

March 2021  
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# *the* **Bridge**

A community magazine for  
Bridport supported by  
the Anglican Church



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

## Cupboard Love food bank

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**Hall bookings** Halls are starting to open following the coronavirus lockdown. For bookings please contact:

St Swithun's church hall  
Details online at [www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings)  
or contact Yvonne Welch 459587  
Bothenhampton village hall  
Pennie Jones (temporary) 458006  
Bradpole village hall  
Please email [bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)  
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Advertising rates are online at [www.bridport-team-ministry.org/bridge/advertising](http://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 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 April issue: Advertising Friday 19 March · Copy Monday 22 March

# Spring flowers bring signs of hope

**My favourite season of the year is spring, which officially starts on 20 March and lasts until 21 June.**

The days are getting longer and evenings brighter. We move from the chilly, wet, dark season into a new dawn, new beginnings. The ground, which has been devoid of life, now springs to life. Bulbs begin to bloom. We move “out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

(1 Peter 2:9)

Early daffodils and bluebells begin to carpet what was a messy patch of mud and weeds. For the last few years, as spring approaches, I’ve looked forward to seeing my ‘rogue daffodil’. I’ll explain what I mean.

A few years ago, to make life easier, I had an area of tarmac laid to create an off-road parking space. Once the ground had been cleared, weed killer and plastic sheeting were put down and then the tarmac was laid on top. But every year, despite all this demolition and preparation, the odd single daffodil stem struggles to find a gap, totally undeterred by all that stands in its way. Finally a beautiful yellow flower appears and seems to trumpet: “There you are, I made it through again!”

This last year has been a bit like my driveway: very dark and messy. It’s been hard to keep hold of hope as we’ve drifted from lockdown to lockdown. But despite how we’ve felt, we’ve not been alone in these dark times.

“Even though I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid, because You are with me. Fear no evil; for You are with me...” (Psalm 23:4)

Despite the poisonous weed killer, the thick layer of black plastic and – as if that wasn’t enough – the smothering layer of tarmac on top, nothing daunts my little rogue daffodil. It just doesn’t give up! If the little plant could speak,

I wonder what it would say? Perhaps:

“I’m not sure I’m going to make it this year, but I’m going to give it a go anyway. I’ve come through many times before, so why not this time? When I start to see the daylight, when

*‘Even though I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid, because You are with me’*

Psalm 23:4

the sunlight starts to break through, I’ll know I’m nearly there. When I do get there, I’ll trumpet my arrival and victory over it all, and everyone will know!”

As spring begins to fill the air, I hope we can see the light at the end of the tunnel – and that this time it’s not another ‘lockdown train’ heading towards us, but rather a beacon of light, lit by a 99-year-old man walking up and down his garden, then fuelled by the creation and distribution of vaccines, and being kept alight by our patience.

“There is a time for everything, and everything on earth has its special season... a time to cry, and a time to laugh.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1+3)

This spring, I hope we will all celebrate a time of new beginnings with laughter and with joy, and rejoice like the trumpets of our rogue daffodils.

*Coral Hatton*



**Coral Hatton**  
Licensed lay minister

## Help the earth: plant a tree!

**Did you know you can get five free saplings for your garden from a local tree-planting campaign?**

Bridport Tree Planting, which over the winter has distributed and helped to plant 600 trees in public places including schools, playing fields, Asker Meadows and Millenium Green, also gives out native species such as hawthorn, bird cherry, downy birch, goat willow and beech to individuals for their own gardens.

Contact the town’s tree-planting coordinator, Joe Hackett (joe@thehacketts.uk) to see what stocks are still available. The planting season ends at the end of the March, so you’re just in time to plant for yourself and future generations!



## Deliveries of the printed Bridge will resume in April

**Even though we’ve had to publish online only again this month, I’m excited to say that we have a plan for returning to print.**

The ‘stay at home’ instruction is being relaxed from Monday 29 March, so our valued band of volunteers will be able to resume their delivery rounds. Additionally, most of these people will have

had their first Covid-19 vaccination, and possibly their second as well.

So we are resuming our print edition from April, with a slight change of timing. The April issue will be published on Thursday 8 April, with house-to-house deliveries over the weekend of 10–11 April. This is after Easter, so we’ve included some news about services on

page 5 of this month’s online magazine.

It’s fitting that these first steps back towards ‘normal’ life are happening in spring, when green shoots and signs of new life are appearing everywhere. It really feels as if the sun is coming out again after a long grey winter – in more ways than one. Happy Easter, everyone.



**Olivia Daly**  
Editor



**Purbeck Pizza Box joined the Bridport Community Fridge at one of its Thursday 'food for free' events in St Swithun's car park last month and gave away about 100 pizzas.**

**IT professional Tim Kidney (pictured) came up with the idea of the pizza initiative after a Christmas shopping trip during which his son Frankie (10) wanted to help a homeless man in the street. Tim started a JustGiving page to finance the scheme over the winter.**

**At St Swithun's Tim gave out 75 pizzas to people who came along, and afterwards took another 25 to Bridport Community Hospital as a thank-you to staff for their work during the Covid pandemic.**

**[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/purbeckpizzabox](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/purbeckpizzabox)**

**Wasting food contributes to climate change, and 70% of all edible food wasted in the UK comes from our homes. It's up to us to make a change.**

Visit [OutOfDate.org.uk](http://OutOfDate.org.uk)



## Volunteers wanted Parish Treasurer

**Have you ever thought how you might use your skills to contribute to your local community? This could be the opportunity for you!**

There are six Anglican churches in Bridport within the Bridport Team Ministry. Each has its own treasurer. We're seeking a volunteer to become our parish treasurer, looking after central parish finances and overall coordination.

The timing is exciting: we're reviewing the whole financial structure and this is a chance to be in at the beginning, to define the role and to help establish a robust financial system for the future. You will work with the finance committee of the team.

You don't need to be a qualified accountant, but a facility with numbers, good computer literacy and excellent communication skills are essential.

To apply, or just to discuss this role in confidence, please contact Philip Sturrock, Chair of the Finance Working Group, by email ([philip@philipsturrock.com](mailto:philip@philipsturrock.com)) or by phone (07802 895785).



## PCC Secretary

**The Bridport Team Ministry is looking for a secretary for the Parochial Church Council (PCC).**

This is an important role and supports and enables the work of the PCC. Duties will include:

- attending all PCC meetings and taking minutes
- preparing agendas and supporting papers and sending them out
- preparing the annual report and APCM

The role requires:

- good administration skills
- an ability to liaise with others
- a working knowledge of the Church of England

This is a voluntary role in which you will be working closely with the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector. The successful applicant will need to complete the appropriate safeguarding training and Enhanced DBS clearance.

The closing date is 12 March 2021 at 5pm. For more details or an application pack please contact the Revd Deb Smith by email at [deb@bridport-team-ministry.org](mailto:deb@bridport-team-ministry.org) or at The Rectory, 84 South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW.



If online services don't appeal to you, you can listen over the phone by calling

**01308 538187**

You'll hear a recording of the most recent Thursday low mass at St Swithun's. It's the cost of a local call and might even be free depending on your phone contract.



## Lorna is ordained priest at St Mary's

**The Revd Lorna Johnson was ordained priest at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 2 February.**

The service was conducted by the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne. It was a small gathering to comply with Covid restrictions, and was not open to the public, although it was shown live on Zoom and Facebook.

The ordination had been due to take place last year but this plan was derailed by the pandemic and because Lorna was unwell. She is delighted, however, that the service could finally go ahead – particularly because it was at Candlemas.

“It’s a time halfway between midwinter and the spring equinox, when we look for early signs of spring, the signs of hope that we all need in these hard times,” she says. “My ordination was a very special night and although we were physically distant, I felt very much we did it together. My journey as a minister has had a few extra steps because of

the pandemic and my ill health, but I am now fit and well and excited about this next stage. I’m also very grateful for all the teaching, practical support, wonderful company, love, and prayers that have supported me along the way, as well as for the flowers, cards and presents from my generous friends and colleagues.”

To mark the occasion Lorna will be given a very special earthenware paten and chalice (the plate and goblet that hold the bread and wine for the Eucharist service) which potter Jill Pryke is making. Lorna also received a set of small pieces made by Jill, who lives in Bothenhampton (see p8).

*Pictured above are (from left): The Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector; the Revd Lorna Johnson; the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne; the Revd Helen Croud, Team Curate; and the Revd Pete Stone, Team Vicar.*

## Making plans for public worship on Easter Sunday

**The Bridport Team Ministry (BTM) is getting ready to celebrate Easter in its churches as well as online.**

Following the unveiling of the government ‘roadmap’ towards an end to Covid restrictions, and the relaxation of the ‘stay at home’ order from 29 March, the team hopes to mark the Resurrection in church and is making plans to do so.

The Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector, says: “Last year we had our first experience of lockdown. Our journey through Holy Week and into Easter was so very different to anything we had known before. We were not allowed into our churches to worship, yet the church continued to pray, to serve and to proclaim our Easter hope. We discovered new ways to worship together and reach out to our community.”

On Easter Sunday BTM churches will re-open for public worship, as a sign of new life and the hope of new beginnings for our lives. Earlier team services, through Lent and Holy Week, will continue to be offered online and by phone.

“We are heartened to return to church this Easter,” adds

Deb. “For some, being able to worship together in our beautiful buildings will be a marker of real hope on this journey through the pandemic. We’ll be offering prayer for this community, who have been through so much, and indeed for our whole world, as we proclaim once more: He is risen!”



Social distancing and all health and safety measures will remain in place for public worship. **All plans are provisional in case of national changes, but the hope is to open all six BTM churches for Easter Day services at 10am.**

Please check the BTM Facebook page, pew sheets or [www.bridport-team-ministry.org](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org) for the latest information.

# Home-Start is seeking volunteer visitors

**Home-Start is one of the leading family support charities in the UK. It's a network of 180 local and regional organisations whose services are there for families when they most need support.**

Along with the rest of this network, Home-Start West Dorset has adapted its essential support services during the Covid-19 pandemic so it can continue to work with families through its team of trained volunteers. This has involved staying connected with families, providing emotional and practical support, and linking families into other community services that provide specialist help. We have seen social distancing and isolation placing enormous strain on families, and the difficulties of the last year are going to have a long-term impact.

Home-Start volunteers help families with young children to deal with the challenges they face. They support parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children. People struggling with post-natal depression, isolation, physical health problems, bereavement and many other issues receive the support of a volunteer who will spend around two hours a week in a family's home supporting them in the ways they need.

During the pandemic, Home-Start West Dorset has adapted its services to allow for the restrictions. It can currently offer four levels of support:

1. virtual support through telephone, text and video calls;
2. outdoor, socially distanced, face-to-face meetings such as going for a walk or to the park;
3. Covid-safe environments such as a café or play area;
4. and home visiting for exceptional circumstances.

Home-Start West Dorset is now looking for volunteers to offer practical and emotional support to families with children under five. If you have parenting experience and two to three hours a week available to support a local family, please consider coming forward.

All volunteers undertake 26 hours of training and are given regular support and guidance through a dedicated member of staff, including personal supervision every six weeks and ongoing training opportunities.

Helen Horsley, Manager, Home-Start West Dorset says: "We have good, enthusiastic volunteers who are very supportive of the families they are linked with, but we are expecting more demand for a service in the coming months. For this reason we'd like to recruit more volunteers so we don't have to turn any families away. I am very passionate about the support we give families and I know everyone who is involved in Home-Start feels the same. When a family says 'I will always be grateful to my wonderful volunteer for patiently allowing me to find my confidence again and give me hope for the future,' you know you are doing something right that is making a real difference."

For more information contact Helen on 07805 507161 or office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk. You can find out more about the charity at [www.homestartwestdorset.co.uk](http://www.homestartwestdorset.co.uk) and on its Facebook page.



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Amy Mowlam

01308 555638

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21 South Street, Bridport

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

## Finding an approved trader

**At Trading Standards we hear a lot about unfair trading and sub-standard service – and we've all seen the TV programmes about the more extreme 'rogue traders'.**



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Buy With Confidence is a national scheme approved by Trading Standards and was set up in response to concerns about rogue traders. It provides a list of local businesses committed to operating in a legal, honest and fair way.

Each business on the list has been approved by a qualified Trading Standards officer following a visit to check its standards of service and compliance with the law. Continual monitoring takes place to ensure the integrity of the scheme.

While we can't promise that a Buy With Confidence member's work will be perfect every time, you can expect them to deal with any problems fairly. Trading Standards can also help to resolve any issues.

Look out for the Buy With Confidence logo, visit [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) or call the Citizens Advice service helpline on 0808 223 1133.

## 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

### Words that make you happy

Are there words that make you happy, just by their very sound and taste in your mouth? How about halcyon? Mellifluous? Gossamer? The Church of England has more than its fair share of lovely words, too: Septuagesima, Epiphany, rogation, communion and many, many more.

The church's 'quinquennial inspection' sounds as if it might be something quite wonderful, but in reality, like any form of inspection, it brings anxiety. Every five years, all church buildings must undergo a detailed inspection by a suitably experienced and qualified professional, appointed after consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Churchwardens receive guidance about how to work with the inspector, what to do in preparation for the inspection, and what actions to take once they've received the report. You might think it's a bit scary.

Despite Covid restrictions and lockdowns, St Mary's has recently been inspected, and last month we received our final report. The technical details and recommendations clearly form the backbone of the report, but on careful reading one cannot help but see the beauty and history of this ancient building shining through... and it all sounds so wonderful!

"The external masonry is of coursed blocks of Inferior Oolite limestone on a plinth of Forest Marble." There's also talk of grotesques, recumbent effigies and gargoyles – all lovely words – but my attention was really drawn to the recommendation to restore and conserve the text above the door to the south aisle (pictured above). I have walked through that door so many times, yet I had not stopped and looked at the words so beautifully inscribed above: 'Reverence my sanctuary'.

The words are taken from the book of Leviticus, which was probably written in the early fifth century BC, but in these days of Covid restrictions, the inscription reminded me once again of the importance of the haven that this building affords to those who seek a place apart in which to find peace and tranquillity, to pray and worship. It has been



**The door to the south aisle in St Mary's bears the inscription: 'Reverence my sanctuary'**

so despite plague, pandemic, inspection or change; it has been a sacred place at the centre of our town for more than 800 years.

As we move through Lent and on to Easter, we come to that most glorious of words: resurrection! The days are lengthening and the doors of our churches will soon be opening, and I encourage you to visit St Mary's. By all means spend hours in study of the exterior oolite limestone, the grotesques and the gargoyles, stop awhile and ponder the inscription above the door to the south aisle – but then please do step inside and join those from many generations who have worshipped here and celebrated the grace and love of God made known at Easter.

*Lesley Hill, Churchwarden*

**While St Mary's is closed for public worship, the church will be open for private prayer every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon. We are hoping to hold a public service on Easter Sunday at 10am.**

**As part of the Bridport Team Ministry's pattern of online services, a reflective Service of the Word will be streamed from St Mary's on 2, 16 and 30 March.**

*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

### From the village editor

March heralds the season of spring, when the cold and gloomy days of winter are behind us. That's not to say there won't be any inclement weather to come, but the days are lengthening, inspiring a feel-good factor in this still uncertain and confusing time. The birds have started singing again, which is a sound to gladden the heart, and gardens are gradually taking on a colourful hue with the emergence of spring flowers and shrubs, despite the recent harsh temperatures, making us marvel at the wonders of nature.

*Barbara Ffooks*



## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

### Lent courses

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, 17 February, and study courses are underway. There is a different course each weekday. On Mondays the Revd Janis Moore takes us through the 'Live Lent God's Story – Our Story' booklet (no need to be online). On Tuesdays Peter Wright leads an online course from the Church Mission Society entitled 'The Possible World'. The Revd Helen Croud studies a Pilgrim Course on the Eucharist, online and in audio file. On Thursdays the Revd Ann Ayling discusses 'Poetry for Lent' by phone, and the Revd Philip Ringer looks at 'Hymns and Prayers for Lent' online on Fridays.

If you are interested in any of these courses, please contact the leaders (details on page 2).

### A gift for Lorna

Bothenhampton has in its midst a very talented potter, Jill Pryke. Anyone owning a piece made by her will appreciate its beauty and delicate colouring, as well as the skill required to produce it.

Now Jill is working on a special commission. Following the Revd Lorna Johnson's ordination as priest by the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, at Candlemas on 2 February, Lorna was asked how the Bridport Team could mark the occasion for her. She expressed a wish for a paten and chalice made in pottery, which Jill has been invited to create. To accompany these pieces a set of small jug, dove-shaped bowl and candleholder (pictured), crafted by Jill, has already been presented to Lorna, all making a lovely gift.



### Repairs in the Old Churchyard

We hope that work will start this spring on the boundary wall in the Old Churchyard. Movement in the wall is causing a possible risk for those using the footpath around the perimeter of the churchyard, and it also means the boundary is not secure enough to keep the lambs in the adjacent field. Rebuilding the wall will be done by a master stonemason and the cost charged to Holy Trinity Church. As the Parish Council is unable to help financially, the treasurer, Max Watters (427290), would very much appreciate any donations towards the £3,000 bill.

**Holy Trinity is open for private prayer only on Fridays 10am–3pm, and we hope to hold a public service on Easter Sunday at 10am. Don't forget that clocks go forward one hour on Sunday 28 March.**

## 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)

### From the village editor

The 175th anniversary of the dedication of the church will be on Wednesday 4 August. The building of the church began in 1845 and was completed the following year, when it was also dedicated. We hope to be able to hold a celebratory event marking the occasion, but this will depend on any Covid restrictions applying at the time.

Canon Alexander Broadley (vicar of Bradpole 1844–94) was responsible for building the church and his ordination jubilee was marked 42 years later by the erection of the stone pulpit, which was a gift from his son. Canon Broadley's memorial stained-glass window can normally be seen in the west wall but has been temporarily removed for repair. We hope that it will be reinstalled before the anniversary since the church council gave approval to the expenditure at their February meeting.

The history of the church is well documented in a booklet written by the late Ivan Andrews, but an updated reprint,

approved by Ivan, which was to have been made last year, unfortunately fell victim to the coronavirus lockdown.

*Douglas Baldwin*

**While public worship is suspended, Holy Trinity opens for private prayer every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon. We are hoping to hold a public service on Easter Sunday at 10am.**





## ST MARY'S Walditch

Village editor – James Craddock 458725

Churchwarden – Chris Wellman-Herold

281096 / chris.w-h@hotmail.co.uk

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

### Joy and reflection

Walditch is becoming quite a 'hot spot' for people taking exercise: dog walkers, joggers, cyclists, 'mature couples' on foot – some walking hand in hand – and keen, pole-carrying would-be Scandinavians. Some are local, many are not, but it's pleasing to see everyone enjoying the hills, the cows, the black sheep, St Mary's churchyard, the village green and the variety of housing, ancient and comparatively modern, in our area. Many are also sampling some delicious Walditch apple juice.

I sometimes wish, though, that our visitors would smile a bit more! I fully understand that there seems to be little to smile about at the moment, but it helps us all if we exchange a greeting as we pass each other. Let's go out with joy.

Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York respectively, have now urged the nation to pray at 6pm each day for the victims of the pandemic, those who grieve and the medical teams who are doing all they can to counter the virus.

We are nearing the beginning of Lent, a time for reflection, a time of prayer, and many of us, still in isolation, have even more time to pray. Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, self-isolated in a hermitage, wrote:



Andreas Hensel

“To want to pray is to pray... the great joy of the solitary life is not found simply in quiet, in the beauty and peace of nature, song of birds, etc., nor in the peace of one's own heart, but in the awakening and attuning of the heart to the voice of God – to the inexplicable, quiet definite inner certitude of one's call to obey Him, to hear Him, to worship Him, here, now, today, in silence and alone, and that is the whole reason for one's existence. This makes one's existence fruitful and gives fruitfulness to one another's good acts.”

We may have a religious faith, or no faith, but there is strong evidence that we have a spiritual need – to look beyond ourselves, to reflect on the purpose of our lives, and to love others. Lent is the right time for more prayers; prayer is powerful.

*The Revd Ann Ayling*

### Looking forward to Easter

As Easter approaches, besides giving Easter eggs why not ask children to decorate real eggs to mark the occasion? And perhaps you could bake a cake. The simnel cake has been a favourite Easter cake since medieval times. It's a rich, sweet treat, traditionally put together with a layer of marzipan in the middle and another layer of marzipan on top, decorated with 11 marzipan balls around the edge and one in the middle. These represent 11 of the 12 disciples – Judas the betrayer is missing – with Christ in the centre.

A poem called Easter Joy by Joanna Fuchs sums up the message of Easter. Here's an extract:

Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

*James Craddock*

**St Mary's Walditch is open for private prayer on Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon. We are hoping to hold a public service on Easter Sunday at 10am.**

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

Village editor – Sue Pollock 07903 558568

Chapel warden – Rosemary Russell 423013

### Remembering Ben Bryant

I have been asked to include this message from our chapel warden, Rosemary Russell. Like most of the congregation of St John's, Rosemary fondly remembers Ben Bryant, who passed away in January. Ben cared in so many ways

for St John's, making and installing a new gate for the side entrance some years ago, easing the main doors when necessary, changing the time on the outside clock in the spring and autumn, and with Annette opening and closing the church each day. Ben was a lifelong harbour user and the flag on the harbour master's office flew at half-mast on the day of his funeral. Please remember Annette and the family in your prayers.

### Round and about the Bay

Once again the church remains closed – who knows when it will reopen? Meanwhile, work has started on the permanent pathway from the toilet block to the Discovery Centre →

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

to give better disabled access. This work was funded by the Coastal Communities Fund and it is hoped that when it's finished people will not park on this pathway.

The Discovery Centre has received a silver award in the Accessible & Inclusive Tourism category of the Dorset Tourism awards. This recognises how attraction and tourism providers respond to the needs of visitors with disabilities and other impairments. The centre also received a commended status in the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category. Obviously the planned opening at February half term did not happen, but tentative planning is going ahead for a 'quiet' reopening for Easter.

The bus stop is now back in its original location and the social distancing measures introduced round by the kiosks have been removed.

Flood protection works to the River Brit riverbank in Parkdean Holiday Park have continued, with only a short break over the Christmas period. The piling work was completed ahead of schedule on 20 January, and once more there is quiet over West Bay, although piling removal on the east side of the harbour will resume shortly.

The harbour users' committee is now being replaced by a consultative panel for all those with an interest in the harbour. Representatives for West Bay will come from harbour users, the gig club, local businesses and the community forum.

Travellers arrived in the main car park where Covid testing is taking place. They then moved to the station car park before departing, unfortunately leaving a load of rubbish which had to be cleared away.

It was lovely to be able to walk down to the harbour once again, something I haven't been able to do as I've been



Roger Marks

West Bay Discovery Centre

laid up with a bad case of sciatica. I hadn't realised quite how much I missed it; just to look out at the sea has a truly calming effect most of the time. It would seem that Storm Christoph did not do much damage here, unlike the recent storm, which coinciding with a spring tide caused huge waves that deposited large quantities of shingle onto both the East Pier and the Esplanade. The wild swimmers stayed clear until the sea had calmed down – it's amazing how many of them are still regularly swimming!

We've had notification of the cancellation of the Annual Steam Fair and West Bay Vintage Rally, which was due to take place in June. It would have been its 45th anniversary. I just wonder how many other events will be called off although currently the Melplash Show is going ahead.

*Sue Pollock*

**St John's is not currently open for private prayer while services are suspended amid the Covid restrictions. We are hoping to hold a public service on Easter Sunday at 10am.**

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Village editors – June Goodburn 423061  
 Anna Sullock aejsullock@gmail.com  
 Churchwarden – Jo George 426457  
 Children and youth worker – 423061

### Lorna enters the priesthood

We enjoyed Lorna's ordination service for the priesthood on the evening of Tuesday 2 February in St Mary's Church. It wasn't a public service but we were able to watch online. Lorna looked serene in white and ready for her developing role, while Bishop Karen from Sherborne Abbey was a



dramatic presence in her gold and crimson robes.

Bishop Karen explained that it was the day of Candlemas, recalling the moment Simeon and Anna independently prophesied that the infant Jesus was the Messiah the Jews had been awaiting. She added that it was also the feast day of St Bridget, who was born in Kildare, Ireland. It is said that the Bride Valley and the River Brit are named after St Bridget – and that the Romans named Bridport 'Port Bredy', possibly also after her – so there's a lovely synchronicity in Lorna's service falling on this day. I was recently told by another priest that there is a St Bridget's well in Glastonbury.

It was good to see the Bridport Team Ministry supporting Lorna through her special service, and a great pleasure to see the Revd Pete Stone back to take part in his white robe. There was a moving part of the ceremony when surrounding priests laid hands on Lorna, touching her as part of the welcome to the priesthood. This felt very poignant at a time when we cannot hug or touch each other because of the Covid-19 restrictions. The Centering Prayer group remarked on this; they are patiently looking forward to a group hug, as are many other people, no doubt.

The other day I visited June Goodburn – congregation member of St Swithun's and longtime village editor for this

**The Revd Lorna Johnson (left) at her ordination into the priesthood with the Right Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne. There are more details of the service on p5.**

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

column – to say it was the anniversary of Daphne Mundy's death. June then thought of all the daffodils that she and Daphne had planted at St Swithun's, having rallied help from other churches in the team, plus the Girl Guides and other organisations across the parish. As I write, the daffodils are about to flower, holding back in this icy cold spell. They are planted in concentric circles and a triangle. Something to look forward to as the springtime approaches, and well worth a visit.

*Anna Sullock with June Goodburn*

**A Low Mass service is broadcast from St Swithun's at 10am each Thursday.** It's available on Zoom here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82315119178>. You can also listen by phoning 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240; when prompted, key in the meeting ID 823 1511 9178. Calls are at your local rate or free in your phone plan. Contact the Revd Lorna (details on p2) if you need help with this. Please note: attendance at this service in person is not permitted.

**St Swithun's is also open for private prayer on Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon. We are hoping to hold a public service on Easter Sunday at 10am.**

**Bridport UNITED CHURCH**  
Minister – The Revd Peter Clark 425978  
Church secretary – Sue Herman  
422598 / [bridportsec@gmail.com](mailto:bridportsec@gmail.com)

**incorporating**  
**UPLUDERS CHAPEL**  
Correspondent – Carol Hall  
423163 / [carol@gribb.plus.com](mailto:carol@gribb.plus.com)

*"It is finished."*  
(John 19:30b)

I remember a time when my great aunt, an uncomplicated lady with very limited education, was in conversation with my two sisters, who were in their early teens. They were trying to explain their frustrations about some element of injustice or politics (I can't remember the issue but we were a family that talked and discussed political matters a lot). After their detailed and extensive explanations of what was wrong with the world, she nodded her head and said, "Well, never mind, eh?"

This became a family saying when discussing an entirely intractable or horrific issue or happening: we now wryly end our ruminations with those self-same words and smile in remembrance of dear old Aunt Rose.

And though well-never-mind-ism is frankly as helpful as a slap with a wet fish, I can't help but think I am guilty of periodically saying things that are just as inadequate. When talking with someone who has just lost their lifelong partner, someone in the depths of loss, I know there is nothing I can say that is going to make it all right (and also

that it would definitely be possible for me to say the wrong thing). But I am there alongside the person and am expected to say something, so I tend to say something hopeful. We are after all the People of Hope!

And this period of pandemic – now amazingly a year long – has, I suspect, found me guilty once again of a bit of well-never-mind-ism. I remember, for instance, saying in the balmy spring sunshine of the first lockdown, "Well at least it isn't November or winter." Those words then came back to bite me during the second lockdown (yes, in November) and the one that's now in place.

And yet I do feel an element of assurance that I have been right to try to be as positive as possible during a period of new experiences and previously unknown challenges. I remember hearing a lady in a supermarket saying she was glad her mum wasn't there, as she had always said that modern generations would never have coped with the wartime privations. And yet, do you know, looking around at how we have held together as a community, supported each other and shown good old Christian love and fellowship, I can't help but say that we have done all right. We've coped – and, in some spheres, we have even shone.

We're about to enter the seasons of Lent and Easter and I think about the disciples in those first days after the Friday that was anything but 'good'. I suspect that even after the Resurrection the scars of that terrible day were deep and lasting, but I am sure that with time the disciples grew to appreciate the whole experience, good and bad.

I know it doesn't sort everything out to say that of our current pandemic experience. I know we probably don't really believe we've coped – sometimes remarkably well – in this last year. And I know it doesn't make it all better and right and restore us to the 'old normal'. But I can't help but insist on saying it anyway.

I heard recently that the former French president, Jacques Chirac, used to say, "Only when the cattle fair is over can we count the cow dung." Perhaps a more erudite type of well-never-mind-ism, but let's look forward with hope for a time when this particular cattle fair is indeed finished.

*The Revd Peter Clark*

Sadly, since our last issue two of our members, Alan Russ and Frances Smart, have died. We pray for their families and that they will rest in peace.

**The following services have been scheduled but are subject to (likely) cancellation amid the ongoing restrictions. Please check the United Church website [www.buc.cool](http://www.buc.cool) for the latest information. Online services and audio services (the latter →**



**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...**

**from the United Reformed Church) are available – please visit the website for details and links.**

14 March	The Revd Peter Clark (Holy Communion)
21 March	Peter Kershaw
28 March	Gill Bumphrey (family service)
4 April	The Revd Peter Clark (Easter Communion)

**From Uploders Chapel**

Well, as I write this, things are sadly no different from the situation we found ourselves in last month. In fact even the weather has been a bit gloomy! Still, as I look out of the window I can see the sun is attempting to come out to lift our spirits and Mother Nature has been busy moving things on with the appearance of snowdrops in my garden.

Did you know that snowdrops are also known as Candlemas bells? They are a symbol of Jesus being our hope in the world, as they flower at this time, midway between

the December solstice and the March equinox, when we are waiting for spring. This is something I learnt from Liz Guard, who heads up our lovely CAKE group that normally meets once a month in the chapel. During lockdown Liz has been doing a brilliant job providing us with 'Virtual CAKE', which is obviously not the same as getting together, but nevertheless very uplifting in these difficult times. CAKE involves us getting together and having a chat over a cuppa and yes, you've guessed it, cake. We then have a time of contemplation when we can think of those in need of our thoughts and prayers. There is something very special about sharing moments like these.

So, as I said last month, although it is tempting, let's not be grumpy for what we can't have but be grateful for what we can. All the best for the coming months – let's make 2021 a Year of Fun as much as possible.

When they can safely be resumed, Sunday services at Uploders Chapel are at 10.30am.

*Carol Hall*



## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

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

**Stations of the Cross**

In Bridport, Stations of the Cross are no stranger to us thanks to an exhibition and prayer focus some years ago in the town. They are traditionally prayed on the Fridays of Lent and invite us to walk the way of the cross with Jesus.

A few years ago, I was fortunate enough to lead a group of pilgrims on the way through the actual streets of Jerusalem



**Station IV,  
Jesus meets  
his mother, is  
one of the 14  
Stations of the  
Cross in the  
prayer garden  
at St Mary &  
St Catherine  
in Bridport**

to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In the early days of the church, Christians would make their way to that holy city to accompany Jesus on his way to Calvary. Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the 14 stations that are now found in Catholic churches and in some Anglican churches too.

In this Way of the Cross we walk with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) through Old Jerusalem, a route that pilgrims have been following for centuries. As in the busy streets of the city, we pause (make a station) at each telling moment to share with our Lord in his desolation. We seek to grow closer to him as we walk in his steps, as we sense his suffering and the resolution with which he struggled to persevere to accomplish his Father's will for each and every one of us.

At Bridport Catholic Church we are fortunate enough to have a beautiful set of Stations of the Cross on the walls of our prayer garden (around the back of the church). Station IV, Jesus meets his mother, is pictured on this page. You are very welcome to go round there any time to sit and be still or to make the journey of the Stations on your own or with someone in your household. We also make that spiritual journey together in a socially distanced way every Friday in Lent at 12noon. Again, you would be very welcome.

There are also many prayers online that may help, among them those at [www.jesuit.org.uk/stations-cross](http://www.jesuit.org.uk/stations-cross).

*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 on the parish website: [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.bridportcatholics.org.uk)

For updates about Sunday Masses and daily weekday Mass in the parish, please see our weekly newsletter on the website.

Please note that the parish office is currently closed, but answerphone messages are being picked up daily.

# 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).*

**Colmers WI** meets at the WI Hall in North Street. 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 contact 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 on Tuesdays 1.45–4.45pm. Contact Kathy 485626.

**Bridport Choral Society** rehearses on Monday evenings at the United Church Hall and hopes to resume activities soon. Margaret Foster (Secretary) margefoster1956@gmail.com.

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** normally meets at the WI Hall but is currently holding lecture evenings over Zoom. The next will take place on Thurs 15 April at 7.30pm. Details at [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk). Contact 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](mailto:sandylovelock@btinternet.com).

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

**Disabled Carers & Friends** meet Thurs 9am–noon at Vernon's Court Community Room, South St. Call in for a chat or advice. Contact [pete.bowditch@hotmail.com](mailto:pete.bowditch@hotmail.com)/423620/421213/427819.

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

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

**Bridport ASD and Social Anxiety Group** for carers and young people 7–11 and 11–18. [www.bridportasd.wordpress.com](http://www.bridportasd.wordpress.com) plus Facebook. Email [indigo.may.counselling@gmail.com](mailto:indigo.may.counselling@gmail.com).

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



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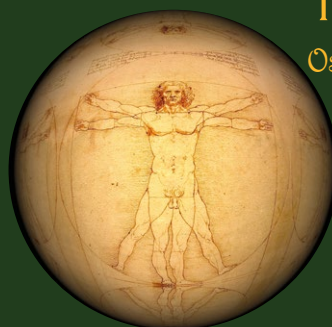
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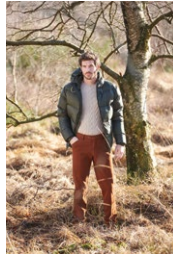
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A new advertising admin manager will join the team next month, but we are still looking for someone to make some **advertising sales** calls a couple of times a year so we can continue to attract new advertisers. This is not a high pressure sales job! We are building a positive presence among Bridport publications and our prices are competitive. Please get in touch if you're interested in taking this on.

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