

September 2020

the Bridge

A community magazine sponsored
by the Anglican Church



pixabay/monicore

Although the lockdown restrictions are being lifted and churches are beginning to open, it's still not possible for us to deliver printed copies of The Bridge across the town just yet. However, this is the last online-only issue and we will resume printing next month with the October magazine. We'd love to receive your feedback: BridgeEditor@icloud.com

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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 currently closed, but to discuss their future use you can contact:

St Swithun's church hall
Yvonne Welch 459587
Bothenhampton village hall
Pennie Jones (temporary) 458006
Bradpole village hall
please email bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
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The Bridge

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

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

Deadlines for the October issue: Copy Monday 7 September · Advertising Monday 31 August

Whose lives really matter to us now?

Welcome to this coronavirus-free space. I don't want to diminish the seriousness of the virus, nor the safety precautions we are all so mindful of, but rather I'd like to turn our attention for a minute to something else: to Black Lives Matter.

The recent growth of this movement has made me reflect on encounters in my life where lives of many sorts apparently did not matter. In 1969, as a newly qualified teacher, I went for a year with Voluntary Service Overseas to teach in an all-age village school in Antigua in the West Indies. Living in a small bungalow there, I soon realised that as the only white person in the village I was an object of curiosity and some confusion. The questions came thick and fast: Where is your maid? (Answer: there isn't one!) Who is cooking for you? (Answer: I am!) The children even assumed that the Queen was my best friend. But it was the unwarranted reverence that seemed to be attached to the colour of my skin that I found most shocking.

At the school, children perceived as different were mercilessly teased – for example, Hyacinth was excluded from friendship groups because she came from the neighbouring island of Montserrat. 'People of colour', in the children's eyes, were not one homogenous group, but rather distinction was made according to the shade of their skin. I learned that the blacker the shade, the lower you came in the 'pecking order'.

This was the climate in the remote village, but in the town the Black Power movement was growing, with its characteristic symbol of the clenched fist held high. The growth of tourism, the proliferation of foreign-owned hotels and the collapse of the sugar cane trade meant that unemployment was soaring and years of perceived powerlessness found a focus in the Black Power movement. As I explored the island I got used to the chants of 'white meat' that followed me.

Everywhere were memories of the slave trade: the ruined sugar mills, the old estate mansions and the village place names

celebrating emancipation (Liberta, Freemansville). I found one old plantation house and mill that was named 'Betty's Hope' after the owner's daughter.

On returning to England, I taught in Bristol, a town made rich through the proceeds of the slave trade. One of the popular places for school trips was the Dodington House estate as it had an adventure playground and a narrow-gauge railway. It was owned at the time by the Codrington



Peter Wright
St Mary's Bridport

'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus'

St Paul in Galatians 3:28

family, direct descendants of the owner of Betty's Hope

mill in Antigua. By the 1980s, the family was in financial crisis, reduced to living in one room with an electric fire as the only source of heat, so the whole estate was sold. The current owner is Sir James Dyson (of vacuum cleaner fame) who bought it for £20 million in 2003.

In the early years of the Christian church, there were divisions and arguments over who was allowed in to this new community and who was excluded.

Whose lives mattered? At the time the groups that didn't matter were slaves, women and people from foreign nations, plus Jews if you were a non-Jew, and non-Jews if you were a Jew. St Paul wrote to the

Christians in Galatia (modern-day Turkey): "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

The Church has failed over the years in carrying out this message – for example in its support for the slave trade in the 18th century. So for us, living in the 'Rights Respecting' town of Bridport in 2020, whose lives really matter?

Peter Wright

Finding the joy in gathering in church once more

We have been welcoming people back to church in the Bridport Team for a few weeks now – and it's a complete privilege.

There is so much that is unfamiliar, uncomfortable and strange. Worshippers are booking ahead to attend, we are wearing masks, we can't sing, we are using a pared-down liturgy, and so far we're only meeting in one church building.

But I have found all the oddities of this post-lockdown church outweighed by the joy of gathering as the body of Christ once more. Seeing people from across the team worshipping together, drawn back



The Revd Deb Smith
Team Rector

despite all the difficulties, is quite humbling.

When we gather in church for the 9.30am Eucharist or the 11am Service of the Word, we always take time to remember that we are worshipping with those across the team who are not yet ready to return to public worship. We use elements of the online service in church too.

So far we have had 40 to 50 people coming to the Eucharist and 10 to 18 at the Service of the Word each week. We are grateful to all those who help to steward the services and those who have done the hard work of risk-assessing the building, preparing it and cleaning it.

In September we hope to take another look at how we offer worship across the team, and we're hoping to start using other church buildings, too. Above all we need to proceed with caution to ensure all who come to worship in our churches can do so in safety.

The Revd Deb Smith



James Houston

Generous Bridport residents provide bible gifts for pupils

Although the summer term was a little different this year, St Mary’s Church of England Primary School in Bridport has stuck to tradition and presented every Year 6 leaver with a bible (pictured above).

“We like to do this as a way to remind the pupils of their time at St Mary’s and support them in their next step,” says James Houston, Year 6 teacher and religious education coordinator. “Sadly, as budgets are tight we have been struggling to continue this tradition – but once again the amazing people of Bridport have stepped up and every single one of the 32 children was given a bible by someone within our community, which makes the gift even more special.”

James adds that staff, pupils and parents all want to say a huge thank you to the Bridport community. One parent said: “It is so lovely that the children are starting the next phase of their journey with God’s word of love.”

The Year 6 pupils had returned to school in early June after their lockdown absence, along with those in Reception and Year 1. They quickly got used to the new hygiene routines and arrangements such as a one-way system and distanced queueing for lunch.

Philosophy in (virtual) pubs

‘Bridport Philosophy in Pubs’, a group that usually meets in the George Hotel to enjoy free, frank and fascinating debate, has been getting together virtually during lockdown.

The group is run by Kelvin Clayton, a member of Bridport Town Council and Dorset Council and a philosopher with an interest in society, ethics and politics. He also writes a blog, greenthoughts.me, where there are details of how to get involved. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Mask illustration by Kody McDonald / pixabay

Face masks are now mandatory in places of worship

Anyone entering a church, whether for private prayer, an organised service or other reason, must now wear a face covering. The new rule came into force in early August and also applies to a number of other places.

Face coverings were already mandatory in shops, hospitals and medical centres and on public transport, and recommended in some other indoor spaces. In a statement on 31 July, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: “We will also extend the requirement to wear a face covering to other indoor settings where you’re likely to come into contact with people you do not normally meet, such as museums, galleries, cinemas and places of worship ... this will become enforceable in law from Saturday 8 August.”

The Church of England has updated its coronavirus guidance to reflect the new law. It states that there are a few exemptions:

anyone leading a service,

or helping the service leader by reading,

preaching or

leading prayer,

can remove their

mask, although they must replace

it at times when it’s impossible

to maintain

social distancing –

particularly when

distributing holy communion.

At a wedding, the bride and groom are exempt, as is the officiant. The government has ‘strongly advised’ that weddings are limited to 30 people, including clergy, witnesses and guests.

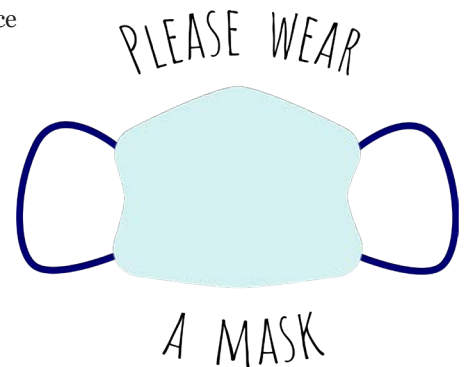
Singing by members of the congregation or a choir is still prohibited in church at all times.

Worship in the Bridport Team Ministry (BTM) continues with two services each Sunday at St Swithun’s Church in North Allington. There is a Eucharist service at 9.30am and a Service of the Word at 11am, after which the church remains open until 2pm for quiet prayer.

Anyone who wants to attend worship should register online here: www.bridport-team-ministry.org/register-for-services. Only those with no internet access should register by phoning the Revd Pete Stone (01308 426459) for services until the end of August. For arrangements from the beginning of September, information will be posted on the BTM website (see also the message from the Revd Deb Smith on p3).

The other five BTM churches are continuing to open for private prayer on a rota basis as follows. Please remember to bring your mask!

Mondays	10am–12noon	St Mary’s, Bridport
Tuesdays	10am–12noon	St Mary’s, Walditch
Wednesdays	10am–12noon	Holy Trinity, Bradpole
Thursdays	10am–2pm	St Swithun’s, Allington
Fridays	10am–12noon	Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton



Two autumn ordinations for Bridport

The Bridport Team will be celebrating two ordinations in September – with a post-lockdown twist.

Lorna Johnson will now be ordained priest here in the parish at St Mary's, Bridport, on Saturday 26 September at 3pm along with two fellow curates: Fiona Beale, who serves in the Beaminster Team, and Matt Renyard from the Radipole Team in Weymouth.

Our new assistant curate, Helen Croud, will be ordained deacon in Salisbury Cathedral on the same day.

Originally Lorna and Helen were both due to be ordained at the cathedral at Petertide, at the end of June. Lockdown forced a postponement to those plans with all the ordinations moved to 26 September. Now in a further change of plan all the deacons in the diocese will be ordained by the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtham, Bishop of Salisbury, in the cathedral while all those to be priested will be ordained in the parishes.

The attendance at each service is limited to 30 including clergy, vergers, etc. The bishops have decided that Bishop Nicholas will ordain the deacons in two batches in the cathedral on the morning of 26 September, then the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, and the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury, will ordain priests more locally in the afternoon so those priests can preside at their first Eucharist the next day.

In a letter to Lorna, Bishop Nicholas writes: "Although the ordination services this year will be very different to anything we have experienced before, I am sure that they will nevertheless be very special by virtue of their power and intimacy. The Holy Spirit will fill the building and each of us. It is the fulfilment of God's promise and will be enough."

"I'm very happy that Lorna's ordination will take place here after all," says the Rev Deb Smith, Team Rector. "Please pray for both Lorna and Helen as they approach their ordinations."



Helen Croud (left) and Lorna Johnson

The Bridge returns to print

The next issue of The Bridge will appear in both print and digital editions.

We have been unable to operate our usual distribution network since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown in March, so have been producing an online-only magazine. Now, however, arrangements have been relaxed enough for us to start delivering hard copies once more.

"I'm so excited to start printing the magazine again," says Olivia Daly, who took over as editor in the spring. "It will be in full colour, with a revamped design and new content. We'd love to hear what our readers think of it."

We aim to deliver the magazine to every house in Bridport, although there are inevitably some gaps. If you're missing out – or if you'd prefer to receive a copy by email – please let us know at BridgeEditor@icloud.com. Please include your street address.

Two members of staff at the Cornish Bakery in West Bay have taken the brave step of having all their hair cut off to raise money for charity. James Stokes (left in photo) and Kim Oldcorn (third from left) raised just over £1,000 for Little Daffodils, which offers support and comfort to parents who lose a baby or child of any age. They are pictured here rocking their number-one-all-over look with colleagues from the bakery. Their next fundraising event will be a Macmillan coffee morning on Tuesday 22 September from 9am to 12 noon in the cafe, which is on the corner opposite St John's Church.



Beka Wood

Ride + Stride for historic churches

Ride + Stride is a national event that raises money each year for Historic Churches Trusts around the UK, including the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT).

Riders and striders take part on two, three or four wheels, on two feet or four hooves – and often with their canine friends – aiming to visit as many historic churches as possible and earning sponsorship money from generous supporters.

The event will be going ahead this year on Saturday 12 September with some modifications so that everyone taking part can stay safe while enjoying the churches and countryside of this wonderful corner of Dorset. The aims remain the same as ever: for participants to enjoy a great day out while raising money so the DHCT can continue its work of preserving and sustaining the county's beautiful churches.

In recent times the DHCT has raised and distributed well over £100,000 a year. In 2019 its awards supported 16 churches with a total of £106,500; so far in 2020 – including during lockdown – the trust has made grants totalling £75,000 to 14 churches, and no doubt there's more to come.

The charity's grants are intended to provide for the sympathetic repair of historic churches and chapels, or their historic fittings, to a standard that their architectural value merits and to ensure their continued use by the communities they serve. Any cases of exceptional merit or need are considered for support if funds are available.

A large proportion of this money comes from Ride + Stride – more than £84,000 from last year's event. "I know that several



Andrew Boggis

A group of Dorset Riders + Striders at last year's event

people from the Bridport Team Ministry will be taking part this year," says Andrew Boggis, a DHCT trustee. "I'd like to encourage everyone to sponsor them with whatever they can afford, and to welcome them warmly on the day at the town's churches, too, even if they won't be able to go inside.

"The Trust spends what it raises – it doesn't squirrel its money away – so please don't hesitate to contact me [aboggis@googlemail.com] about any appropriate projects for your church that you feel the DHCT might support."

The local organisers for the BTM churches are:

St Mary's Bridport: Maggie Crosbie • maggiecrosbie@hotmail.com

St Swithun's: Jo George • 426457

Bothenhampton: Ro Windsor • ro.windsor@hotmail.co.uk

Bradpole: Peter Carnell • 420716

West Bay: Rosemary Russell • 423013

Walditch: The Revd Ann Ayling • 424896

They have information packs for anyone who signs up to take part. To help ensure social distancing when seeking and collecting sponsorship, participants are encouraged to set up a Just Giving page for donations. There is more information about the Dorset Historic Churches Trust and this particular event online at www.dhct.org.uk.



Locals' portraits on display

These eye-catching portraits at Bridport bus station were created by members of SEAFAIR, a group of socially engaged artists from around the South West, as part of the town's Portrait Challenge. This initiative, championed by Bridport Rights Respecting Town and the Lyric Theatre, ran for five weeks in July and August and encouraged residents of all ages to celebrate being able to see each other again after lockdown by drawing or painting a local person – friend, relative, bus driver, shop worker – and displaying the results in their window. Events also included pop-up portrait sessions in the town by local artists.



SEAFAIR

Good Books: the Christian bookshop in the heart of town

Tucked away in a former school building in Gundry Lane sits Good Books, Bridport's Christian bookshop. It's easy to miss the entrance, but those who find their way inside discover an Aladdin's cave of books, greetings cards, prints and gifts, as well as helpful staff to help customers find what they need.

But Good Books isn't just a shop – it's a calm, Christian spot in the busy town, a space for quiet reflection and somewhere to rest for a moment. It's also a vital resource for places of worship, supplying equipment to just about all the churches in Bridport plus others further afield including the Pilsdon Community and the Beaminster Team churches. Candles, communion wafers and wine (including a non-alcoholic version) make up the regular orders, and seasonal items – such as palm crosses and special candles for Advent and Christmas – are also in demand.

Good Books is a charity run by a board of trustees and since 2015 has been managed by Janice Collins, whose involvement with the shop dates back to its early days in the late 1990s. Other



Janice Collins, the manager of Good Books, with her volunteer colleague Peter

staff are volunteers, an active team of about 20 mostly retired people from Bridport Team Ministry churches.

Janice is delighted to be open again following the Covid-19 lockdown. "It's great to be getting back to normal and welcoming people to the shop, even though most churches haven't resumed services so they're not ordering from us yet," she says. "We're not quite back to our full opening hours, though; many of our volunteers are elderly and are understandably reluctant to start mixing with the public again."

Janice clearly enjoys her job here and she's proud of what she and her colleagues have achieved. "I particularly like the children's section," she says. "When my own children were small I found lots of interesting and useful resources here to give them, and we have a far greater selection than you'd find in a regular bookshop. We can fulfil special

orders right across our range – we're regularly asked for large-print bibles, for example – and we try to keep up to date with topical issues. We also have a secondhand section, an assortment of work by local authors plus beautiful gift books, mugs and cards."

The shop's other function is as a 'hub' for the Pathways to Care initiative, →



The shop has a selection of prints and gifts as well as books

Good Books Christian Bookshop

St Mary's Old School
Gundry Lane
Bridport DT6 3RL
01308 420483
orders@goodbooksbridport.co.uk
www.goodbooksbridport.co.uk

The shop is currently open Monday to Thursday from 10am to 1pm. As well as the usual range, they have a selection of books for half price, including '101 Places to Pray before you die' by Thomas Craughwell, 'A Friar's Tale' by John Collins, 'A Priest Answers 27 Questions...' by Michael Kerper, 'The 10 Biggest Lies of the Enemy' by Keith Strom, Andrew Atherstone's biography of Archbishop Justin Welby, and many more.

Good Books: the Christian bookshop in the heart of town



(continued)

which runs the Good Neighbours and Hopeful Hampers schemes. Good Neighbours operates on a referral basis, pairing service users with volunteers who offer transport to appointments, shopping, companionship visits, gardening, minor household jobs and more. Good Books staff take calls and look after the booking system. Meanwhile, the shop also stores donations and equipment for Hopeful Hampers, which provides parcels of tinned and dried food to people in need.

In return for this vital help, Churches Together in Bridport and District – the organisation behind Pathways to Care – makes a financial contribution to Good Books, helping the shop to stay open.

An eye-catching mural decorates the wall behind the display of cards

“We don’t operate on a traditional for-profit model, and our aim is just to cover our running costs,” says Janice. “A few years ago the trustees were concerned about our future, but the relationship with Pathways to Care has allowed us to feel confident in our viability. There has been a Christian bookshop in Bridport for about 30 years, and Good Books has existed for over 20 years in a few different locations, so it would be a real loss for the town if we had to close.”

This relationship with Pathways to Care came about largely through the actions of former trustee Jo O’Farrell, a much-loved Bridport woman and active volunteer who was closely involved with the work of Good Books, Churches Together and other charities in the town. Jo died of cancer in 2018 and there is a ‘memorial corner’ in the shop dedicated to her. It’s a fitting legacy that her enthusiasm and caring nature live on in this unique place.

Dorset Council dominates digital awards finals

Dorset Council is the only local authority in the country to have three initiatives shortlisted for the national Digital Leaders 100 Awards 2020.

The awards celebrate individuals and organisations from the private, public and non-profit sectors who demonstrate a pioneering approach to digital transformation in the UK.

Sam McLaren (pictured below), a service improvement analyst in the council’s Digital and Change team has been shortlisted for the Young Digital Leader of the Year title. Sam believes in designing services around people’s needs and making the most of modern technology to provide the services that users have come to expect from a 21st century council.

Sam’s work with the council has included helping to create the first ever local government podcasts. “For me, digital isn’t just about tech or online forms – it’s a way of thinking and working,” says Sam, who joined the council as an apprentice just a few years ago.

The council has two finalists in the Digital Public Service Innovation of the Year category.

The first, ‘Supporting children and young people to access education’ aimed to identify vulnerable learners to give them a better start in life; the right education at the right time. This project has also been shortlisted as a finalist in this year’s Cabinet Office Smarter Working Awards in the



Sam McLaren, who is up for one of the awards

Technology category under ‘Small Scale Project’.

The other project, ‘Developing digital skills and awareness in Dorset’ reflects the council’s vision for Digital Dorset through improvement and innovation. It takes a forward-looking approach to building digital skills in the community and sharing digital initiatives to develop a digital culture across the county.

Councillor Peter Wharf, Deputy Leader at Dorset Council, says: “The recent Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the value that digital can bring to our lives and the need for collaborative working. I am proud to say that as a county we are clearly in good hands. What a great achievement to have three finalists in the awards this year, all of whom represent our vision to position Dorset as a leader in digital transformation.

“Our challenge as a council is to continue to think innovatively about how we design services and use technology, saving us all time and money. I am proud of all our contestants and urge all our staff, councillors, senior leadership team and residents to get behind our Dorset Digital Leaders and vote.”

Residents are encouraged to vote for their favourite finalists, and can vote for as many contestants in as many categories as they wish. The finalists are online here in the Young Digital Leader category: digileaders100.com/young-digital-leader and here in the Digital Public Service Innovation category: digileaders100.com/digital-public-service-innovation.

Voting closes at 12 noon on Friday 28 August and the winners will be announced on 15 October.



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

Bible study during lockdown

At the beginning of lockdown, the St Mary's home group was worried: we can't go out, we can't meet up, we want to keep sharing our Bible studies... but how? Then someone suggested holding 'virtual' meetings online using Zoom. This was a radical idea, and even now that many of us have used Zoom, lots of people think you can't share something so spiritual that way – it would be rubbish!

Well, we've been doing it since April. It's certainly different, but here are a few ways in which we've found it's better...

Listening and speaking

Someone's living room is a pleasant place to be. The one where we usually met before lockdown has beautiful views across Bridport, often with spectacular sunsets: good for meditation and prayerfulness, but less good for concentrating on a lively debate in the room. An online meeting makes you look at your screen and really listen. You're much less distracted by what's going on around you, and you give the speaker your full attention. There's a respectfulness about this, which encourages all of us to contribute; even the shy ones feel able to speak and of course they are often the ones with deeper insight or a different perspective.

Focus and understanding

When we listen to each other more carefully, it's much easier to stay focused. Conversation does not drift on to what's been growing well in the garden or the practicalities of Morrisons' queuing system! This lack of general 'chat'



The St Mary's home bible study group has been meeting online during lockdown

doesn't seem to reduce the feeling of togetherness as you might think it would, but rather it helps us to concentrate on the readings. Our conversations are better as a result and I certainly leave meetings feeling as though I have really explored the deeper messages behind the passages we have shared.

Fun and friendship

Now you really wouldn't expect an online meeting to be fun, would you? I certainly didn't, but the fact that we've kept going – and about 10 people have attended each meeting – suggests that something is pulling us in. It is fun, there is a real sense of a shared challenge, shared knowledge and shared understanding. And you can see other people's pictures and books on the wall, you can hear their kids and their dogs, so you get to know them in a different way. This strengthens our relationships and binds us together as a Christian community.

Thank you, home study group. I love taking this journey with you!

Julie Gardner

Illustration by Alexandra Koch / pixabay

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Village editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
 douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com
 Churchwardens – John Adams 425766
 Lyn Roe 425804
 Tower captain – Peter Carnell 420716
 If you have any pastoral or personal issues,
 please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644
 (Wednesday is her day off)

Church opening

The church is open from 10am to 12 noon each Wednesday. From 10am there is a short service of Morning Prayer and there is then an opportunity for private individual prayer, which is open to everyone. Please be guided by the signs and the stewards on duty.

The church seating has been laid out to allow for social distancing, using wooden chairs that are easier to clean. Please use the hand sanitising gel provided when you enter

the church and also when you leave. The church is cleaned before and after each prayer session.

The names of those attending are recorded to enable Track & Trace. By law you must wear a mask please.

Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

This message looks ahead in the hope that the church will soon be open more than it is at the moment (two hours on Wednesdays).

However, we will have to make alternative arrangements if that doesn't happen. Updated information about church opening times will be posted on the Bridport Team Ministry website.

I have some leaflets about the Samaritan's Purse boxes, and I will leave them in the main porch for distribution and collection. Filled boxes can then be left in the main porch from Monday 26 to Friday 30 October. I will collect them every day from the church.

Alternatively you can also deliver filled boxes to my house (The Patch, Lee Lane) and leave them in my porch. →



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

My phone number is 01308 422797.

There are full details of this year's appeal online at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk including instructions on packing a box yourself. If you prefer, you can order and pay for a box online and Samaritan's Purse will do it all for you.

Jill Kelley

Nature rambles

During lockdown, Alan Bowley created a series of four short videos allowing viewers to enjoy wild flowers, insects and birds from home as spring turned to summer. The videos are available on YouTube here or search 'Alan Bowley nature rambles'.

Finding hope in God's wonderful creation

As a member of the Dorset Wildlife Trust, I receive a regular newsletter, and in the summer issue there was a quote from the Trust's President, George McGavin:

"When all the things you normally do are no longer there, what you've got left is the natural world. And it becomes very important to you."

During the pandemic, how true this has been for many of us. We have been given time to observe and appreciate God's bountiful creation.

Our Lord used the natural world to emphasise the meaning of the parables: the mustard seed, the fig tree, seedtime to harvest. In the Gospel of Matthew, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of the birds of the air, the lilies of the field, the grass of the field. In Psalm 104 we read of the birds of the air and birdsong, as well as plants for people to cultivate, bringing forth food from the earth.

Although butterflies are not mentioned in our bible, the butterfly is associated with Christian symbolism: resurrection, endurance, change, hope and life. Hope is something we cling to in these current times, and the late Cardinal Basil Hume said of hope:

"The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope that makes us have confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph,

The church doors have been repainted to match the spire louvres and provide a bright, welcoming splash of colour



and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake." May you find hope in Margaret Orford's poem:

*My hands are warm to the butterfly
I am trying to set free.
Delicate, frail creature of beauty,
what can it know of me?
I am outside its comprehension.
It knows sunshine and showers,
darkness and the feel of flowers.
We do not ask it to do the impossible
and know Man.*

*So we with God,
who looks with tenderness on our frailty,
trying to guide us.
Trust him!
He knows the way, and, if we let him,
will open windows,
and, cradling us gently in hands we cannot comprehend,
will lift us up and set us free.*

The Revd Janis Moore

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

Holy Trinity is prepared and opened each Friday from 10am till 12 noon for anyone wishing to go inside for private prayer. Graham Purse attends the church at 2pm on Wednesdays to say prayers for the parish. Holy Trinity has to remain closed at all other times at the moment.

Weekly public services are now being held for the whole Team at St Swithun's, with Eucharist at 9.30am and Morning Prayer at 11am. Numbers are limited so you need to make a reservation through the Bridport Team Ministry website if you want to attend.

The Old Church (pictured), which had to be closed in March, is now open each day for anyone to visit. There is



Becky Williamson

nowhere more peaceful than that quiet corner of the village, and many people like to spend time in the Old Churchyard appreciating the tranquillity and admiring the attractive surrounding views of the countryside.

Maintaining the area is quite a difficult and expensive task, however, and we are very grateful to Bothenhampton

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

and Walditch Parish Council for recently giving a contribution towards the cost of cutting the grass there. Also, a small, faithful band of volunteers have been working through the summer keeping the Old Churchyard tidy and free of rubbish, and we owe them a big thank you for the improvements they have made.

Support and fellowship from friends and neighbours

We met on a warm, sunny afternoon in a beautiful garden, five of us all missing our church family. In fact, it wasn't until we were together that we realised just how much we had missed each other's company, and we were keen to hear news of others and how everyone had been managing during the period of lockdown.

The kindness and thoughtfulness of neighbours was much

praised. We heard how a socially distanced chat on the pavement or at each end of the garden path had meant a lot when it was perhaps the only contact of the day; offers of shopping, posies of flowers or gifts of homegrown vegetables, and practical help from gardeners all demonstrated the caring spirit found in our village.

After a walk around the garden, over a cup of tea conversation turned to the fact that the five of us all lived alone with no family nearby, yet everyone felt Bothenhampton was home and had no wish to be anywhere else. We all had good friends and found fellowship in our church.

Even though we cannot meet in Holy Trinity as normal at the moment, no one need feel alone as we know we are all here to help and support one another, and that is quite a special feeling.

Barbara Ffooks

ST JOHN'S West Bay

Village editor – Sue Pollock 07903 558568

Chapel warden – Rosemary Russell 423013

Sadly there is very little to report from St John's at the moment. The church has held two funerals since lockdown but won't be reopening just yet. Fortunately the online services are a real lifeline; they require a lot of hard work to produce but the members of the congregation really enjoy and appreciate them.

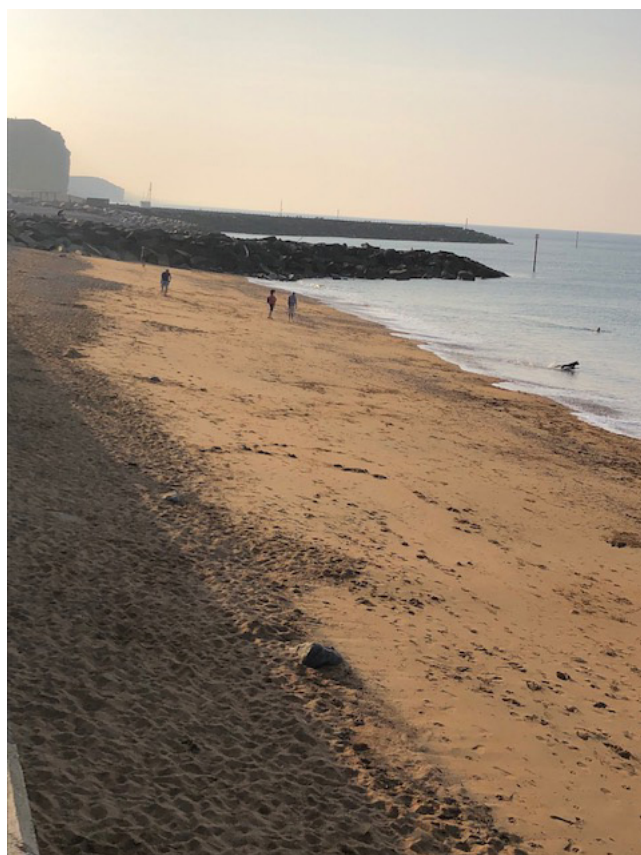
However, there is news from West Bay. While the arrival of the holidaymakers has been a great boost for local businesses, I must confess that I have steered clear of the harbour area, particularly over the weekends. You do not realise just how difficult it is to socially distance yourself, particularly trying to walk across the bridge. The council is trying to come up with ideas about how to improve the area around the kiosks so people can queue up safely.

I go out early in the morning for my exercise as I think the Bay is at its best then: relatively quiet and peaceful. Recently there has been a big increase in the number of swimmers at this time and it is becoming quite a social event. It's good to see the return of the lifeguards, and we saw recently just how important they are when one of them prevented a young girl from drowning. Visitors just do not appreciate that you need to take care when swimming.

The dredging was finally completed for this year, and a new sandy beach has been created at the far end of the promenade as the material dredged from the harbour was deposited there. It makes a welcome addition for families in particular.

The car boot sale reopened at the beginning of August with just a small number of stall holders, but it will be interesting to see what the uptake will be. The Covid-19 testing centre is still based in the car park, although they seem to restrict testing to the early part of the week. Amazingly the fun fair has returned to West Bay for the summer – something many of us probably thought wouldn't happen. They have the usual assortment of rides but with a few exceptions because of the Covid restrictions.

West Bay Discovery Centre has now re-opened its doors to welcome visitors once again, having introduced a range



Material dredged from the harbour has been used to create this new sandy beach at West Bay

of modifications to help keep its volunteers, manager and visitors safe. It has been awarded Visit England's 'Good to Go' accreditation for these. It is open Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from 11am to 1pm and 2 to 4pm. A pop-up exhibition called 'Down the Track' gives visitors the history of the former Bridport to West Bay railway.

A big problem since lockdown rules were relaxed has been litter on our beaches and around the harbourside. Banners and posters have been put up recently, funded by Dorset Litter Free Seas and Coast, to encourage people to take their waste home if the bins are full.

Sue Pollock

ST MARY'S Walditch

Village editor and churchwarden –

Chris Wellman-Herold 281096

chris.w-h@hotmail.co.uk

Vergar – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

Remember when?

How different our lives are now as we slowly 'put our toes in the water' with the lifting of some of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Before lockdown, we would go to the supermarket without giving it a thought. Now there is sometimes trepidation, and "Have I remembered my mask?!"

Walking through town didn't mean giving people a wide berth. Now, at times, it seems like an obstacle course.

Getting together with friends could be impromptu, back then, but now has to be carefully planned.

Sharing the Peace in church used to be such a joyous thing: walking round, shaking hands and sharing greetings. Now it's a wave across the church to people scattered in every other pew.

And there was a time when social distancing, self-isolation, shielding, 20-second hand washing and the 'R' rate were not part of our everyday vocabulary.

So what have we learnt?

Life can still be joyous, even though it's different. We've enjoyed having the luxury of time and taking life at a slower pace. The joy of friendship, even if a lot of our social interaction is now electronic. The realisation that most of us have too much 'stuff' and that material things do not bring



true joy. That we are truly blessed if we have the love of family. That we need to appreciate everything we have and think and pray and provide what help we can for others who have so little.

And, in the future...

Will we have learnt to be more caring and more concerned about the things that truly matter? I pray that we will. I'm sure most of will try, and won't always get it right, but let's hope that when things get back to 'normal', we find the world a better place than it was.

Sue Wellman-Herold

Churchyard musings

The Bridge will soon be going back into print and it occurred to me that our 'new normal' seems to be approaching.

So much has changed and we all have experienced the lockdown in different ways but thankfully without a major outbreak here.

One thing that we have been able to keep up with is the churchyard, where social distancing has not been a problem! In fact, there are some areas that we have been able to pay more attention to than in previous years. Our churchyard has been open to visitors throughout the lockdown and many have been drawn to its peace and quiet. Those who have been to morning prayers with Ann or private prayers may have noticed a lick of paint here and there or the garden blooming beautifully next to the entrance pathway. Less noticeable are the repairs we are making to the wall behind the northern entrance, something we have been wanting to do for years!

When the time is right and it is safe to do so, St Mary's will be ready to welcome you back.

Blessings,

Chris Wellman-Herold

St Mary's volunteers have been able to make repairs to the churchyard wall during lockdown



ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Village editor – June Goodburn 423061

Churchwardens – Mandi Sturrock 420304

Jo George 426457

Children and youth worker – 423061

The team services that have been held here at St Swithun's in the last few weeks have been a joy and very moving. It has been wonderful to meet our friends again, even if we have had to stay two metres apart.

Much of each service has been shown on a screen at the front of the church, and it was so easy to follow. This 'virtual service' has included shots of some beautiful scenery, reminding us how lucky we are to live here.

ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

Obituary: Ian Todd, 17 July 1956 – 16 July 2020

It was with great sadness that on 16 July we said goodbye to our friend Ian Todd. Ian joined us at St. Swithun's in the summer of 2018. He was quiet and modest but warm and friendly. He had a history in journalism and was also a dab hand in the kitchen. I met Ian just over a year ago at one of our community breakfasts. We hit it off straight away and soon established that we shared several interests, not least our passion for walking and hiking along this beautiful part of the Dorset coastline.

I had prayed to find someone to enjoy country walks with. Ian had spent time as a guest at Pilsdon and had a love of the local countryside and a respectable knowledge of farming, gardening and cooking.

Ian loved to share his knowledge of the many hidden beauty spots in and around Bridport, and was even convinced that he knew the location of the cave that was featured in the novel 'The Rogue Male'. We hiked and cycled all over the place, and my eyes were opened to some of the most beautiful places that I had ever seen, the Marshwood Vale and Eggardon being two of our favourite spots. I am eternally grateful to Ian for sharing these with me.

On hearing of Ian's death, after the initial shock I had a stark memory of something that my Uncle David had said to me many years earlier when he was rector of St Mary's in Wareham. As children, living in the Midlands, we would be counting the days to our summer holidays in Dorset, when we would see our cousins.

When the front door bell rang at the rectory, Uncle David would say: "Answer the door, darling, there might be an angel there." As a child with a vivid imagination, I would run to the door, expecting to find a winged heavenly creature, shining brightly, only to be met by someone I deemed to be ordinary and looking a bit lost having possibly lost their way.

Now, many decades later, I reflect on my life, with its trials and inevitable sadnesses, and I realise exactly what my uncle meant by his words. I believe that we are all somebody's angel. I opened the door and found Ian.
Sue Lindon

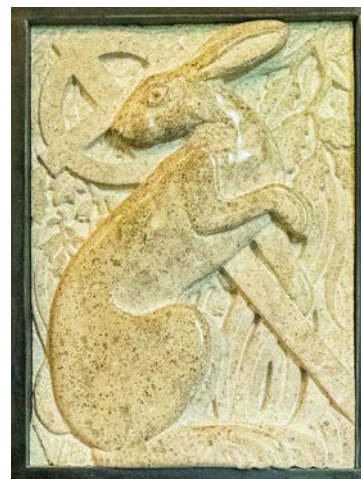
Editor's note: Ian's love of the local countryside has led us at St Swithun's to decide to organise a walk in his memory. Watch this space in future issues of the The Bridge for details.

One day at a time, sweet Jesus

This phrase – "One day at a time, sweet Jesus" – comes to mind so often during these difficult lives.

The song reminds me of a holiday I spent with friends

A stone carving in St Melangell's Church in the village of Pennant Melangell, North Wales. It shows a hare with a Celtic cross. St Melangell is said to have protected a hare from a huntsman and is now the patron saint of hares and rabbits



in Pennant Melangell, a small village in North Wales. The village and its church are named after St Melangell, the patron saint of rabbits and hares.

All of that week we were hoping to hear some real Welsh singing. We were told that if we went to the village pub on Saturday night, we would hear some, so we did. We waited and waited, but no male voice choir appeared.

We inquired. "Ah," they said, "you have to wait for Maeve." The said lady was sitting in the corner with her husband, having their tittle. Suddenly, with an air of excitement, Maeve stood up and went to the middle of the floor. With a deep breath, she launched into song: "One day at a time, sweet Jesus." Wonderful.

Maeve sat down. "Is that all?" we asked.

"Oh no," was the answer. Ten minutes later, Maeve was up again, and taking a deep breath started to sing again. "One day at a time, sweet Jesus." Then she sat down.

Again we waited. Maeve stood up once more, but this time another lady stood with her. It turned out that her name was Maeve, too, and she was wearing a beautiful flared skirt.

We waited. Maeve number one started to sing again, and Maeve number two started to sway and dance around the bar to the lovely tune of "One day at a time, sweet Jesus." With everyone in the bar whistling and clapping and calling for more, the two Maeves sat down to a very well deserved throat and foot lubrication.

The next morning we attended morning service in the small but beautiful village church of St Melangell. We were courteously shown to the front of the church, and seated in the front pew were – yes, you've guessed it – the two Maeves! All the hymns were sung in Welsh and we did our best, not understanding a word of what we were singing. We wondered if the two Maeves were impressed – but they couldn't have been as impressed as we had been with their performance the previous evening.

June Goodburn

Travel through time with Bridport Museum's virtual tours

Even though Bridport Museum is closed because of the coronavirus restrictions, you can still use its resources to help you discover the town's rich history.

The museum has made two of its

heritage trails available to download for free from its website at www.bridportmuseum.co.uk. There is a trail for East Street and one for South Street, with information about various buildings in each location.

Each trail takes about an hour.

Museum Director Emily Hicks says: "We hope we'll be able to open the museum later this year, but meanwhile why not try unearthing the history right on your doorstep?"



Live performance is back in Bridport

Bridport Arts Centre is making a return to live events with two exciting outdoor performances for the whole family by the Handlebards, a cycling Shakespearean theatre group.

Both events are at the Millenium Green on Tuesday 8 September. In 'Gnora the Gnome's Outdoor Disco', at 4.30pm, Gnora and her brothers Gnorman and Gneville have been stuck underground for months. Now they can get back outdoors they're having a disco to celebrate.

Handlebards' 'Romeo & Juliet' at 8pm is socially distanced Shakespeare as you've never seen it before – unhinged, bonkers and laugh-out-loud.

Visit www.bridport-arts.com for details of ticket prices and how to book. Some restrictions and special arrangements will apply to allow social distancing and safety for everyone.

Bridport Museum wants your Melplash Memories

The Melplash Show – usually held annually in late August – has been cancelled this year because of the coronavirus situation, but Bridport Museum is working with the show team to share Melplash objects and photos from its collection.

Museum staff are hoping that locals will join in with the initiative by sharing their own Melplash memorabilia and memories. "We want to see your fluffy sheep, handsome cows and massive tractors," says Museum Director Emily Hicks. "You can post them on our Facebook page or on Twitter or Instagram [@bridportmuseum] using the hashtag #MelplashMemories. Or, if you're not a fan of social media, just email director@bridportmuseum.co.uk and we can post it up for you. I can't wait to see what comes in!"

The Melplash Agricultural Society and the show date back to 20 October 1846, when Melplash Church was consecrated. On the same day a ploughing match was held to resolve a dispute between two farmers, and during the joint consecration and competition celebrations afterwards the locals decided to form the society and hold another ploughing competition on the same day the following year.



Hallmarking prevents fraud and protects consumers

The hallmarking of gold and silver dates back to 1300, writes Rebecca Phillips of Dorset Trading Standards, when King Edward I introduced it to protect standards and to prevent craftsmen committing fraud when making jewellery.

The first stamp was a leopard's head, which symbolised the king's mark of authentication. The word 'hallmark' didn't come into use until the 15th century, however, when craftsmen took their artefacts to Goldsmiths' Hall in London to be assayed. Today there are four assay offices in operation, in London, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Sheffield.



Hallmarking techniques and regulations have been fine-tuned since those early days. The current legislation that governs hallmarking has been effective since the creation of the 1973 Hallmarking Act, which is enforced by trading standards officers.

If a jeweller makes items of silver, gold, platinum or palladium and wants to sell them, they are obliged to get them assayed, which guarantees they are of good quality. The hallmark is then applied so the pieces can legally be put on the market.

A 2019 report confirmed that up to a third of precious metal products supplied online are unhallmarked and could therefore be fake. Jewellery fraud has consistently been an issue in the precious metal industry where counterfeit items can be made and sold to unsuspecting customers at a high price. Fake jewellery affects the reputation of legitimate businesses and hurts the industry as a whole, and without hallmarking enforcement many customers and legitimate businesses are exposed to fraud.

If you believe you may have purchased counterfeit jewellery, you can report it to Dorset Council Trading Standards by visiting the Citizens Advice Consumer Service at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or by calling their new freephone number, 0808 223 1133.

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

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

You can download this magazine from the team website:

www.bridport-team-ministry.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Citizens Advice

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

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

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