

the **Bridge**

June 2021
June 2021

Cover photo of the River Asker at Happy Island by Douglas Baldwin



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

Carrie Gamble 07443 596096
cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

Hall bookings

We hope halls will be allowed to reopen soon.

For future bookings please contact:

St Swithun's church hall

Details online at www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings
or contact Yvonne Welch 459587

Bothenhampton village hall

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Advertising rates are online at www.bridport-team-ministry.org/bridge/advertising. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise send copy to village correspondents (details inside) at least three days before the deadline, or a week for handwritten/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 editorial team or the clergy. While we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the magazine's contents, we cannot accept responsibility for information given or claims made by our contributors or advertisers.

Deadlines for the July issue: Advertising Friday 4 June · Copy Monday 7 June

Rebuilding our community – forward

Rather irreverently, whenever I see the abbreviation ‘BTM’ for the Bridport Team Ministry in this magazine, I think of ‘Under Milk Wood’, Dylan Thomas’s radio play. Mister Waldo – rabbit catcher, barber, herbalist, cat doctor, quack – was, as a boy, extremely naughty. He rang doorbells, broke windows, chalked graffiti, played truant, threw mud pies, so the neighbours decided that the only answer was “to learn him with a slipper on his b.t.m!”

‘Under Milk Wood’ is the story of a community, a day in the life of the residents of a small Welsh seaside town. Their lives are ‘seen’ through the ears of the blind Captain Cat. The town is a diverse community of saints and sinners, brought to life with humour, sensitivity and poignancy. Thomas was inspired to write the play while living in Laugharne, Carmarthenshire, which he once described as “the strangest town in Wales”. He was fascinated by the townspeople. What would he have made of Bridport?

Over the last months we have been deprived of ‘community’ as we once knew it. It has been devastating for many people: young children unable to socialise; school pupils and students missing their education and friends; families separated by distance; the isolated, elderly, lonely or confused – and the loss of loved ones.

Instead we have built up ‘virtual’ communities using social media and video conferencing software. But even though people have been forced apart, much goodness has resulted: neighbours are lovingly caring for one another, and new links are being created.

Hopefully, this summer, as we emerge from lockdown, we can renew our community, rebuild it in a way that looks more like the world God wants for us. We cannot build back,

but have to build forward.

Before the pandemic, there was a drive in some quarters to rethink aspects of our way of life, and Covid-19 has given us a reason to concentrate even more on that way of thinking. In 2018, Archbishop Justin Welby published a book called



‘Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope’, in which he suggests the issues that we need to tackle: the building of good housing; a supportive social care system that values each individual; an awareness of mental health issues; a move to stamp out economic inequalities; and learning to live together and show respect, even though sometimes we disagree with one another. We need an education system that prepares children for an unknown future – and we need to tackle climate change. We must support UNICEF’s Vaccinaid campaign to help deliver two billion vaccines to vulnerable communities across the world, because we are part of an interdependent global community.

Archbishop Welby writes: “Look for signs of God at work in the world and get stuck in. There are hints of hope everywhere, signals of God’s love for us. If Christians are there – where God is – restoring relationships, assuring love and working towards justice, mercy and people, we might rebuild a post-Covid world that looks more like the Kingdom of Heaven.”

It’s a wakeup call and a challenge for us all.
The Revd Ann Ayling

‘Even though people have been forced apart, much goodness has resulted’

Covid has brought out the best in our town

It’s June – the month we’ve all been waiting for, when (fingers crossed) all the Covid restrictions will be lifted, allowing a return to ‘normal’.

We’ve been living under restrictions for more than a year now, and what’s struck me is that every stage of the pandemic has brought out the very best in the people of Bridport. From the beginning of the first lockdown back in March 2020, volunteers across the town have been giving their all to help others – and this won’t end on 21 June. From organised groups like Bridport Coronavirus Community Support to people keeping an caring eye on their neighbours, this is what our town does best: we support each other.



Olivia Daly
Editor

St Mary’s Church House Hall exceeds fundraising target

We’re delighted to report that the recent crowdfunding campaign to save St Mary’s Church House Hall from threatened closure has exceeded its target of £10,000. The committee members send their grateful thanks to everyone who contributed.



The hall does not just need money, however – it needs volunteers. “One effect of the pandemic has been a lack of chances to meet ‘likely suspects’ as potential committee members,” says Monty Crook, chairman of the management committee. “We have the usual officer roles – chairman, secretary, bookings secretary and treasurer – which new members might rotate into in due course.”

If you are interested in volunteering, please phone Monty on 01308 423 442 for more information.
www.stmaryschurchhousehall.org

Keeping Bridport tidy

Bridport mayor Cllr Ian Bark has launched a campaign to find a 'litter-free champion' for every street in the town to reduce the amount of rubbish lying about. "It's easy to blame visitors and the shops that sell fast food, but the reality is throughout lockdown the litter problem did not go away, so as a community we all have to accept responsibility," he says. If you're interested in getting involved, email bridportlfs@icloud.com.

Pathways to Care AGM will go ahead this month

The Pathways to Care charity, which runs the Good Neighbours and Hopeful Hampers schemes, had to postpone its AGM because of Covid. The meeting will now take place on Monday 28 June at 2pm in the United Church Hall.



New arrivals at Good Books

Christian bookshop Good Books has some recent publications in stock. 'Treasures from a Deep Mine' (£12.99) is a collection of 40 talks by Alison Daunton-Fear, a gifted speaker whose ministry spanned much of the 20th century, including the years of the second world war.

'Slow Down, Show Up and Pray' (£9.99) by Ruth Rice takes a practical look at how we can renew wellbeing in our own lives and our local community.

The shop also has a pre-loved (in good condition) 1999 hardback copy of 'England's Thousand Best Churches' by Simon Jenkins. It is organised by county with colour photos from the Country Life archive.

Good Books is in St Mary's Old School, Gundry Lane, and is currently open Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm.



Nicola Moeran

Above: 'Last Light Near Lyme Regis' by Nicola Moeran



Simon Crafter

Left: 'Boat in Shade' by Simon Crafter

Dorset Art Weeks 2021 are still in full swing

Dorset Art Weeks (DAW) run until Sunday 6 June, so art lovers still have time to see – and perhaps buy – work by talented artists across the county, including several in Bridport.

The biennial event, which began on 22 May, was postponed last year because of the pandemic. Unsurprisingly in these uncertain times, DAW 2021 is a little different from past events, and organisers are using technology to bring exhibits to as wide an audience as possible.

While many galleries and studios are opening for 'live' visitors (some with a booking system to ensure social distancing), some are also offering online viewings. A few artists are only showing their work online.

DAW has launched a smartphone app, with details of opening times and booking arrangements, to be used alongside the printed DAW magazine. This information is also available on the DAW website, along with a map showing all the venues.

Around Bridport, exhibitors include the four artists at the Jurassic Coast Studio in West Bay. Ruta Crafter, Simon Crafter, Nicola Moeran and Debbie Tiltman produce a wide range of art in various media – oils, watercolours, acrylics, digital and hand-embroidered textiles – taking much of their inspiration from the local coast, countryside and nature.

The studio, which is at The Durbeyfield, 10 West Bay Road DT6 4EL, is open Thursday to Sunday from 11am to 7pm (current regulations permitting).

www.dorsetartweeks.co.uk

www.jurassiccoaststudio.com

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Services at the Bridport Team Ministry churches

Sunday

9.30am **St Swithun's** Eucharist
 11am **St Mary's Bridport**
 Communion/Service of the Word
 11am **Holy Trinity Bradpole**
 Communion/Service of the Word

Monday

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

Tuesday

10am–noon **St Mary's Bridport** open for private prayer
 2.30pm **St Mary's Bridport** Service of the Word (*on the second Tuesday in the month this is Communion instead*)

Wednesday

10am **Holy Trinity Bradpole** Morning Prayer
 2.30pm **Holy Trinity Bradpole** Communion (*first Wednesday of the month only, in addition to the morning service*)

Thursday

10am **St Swithun's** Eucharist followed by private prayer until midday
 10am **St Mary's Walditch** Communion (*first, third and fifth Thursdays*) or Morning Prayer (*second and fourth*)

Friday

10am **Holy Trinity Bothenhampton** Communion (*first, third, fifth Fridays*) or Morning Prayer (*second and fourth*)

Saturday

6pm **St John's West Bay** Evening Prayer (*fourth Saturday in the month only*)

Neil Barnes • This photo was taken at a pre-Covid festival



Local flavour is back as Bridport Food Festival goes ahead

Bridport's popular food festival will be going ahead this year after its disappointing but inevitable cancellation in 2020.

The festival is run by the Bridport Local Food Group and is a celebration of food and drink from the town and the surrounding area. This year's event has been extended to a fortnight (Sunday 13 to Friday 25 June) to allow for Covid restrictions. The first week will be dedicated to promoting the Bridport area's hospitality and food and drink businesses with special menus and events, while the second week will focus on children and include an afternoon of cooking and related activities for local schools.

There will be an open-air food and drink market on Bridport Millennium Green on Saturday 19 June from 9am to 5pm with more than 50 stallholders showcasing and selling their produce (this replaces the usual food and beer festival run in partnership with Bridport Round Table at Asker Meadows). The Round Table will be operating a beer gazebo and Bridport Local Food Group will be running its popular festival tea room. There will be a large picnic area and music.

Bridport Food Matters

Bridport Food Matters (BFM) is a joint initiative between the Bridport Local Food Group and Seeding our Future, a not-for-profit organisation that helps individuals and community groups to build resilience and techniques to face environmental and social challenges. BFM will have its own stall at the market on 19 June, where volunteers will be available to talk about any aspect of food production and distribution in Bridport.

"We'd love people to come along and engage with us," says Peter Wilson from BFM. "We're encouraging an appreciation of where our food comes from, and how we can best use our spaces to provide for everyone in the community. Bridport is a beacon area for this way of thinking."

And just after the festival, on Saturday 26 June, Bridport Food Matters will be at St Swithun's church to host a 'What next?' forum from 9.30am to 12.30pm. They're hoping for a lively discussion about aspects of local food including healthy eating, fair distribution and minimising food waste.

'All that jazz' at the St Swithun's car boot sale

An outdoor jazz cafe with live band is just one of the attractions at the 'Community Car Boot Plus' being held this summer at St Swithun's church in North Allington.

There will also be stalls selling cake, produce and plants, a 'posh tombola', a children's lucky dip and much more. The event, on Saturday 24 July from 9am to 1pm, replaces the annual summer fair and is a fundraiser for the church.

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.



Bridport Cohousing offers a new, affordable way of life in a real community

If you enjoy walking on the slopes of Allington Hill, you might have been keeping an eye on progress at the building site next to Bridport Hospital. You might not realise, though, that this is a very different kind of housing development...

The Bridport Cohousing project – the largest scheme of its kind in the UK – is due to launch its second fundraising campaign this month. The target is £732,000, part of which will be used to build a ‘common house’ as a social hub for the community as well as a potential income stream, with rooms available for letting to local groups.

The campaign will take the form of a community share offer through Ethex, an ethical investment platform. Investors will become shareholder members of the cohousing scheme and will qualify for benefits such as a vote at the AGM and preferential rates for hiring space in the common house.

Bridport Cohousing Community Land Trust has an impressive history of success in raising money. Its last campaign – a similar loan offer in late 2018 – raised £250,000 in just a few weeks for the purchase of a second piece of land at the site, now called Hazelmead, behind Bridport Hospital.

Against a backdrop of skyrocketing property prices and increasing social isolation, cohousing offers a totally different way of living. Even before the first brick was laid, the Bridport group had put in place the foundations of a true community built on the principles of sociocracy (also called ‘dynamic governance’), in which everyone has an equal voice. There’s no hierarchy, and no one’s in charge: instead, the members work in ‘circles’ in which people can play to their strengths.

For project member Lin Scrannage, cohousing is a way to get the most out of the next stage of life. “I’m retired and I live alone,” she says. “As I get older, I want to keep active and live in a vibrant community, to be around people of all ages, living within our means and sharing resources. Cohousing offers me exactly that.”

Lin had been keeping an eye on the Bridport project from afar for some

time and in 2016 finally decided to sell her home in the Welsh borders and move to a rented flat in Bridport. She joined the group a couple of years later and got involved with its publicity and marketing, although she’s been happy to turn her hand to practical tasks, too. “We’ve done a lot of the preparatory work ourselves, including hedgelaying and managing brambles,” she says. “This has saved money but it also reflects the way the community operates, with everyone contributing in their own way.”

Affordable, carbon-neutral housing

After several years of planning and a lot of hard work, construction at Hazelmead started last summer, and the 53 properties – a mix of one-bedroom apartments and two-, three- and four-bedroom houses – will be ready for occupation by the middle of next year. About half the homes are available for leasehold sale, of which 13 are for sale at 80% of market value, and the remainder are for shared ownership for 30–75% of market value. The rest of the properties are for social rent (probably 60% of market value) through Bridport Cohousing’s partner organisation, Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA).

The properties have been designed to be carbon-neutral, with solar panels on south-facing roofs, efficient insulation and air-source heat pumps. The community will have a car-sharing scheme and charging points for electric vehicles, while sharing other things such as washing machines will be encouraged, too. There will be space on the site for growing vegetables and the common

Left: building at Hazelmead is now well under way. This photo shows the extensive solar panels being installed on each block





A plan of Hazelmead, Bridport Cohousing’s seven-acre site, showing 53 homes plus the common house (bottom row, centre)

house will be used for shared meals, helping to cut costs and food waste.

Moving to Hazelmead isn’t simply a matter of buying or renting a place, though, as everyone in the community needs to be aligned with its philosophy and aims. There are also a number of policies in place designed to ensure a diverse, multi-generational community with a vibrant mix of single people, couples and families. Each prospective householder first needs to be a member of the group, attend its events (mostly virtual, in current circumstances) and meet other members. Then each applicant must be nominated and approved by a committee that includes representatives from Allington Parish Council, Dorset Council, Bridport Cohousing and BCHA.

“It’s a long process that can take over six months,” says Lin, “but it ensures that as many members and prospective members have an opportunity to get to know each other before joining and have time to understand the idea of what it means to live in a cohousing neighbourhood.”

The Revd Lorna Johnson, one of the Bridport Team Ministry’s curates, has recently heard the exciting news that she and her husband, Peter, will be able to buy a two-bedroom house at Hazelmead. “We’re thrilled,” she says. “It’s the only way we can realistically achieve our ambition of living sustainably. Also, we don’t have children ourselves, so it’ll be wonderful to live in a real community with young people around us, as well as to have that balance between shared living and our own private space. They’re an amazing group of people.”

A community that’s future-proofed

The group’s business model challenges the idea of buying property as an investment, which is profitable for people who can afford to operate within the mainstream market but excludes those who can’t take even the first step on the ladder. At Hazelmead, no one is allowed to buy a house that’s bigger than they need (the common house will include bedrooms for guests) while the group’s status as a community land trust (CLT) means that the freehold of the

land is asset-locked, with 20% of the properties’ equity remaining with the CLT. Because no one can buy a property outright, the future of the community is assured for generations to come.

“As a society we need to rethink our concept of ‘value’,” says Lin. “There’s a widespread assumption that it’s always about money, but we need to consider social value, too. Covid has shown how much we need each other – being apart has had a huge impact on mental health for people of all ages. We’re offering an alternative, a real community, where neighbours can support each other, for instance, rather than relying on paid carers or social services. We hope that our example will engage the wider community, too, and show that there are different ways of living.”

www.bchomes.org.uk (information about the project for potential residents)

www.bridportcohousing.org.uk (information about cohousing and sociocracy plus FAQs and a timeline of the Bridport project)

'Live' tech help is available again

Dorset residents can once again get 'live' face-to-face advice on digital queries such as setting up and using devices including phones, tablets and PCs.

Digital champions have started to return to Dorset libraries to help people who are struggling to get online. Meanwhile, the Digital Hotline will keep running to help people who can't get to the face-to-face sessions.

Digital champions ran sessions in Dorset's libraries and community venues until the start of last year, covering enquiries ranging from how to switch on a computer and use it for the first time through to specific technical queries.

Covid put a stop to these live sessions, however, and since then digital champions have been helping people with their digital queries through the telephone hotline.

Mike Watson is one of the volunteer digital champions. He says: "In face-to-face support sessions the digital champion can see the exact issue and suggest a range of actions. If the first doesn't work, we can immediately try something else.

"An informal relationship develops between the digital champion and the user, and as the user starts to make progress dealing with the technology, genuine learning happens."

There will be enough time between sessions for full cleaning, and other Covid requirements will be in place. Perspex screens will separate the user and the digital champion or two computer screens will be used to maintain the necessary distance between them.

The nearest venue to Bridport is Dorchester Library, where slots are available on on Thursday afternoons. Anyone



Gerd Altmann / pixabay

who can't get there can still use the Digital Hotline (01305 221048) between 10am and noon, Monday to Friday.

Face-to-face slots with digital champions must be pre-booked (by phoning the Digital Hotline) to ensure they are Covid secure. If you, or someone you know, would like some help from a digital champion with a digital query, just call.

Slots are also available to book at Yarn Barton Centre, Fleet Street, Beaminster, on Wednesday mornings by calling 01308 805060.

'Friends against scams' unite!

Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative that aims to protect people and prevent them becoming victims of scams by empowering them with information and ways to take a stand.

Anyone can join Friends Against Scams and make a difference – more than 2,300 people in Dorset have done so already. The first step is to complete the online Friends Against Scams session. Then, if you want to take things further, you can become a SCAMchampion and host awareness sessions to recruit Friends Against Scams. SCAMchampions attend an additional in-person session to give them a fuller understanding of the laws around scams and some presentation tips. There are currently 2,100 SCAMchampions in the UK.

Or you could sign up as a 'scam marshal': any UK resident who has been targeted by a scam and wants to fight back by sharing their experiences and helping others to report and recognise scams.

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

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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

Living Churchyard

The members of the Living Churchyard group have recently returned to our weekly gardening at St Mary's, Bridport. It is good to be outside and active once again.

We have recently developed the corner of the churchyard to create a small woodland area under our large oak tree. We have cleared and planted native bulbs such as bluebells and anemones, plus ferns, primroses, hellebores and foxgloves, and we have arranged some logs and a pile of twigs in the hope of attracting insects and hedgehogs.

Do take time to stroll through the churchyard and look out for our new signs, too, which have been beautifully painted by a church member.

We are also excited to be part of the Bridport Team Ministry Eco Church initiative as we move through 2021.

Jane Trower

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

Tuesday 1	2.30pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 6	11am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 8	2.30pm	Parish Communion
Sunday 13	11am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 15	2.30 pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 20	11am	Service of the Word
Tuesday 22	2.30pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 27	10am	Team Eucharist service
Tuesday 29	2.30pm	Service of the Word



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

Village 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

Old Churchyard appeal – a thank you

May I use this column in The Bridge to thank everyone who has given so generously to this appeal, which to date has raised just over £2,000. I should like to thank each of the donors personally but there are currently 25 of you, for whom I only have a few addresses, so please accept my grateful thanks through these pages.

The appeal continues, with the aim of raising £4,000 so we can rebuild the damaged churchyard wall, and we hope

to begin work this month. I am confident that Bothenhampton folk will rise to the challenge so we can finish the job and all can enjoy the peace and quiet of this tranquil place for many years to come. Thank you again.
*Max Watters, Treasurer, Holy Trinity Bothenhampton
 17 Pasture Way, DT6 4DW • 01308 427 290*

April working party

The Old Churchyard working party in April was a great success and 26 volunteers arrived armed with garden tools to tackle the necessary jobs. We attacked all the brambles and ivy and reduced most of the ant hills around the tombstones to ground level. A number of the older graves that haven't been fully colonised with native flowers are now clear.

There was far less plastic and rubbish to remove than on the previous occasion. The bench seat is back in place, having had some substantial support added to the legs to allow comfortable seating for a few more years.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped that afternoon – the grounds are now looking very good. It was lovely to get such wonderful support.

Heather Purse



HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

From the village editor

We are hoping that by the end of June all church services and activities will be coming back, and we are starting on 5 June with the return of our much-missed coffee mornings in Holy Trinity on the first Saturday of every month. There will be the usual stalls for books, produce and cakes, as well as a raffle, and if you have any contributions for these please bring them along. It will be really good to be able to meet up with friends once more.

In addition to the coffee mornings, we have decided to hold another regular event on the third Saturday of every month, featuring something different each time. On 19 June there will be a cream tea in the church, where we'll be able to accommodate up to 30 people at a time, seated at tables. If the weather is fine enough we will be able to sit outside, too. Please remember to wear a face covering inside until you are seated.

Both events will have tables arranged to allow for the social distancing rules that will still be in place.

We are also hoping to be able to return to Sunday services as the summer goes on, and at our normal later time, rather than worshipping on Fridays at 10am, which is sometimes difficult for people. We have one Sunday service in June, so please make a note of the change of day and time if you wish to attend.

Barbara Ffooks

Public services at Holy Trinity in June:

Friday 4	10am	Holy Communion
Friday 11	10am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 20	11.15am	Holy Communion
Friday 25	10am	Morning Prayer

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Village editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
 douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com
 Churchwarden – 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)

Your used stamps can save lives!

Lyn Roe, a former churchwarden, has organised the collection of used stamps by Holy Trinity church members for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance since 2016. She has



Andrew Bone

collected over 33,000 stamps in that time, which is quite an achievement! The charity recycles the stamps to raise much-needed funds.

www.dsairambulance.org.uk

Bradpole village hall

The village hall (pictured) is now open for various events, although there are restrictions in place under Covid

Coffee morning

Our popular coffee mornings at Holy Trinity Church, Bothenhampton, are restarting on the first Saturday of every month from
Saturday 5 June at 10am

All welcome! Enjoy chatting with others while having a drink and something to eat.

There will be books, produce and cakes on sale, plus a raffle.

Contributions are very welcome and any money raised will go towards mending the boundary wall of the Old Churchyard.



Afternoon cream tea

Saturday 19 June, 3 to 4.30pm

Holy Trinity invites you to come and enjoy a lovely cream tea. Price £4 per person, in aid of repairs to the Old Churchyard wall.

There will be table service. Please wear a face covering until you are seated.



regulations. The secretary, Jane Bryant (01308 427493 or oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com) can provide information about bookings.

Repairs to stained glass windows

The repair works to the church windows started in May, focusing on the memorial window to Canon Alexander Broadley, who was responsible for the building of the church in 1845–6. The window had been damaged in stormy weather. The estimated cost of the work is £25,000 plus VAT, which may be recoverable under the government's Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme.

The church has obtained grants totalling £7,500 from The Erskine Muton Trust Fund, The Society of Antiquaries, The Glaziers Trust and Dorset Historic Churches Trust. The work is being undertaken by Dan Humphries Stained Glass Ltd, a company specialising in the conservation and restoration of stained glass.
www.dhstainedglass.com

Bradpole Parish Council

The parish council has been holding meetings using Zoom during the Covid pandemic, but members hope to resume face-to-face meetings in June. The office in the village hall is unlikely to open until later in the year.

The report from the April meeting includes these points:

- Two new swing seats have been installed at Pageants playground.
- New bollards have been installed at The Gore.
- Allotment rents for 2021/22 will be maintained at £12.
- Dog mess is causing a problem at the Gore Cross Green recreation area.
- The health and safety of pupils from Colfox School is a concern because they have made a new exit sliding down into Dodham's Lane.

Full details are available at www.bradpole.org.uk. The council has two councillor vacancies remaining, which can be filled by co-option, so if you would like to represent your community and have the time and commitment to get involved, please contact the clerk by email at this address: bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk.

Public services: Sunday 11am Communion/Service of the Word; Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer, 2.30pm Communion (first Wednesday of the month)



From top: two dedicated volunteers get stuck into the weeding along Railway Gardens; dog fouling has been causing problems at the Gore Cross recreation area

ST MARY'S Walditch

Village 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

As national Covid restrictions are scheduled to end on 21 June, news of local activities and club events in Walditch would be most welcome. Please email me with any details.

A charming child's news-sheet, headlined 'Help Animals while and when you can', was recently delivered in the village, and its content was as follows:

"Make crossroads in your garden. For hedgehogs you can leave out cat and/or dog food. You could add water to drink. Make dens for hedgehogs. Avoid cutting down trees as these are someone's home. Have fun helping animals. Make your garden animal friendly."

For Christians, gardening may have a special significance. The activity connects one to the earth and helps soulfulness, while growing flowers and vegetables reminds gardeners

Light the spire

The church will continue to be lit during June to mark the first anniversary of the passing of Derek Gange of Walditch.

From his loving wife, Sheila Gange



of the miracle of creation. Many of Jesus' teachings include reference to plants and flowers, and in the Bible paradise was found in the Garden of Eden. In the Song of Solomon and St Luke's Gospel a garden is referred to as a place of shelter, shade and protection, and at his resurrection Jesus was mistaken for a gardener.

The feast of Corpus Christi falls on 3 June. This day celebrates the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. In 'normal' times many churches would be bedecked in flower arrangements provided by dedicated gardeners, but sadly this may not be the case this year.
James Craddock

Public services on Thursdays at 10am: Communion (first & third) or Morning Prayer (second & fourth).

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

News from St John's

Members of St John's have been attending the Monday morning prayer meetings in the Lady Chapel (pictured). This is an ideal space for a few people, socially distanced, to come to worship in a very informal way, with the three readings being read by members of the congregation. While out walking in the Bay recently, I ran into two members of the congregation who I hadn't seen since lockdown. I encouraged them to come and join us, so hopefully our numbers will increase.

Recently we have also seen the church opening daily for private prayer, which is a good sign that we may soon be returning to Sunday services. We hope, too, that renovations to the kitchen – which were due to happen just before lockdown – will be able to go ahead later this year so that the church can offer additional facilities for the various concerts, etc., that are held here in normal times.

Round and about the Bay

Although the Discovery Centre has five new volunteers to help staff the building, they still need people to help on a Friday and Saturday so the centre can continue opening six days a week. If you feel you can spare some time, the volunteer form is online at www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk/discovery-volunteer. I've been a volunteer since the centre opened and it's really interesting – you hear so many stories from people who have been coming to West Bay for years. Often they are bringing their grandchildren to see the place they would come to as children for their own holidays. Guided walks will also be taking place and these provide lots of information about West Bay.

During April a running event was held over a weekend with participants completing either a marathon, half marathon or 10km. One of the routes took runners through the Bay and up the West Cliff. Sadly I didn't feel fit enough to compete!



The Lady Chapel at St John's

The annual dredging of the harbour has been taking place slightly later than usual, but it is always something that fascinates visitors and locals alike. The debris is then pumped through pipes out on to the far west beach. Also causing great interest was the sight of the new aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales carrying out sea trials in Lyme Bay. Unfortunately it didn't come close enough to allow me to get a good picture, although there were some good shots on Facebook showing the ship anchored off Seaton.

Parkdean filled up with visitors as soon as the go-ahead was given and I believe it's going to be fully booked for the season as people decide to 'staycation'. Hopefully church services will resume in time to welcome some of them to worship on a Sunday morning.

Sue Pollock

Public services at St John's: Mondays 10am Morning Prayer; fourth Saturday in the month Evening Prayer 6pm.

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Village editor – Anna Sullock
aejsullock@gmail.com
Churchwarden – Jo George 426457
Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

A new local shop

Hopefully this month will give us the weather again to enjoy al fresco eating and drinking, so it's good to have a local source of supplies. Jack and James have opened their shop, Lumbridge & Vickory, on the corner of North Allington and Fulbrooks Lane, in the premises previously run as a convenience store by the dedicated and tenacious Theresa Barnes. I asked how the shop got its name, and Jack explained that Lumbridge is the name of a wooded hill

in Herefordshire where he has had some positive, influential experiences, while Vickory was one of his school teachers and a creative role model.

He and James met at school and are a great team, with great vision for what is now a delicatessen-cum-cafe. They still sell the staples – your regular bread, papers and milk – but now also stock such delights as pistachio cannelloni from Sicily, fresh croissants from Charmouth Bakery, curried jackfruit pasties and much more.

Jack and James opened the shop temporarily as a trial in late January 2021, then once lockdown was lifted they opened fully and even put some chairs, tables and plants outside. The wide pavement provides room for people to sit and read the papers while enjoying a freshly made coffee from the La Marzocco machine.

Walking on the hill

Some of us have been fortunate during the Covid restrictions to have the time and energy to walk into nature more than

ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

usual, and my amazing hound demands that I walk on the hill frequently. Using the rhythm of walking and breath is a good way of slowing down if you don't need to march about.

These walks are also a chance to see Dorset snails of varying hues, from pale brimstone lemon to Naples yellow, coral to birch-bark pink, liquorice allsort to humbug cream and umber stripes. There are the white-lipped snail (*Cepaea hortensis*) and Grove or brown-lipped snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*) among others.



Grove snail, *Cepaea nemoralis*

On one walk I passed a trodden-on snail, and I hoped a bird would make use of this sacrifice. It also reminded me of the Jain nuns who sweep the ground before them as they walk to make sure they don't hurt a single living thing. The Jains also wear nets over their headgear so as not to accidentally breathe in insects. I imagine if you have a strong sense of karma and reincarnation you wouldn't want to squish an ancestor...

Si, our regular visitor to St Swithun's, has put up some bird feeders at the church. He is a member of the Royal Society



for the Protection of Birds and familiarises himself with the identities and habits of our native species: sparrows, blue and great tits, chaffinches and greenfinches

Greenfinch, *Chloris chloris*

and a solitary goldfinch. As he reminded me, a group of goldfinches is called a 'charm'.

Recently I watched Ade Adepitan's programme on climate change and learnt that in Australia an area the size of Britain has gone up in flames, obliterating much wildlife including bats and birds. In the middle of May, meanwhile, snow was photographed at West Bay. These continuing irregularities in our weather aren't always reported widely, but climate change is happening, and informed people think we may have only 10 years to eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels.

Right here in Bridport people are carrying out positive lifestyle changes that make a real difference. The Community Fridge and the Garden Glut have their Thursday stall at St Swithun's, sharing surplus food from supermarkets that would otherwise go to land fill as well as produce from local people's gardens and allotments. Some businesses have also been making donations. Helen Choudhury from the Taj Mahal restaurant, for instance, has been delivering hot food for Bridport people, at a time when her extended family in India are having a terrible time. These efforts help those who are struggling financially as well as preventing food waste. If we produce less food and sell and distribute it more efficiently we can reduce our carbon emissions.

Anna Sullock

On Saturday 24 July, 9am to 1pm, St Swithun's is holding a 'Community Car Boot Plus' event in place of the usual summer fair. There will be a jazz band, refreshments and much more! Please see the article on p5 for more information.



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

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

“God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” (Genesis 1:27–28)

It seems to me that we are in the end-game of this strange period of severe restrictions and threat from Covid-19.

Although the virus will continue to affect our lives for quite some time, I am hopeful that it won't dominate them quite so much as in the last year or so. It occurred to me, then, that it was time to consider one of the stock expressions I tend to use at junctions in church life: “Look back, look around and then look forwards”. This also works in non-church scenarios.

There is a tendency to look back through rose-tinted glasses to a golden era when everything was apparently perfect – which it most certainly was not. Nevertheless it's useful to look at the past to recognise how we got to where we are: you don't know where you are unless you know how you got there. History has its place in more ways than simply ensuring we don't make the same mistakes again and again!

Then, having made that evaluation, it's worth looking around and identifying the current challenges and opportunities, not least because this allows us to work out our priorities. What is missing now? What could be better? What is past its sell-by date?

Then, finally, we might be in a position to work out what we need to do next, recognising that we aren't starting from a blank sheet but, rather, are all part of an existing rich tapestry. →

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

I can't help thinking that for the last 15 months or so we have mostly been in survival mode and haven't had the energy or the inclination to look up and look forwards. The here and now has been so all-consuming. But the beginning of the latest series being explored by the Soul Space team on the book of Genesis did get me thinking about the future.

Slipping back to our old ways may be comforting, and there is nothing wrong with a return to familiar worship practices (including singing – yes!). However, as churches and as Christians I think we ought to be inspired by our faith to acknowledge that this pandemic, for all its downsides and horrors, has given an opportunity to pause and re-evaluate our priorities. And I can't help but think that a really strong message in the Genesis story is a commission to care for creation and our fellow creatures.

I suspect that unless we prioritise caring for the planet, and start seriously addressing the western world's obsession with growth and the over-utilisation of the world's resources, we will seriously be failing in that calling from God. So as we open our churches and return to gathering and sharing together, let us open our minds to the possibilities this new start offers us, too.

The Revd Peter Clark

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

6 June	Christine Hatton
13 June	Revd Peter Clark (Communion)
20 June	Chris Warren
27 June	Jennie McGinlay

The Soul Space group, led by Christians across the churches in Bridport, has been producing two contemporary worship video services per month since the pandemic hit. We are hoping to restart in-person services on Sundays 6 and 20 June at 4pm at Bridport United Church.

**From Uploders Chapel**

I'm writing this in May, although looking out the window I see the wind is blowing a hoolie and the sky is grey – it's more like the beginning of April. Still, I mustn't grumble as there is a great need for rain to water the crops and other plants that have been sown.

The lovely services conducted by the Revd Peter Clark and Richard Lownsborough in May really cheered things up. I am definitely feeling able to look forward as some sort of normality is beginning to emerge. Of course, as we are continually being told, we must behave sensibly and think of others. Isn't that something we are reminded of in the Bible? Basically: treat other people how we want to be treated.

I know I've said it before, but I think it never hurts to say thank you more than once or continue to show gratitude for the lovely part of the country we have the privilege to live in. We should be thankful, not only for the beautiful places we can enjoy but also for the wonderful people in our communities, whether that means a cheerful hello as one walks through the village or the amazing job the support staff and folk delivering vaccines at Bridport Medical Centre are doing.

By the time you read this we will hopefully have had a good bank holiday weekend at the end of May, having opened the chapel to welcome folk for refreshments while they look at all the scarecrows on display throughout the village. We're also looking forward to July and the service with Tim Wells, then the joint service with Loders Church, which will take place at Uploders Chapel with lunch in the vicarage garden. Obviously we will continue to abide by whatever Covid rules are in place.

So let's make June as jolly as possible and perhaps July even jollier!

Carol Hall



Uploders Chapel during a previous year's scarecrow festival

Sunday services at Uploders (10.30am)

6 June	Gill Bumphrey
20 June	Revd John Yarrien

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

Gin keeps Catholics warm!

British Catholics have found the ultimate environmental tonic! Through a fuel scheme, which all our churches in this country use, 78% of our gas supply is derived from

a Scottish gin distillery and the other 22% from carbon offset projects. This is a small part of the church's growing commitment to help combat climate change.

In Fratelli Tutti #18, Pope Francis said that as a community "we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development." Each of us is called to take concrete steps – from reducing consumption to working for change – to better care for the creation that God has entrusted to us.

The Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, of which Bridport is part, has recently made a series of commitments to ensure that the mission of the church locally includes proclamation on environmental concerns in line with the living-out of the gospel in people's lives. We are to ensure that our buildings are managed with care for the environment and action plans to reduce negative impacts. Along with this

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH continued...



(Other gins are available. Ed.)

we will commit to minimising our use of the earth's natural resources, reducing our carbon footprint, minimising waste and reusing and recycling where possible. At home here in Bridport, where we are blessed with a lovely church garden, we

are also seeking to enhance biodiversity. Handing on this beautiful world to our children and grandchildren is a gift that is trusted to all of us.

I have always enjoyed a glass of gin and now I have the added satisfaction of knowing I am helping the planet, too – even if only in the smallest of ways. Cheers!

Mgr Keith Mitchell

Services at St Mary and St Catherine

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

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

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

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

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

Bridport Blind Club is a social club for the visually impaired. Contact ian.ibbotson@btinternet.com / 898484 or Leah Cross for personal or technical help 07789 997620.

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

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

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

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

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

Bridport & District Gardening Club is currently holding lecture evenings over Zoom. The next is on Thursday 17 June at 7.30pm when Jo O'Connell presents a talk on 'The Lavender Farm Project'. Details at www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk. Peter Gough 459469.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) has regular Thursday talks at 2.30pm at Bridport Town Hall. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / sandylovelock@btinternet.com.

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

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

Disabled Carers and Friends meet Thursdays 9am–

noon at Vernon's Court Community Room, South St. Call in for a chat or advice. Contact pete.bowditch@hotmail.com/423620/421213/427819.

Bridport 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. www.bridportasd.wordpress.com

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

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



Bothenhampton & Walditch
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NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

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Email: clerk@bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com
www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com

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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 or leave a message on 01308 456594 – we will call you back.



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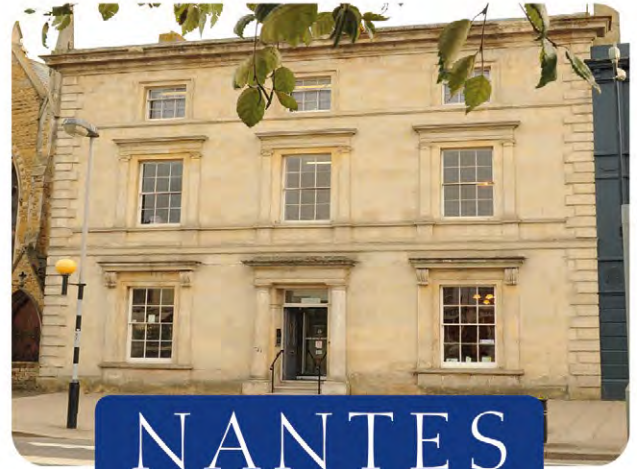
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