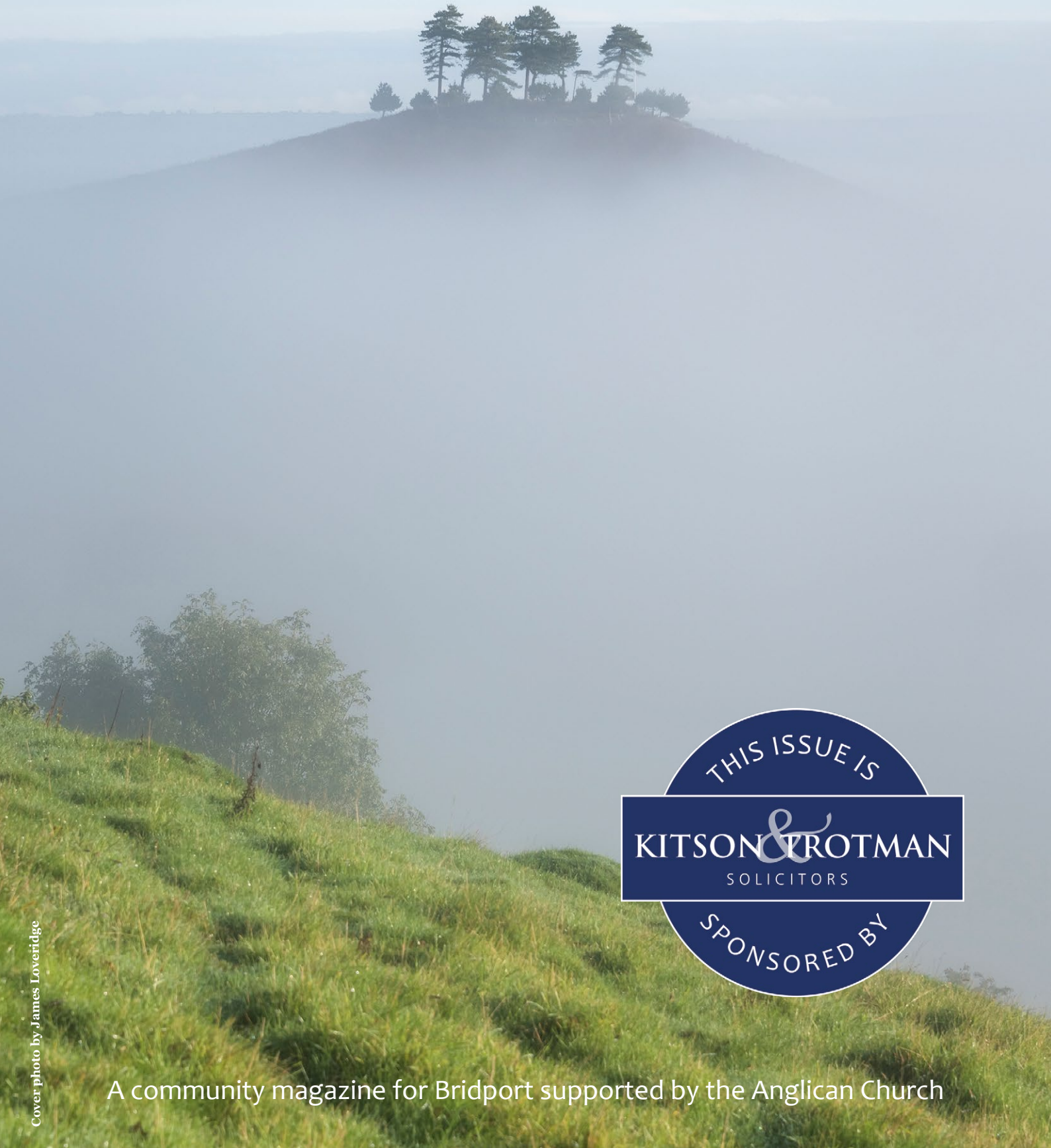


May 2021
May 2021

the **Bridge**



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KITSON & TROTMAN
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Cover photo by James Loveridge

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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Vacancy

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Coral Hatton

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Anne Stone 426459
Diana Wright 456967

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

Cupboard Love food bank

Carrie Gamble 07443 596096
cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

Hall bookings

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

Pennie Jones (temporary) 458006

Bradpole Forsters 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 June issue: Advertising Friday 7 May · Copy Monday 10 May

New life is all around, giving us hope

My wife and I moved out of the manse last year into our own home as a step towards my taking early retirement in the autumn. Amid the overwhelming strangeness of this pandemic period, this move has offered an additional element to adapt to.

I've often joked that manses and vicarages tend to be bigger houses with largish gardens, and clergy are generally pretty rubbish at gardening because of the nature and demands of their job. So, unless the clergy spouse is a keen gardener, their gardens are often overgrown and less than spectacular!

There are exceptions, of course, and I well remember a rector in Kent who maintained an impressive display of flora and supplied many of us with fresh vegetables from his surplus.

Strangely, however, the Bridport manse, being a modern build, didn't have a particularly large garden, so was easy to maintain – phew! Amazingly, our own much smaller house actually has more garden to look after. We have built a summerhouse to provide me with a study and I greatly enjoy the view across the developing fruit and vegetable patch as I work. I'm not much of a gardener but I can maintain the small lawn and have already planted out some runner beans. My wife has planted some other eatables for later in the season as well as putting into the ground a lot of the plants that used to be in pots at the manse. I'm looking forward to seeing it all develop and grow, not to mention anticipating a continuing battle with the bugs and snails. We shall see who wins, shan't we!

The reason I've written all that is that I was reminded of Coral's words in the March issue about the emergence

of spring as evidenced by the appearance of buds and flowers, giving us hope after a deep and, this year, particularly dark and troublesome winter.

As I looked out on the strawberry plants, raspberry canes and blackberry bushes beginning to show evidence of

new life, it occurred to me that all year God's creation continues to burst out and demonstrate the nature of the amazing world we are blessed to live in.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is surely to appreciate the small things that perhaps we have taken for granted for too long. Full-face smiles, gathering closely together, hugs and singing in church are top of my list of missed things. I do think, though, as I see the flowers and bushes exuberantly celebrating their lives, that they are a terrific reminder of the delight of being alive, not to mention how fortunate we are to still be here!

I'm sure the scars and losses of the last year or so will leave their mark, but I do hope we will continue to appreciate those wonderful gifts from God that we have missed. May the flowers and fruit act as our reminders!

*The Revd Peter Clark
Minister at Bridport United Church and
Uploders Methodist Chapel*



The Revd Peter Clark

'The pandemic ... has surely taught us to appreciate the small things we've taken for granted'

Our delivery volunteers are a dedicated bunch

I want to say a massive thank you to all our distribution volunteers who leapt into action to deliver the April magazines after several digital-only months.

Between them they deliver about 5,500 copies, covering almost the whole of Bridport. Some of those magazines go to people who live alone, have been locked down for months and – surprising in these always-connected times – aren't online. It's particularly good to be able to reach those people again and help them feel connected with life in the town.

There are a few gaps in the network, however, and we're always looking for more volunteers, so I'd love to hear from you if you have an hour or so to spare once a month. I really enjoy my own delivery round in the heart of our fascinating, historic town.



**Olivia Daly
Editor**

Focusing on beautiful Bridport

This month's gorgeous cover photo (and last month's, too) was taken by professional photographer James Loveridge, who lives in Bridport. You might also have seen his work in the national media, including in mid-April when several papers and the BBC news used his shots of the huge cliff fall at Seatown.

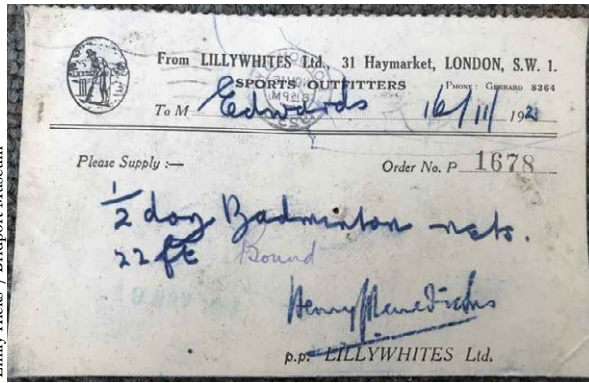
We're very grateful for James for letting us use his photos in this magazine. You can find more of his fabulous work online at www.jamesloveridgephotography.co.uk.

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Contractors working on the fire-ravaged Tower Building at St Michael's Trading Estate have found some fascinating documents from the early 1920s under the floorboards.

The box of letters, receipts and orders belonged to Edwards Sports, which occupied the building at the time. Many of the documents are from Lillywhites in the Haymarket, London (where it still trades) and include an order (pictured) for some badminton nets and others for football and tennis nets.

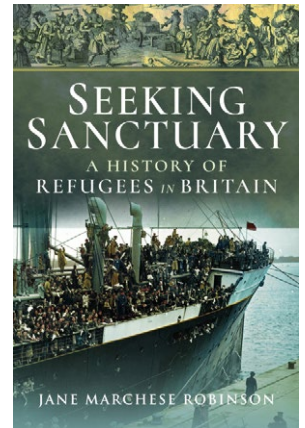
Edwards was founded in 1864 and was well known as a producer of sports netting, an offshoot of Bridport's thriving rope industry. It still operates as part of Huck Nets, based at Gore Cross Business Park, and continues to produce nets and posts for the Wimbledon tennis championships and other high-profile sporting events.

The trading estate's owner, Hayward and Co, has donated the documents to Bridport Museum.

Refugee support group plans fundraising event

The author of 'Seeking Sanctuary: A History of Refugees in Britain' will visit Bridport next month for a local group's fundraising evening.

Jane Marchese Robinson will be discussing her book and the inspiration behind it with former BBC journalist Martin Dawes. The Bridport Refugee Support Campaign has organised the event to raise money for its work to resettle a Syrian refugee family in the town.



'Seeking Sanctuary' explores the history of people looking for refuge in this country. It starts with protestant refugees from the Netherlands fleeing oppression from Catholic Spain in the 16th century, and traces successive waves of people, examining the reasons behind their flight. These reasons, at various times, have included religious persecution, political upheaval, war and ethnic cleansing.

The book was inspired by Jane's work with refugees and asylum seekers in Plymouth as well as the discovery that her grandmother was one of 250,000 Belgian refugees who fled here when the German army overran their country in 1914.

After graduating from Birmingham University in economic and social history, Jane spent 30 years as an advocate for marginalised groups including the homeless, people with disabilities and mental health problems and, latterly, refugees.

Martin Dawes is a former BBC foreign correspondent in Africa and an international spokesperson for UNICEF in South Asia and West Africa. Since returning to the UK he has written on the causes and consequences of the West Africa Ebola outbreak and how the Covid-19 pandemic will change international aid. He lives in Sidmouth with his wife Alison.

The event is at The Chapel in the Garden, East Street, on Thursday 17 June, 6.30–8.30pm. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children from Bridport TIC or online here: www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/product/bridport-refugee-support-campaign.

This is a live event so certain Covid restrictions may apply. The Bridport Refugee Support Campaign is online at www.bridportrefugee.org.uk and on Facebook.

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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*)

Immerse yourself in local history as a museum volunteer

Bridport Museum will be reopening on 17 May and is looking for volunteers to help visitors make the most of their time there.

There are opportunities to welcome visitors, work in the shop, steward the brand new exhibition and generally have a sociable time. Slots are available at various days during the week, including Saturdays.

Visitor Services Manager Nikki Brotherton says: "We would love to welcome some new recruits this spring and summer. Slots are flexible, and you'll be joining a welcoming and friendly team. Training and support are provided. You can join a regular shift or be on our stand-in rota if you aren't looking for a regular commitment."

The museum is also keen to recruit volunteers for behind-the-scenes roles including in the research, digital, maintenance, collections and conservations teams, as well as people to represent the museum at special events including the Melplash Show.

To find out more, visit www.bridportmuseum.co.uk, email visitorservices@bridportmuseum.co.uk or call Nikki for an informal chat on 01308 458703.



Bridport Folk Festival needs help to go ahead

The organisers of Bridport Folk Festival have cautiously planned this year's event for the weekend of 13–15 August, and have launched a crowdfunding campaign to help them ensure it goes ahead.

The Covid restrictions of the last year have prevented local musicians earning money through busking or concerts, and there's a deficit in the up-front costs of putting on an event of this size, so the committee members are hoping to raise the shortfall through crowdfunding. "You promise to give as much or as little as you can and we promise to give you a folk festival you won't forget," says a spokesperson. "Your donation, no matter how small, will enable us to bring the Bridport Folk Festival back to the community and start Bridport bouncing back!"

Any profits made from the event are given back to community causes such as the food bank and youth groups. www.crowdfunder.co.uk/bridport-folk-festival-2021

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Maintaining family ties: Brid

There are volunteers all over Bridport doing valuable work that often goes unnoticed – until it's needed in a crisis, that is. This month we look at a team helping to keep parents in touch with their children after the breakdown of an adult relationship

Family breakdown always has an effect on children. In the best-case scenario, parents manage the situation without help from outside agencies, maintaining a calm dialogue and respect for each other, and continuing to share access to their children. But all too easily a decision to separate can spiral into a chaotic mess of anger and blame that leaves children bewildered, lost and even feeling responsible for what has gone wrong between the two people they love most in all the world.

Sometimes, the parent who leaves the family home loses contact with their children altogether, and this is the case for about a million young people across the



UK. Child Contact Centres (CCCs), however, are helping to put this right. This wonderful organisation makes it possible for non-resident parents to spend time with their children in a safe, supported environment, even if communication with the resident parent has broken down.

Bridport's CCC is one of about 350 accredited members of the National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC). It started in the United Church hall in 2003 but moved in 2009 to rent rooms in the Children's Centre, attached to St Mary's School in Skilling Hill Road. It's run by volunteers and a management committee whose members include a fundraiser, a training manager and a solicitor. All are DBS checked and take part in a thorough training programme.

The centre is open for two hours on the second and fourth Saturday afternoons of each month. In 'normal' times it has capacity for up to seven families at once, although Covid restrictions have cut this down to three as each family has to have its own room. It's a fun place – there are lots of toys,

both indoors and out – but its mission is very serious and everything has been considered to optimise everyone's experience. There are even

separate entrances and different arrival and departure times so estranged parents don't have to meet when one brings the children to spend time with the other.

It's about the children

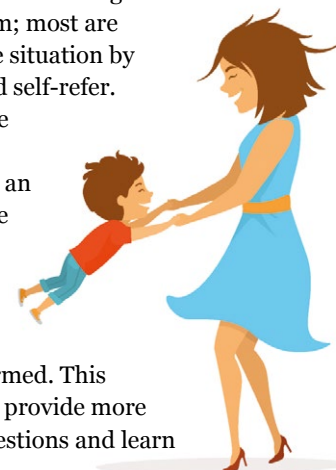
Mish Bartlett – a former special needs teacher – has been the centre's coordinator for about 10 years and is passionate about putting children's welfare first. "The CCC allows people to stay in touch with their child while they sort out the practicalities around their adult relationships and access arrangements," she says. "Many families get to a place of greater stability relatively quickly, while for others it takes a little longer."

Mish says the children who come to the centre range from tiny babies to 11- or 12-year-olds. "The upper age limit is 18 but in practice we don't see many teenagers. Some children can be reluctant to engage with their non-resident parent, so we look for ways to encourage them. Many parents, too, are understandably anxious about the situation. It's a joy to see them begin to relax and reconnect."

Some parents come to the centre by referral from the courts, a solicitor or an agency such as social services or the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).

However, since the criteria for Legal Aid entitlement changed, far fewer families have come through the legal system; most are negotiating the situation by themselves and self-refer.

Whatever route a family takes, there is always an initial, separate meeting with each parent before their place at the centre is confirmed. This allows them to provide more details, ask questions and learn



The Child Contact Centre operates in this building on Skilling Hill Road



Bridport's Child Contact Centre

how the contact sessions are managed. Children are also invited to visit.

This meeting is also a chance for the resident parent to set out what they'll allow. Some might be happy for the non-resident parent to take the child or children out of the centre for a short time during the session or even move to the centre being used as a pick-up/drop-off place. More recently there have been occasions for other relatives such as grandparents, new partners and their children to attend, too.

Support where it's most needed

Bridport CCC gives 'supported' contact. This means a volunteer is present at all times during the visit. They might suggest ways for parent and child to reconnect, or games for them to play, but lots of soft skills come into effect, too, as the volunteer subtly manages the emotion of the situation. This includes stopping the visiting parent criticising their estranged partner in front of the child, or asking probing questions about things at home.

There are a few strict rules. Every non-resident parent has to hand in their mobile phone when coming to the centre. Only the volunteer can take photos of the meeting (and then only with the resident parent's permission) and these cannot be posted on social media. Confidentiality is important and volunteers don't share details between parents.

Some other CCCs offer the next level of contact, known as a 'supervised' arrangement, where a qualified social worker or therapist works with the visiting parent to observe the relationship between parent and child. "Very occasionally we have to refuse applicants if there are concerns around child protection, for instance, and we think they need a supervised set-up," says Mish. "We always put the child first, and their needs and wants are central to any decision."

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Mish and her team of volunteers,



The centre has lots of indoor toys and some outside space for playing in fine weather

the CCC has managed to keep operating during much of the coronavirus pandemic. Some families have continued to visit the centre; the restrictions allow the children of separated parents to visit both homes freely (with no social distancing or masks) and this extends to the CCC. For other families – particularly those who live some distance from Bridport – Mish has set up WhatsApp and Zoom video calls to maintain supported contact.

Looking ahead

So what of the future? Mish foresees that she might have to step down from her post at the centre, and in line with what's happening in other centres, according to the NACCC, this will mean having a paid coordinator working about eight hours a week.

"I've been putting together a job description and it would be ideal for someone with a background in social services or family law," she says. "The centre's work is so important, and it's becoming more difficult with the loss of Legal Aid and the increasing complexity of family structures – not to mention the impact Covid is having on people who were struggling anyway.

"But funding is an issue. We have other expenses, too, and we don't want to have to pass these on to the parents as happens at some bigger centres. One solution might be to charge agencies such as solicitors for referrals to complement our own fundraising activities and grant applications."

First, though, Mish and her team are looking forward to the relaxation of Covid restrictions and getting back to full capacity at the centre. "I'm so proud of what we do, and I want to thank everyone involved – including our neighbours, St Mary's School, for letting us use their field. Video conferencing is all very well, and it has really helped many of our families during Covid, but there's nothing like getting together in person, having fun and a hug, and building some bridges."

*Bridport Child Contact Centre,
Skillington Hill Road, Bridport DT6 5LA
07792 075972 / bridportccc@live.co.uk
www.bridportchildcontactcentre.org
National Association of Child Contact Centres www.naccc.org.uk*

Please note that Bridport Child Contact Centre is NOT the Children's Centre, which is owned and managed by Dorset Council. The Children's Centre (now renamed 'West Locality for Education and Early Help') normally operates on weekdays as a base for health visitors, parenting groups and other early years support.





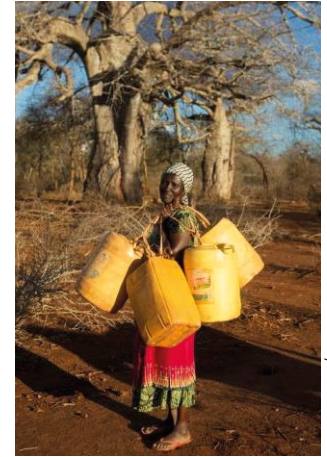
In this, Christian Aid's 175th anniversary year, the focus is as ever on 'Real people. Real change.'

Right now that means the climate crisis, specifically our global neighbours in Kenya, who continue to battle the effects of extreme weather. In one generation the rains have gone from being predictable and productive to varying from drought to catastrophic flooding, damaging crops. Also, the Coronavirus pandemic has made it vital for people to be able to access water and soap so they can wash their hands.

This is Rose (pictured), whose community is faced with long, exhausting journeys on foot to provide for their families. She walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren and tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl, when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Rose and her grandchildren shouldn't have to go hungry or thirsty; they need a reliable source of water. Christian Aid is partnering with communities like hers to respond to climate crisis chaos with transformative earth dams, drought-tolerant crops and a demand for climate justice at the highest level. With the help of our gifts, prayers and actions this Christian Aid Week, we can make a real difference for people like Rose.

From envelope collections to some fun events, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.



Christian Aid / Tom Pliston

Some things to look out for this Christian Aid Week:

- Church services that include Christian Aid themes on Sunday 16 May, both online and in church (details to be confirmed). There is also a 'Daily Devotional' booklet available for personal use during the week. If you can't find one in your local church, contact us via the email addresses below.
- The return of 'Quiztian Aid' on Saturday 8 May at 7pm. This was a great success in 2020 and this year's host is Kate Bottley from Gogglebox. You can join this national event via www.caweek.org/quiztianaid or organise your own quiz for friends and family via www.caweek.org/resources. Look out for other local Quiztian Aid party Zooms and events as they are announced.
- The 300,000 steps challenge. See if you can do this number of steps during May! Yes, that's just under 10,000 steps a day, but don't worry – you can rope in your family, friends and bubble buddies to do it as a team, then it becomes super-achievable. The family dog will always appreciate extra walks, and you may even be able to find a friend willing to lend you their dog to help out, too. Here's a hot tip: use a fitness tracker or wear your phone with its pedometer step counter around the house and you'll be surprised what you clock up!

This year you might receive your Christian Aid envelope in a variety of ways...

A personalised e-envelope could be appearing in your E-Box (via a member or your church), or it might be a 'delivery only collection' where an envelope is delivered with a note, giving details of places where you can return it, such as a church, a shop or a Christian Aid collector's home. You can also pick up an envelope directly at church, and there might be some traditional house-to-house envelope collections in some areas, subject to Covid regulations.

Thank you so much in advance for helping Rose fight her climate crisis. We hope you have a lot of fun in the process.

Jill Henderson (jillpetrina13@gmail.com)

The Revd Lorna Johnson

(ms.lorna.dee.johnson@googlemail.com)

*Coordinators for Churches Together
Christian Aid team for Bridport
and surrounding villages.*

*The main Christian Aid website is
www.caweek.org*

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ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967
 Churchwarden – Lesley Hill 422417
 Director of music – Tim Linsley
 07830 308701
 Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

Looking forward to the Church's birthday

As the Covid-19 restrictions are slowly being lifted, it has been good under the interim arrangements for services in the Bridport Team to welcome worshippers from other churches in the team to our 11am communion service. With the backdrop of the Easter garden in the chancel we are reminded of the empty tomb and the reality of our risen Lord, who we meet to worship, while outside in the churchyard spring flowers and new growth have spurred the Living Churchyard group into action.

There are two important events in May. On Sunday 23 May the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place after the team service. At this meeting, churchwardens and Parochial Church Council members will be appointed to serve the parish – that is the parish of Bridport, comprising all six churches that make up the Bridport Team Ministry.

Sunday 23 May is also Pentecost, the day on which we remember the birthday of the Church, when the followers of the risen Jesus were transformed from frightened, lost people into a spirit-filled, dynamic group whose actions changed the world.

That process of change was not easy for those first followers of Jesus, and the process by which their mission became a worldwide religion was not easy or simple. After Pentecost, the new 'movement' – later known as the 'Christian' church – was born. There was opposition, there were internal disagreements, but the people involved listened and talked to each other about their problems so that together they could move forward into a new world. They all had to learn to embrace change – huge change in some respects – but they were determined to work out their differences and to bring the good news of the gospel



Gerd Altmann / pixabay

to the communities in which they were placed.

As we slowly emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic into this new world, we too need to embrace change. Let's listen to each other's concerns, and be supportive and loving, so we can focus on bringing the good news of the gospel to our community.

Peter Wright

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

Sunday 2	11am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 4	2.30pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 9	11am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 11	2.30pm	Parish Communion
Sunday 16	11am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 18	2.30 pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 23	10am (tbc)	Pentecost Team Service followed by APCM (see left)
Tuesday 25	2.30pm	Service of the Word
Sunday 30	11am	Parish Communion

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

Bothenhampton is beginning to open up again, which is excellent news. Our monthly Saturday coffee mornings in Holy Trinity, which everyone has missed so much, are returning from 5 June, giving people a chance to meet for a

catch-up. Plans are going ahead, too, for an additional social event on the third Saturday of each month. This will feel a little different to our normal much-loved coffee mornings and will help with our fundraising for the repairs to the wall in the Old Churchyard. After spending so much time in our homes it will be wonderful to get together in another environment and recapture some of the things we have been longing to do once again. As the summer goes on, we look forward to the possibility of more activities in the village.

There won't be anything happening in the village hall just yet, though. The committee is waiting for further guidelines from the government so they can make sure it's safe to open the hall before welcoming back the regular groups who use it. However, once the hall becomes available, some help will be needed, and **the committee is looking for a bookings clerk**. If you think you could help our village hall in this way, please contact Sandra Hooker on 422205.

It's so good to be back to weekly services in Holy Trinity, →

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

and it was a lovely sunny morning on Easter Day when 30 parishioners came to the service of Holy Communion. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and the Easter garden, which included Jill Pryke's lovely pottery figures. A small choir sang a chorus, Taizé chant and an Easter anthem, 'The Strife is O'er'. Happily, the wind that had been forecast didn't appear, so the whole congregation was able to go outside at the end of the service to sing the Easter hymn 'Thine be the Glory' among the daffodils.

Worship continues on Friday mornings for the time being, and the church is now open every day to visitors and those wanting time for private prayer and reflection.

Barbara Ffooks

Public services on Fridays at 10am:

- 7 May** **Holy Communion**
- 14 May** **Morning Prayer**
- 21 May** **Holy Communion**
- 28 May** **Morning Prayer**



The daffodils at Holy Trinity were looking lovely on Easter Day

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)

Changes to Holy Trinity District Church Council (DCC)

A meeting will be held in church after the service on Sunday 2 May to appoint a sub-committee of the Bridport Parochial Church Council (PCC) for Holy Trinity. The reason for this is that the DCC is no longer operating, and has been operating outside the Church Representation Rules for many years.

The new sub-committee will function in much the same way as the old DCC and will consist of a churchwarden, secretary, treasurer and two PCC representatives. These people, who must be members on the Bradpole section of the Parish Electoral Roll, will form a core group, and others (also

on the roll) may join to properly represent the congregation.

John Adams, who has been churchwarden for many years, will not be standing for re-election. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this, please contact John on 01308 425766 or email johno209@btinternet.com.

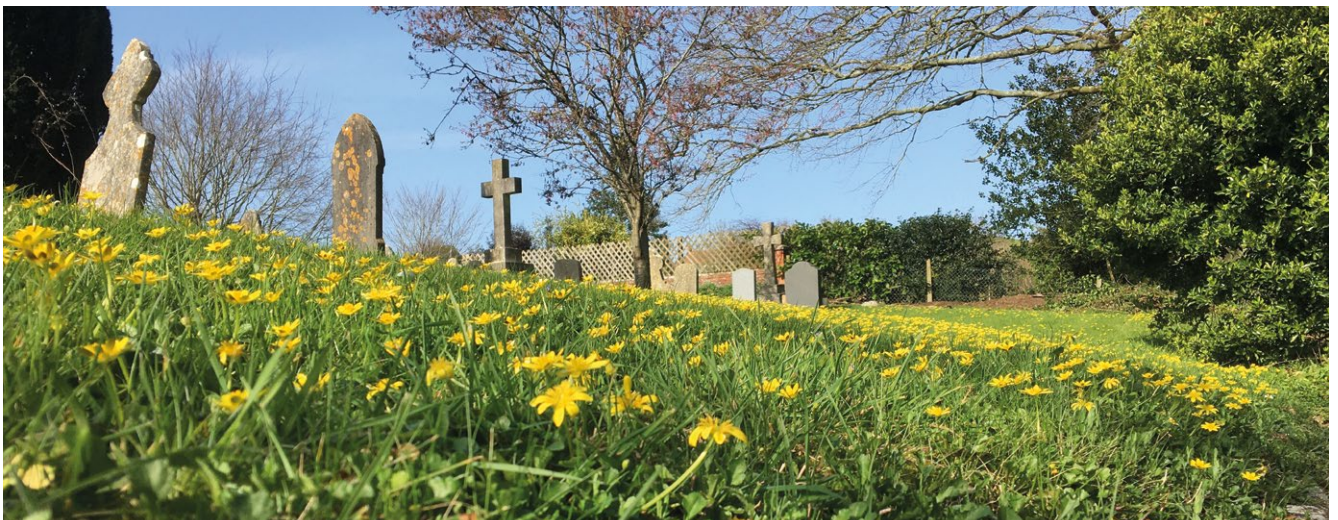
A green ministry

As part of the Bridport Team Ministry, Holy Trinity is committed to the Eco Church initiative, looking at ways we can integrate respect for nature and the environment with church life. If you've walked through the churchyard recently, you'll have seen some areas marked out between gravestones. We are starting by allowing grass to grow and encouraging wild flowers to flourish in these areas (pictured).

We hope members of the community will join the congregation in this initiative, and if you are interested you can talk to Alan Bowley on 01308 422208 or 07710 531645. You might also like to visit Alan's fascinating website here: www.ramblewithalan.wixsite.com/ramblewithalan.

Douglas Baldwin

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



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)

Chris stands down as churchwarden

Chris Wellman-Herold will stand down as churchwarden of St Mary's Walditch at the AGM of the church's parish council on Sunday 23 May.

Chris and Sue, his wife, came to live in Walditch in 2011. Very sensibly they decided to learn 'the lie of the land' and get to know their neighbours before being persuaded to get involved in retirement-changing activities! Both had skills to offer, having retired from demanding professions.



They signed up on the electoral roll of St Mary's Church and in 2014 Chris agreed to stand as churchwarden. He was duly licensed and took his duties very seriously: the church buildings and health and safety were paramount; he was always in the church before services to make sure everything was in place; he produced the weekly pew sheet and emailed directives to people involved in services; and at one time he was the village editor for this magazine.

With Graham, his friend in Walditch, Chris was also dedicated to the maintenance of the churchyard. They changed a wild place into a beautifully kept area where all are welcome. They made sure visitors were safe from tripping or slipping, but showed sensitivity, creating an area where wildness can still flourish. They continue to work every week in the churchyard and recently repaired a decrepit wall and planted daffodils on a bank in a neglected area.

Chris has always been supportive of the social activities organised by St Mary's. Children coming to 'Messy Church' enjoyed his computer skills and produced cards for their families, and he helped them to build bird boxes and plant crocuses and daffodils along the church path. He fronted quiz nights, acted as maitre d' at curry nights and, in his pink pinny, helped to serve women's breakfasts.

Well known in this small community, Chris acted as a go-between, always willing to support village hall activities and to make the church's presence known. He cares a great deal for St Mary's and its reputation.

Difficulties arose after the Old School House was abandoned by the previous lessees, so Chris forged ahead and worked hard to find a successful solution.

Church and bureaucracy go together, as Chris discovered during the numerous meetings he attended. Fortunately for him he will be spared these in the future! We're delighted, however, that he is willing to continue supporting St Mary's in other ways.

We thank Chris so much for his commitment, his inspiration, his service and his support.

The Revd Ann Ayling

Light the spire

The church will continue to be lit until 8 May to mark the first anniversary of the passing of Derek Gange of Walditch.

From his loving wife, Sheila Gange



Public services on Thursday 10am: Communion (first, third and fifth) or Morning Prayer (second and fourth).

Flying the United States flag

On 17 May each year we raise the United States flag on the church flagpole to remember the 440 American soldiers stationed in Walditch for nearly six months in 1943-44. On 17 May 1944 they left Walditch to move to a marshalling camp near Dorchester. Then, on 6 June – D-Day – they spearheaded the landing on Omaha Beach, Normandy, suffering a terrible ordeal with heavy casualties.

One of the US officers, 2nd Lieutenant Spalding, said in an interview for his local paper on his return home: "As we marched through the village [for the final time], the people were out waving. Women were crying. Although we hadn't been told, we knew this was it. It wasn't another practice trip. Those English people were smart. They sense things. How they knew we were on our way I don't know, but they did."

Of the time soon after, on the ship USS Henrico in Portland when they were told 'H-hour' was the next day, he said: "We didn't sleep much that night, in fact we hadn't done that much since we passed through that little English village and saw the tear-stained faces of those village mothers, wives and sweethearts of the Tommies that worked with us."

The people of Walditch were later given approval on behalf of the United States Ambassador to fly the US flag on any occasion we consider appropriate.

The flag will also be flown on 22 and 23 May if the Living History re-enactment is in the village (to be confirmed).

Robin Stapleton



ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

Round and about the Bay

The West Bay Discovery Centre is preparing to reopen on 18 May, after which it will be open Tuesday to Sunday from 11am to 4pm. West Bay Days, meanwhile, has sadly decided to cancel the annual Pirates Day (normally held in May) because of ongoing Covid restrictions. However, we are reliably informed that we shouldn't put away our pirates outfits as there are plans afoot to see if they can safely amalgamate the three annual main fundraisers into one in September. So keep a look out for updated information.

If you walk round the harbour regularly, you will have noticed lots going on, including lots of painting and cleaning – the West Pier certainly looks much cleaner. The caravan park, too, has been inundated with workmen getting ready for the holidaymakers' return. My spies have also advised that a seal has been making regular appearances, as have a couple of swans. Last year one of the swans seemed to have disappeared, but thankfully there's a pair once more and hopefully they will have a successful breeding season.

There have been a number of accidents in recent weeks and people are once again reminded to take great care when walking on the coastal path and on the beach as our cliffs are so unstable.

News from St John's

How lovely it was to be able to celebrate Easter Sunday in the church – unlike last Easter, when we had just started lockdown. We had 15 members in the congregation and of course it was great to have Pete back with us. The residents of Harbour House were obviously not allowed to attend but Deb and Helen held a service there later in the day.

Fortnightly services have been held at Harbour House recently and have been well attended. On Palm Sunday one of the members of staff made palms for all the residents. One of the residents, Sylvia Gardner, had written her reflections on lockdown, which she gave to Deb, and I thought it would be nice to publish the article here.

The Monday morning prayer meetings resumed in church in April, having previously been held via Zoom. Although video calls are an excellent way of keeping in touch, nothing really beats seeing each other in person.

St John's has received the Fishermen's Mission Christian Fellowship Award for 2020 (pictured below). This was

Pictured: Sue Pollock with the award from the Fishermen's Mission



given to recognise the fact that the church has a special area displaying the work of the Fishermen's Mission.

Sue Pollock

A personal view from Harbour House

So what has lockdown been like at Harbour House? It has affected us all differently. March 23 2020 was a sudden cut-off from family and friends, lasting until mid-June when restrictions were eased. Some of us were very frustrated, others content to walk up and down the 20-metre garden, or sit outdoors and admire the flowers. No resident was allowed to leave the grounds, so we coped with Skype and phone calls.

June arrived and Covid diminished with the warmer weather. We were allowed to meet one family member or friend on a garden bench for half an hour, two metres apart. Later, Harbour House acquired a wooden pod, which is very airy and gives some shade from the sun but is useless in drizzle. By September it was cooling down so we started to meet in a warm garage with perspex between us for safety.

Early in December a hairdresser tested positive for Covid after seeing five residents, so we all had to isolate in our rooms for 14 days. We are tested once a fortnight and thankfully all has been well. At Christmas no one went away – and there were still no visitors.

The staff make many sacrifices for us and have extra tasks to do. They have daily Covid tests before work, change into scrubs on arrival and wear masks on duty. Their home lives are restricted, too.

We have two ladies who provide many optional activities for us, keeping us occupied and entertained. More recently, fortnightly church services have been much appreciated.

Early one morning last summer, the sky went very dark but the sun still shone behind Harbour House. God spoke to me and said: "Dark times are ahead but there is a glimmer of light." I believe we are coming out into that light now, as Covid numbers continue to fall. Easter has passed, and the warmer weather is on its way. Soon we shall have our second vaccinations and hopefully return to some normality of life. Praise God.

Sylvia Gardner

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

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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

From the village editor

I've been invited to write on the subject of hope as we emerge from lockdown and a strange, tough year. One reason to be hopeful, of course, is the speed and efficiency of the vaccine rollout. Recently I drove my employer to have her second Covid vaccination at Bridport Medical Centre. The throngs of people and multiple gazebos reminded her of a party, so we laughed and called it the 'vaccine party'. I did

ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

wonder aloud what sort of parties she had been to!

The system at the centre was absolutely wonderful, and I've seen coverage on the BBC's South West News of similarly impressive arrangements elsewhere in the county. Apparently Dorset is ahead of the rest of the UK in terms of giving people their first and second vaccinations. The nurses maintain good humour, even though they're giving 2,500 vaccinations on a busy Saturday, and this gives everyone a sense of wellbeing. The warmth and encouragement of the volunteers is sustaining, too.

Nature continues to offer hope, albeit alongside hail and low temperatures. The donated compost bin at St Swithun's has two resident lizards lying under the lid. They are motionless, the colour of rose gold strands, and are best left alone. The male has an electric cobalt blue stripe down his side, to differentiate.

Thankfully the rats and cats haven't eaten these two.

Meanwhile, slow worms help the gardener by eating slugs and snails.

Jo George, our churchwarden at St Swithun's, has sent me this lovely photo of her youngest granddaughter, Eliza, with a pair of lambs that were born on Easter Sunday. I thought John Clare's poem 'Young Lambs' (above right) would be a fitting accompaniment.

Anna Sullock



*The spring is coming by a many signs;
The trays are up, the hedges broken down,
That fenced the haystack, and the remnant shines
Like some old antique fragment weathered brown.
And where suns peep, in every sheltered place,
The little early buttercups unfold
A glittering star or two-till many trace
The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold.
And then a little lamb bolts up behind
The hill and wags his tail to meet the yoe,
And then another, sheltered from the wind,
Lies all his length as dead – and lets me go
Close bye and never stirs but baking lies,
With legs stretched out as though he could not rise.*

Moment of Light

The Bridge's reach extends far beyond Bridport! We've received this from a former St Swithun's parishioner, who now lives in Spain...

Here in Andalucía we have picked our first lemons from our lemon tree. This was a very exciting moment for us. We planted the tree four years ago and were told not to expect any fruit worth picking in the first three years. It has grown fast, especially in the past year with the hot summer sun, and then with all the recent rain the fruit has swelled. I don't think we will ever take for granted popping up to the garden and taking a couple of lemons from the tree to add to salads or drop into our gin and tonics!

Not far out of town there is a small stand of eucalyptus trees. I go there to collect kindling for the stove. At this point the little stream, Arroyo del Charcón, meets the slightly larger stream, Arroyo Alfonso. It's quite small and you can step across it. There is plenty of flowing water during spring and this produces fresh green grass, which the local goats – and our dogs – enjoy.

Arroyo Alfonso, slightly enlarged, flows north from here and joins the larger river, Guadalporcún. This river is joined by more streams and eventually joins the Río Guadalete, which in turn winds its way west and flows into the Bay of Cadiz and the Atlantic Ocean. All this is a useful reminder that while we may consider ourselves insignificant on our own, joining together with others can make all the difference.

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

'On the Sabbath Day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women there.' (Acts 16:13)

So, having celebrated our second Lockdown Easter (and in a rather more organised and I think successful way than our

first) we are setting our eyes towards the future rather more positively than last year. Many of our folks have already had their second vaccination and I'm writing this on the first day of the second stage of the 'roadmap' unlocking programme, which so far has kept to the timetable. All this is really hopeful and has led the church council at Bridport United Church to start thinking seriously about the future.

Back in May 2020 the United Reformed Church produced a publication, 'Ready for the New Normal', which was remarkably prescient about the next stages expected over the next few months as we moved on from lockdown. It accurately predicted and prepared us for the hoops and hurdles we would encounter as we re-opened for worship after the first lockdown. Of course, we've found this process easier the second time around.

What the publication doesn't do, however – apart from warning that it's unlikely we will simply slip back into our old patterns of church life – is give us any idea what the 'new normal' will look like. Sure, we'll be singing again (oh yes!) and are equally looking forward to having →

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

fellowship after services and on our premises. But, I wonder, which of our former patterns will we have the energy and resources to resume? The challenges we faced before, including an ageing congregation and an increasing shortage of stipendiary ministry, have not gone away – and actually my observation is that the stresses and strains of the last year have aged many of us by more than the 12 months that have passed. I suspect we'll be keeping masks and sanitiser in our bags and pockets and being remarkably hesitant about our distancing for some months (possibly years) to come. And of course my impending retirement at the end of September will mean there won't be a resident minister in town for quite some time, which is both a challenge and an opportunity.

For these reasons our church council has decided to initiate a survey to ask the members and adherents about our priorities so we can work out our vision about how the post-pandemic world will unfold. We will be asked to identify our top five priorities, which the council will then turn into a vision plan to take us into the future.

All this sounds quite a challenge, but it's also quite exciting and reminds me of the story of Paul and his party travelling to Philippi. Their earlier pattern on entering a new place, it seems, had been to first approach the Jewish diaspora in the synagogues. Although they had limited success there, they made contacts and worked from that start. It appears, however, that Philippi was so far from Judea that there were too few Jews to have built a synagogue, so Paul had to change his modus operandi – he spoke to the women on the riverbank. It seemed to work pretty well!

Sometimes a changed circumstance leads the people of God to do things differently and not simply slip back into the old ways. So I hope and pray that as we move forward into the next phase of recovery from this terrible pandemic, we can be nimble, innovative and dynamic as well as ready to restore the best of what we have always been able to do.

The Revd Peter Clark

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

2 May	Revd John Yarien (Communion)
9 May	Peter Kershaw
16 May	Jennie McGinlay
23 May	Revd Peter Clark (family service)
30 May	Revd Ruth Lownsborough



From Uploders Chapel

Well Easter is now over and by the time you read this we will be moving into May. It is really lovely being able to show what services we are expecting to have this month, something I haven't been able to do for some time.

Our first post-lockdown service was on Easter Sunday, which was very appropriate as it means new life. Chris Smith took the service and did a great job as usual. We still had to abide by the Covid restrictions, which meant we all wore face masks and couldn't sing the hymns. However, that didn't spoil the uplifting atmosphere in the chapel and the sense of camaraderie. Actually we were able to join together in the final hymn because the sun was shining so we all went outside for some socially distanced singing in the chapel garden, which Viv had done a good job of tidying up. The hymn was number 313 from 'Singing the Faith'. Although the music is by Handel, Chris had a recording of it being performed by a jazz band and singers. It was absolutely lovely and we all sang along happily. Afterwards Melanie handed out bunches of daffodils she had picked, having already handed out bags of mini Easter eggs! So we all left for home with smiles on our faces and feeling upbeat.

We also had a service on Sunday 18 April, taken by the Revd Ruth Lownsborough, and assuming there are no changes in the Covid regulations we'll be having two in May, as you can see below. We've also been pleased to read that the Scarecrow Festival is hopefully going ahead this year, albeit rather differently, from Saturday 22 May to Sunday 6 June. In the past the chapel has provided refreshments for people coming to look at the scarecrows and we are hoping to do something similar over the spring bank holiday weekend. So keep your eyes open as you go past the chapel and see if goodies are available. As I write this we don't exactly know how things can be done but let's be optimistic and, if necessary, inventive!

Meanwhile keep safe and keep smiling and let's do our best to have a marvellous May.

Carol Hall

Sunday services at Uploders (10.30am)

2 May	Revd Peter Clark
16 May	Richard Lownsborough

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

'The Merry Month of May'

This well-known poem is part of an Elizabethan play, 'The Shoemaker's Holiday', and describes May in glowing terms. It is indeed a lovely month and especially this year as we look forward, hopeful of a pick-up in vaccinations again and some more easing of Covid restrictions.

In the Catholic Church, May is known as 'Mary's Month'. This tradition originates in the mists of time but is associated with Mary being 'Queen of the May' and the crowning of her statue with may (hawthorn) blossoms and special devotions and prayers during the month. In many places there are May processions when young girls and boys wearing their First

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH continued...

Holy Communion outfits walk through the streets and one of them crowns the Virgin with flowers. This is especially popular in many Catholic schools. Mary always points us to Jesus and by honouring her we honour Him. This is echoed beautifully in many towns and villages with the crowning of the May Queen and dancing around the maypole.

Another reason to make merry in May is that we continue to rejoice in the Easter message: Christ is risen and He is with us. In church, the Easter candle blessed in the darkness and silence of Easter Night shines brightly in our midst, calling us to look forward in hope. This hope is founded in the truth that he is with us always. Like every Liverpool supporter, we “walk on, walk on with hope in our hearts”, for we know that “we never walk alone.” As Captain Sir Tom told us, “tomorrow will be a good day.”

So let us make merry this May and open our eyes to the beautiful things that are happening all around us.

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.



The statue of Our Lady of Grace and the paschal (Easter) candle in Bridport Catholic Church



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 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.

Margaret Foster (Secretary) margefoster1956@gmail.com.

Bridport & District Gardening Club is currently holding lecture evenings over Zoom. The next is on 20 May: 'A Look at Costa Rica's Wildlife' with David Boag. 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.

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/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 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 (see also feature on pages 6–7).

Citizens Advice is here to help

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



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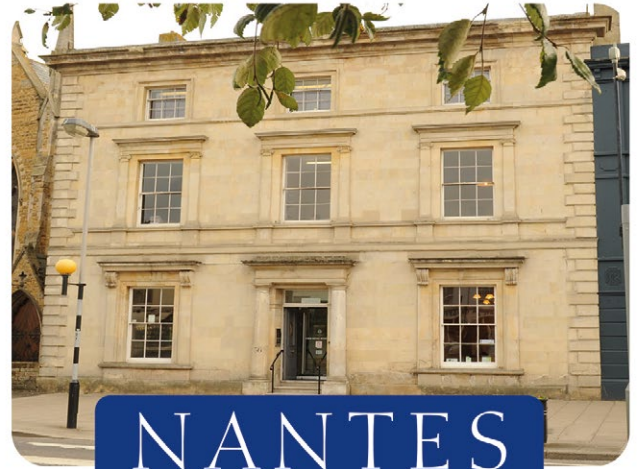
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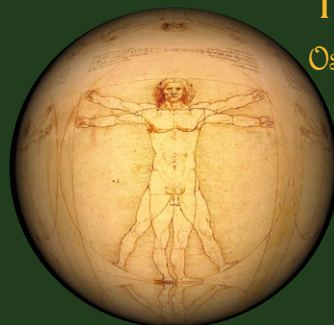
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