshire building has stood the test of time and has been the focus for prayer and thanksgiving in times of trouble and joy.

During the current pandemic the cathedral is closed, but the wonders of technology meant that this did not curtail the 800th anniversary celebrations, although they did take place in a different way (see p5 for details).

Although we cannot enter the sacred space, in the grounds of the cathedral the sculpture of the ‘Walking Madonna’ by Dame Elisabeth Frink comes to meet us. She is walking away from the cathedral, moving towards the outside world.

In 1993 the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool unveiled another sculpture by Elisabeth Frink, the ‘Risen Christ’, which is also known as the ‘Welcoming Christ’. I was fortunate to be at the unveiling of the sculpture, which was to be Elisabeth Frink’s last work. The figure of Christ, situated above the west door of the cathedral, is large and

Elisabeth Frink's Walking Madonna. Photo by Matt Brown



somewhat stark, but the striking features are the extended arms and open hands reaching out to the people.

Both of these sculptures remind us that although at this time we cannot be together inside our places of worship, our Lord walks with us and watches over us as we journey through these anxious times of uncertainty.

At Holy Trinity Bradpole we have a wonderful spire, a beacon of hope that can be seen from hilltop and valley. We also have a beautiful memorial cross overlooking the village. Both are symbols of God’s presence among us.

There is a chorus that we sing at Holy Trinity:

Peace I give to you  
I give to you my peace  
Let it flow to one another  
Let it flow, let it flow.

May that be so.

*The Revd Janis Moore*

### Bradpole Parish Council

The PC’s annual meeting in April was cancelled because of the lockdown, but the Chairman, Colin Baker, has written a report, which is available from the parish website here.

## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

Belated congratulations to Oran Balazs for his highly commended photograph taken in Holy Trinity Church and entered into a competition at Bridport Camera Club. The image was featured on the front page of the May issue of The Bridge and depicted gentle sunlight coming through two windows in the nave, highlighting the colours in the wall of Bothenhampton stone and contrasting Bath stone. Taking photographs is something many of us enjoy doing – though perhaps not to Oran’s standard – while out walking

for our daily exercise. We live in beautiful surroundings in which we can see and appreciate nature in all its glory: birds and animals, plants and flowers, trees and hedgerows. A dramatic sky coloured by a vivid sunset is not to be missed. Sharing a photo can put a smile on someone’s face and brighten their day, making them happy to be remembered.

The Bothenhampton Wave in Main Street is at one o’clock each day and is a fun way to keep in touch with neighbours and others walking through the village. Not everyone can go out, though, and if you need some shopping, or want a friendly chat on the phone, then any church member will be happy to talk.

There is also a group called Bothenhampton Buddies who are there to help. Just call:

Pennie 07792 187793 Sue 07949 081546  
Lynne 01308 423818 Catherine 01308 459653  
Lucy 07735 553345 David 01308 424597  
Angie 01308 424908



## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

### The churchyard at Holy Trinity Old Church

As many of you know, the medieval Old Church at Bothenhampton (pictured right) has been closed for use as a church for public services for the past 130 years, but it remains a much-visited building as a destination or part of a walk. In January and February of this year 20 people signed the new visitors' book.

The Churches Conservation Trust is responsible for the building. The churchyard is still a popular place for interment of ashes, although burials are no longer possible owing to lack of space.

Like all churches, the Old Church was closed to visitors towards the end of March. However, the graveyard is much loved as a place of peace and tranquillity and remains a destination point during many locals' daily exercise walks.

The graveyard is maintained by a very small band of volunteers who keep the area tidy and free of rubbish and reduce some of the persistent weeds. However, the grass has to be cut regularly to maintain the feeling that the area is being cared for. As you can imagine, this is a difficult job because of the graves and memorial stones; it takes a long time and the cost is substantial. For many years the Parish Council has contributed to this cost, but unfortunately due

to other commitments it can no longer afford to do so.

As we go through this period of social isolation, our small congregation at Holy Trinity Church does not have the funds to pay for the grass cutting. We would normally rely on our fundraising activities to help pay for this. In short, our funds are low and this cost is an added burden, so if you have reduced your charitable giving at this time and feel you can spare some cash, we would appreciate your consideration.

If you would like to get in touch, my phone number is 01308 423220.

*Heather Purse, Churchwarden*



## ST MARY'S Walditch

Village editor - [chris.w-h@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris.w-h@hotmail.co.uk)  
Churchwarden – Chris Wellman-Herold 281096

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

### Safe haven

Walditch has always been a welcoming village but the Covid-19 pandemic has brought us together in a show of unity that symbolises the 'You are not alone' message of these times.

Before lockdown became reality there were discussions about how we could help one another. When it arrived, so did the army of villagers ready and willing to set to work. With prescription runs and shopping trips, WhatsApp groups to keep spirits raised and phone calls to check everyone is ok, we have never felt closer. Flowers are left on the doorstep just to brighten the day, homemade trifle treats



Michael Day

appear to make the weekend special and a daily newspaper delivery service is run by a smiling group of younger villagers (thanks, Marcus, Amelia and Lewis). Rainbow drawings by children are pinned to railings at the entrance to The Hyde Care Home and teddy bears sit in windows awaiting children's enthusiastic greetings.

Sadly, we have experienced the loss of a loved one and fellow villager. Usual shows of support at such a terrible time include hugs, cups of tea and offers to stay over, but for now it's empathy at a distance. It feels unnatural and a world away from how we want to be, yet we do our best to wrap our arms around those who are grieving in physical isolation.

Our Thursday clapping for key workers is not only a show of appreciation but also an opportunity to see fellow neighbours, wave, shout hello and reiterate what a get-together there will be when all this is over. It gets louder and more emotional with each passing week as we thank those risking their health so we can carry on.

Walditch has been a safe haven during this time, a family of friends and neighbours reaching out in whatever way they can. We are so grateful to be here, to be safe, to be loved.

### Walditch Garden Group

Good weather during April allowed for plenty of gardening and recovery from the wet winter, rain at the end of the month coming at just the right time. Despite monthly meetings being cancelled, we've managed to keep up communication at a distance, including sharing seasonal gardening advice, discussing trees and plants, and exchanging seeds and seedlings. Garden jobs continue – pruning, sowing seeds, dividing perennials to stock a new border – as does the inventory of what has survived and what we have lost. No doubt we are not alone in trying very old seeds, since new ones have been difficult to obtain, and in being delighted when seedlings appear!

*Jane Mowatt*

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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

### Inclusive Church

If these last few difficult months have taught us anything, it has been a lesson in our shared humanity and how every single person on this planet is our neighbour. How futile divisions are and how dependent we are on each other. How important it is that artificial and unnecessary barriers are broken down. Throughout society and, in particular, for me, at St Swithun's, in the Bridport team and in the wider church.

Some 20 years ago now I was present at the inaugural meeting of Inclusive Church, an organisation whose aim is to explore ways in which churches can become more welcoming and inclusive. Although originally Anglican in origin, Inclusive Church now works with churches of different denominations throughout the United Kingdom. There are many individual members but also a growing number of churches affiliated to the movement.

I couldn't express the beliefs of Inclusive Church any better than they do in their own definition, which is:  
 "We believe in Inclusive Church – a church which



celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the gospel afresh for each generation; and which in the power of the Holy Spirit allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

The recent coverage in the press of the negative attitude of some Church of England bishops to gay and lesbian men and women living in civil partnerships, or, come to that, the small number (so far) of heterosexual couples in civil partnerships, is a good example of why Inclusive Church was created and why it has grown so rapidly. In a nutshell, members of Inclusive Church believe that no one should be discriminated against or rejected by the church. On any grounds and for any reason.

It has never seemed so apposite, so essential, as we begin to come out of these times of isolation, that the church should be a place for the whole human family. A place where nothing we are or have done excludes us from fully belonging. The Inclusive Church movement has a relatively small number of member churches in the West Country – I think it's time that we in Bridport helped to put that right.  
*The Revd Dan Shackell*

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

I consider myself very lucky living so close to the harbour, and I have either run or cycled round West Bay every day during the lockdown. Not only does this give me a chance to see the church but also to look at the beautiful scenery and the sea, one of the main reasons that we decided to move here. I find the sea of great comfort when one is troubled; nothing really affects its continuous movement, the tide comes in and goes out regardless of what is going on in the world. For me it has a very calming effect and I'm sure I'm not the only one who finds this so.



Elliott Brown

How is West Bay coping with the lockdown? Well, once the council had closed all the car parks and the Esplanade, things got much better, with very few visitors arriving. There are still people around, all out for their daily exercise, but not lingering. You notice everyone says hello, smiles or waves to you, which gives you a good feeling. Everything is shut except the Spar store on the West Bay Road, where we've been picking up a newspaper along with our groceries while our regular newsagent is closed. They have managed to keep the shop well stocked after the initial panic and you can get things there that sometimes the big supermarkets do not have – plus, social distancing is observed – so well done to them. The commercial fishermen are still going out to sea regularly and I see from Facebook that some of them are now selling fish from their boats.

Harbour House has been on both the local and national news highlighting the plight of nursing homes. I saw Robyn, a regular member of the St John's congregation, the other night and she certainly looked ok. Let's hope that they get all the PPE they need to keep the carers and residents as safe as possible.

Obviously the Discovery Centre is closed, which is very hard for the new manager, Liz, who took up her role just before the lockdown. However, I understand the centre was able to furlough her, which is great news. She is currently reading and researching from home as well as keeping in touch by video with John and Sarah, who are looking after the Facebook page and newsletters as well as working on plans to improve the Discovery Centre. There may need to be changes to the layout there if, as seems highly likely, social distancing is to continue for a long time. →

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

I notice that despite objections from the West Bay Community forum, among others, planning permission has been granted for four homes on the 'Gateway' site east of Fairways off Station Road. As this had already been approved in 2017, it was always going to be hard to fight the application once the developers had reverted to permission for four homes, rather than the five that they were at one time hoping to build. Two new homes have also been agreed for the West Cliff area of West Bay. These are replacing previous buildings that have fallen into a poor state.

Our weather until recently has been glorious, allowing us to spend time outdoors, and gardens are definitely

benefiting from all the work that's going on. They desperately needed some rain and we certainly have had that! Ideally it should rain at night with glorious sunshine through the day – the perfect scenario.

I hope that like me you are taking part in the excellent service that is streamed on a Sunday morning. Each week we have new things added as the team get more and more confident with the technology. We all miss our regular services and meeting the congregations, but with the benefit of technology you get the next best thing. As someone said to me the other day, how would we have coped if this had happened 10 years ago?

*Sue Pollock*

## ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Churchwarden – Lesley Hill 422417

Director of music – Tim Linsley 07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

The eye picks up on changes at St Mary's very quickly. The pew so regularly used by Carole and Roma is now filled with tinned custard and peaches, and Colin and Barbara have been replaced with cartons of fruit juice! This, of course, allows those packing parcels for the food bank to do so more easily. The colours that dapple the church floor come courtesy of the glorious spring sunshine rather than our florists' art and the altar candles stand proud without needing to be replaced. Outside in the churchyard the grass is growing in the pegged-out areas and hopefully attracting wildlife, while the bug hotel is open for business as usual.

It is, however, the locked doors that are the most striking change. The 'Closed' sign is visible to all and tells would-be



Pete Stone

intruders that the church is protected by a sophisticated electronic alarm system – and by angels. In these challenging days this continues to be true not only for our building but also for us, the people, the church of God: protected and connected by sophisticated technology and yes, most certainly by angels. The changes and blessings of these days are indeed our challenge for the future.

*Lesley Hill, Churchwarden*

# Dorset Digital Helpline can help you get to grips with technology

**Most of us are using the latest technology to help us keep in touch with friends and family during the current lockdown.**

From email, instant messaging and video calls to social media, online shopping and movie streaming, the digital world is all around us – and it can make the difference between struggling and coping.

For some people, this will be the first time they have used any of these services, so they will need to learn from scratch, while others with some experience will face new digital hurdles to get everyday jobs done, perhaps booking a supermarket delivery or ordering a prescription.

The Dorset Digital Helpline is a new free phone hotline set up in response to the Covid-19 lockdown to provide support for people with IT and digital problems of all kinds. The hotline received more than 50 calls in its first three weeks.

The Dorset Digital Hotline is run by a group of volunteers, mostly retired IT professionals and some Dorset Council staff. They are extremely versatile and experienced and can offer a wide range of support to anyone.

No problem is too small! Here is a selection of some of the support the digital advisers can provide:

- helping families with applications for home schooling;
- helping people to get online for home shopping;
- support for all digital NHS services and e-Consult;
- setting up video calling apps such as Skype and Facetime;
- support in using digital appliances; and
- finding ideas online for exercising at home and keeping fit.

**The helpline number is 01305 221000 (select option 2). It's open Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon (except bank holidays) or leave a message.**

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

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

You can download this magazine from the team website:

[www.bridport-team-ministry.org](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Citizens Advice

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

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

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