

September 2021
September 2021

the *Bridge*



Cover photo of Bridport Town Council offices on Mountfield by Thomas Paul

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

POINTS OF CONTACT Team website: www.bridport-team-ministry.org

All phone numbers are Bridport (01308) unless otherwise stated

Team Rector

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

Team Vicar / Community Mission Partner

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

Team Curate

The Revd Lorna Johnson 538519 / 07501 408221
lorna@bridport-team-ministry.org Day off Friday

Team Curate

The Revd Helen Croud 07712 481835
helen@bridport-team-ministry.com Day off Friday

Permission to officiate

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

The Revd Ann Ayling 424896
annayling7@gmail.com Day off Wednesday

The Revd Dan Shackell 426514
danshackell@gmail.com

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

The Revd Philip Ringer (Hospital Chaplain) 425774
philpringer@aol.com

Other churches in the area

Beacon Church Bridport, Priory Lane 456031 office

The Christian Fellowship
David Collins 458227

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

Bridport Quaker Meeting clerkb@bridportquakers.org

United Church (Methodist & United Reformed Church)
The Revd Peter Clark 425978
Sue Herman, administrator 422598

Team Administrator

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

Secretary to the PCC

Bridget Trump pcc@bridport-team-ministry.org 459875

Team licensed worship leader

Martin Whiting

Licensed lay ministers

Phil Doughty 422096
Graham Purse 423220
Peter Wright 456967
Coral Hatton

Lay pastoral assistants

Caroline Cooke 07859 803734
Anne Stone 426459
Diana Wright 456967

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

Cupboard Love food bank

Carrie Gamble 07443 596096
cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

Hall bookings Some halls are starting to reopen with certain Covid restrictions. For bookings please contact:

St Swithun's church hall
Details online at www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings
or contact Caroline Whitaker 07787 805711
Bothenhampton village hall
Pennie Jones (temporary) 458006
Bradpole Forsters village hall
Jane Bryant oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com 427493
St Mary's Church House Hall, South Street
Monty Crook 423442
Walditch village hall
Peter & Jill Tobutt 458999
Christian Fellowship, King Street
Jackie Edwards 538028
United Church
Sue Herman 422598

The Bridge Editor & production: Olivia Daly 07710 805029 editor@thebridgemagazine.org (previous address still works)
Advertising: Chris Senior (Mrs) 427451 advertising@thebridgemagazine.org

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.

The advertising and copy deadline for the October issue is 5pm Monday 6 September

A time of hope and new beginnings

It's been several weeks since the majority of Covid restrictions were lifted, heralding a return to daily life as we knew it before the virus interrupted our lives, our workplaces, our country and, in fact, the whole world.

That 'freedom day' in mid-July was warm and sunny; the birds were singing and the trees stood tall and strong, their beautiful foliage a riot of shades of green. It certainly felt right for a time of new beginnings.

When we look back through history, at those who lived through times of great trauma and hardship yet made a remarkable contribution and helped others, we see that they created new beginnings.

The feast day of Saint Giles falls on 1 September. Giles was a 7th-century hermit and founded the monastery at the place in Provence now called Saint-Gilles, which became an important place on the pilgrimage routes to both Santiago de Compostela and the Holy Land. His care for the wounded and diseased led to his becoming the patron saint of such people, particularly those with leprosy, who

were marginalised and isolated and forbidden from entering towns and cities. He is depicted in art holding a hind, symbolising spiritual kindness and gentleness.

Giles was one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, a group of saints venerated because their intercession is believed to be particularly effective, especially against disease. The group

originated in the 14th century in the Rhineland, largely as a result of the epidemic that's now known as the Black Death.

September is the month of new beginnings. Lots of children will attend full-time school for the first time, and many young people will leave home for college or university. Some will complete their formal education and start on their chosen career path, while for others the new beginning might mean moving to a new house or a different area.

After many months of restriction, isolation and loss, how will we fare with these new beginnings? One thing remains constant throughout our journey, and that is hope.

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Author Michael Morpurgo expresses that hope and love in a very special way in his book 'A Song of Gladness', which was published in April this year:

"So I sang, we all sang, sang away our sadness. In every house and flat and cottage, we clapped and sang in every shelter and tent, in every palace and hospital and prison. And they heard and we heard, our song of gladness echoing about us, in glorious harmony across the universe."

It is a beautifully illustrated book and begins with the dawn song of a blackbird and every living creature waking up and joining in. It was written in a time of sadness but moves on to a time of gladness, unity and hope.

As we move forward, let us sing together a song of hope and new beginnings, remembering daily that we are all members of this amazing yet precious planet.

The Revd Janis Moore



The Revd Janis Moore

Valerie's putting faces to war memorial names

Valerie Jeanes – who happens to be one of The Bridge's volunteer deliverers – is resuming a fascinating history project that she started in 2005. By researching online and through the local history society, she managed to find photos of 24 of the 60 people named on the war memorial in South Street (pictured). Valerie then moved away for a while



Tom Bastin

but she's now back in Bridport and is keen to fill in the remaining gaps.

If you have a relative named on the memorial, and you have a photo of them that you'd be happy to share with Valerie, you can get in touch with her at valjeanes@gmail.com.

Home-Start West Dorset offers practical and emotional support to families with children under five. During Covid it has adapted its services to continue its work, but social distancing and isolation have put enormous strain on families and the pandemic is going to have a long-term impact.

The organisation is looking for volunteers to support local families as parents learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children. After training, volunteers will spend around two hours each week in a family's home helping them deal with a wide range of issues.

If you think you can help, get in touch for more details. The contact info is in the box on the right.

Become a Home-Start volunteer

All you need is parenting experience and 2–3 spare hours a week. FREE volunteer preparation training course 30 Sept–25 Nov.

office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk
or leave a message at 01305 265072



For parents when
they need us most



Come for a stroll around the town

Bridport Health Walks are a gentle way to stay active and meet new people. They are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10.30am, leaving from Borough Gardens in Gundry Lane, and take 30–40 minutes, with a shorter walk on the first Tuesday each month. Everyone's welcome, although first-timers are asked to book (call 01305 221830) and arrive 10 minutes early to fill in a short form. More info from Dorset Council on 01305 252222 or at www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/bridport-health-walks.

Batty goings on at Bothenhampton

Graham Purse, the churchwarden at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton, reports a heartwarming find at the church before a recent service. "I unlocked the church, went in and saw a small mess on the floor," he says. "Closer inspection showed me it was a small bat and still alive. It was in a doorway and would have been trodden on, so I picked it up and popped it in a broken louvre in the porch. After the service all I could see was a tiny leg sticking out of the hole. I returned early the next day, though, and saw him happily hanging there."



Remembering the Battle of Britain

The Royal Air Forces Association (Bridport and Lyme Regis Group) is holding its annual Battle of Britain service at St John's Church, West Bay, on Sunday 19 September at 3pm. Standards will be in attendance. Everyone is very welcome to come along.



A previous year's event

Let's Ride + Stride to help historic churches across the county

This year's Ride + Stride event will take place on Saturday 11 September in support of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT).

The aims of the event remain the same as in previous years: to enjoy a great day out on foot, bicycle or even horseback while raising funds so that the DHCT can continue its work of preserving, sustaining and developing the county's beautiful historic churches.

"In 2020 – despite or, who knows, perhaps in part because of the pandemic – Ride + Stride raised its best-ever amount, just short of £115,000," says Andrew Boggis, DHCT Trustee & Lyme Bay Deanery area representative. "We're asking people to get involved again this year, as rider, strider or sponsor or by providing a warm welcome at their local church to those taking part."

So far in 2021 the DHCT has made awards to churches totalling £80,000, most of which comes from Ride + Stride. "The Trust spends what it raises; it doesn't squirrel its money away," adds Andrew. "Please don't hesitate to approach me, as your representative, about any appropriate projects for your church that you feel the Trust might support."

All parishes in the Bridport Team have received information about this year's event, including how to sponsor participants (ideally electronically). The web address for this year's dedicated JustGiving page is www.justgiving.com/campaign/dhctrideandstride2021.

Andrew is happy to answer queries: his email address is aboggis@googlemail.com.

St Swithun's repeats successful 'Car Boot Plus'

Following the success of the 'Car Boot Plus' event at St Swithun's in July – which raised £650 – the church is to hold a similar sale this month.

The community event is on Saturday 18 September from 9am to 1pm in the church grounds. There will be a car boot sale plus outdoor jazz cafe; cake, produce and plant stalls; posh tombola; and clothes and charity stalls.

Car boot pitches are £10, while charity stalls are free. To book, contact the Revd Lorna Johnson on 07501 408221.



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Public services at the Bridport Team Ministry churches in September

Sunday

8am **St Mary's Bridport** BCP Communion
9.30am **St Swithun's Allington** Eucharist
Holy Trinity Bradpole
Informal Morning Praise (*first & third*)
Communion (*second & fourth*)

11am **St Mary's Bridport**
Communion (*first, second & fourth*)
Service of the Word (*third*)
Holy Trinity Bothenhampton
Communion (*first and third*)
Morning Praise (*second*)
Matins (*fourth*)
St Mary's Walditch
Communion (*second and fourth*)
St John's West Bay
Communion (*first and third*)

Monday

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

Tuesday

2.30pm **Holy Trinity Bradpole**
Communion (*first Tuesday of the month only*)

Wednesday

2.30pm **St Mary's Bridport**
Communion (*first Wednesday of the month only*)

Thursday

10am **St Swithun's Allington**
Eucharist
St Mary's Walditch
Morning Prayer

Saturday

6pm **St Swithun's Allington**
Contemplative Church (*first Saturday in the month only*)
St John's West Bay Service of wholeness and healing (*fourth Saturday in the month only*)

It was lovely to see a good number of our delivery volunteers, distribution coordinators and parish editors at our Bridge coffee morning recently. It was an opportunity to say a big thank you for all their hard work and help in producing the magazine and getting it to our readers, as well as a chance to sit in the sunshine in St Swithun's Church grounds and eat this very special cake!



Great Big Green Week celebrates action on climate change

The Great Big Green Week, 18–26 September, is a national week of events celebrating action on climate change. Bridport is joining the initiative with local events and an opening gathering at Millennium Green from 10.30am on the first day.

“Although we’ve all seen the news about floods and fires, we don’t see much news about the many positive initiatives responding to the climate crisis,” says Scott Morrison from West Dorset Friends of the Earth, which is coordinating the Bridport events. “It’s easy to feel that our actions don’t count, but addressing climate change needs millions of us to do our bit. These events are particularly critical as the UK will be hosting COP26 in Glasgow in November.”

At the opening gathering, Bridport Mayor Ian Bark will read a proclamation to launch the Great Big Green Week and there will be stalls and, later,

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 

a picnic and music. As The Bridge went to press, organisers were still recruiting groups either to hold a stall at the opening or host an event later in the week, and they point out that such an event might be anything from a serious evening discussion or a showing of Robert Golden’s film ‘This Good Earth’ to a river clean by paddle boarders or a bike/walk-to-work initiative by a local business.

Confirmed events include a discussion evening on Tuesday 21 September from 7pm in the United Church Hall about practical local responses to climate change. It will cover food, home energy, mutual support across households and organisations, and a briefing from Bridport Town Council.

On 25–26 September (and 2–3 October) there’s the Greener Homes event, organised by Transition Town Bridport and Dorset Climate Action Network. Various homes, other buildings and gardens will be open to showcase innovative ways of reducing their carbon footprint.

The full, up-to-date schedule for the week is published at www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk or email Scott Morrison at info@scottstudio.co.uk.



Bridport Choral Society

is looking for new members

No auditions, just an enthusiasm for singing required

Ability to read music useful but not essential

Rehearsals resume Monday 13 September at 7.30pm
in the United Church Hall, Bridport

www.bridportchoral.wordpress.com

Lift up your voice!

Bridport Choral Society (BCS) is starting rehearsals again this month after the long Covid-enforced break, and is looking for new members.

The society dates back to around 1900 and originally had an orchestra as well as a choir. There are now about 50 members, although more are always welcome and the choir is actively recruiting new singers at the moment.

Some members have been singing online during the pandemic and their musical director, James Crawshaw,

has painstakingly edited the recordings to create three new videos for their YouTube channel. He can't wait to resume live rehearsals, though, as the singers begin to prepare for their Christmas concert on 11 December.

James will soon be putting together the Christmas programme. "My approach is inclusive and eclectic," he says. "I like to mix some contemporary and pop songs in with the more traditional choral works and choir carols – and of course the audience will have a chance to sing carols too!"

Some BCS members will be singing at the Arts Centre during Bridport's Charter Fair on Saturday 25 September (performance at 11am). The group also has a coffee morning planned for 11am on Saturday 16 October at the United Church Hall.

Anyone who'd like to try singing with BCS is welcome to come along to one or two rehearsals with no commitment and free of charge (thereafter the cost each term is £40 per member). See the advert above for details, search 'Bridport Choral Society' on Facebook – or just turn up!

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u3a singers get together again

The u3a Singers Group will recommence their fortnightly meetings on Thursday 9 September at 10am.

They are a large established group but after Covid they are starting afresh with a new, well-known, local musical director, Paul Cheater, and in new premises, the Town Hall above the Tourist Information Centre in the centre of Bridport (there is a lift to the upper floor).

"We sing for our enjoyment and all the acknowledged benefits of singing, usually from sheet music and in two or three parts," says group leader Heather Harvey. "We'd love to welcome new members in all voices, and there's no audition."

Bridport and District u3a is subsidising the group's costs until the end of the year so there will be no charges this term until Christmas. However, anyone who decides to return after their first meeting needs to become a u3a member, for which the annual subscription is £15. See the group's advert below for contact details and their website address.

u3a Singers Group

**meets alternate Thursdays from 9 September at 10am
in the Town Hall, Bridport (above the TIC)**

New members welcome

www.bridportu3a.org.uk/groups.html

Phone Heather 01308 425219



Pictured: Thelma Pulman at the organ in St Mary's Walditch

Chris Wellman-Herold



Thelma seeks an organ apprentice at Walditch

Considering she's had no formal musical training, Thelma Pulman has had an impressively long career as a church organist.

She has held the role at St Mary's Walditch for 23 years, having previously played at the Askerswell church of St Michael and All Angels since the late 60s and at Loders Sunday School before that.

Thelma has no plans to retire just yet, but is hoping to find a keyboard player or someone who's had organ lessons to cover when she's away, and possibly as her replacement in the fullness of time. If that person is a student at Colfox School – which Thelma herself attended – so much the better.

“Organs vary widely in complexity and each has its own personality,” says Thelma. “Playing an organ is different to playing a piano – it's more ‘vigorous’ – and you have foot pedals and various stops giving different sounds.”

Thelma (née Record) was born in Loders. Although she didn't have formal music lessons, her family had a piano at home and she sang in the

church choir, at her primary school in the village and at Sunday School. She was also particularly inspired by one teacher, Bruce Critchinson, at her senior school, Colfox. He was head of the English department but a knowledgeable musician and a powerful force in local music. Thelma spent much of her early life immersed in music, so when the Loders Church organist, the late Bill Tillman, asked her if she'd like to try the church organ, she jumped at the chance. He gave her some training and she taught herself to read music before starting to play hymns for the Sunday School in 1965, when she was just 14.

Only a couple of years later Thelma became the organist at Askerswell following the departure of the previous organist, Denise Millar (now Young), through ill health. The late Revd Oliver Willmott, who was vicar there as well as at Loders and Dottery, had to ask her twice before she'd agree to take up the post, as she feared she wasn't good enough. She certainly was, though, and stayed in the post for 30 years – clearly

the Revd Willmott had seen that she had the necessary talent.

As Thelma didn't drive, she relied on the vicar for lifts to Askerswell. When she married in 1974, however, her husband, Geoff, took over as chauffeur.

While playing hymns and psalms at Sunday services, Thelma would often sing, too, which was much appreciated by the congregation. Churchgoer Gill Smith said at the time that “without this help the congregation is frequently left floundering.”

Thelma's role included playing for special services, weddings and funerals, and she was always happy to learn new pieces where possible. “One wedding couple wanted ‘Send in the Clowns,’ which I spent a long time learning,” she says, “but the guests were so rowdy I doubt if anyone heard a note!”

In a 1989 article about Thelma, the Powerstock, Loders and Askerswell parish magazine described the Askerswell organ as “light and designed as if for a lady... a little temperamental, it appreciates her touch [although] it has been known to play up a visiting organist or two.” Hopefully her mastery of this particular instrument quashed her initial doubts about her fitness for the role!

In 1997 Thelma decided an organist position nearer home would suit her better, and she left Askerswell, taking up the post at Walditch the following year at the request of the Revd Maureen Allchin. There were new pieces to be learnt as Maureen introduced more modern services, with contemporary hymns, to complement those from The Book of Common Prayer, although a monthly prayer book service, including sung psalms, continued for some years. Thelma has also particularly enjoyed the village's occasional flower festival, during which she has played the organ for visitors. She now works with the current Walditch priest, the Revd Ann Ayling, and hopes to continue for a few more years yet.

If you or anyone you know would like to play the organ for services at Walditch, please get in touch via the editor. Perhaps you play the piano and would like to add another string to your musical bow, or maybe you've tried the organ, but as Thelma's own story proves, lack of formal training is no barrier to success!

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

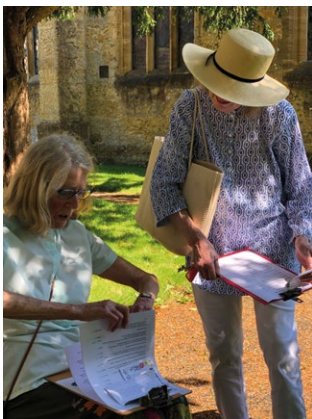
A shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat

This month I choose to ascribe this 'biblical style' commendation to an old yew tree that you can find growing on the north side of St Mary's Church. During July it provided us with both shade and shelter as we hosted two very different events in the churchyard.

Weather experts predicted that Sunday 18 July would be the hottest day of the year so far – and they were right, as the sun shone all day and temperatures were very high. We had planned an afternoon of activities to celebrate and give thanks for the work that the St Mary's gardening group had done in their ambition to create a 'living churchyard'.

We decided to set up camp in the shade of the yew tree, and Jane Trower, Sue Fryer and Alan Bowley introduced the event. Visitors would have an opportunity to appreciate and respond to the beauty of nature through art and poetry, or to follow a guided tour of the churchyard with Alan, a nature conservationist, who would point out things that might ordinarily be missed.

It was a blissfully slow afternoon with tea and cakes at 5pm before the Revd Pete Stone brought things to a close with a short reflection. For the 30 or so people who attended, it was a most excellent way to take time to stop and appreciate anew the wonders of God's created world. We plan to do it all again later in the year – do watch out for the date and time of the next 'living churchyard' event!



In complete contrast, Saturday 31 July was chilly and showery. Grey skies loomed and there was a weather warning for heavy downpours in the afternoon.

Attractions at the 'living churchyard' event included art and poetry sessions plus a tour with conservationist Alan Bowley (below)



The weather wasn't great for the St Mary's cream tea, but visitors sheltered under the yew tree & in the church



We had planned for cream teas in the Rectory garden, but on hearing the forecast we turned our attention once again to the yew tree! By putting up our stalls in the shelter of its branches we could hedge our bets and opt for a half-inside, half-outside summer celebration.

Despite the inauspicious weather, people flocked in and enjoyed browsing our stalls and eating our scones. It was a most convivial afternoon enjoyed by tourists and locals alike, and we raised £650 for the upkeep of the beautiful church building.

Who planted that yew tree? When was it planted? In a year when we see Prince Charles encouraging us to plant trees as a lasting legacy to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we give thanks for those who have gone before, who in the simple act of planting a tree have affected the lives of those who followed in a myriad of unthinkable ways.

Summer fetes and Eco Church events bring a whole new dimension to the thinking behind the Chinese proverb: "One generation plants the trees, and another gets the shade." Lesley Hill, Churchwarden

These are the September services at St Mary's.

Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 5	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 8	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 12	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 19	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Morning Praise: 'Walking the way'
Sunday 26	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	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

Parish 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 parish editor

September is the month when we think of harvest, and on Sunday 26 September there will be a harvest celebration at the matins church service, followed by a harvest lunch in the village hall. A warm welcome is extended to everyone, but could you please buy a ticket for the lunch in advance to help with the catering. There are more details on the right.

The monthly coffee mornings provide an opportunity for friends and newcomers alike to get together for a chat over a cup of coffee or tea and a cake. The next one is on Saturday 4 September in Holy Trinity, 10am till 12 noon.

The annual Ride + Stride, which raises funds for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, is on Saturday 11 September. Holy Trinity will be open to the cyclists and walkers taking part.

The monthly prayer groups are taking place in the homes of several church members. If you would like to join one of these sessions, please contact the Revd Kay Watters on 427290. There will also be a prayer group in Holy Trinity on Wednesday 8 September at 2.30pm.

The Salisbury Diocese has asked parish churches to spend some time during September and October thinking about the generosity of God through his creation and through sending his son to show how we should live on earth. The



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
 douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com
 Distribution – Janet Robinson
 jrb-jrb@outlook.com
 Tower captain – vacancy

If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (Wednesday is her day off)

From the parish editor

The commemorative communion service marking the 175th anniversary of the opening of the church was held on

You are invited to a

Harvest lunch

Sunday 26 September

12.30pm

Bothenhampton village hall



Tickets £5 each from
 Heather Purse
 01308 423220
 heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk

diocese would also like us to look at our own generosity, both in how we live our lives and also in the ways in which we can contribute to our church.

The area in the church garden around the flagpole has been left over the last couple of years to create a wildflower meadow (see photo). It looked attractive in early summer, but heavy rains came and spoilt the tall grasses, so it has been cut to allow regeneration. A recent survey showed that over 73 species had grown in the church grounds this year.

The over-50s Fitness & Balance classes have returned to the village hall. Exercises for aerobic fitness, strength, balance and flexibility can be done seated, standing or standing with support, so this is a great class for all abilities. If you'd like to know more, call Natalie on 07897 684345.

Work on the high pavement in the village has now been completed. It has been a difficult time for residents, and also for the workers having to contend with passing traffic, but the result is a job well done and the wall looks really good.
 Barbara Ffooks

September services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

Sunday 5	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 19	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26	11am	Matins with harvest celebration

Wednesday 4 August. The Revd Janis Moore led the service and the Revd Maureen Allechin – a former vicar of Holy Trinity who also led the service for the 150th anniversary – was the preacher. We sang the final hymn outside in the sunshine to signify the light of Christ in the community, and enjoyed refreshments al fresco after the service.

Don't forget, there are more anniversary celebrations to come during the first weekend in September. On Friday 3, Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September the church will be open from 10am to 4pm each day for commemorative events including a display of vestments and church silverware, artefacts and exhibits depicting the life and work of Holy Trinity. Cream teas will be served in the village hall from 2 to 4pm on Saturday 4 September, then on Sunday 5 September at 3pm there will be a 'Songs of Praise' service in the church.

Douglas Baldwin





Above and left: Bradpole parishioners marked Holy Trinity's 175th anniversary with a special communion service, a fresco hymn singing and cake



Above: The Friends of Wellfields held tea on the green to launch their group and display the results of their research

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

Friends of Wellfields launch

Responding to the declaration of the climate emergency by Bridport Town Council, a group of volunteer gardeners has formed to help increase biodiversity in our green spaces at this end of Bradpole. We completed a public consultation, which coincided with the lifting of Covid restrictions, so we celebrated by getting the community together on 1 August for tea and to see the results of our research.

People donated homemade cakes, the Co-op donated milk and we borrowed equipment from the RNLi, Bridport Gig Club, the village hall and Bradpole Parish Council. Wyld Morris dancers came to add their time and energy to the occasion. It was a truly memorable afternoon enjoyed by all. *Sheri Ahmet, Secretary, Friends of Wellfields*

Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole

If you appreciate the 19th-century Grade II listed church that dominates the view of Bradpole, and believe it's important to preserve it for the benefit of all, you can help to ensure its survival by joining the Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole.

You don't need to be a churchgoer, or commit to making large donations. Membership is just £6 a year, and this year members can choose a pennant (175 available) to add to

the church's 175th birthday banner. For an additional £4, members can have their initials added as a permanent record of their support. Also, the first three new life members can sponsor one of the three larger special blue flags.

For more information pick up a form in the church, email friendsotb@gmail.com or phone 01308 420716.

Village defibrillator

This equipment has been installed outside the village hall and is ready for use. Anyone can use it to help save someone's life – just follow the instructions alongside the box. It is portable so can be taken anywhere in the village.



September services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

Sunday 5	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Tuesday 7	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 12	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Sunday 26	9.30am	Holy Communion

ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725
craddockjames@hotmail.co.uk
 Churchwarden – vacant
 Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421
 If you have any pastoral or personal issues,
 please contact the Revd Ann Ayling 424896
 (Wednesday is her day off)

From the village editor

Michaelmas – which this year falls on Wednesday 29 September – is the festival of St Michael and All Angels.

According to Christian tradition, St Michael the Archangel hurled Lucifer, the Devil, down from heaven to punish his treachery to God. Lucifer landed on a bramble bush and cursed it, giving rise to the rural custom that it's unlucky to pick blackberries after Michaelmas Day.

This day also signifies the ending of the harvest season, when tradition states all the crops should be safely gathered in before the stormy, barren period of winter. Michaelmas has also traditionally been one of the four legal 'quarter days' when tenants would pay rent to their landlords.

In medieval England Michaelmas marked the end of the old agricultural year and the beginning of a new one. The manorial reeve was elected by a manor's villagers and would then make up the manor's annual accounts.

By tradition in many areas the curfew bell on Michaelmas Day would toll at 9pm, which would signify that winter had

ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

arrived. This tolling would continue each night until Shrove Tuesday the following year.

James Craddock

Wanted...

Riders + Striders for Saturday 11th September 2021. Enjoy the day as you walk, cycle or ride around the Bridport Team Churches in aid of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust and St Mary's Walditch. Details and sponsorship forms from the Rev Ann Ayling, 01308 424896.

(and see p4 for more information about Ride + Stride. Ed)

A thank you to Maggie

Maggie Crosbie has continued to conduct the regular 9pm Compline service online for more than a year during the Covid restrictions, despite dwindling numbers.

This has shown an exemplary dedication to her sparse online congregation and is quite remarkable considering Maggie presently has a full-time job as well as her clergy training commitments.

We, the remaining regular attendees of the service, would like to express our thanks to Maggie, as the service gave us much spiritual comfort in these troubled pandemic times.

We wish her well in her future career as a parish priest.

Michele and James Craddock and Nigel Green

Walditch Garden Group

The group will meet on the last Thursday of each month (this month Thursday 30 September) at 10am in Walditch village hall. Do come along and join us – you'll find a warm welcome, with discussion and advice on various garden topics.

Meanwhile, here are five garden tips for September: divide herbaceous perennials; collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals; clean greenhouses and cold frames so they are ready for autumn use; cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting; and plant spring flowering bulbs!

Summer in Walditch churchyard conservation area

Three years is only a short timescale in the development of a conservation area, so we are excited to report a real buzz of insect life this summer among the flowers and grasses in Walditch churchyard's wildflower area. Month on month the increasing tally of insect life and wildflowers has been hugely encouraging. In these desperate global times, when



insect and wildlife numbers are diminishing so quickly, our aim is to increase the range of appropriate wildflowers and so encourage greater insect, bird and small mammal activity.

It is always encouraging to hear locals and visitors expressing their pleasure at the beauty of the wildflowers and mesmerising insect activity, including butterflies. Churchyards may be tiny areas but, if allowed to thrive, can be protected eco-systems where remnants of the local flora and fauna can survive. In Walditch churchyard our conservation area is small, but we are grateful to have this space and to witness the return of wildflowers and insects.

Thank you to Simon Cook for the use of his glorious photo of the wildflower area (above). We love to receive visitors' photos and reported sightings of flowers, insects and wildlife.

Jane Mowatt on behalf of Walditch Churchyard Conservation Group

September services at St Mary's Walditch:

Sunday 12	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26	11am	Holy Communion

Also Thursdays at 10am: Morning Prayer

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

News from St John's

Gradually life is beginning to return to a new normal. A lot of us are still quite hesitant when going out, but there is plenty of space in St John's to allow distancing and now singing, too, with or without music. It certainly helps when we know the tune!

We held a book sale on 7 August and made £65 towards work at St John's. Because the building is so close to the sea, it's not only battered by high winds but also damaged by salt spray. Nevertheless, it's still a place of peace and tranquillity.

West Bay WI

News at last of the return of the West Bay Women's Institute, which like so many other groups hasn't met since February 2020. They held their first informal get-together for tea and cakes on 18 August, and then a craft and cake stall with tea and coffee at St John's on 27 August. All being well, their first official meeting will be on 8 September at 2.30pm, when Lyn Coleman will speak about her life as a magistrate. →

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

Round and about the Bay

It's hard to believe that the Discovery Centre is already three years old. In normal times this would be cause for a celebration, but this is currently on hold. Fortunately, although numbers are down against this time in 2019, those visitors who do come in are buying more. The stock is constantly updated, and there are a number of items with West Bay on them. Some of the interactive activities are now back and it's great to see the children jump away from the rockfall jigsaw; hopefully this will instil in them the need to keep away from the cliffs.

Local artist Darrell Wakelam ran a free children's art workshop on 12 and 13 August. Those taking part made a selection of marine creatures to be incorporated into a wall hanging and displayed at the Discovery Centre to highlight the problem of plastic pollution in the sea.

The Bride Valley Band held a much-delayed evening of West Dorset-themed music and readings at St John's. Numbers were restricted to 50 and the event proved very popular as there was a waiting list. Hopefully another similar event will be forthcoming.

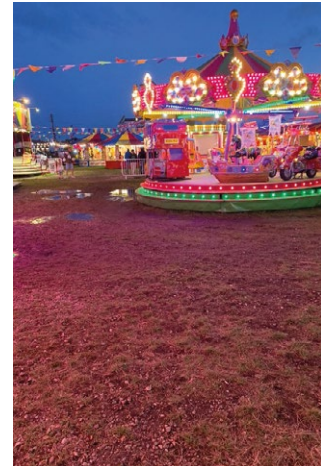
The weather this summer has not been as good as it was last year, but this has not deterred visitors and both Parkdean and the Britt Valley Campground have been busy. Visitors to the campsite need to pre-register, and vehicle recognition is in place to allow vehicles past the entrance barrier, but after a few teething problems all now seems to be running smoothly.

With this barrier in place I did wonder whether the funfair people would make it, but they did, as they have done for over 55 years (see photo). This year's fair seems to have even more rides and things to do and has proved very popular.

'John the Boatman' is still around and definitely keeping busy (see photo) although I'm not sure for how much longer



The recent influx of visitors has kept John the Boatman busy; the funfair is a longstanding West Bay tradition



as he is keen to sell up. I know he'd be sorely missed as he always has a good tale to tell. The council has added some very colourful seating to the area where the motorbikes park and it was nice to have somewhere comfortable to sit while eating our fish and chips recently.

If you're up early you'll have noticed a very large crane parked by the kiosks and work taking place on the flood gates. The gates are going to be replaced so there will be some traffic restrictions in this area.

Sue Pollock

Public services at St John's: First and third Sundays in the month 11am Holy Communion; Mondays 10am Morning Prayer; fourth Saturday in the month 6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing.

Sunday 19 September at 3pm: Royal Air Forces Association's annual Battle of Britain service (all are welcome).

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock
aejsullock@gmail.com

Churchwarden – vacancy

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

From the parish editor

September sometimes feels like a bridge between summer and autumn. There are shimmering intimations of autumn in the cool evenings, changes in the garden and more of a sense of the gathering in of fruit, vegetables, flowers and seeds. Jams, fools and fruit puddings are all à go-go, and there's ratatouille in the freezer.

It was an inspired idea to have a car boot sale at St Swithun's in late July. There was a 'pandemic limit' of eight cars selling, as well as plant stalls and a sawdust-filled lucky dip – plus another kind of lucky dip, with poetry selected and read by Sue Arthur. Dan played the saxophone with his band, serenading visitors who were enjoying coffee and homemade cake. I don't know how, but we managed to raise £650 – as the saying goes, some of us rely on miracles. A similar event is planned for September (see opposite).

Verena Doyle received a beautiful bouquet to mark her 90th birthday recently



After the Feast of the Assumption in mid-August –

celebrating the Ascension of Mary and her Immaculate Heart with vines and medicinal fruits and herbs – comes the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows on 15 September. The message of this feast day is about overcoming difficulty through suffering, as is only human. If you can get through hard times faithfully, the feeling remaining will be one of inner strength.

Lastly, I was excited to see three resting slow worms in the churchyard compost. One female looked very plump and I'm hoping she's pregnant. I used to have them in my garden compost: a family all curled up in spirals. Unfortunately the rats were attracted to bird feed nearby and ate them all...

Anna Sullock

St SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

Harvest community 'Car Boot Plus'

Saturday 18 September, 9am–1pm in St Swithun's grounds. Car boot sale plus outdoor jazz cafe; cake, produce and plant stalls; posh tombola; and clothes and charity stalls. Car boot pitches are £10, charity stalls are free. To book, contact the Revd Lorna Johnson on 07501 408221.

Services at St Swithun's: Sunday 9.30am Eucharist; Thursday 10am Eucharist; fourth Saturday in the month 6pm Contemplative Church.

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

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing. (Ecclesiastes 3:1–5)

Some years ago, as my intake at theological college started our second year of training for ministry, we set off for a week's placement in Kent. Being a keen group, we had come up with our own theme, 'A Time for ...' based on Ecclesiastes 3. Our pastoral studies tutor was used to a grudging bunch of students who he had to force-feed with themes, sketches, etc., but when met with a super-enthusiastic lot who rejected his ideas in favour of their own, he was a tad put out! We prevailed, however, and ultimately he agreed it was one of the best such weeks he'd spent with ordinands.

The week included school assemblies, youth clubs, open air worship and a daily prayer session in a hostel for folk newly released from prison. For this last event, we each had to lead a short reflection on one of the pairs in the Ecclesiastes text and I ended up with this task on the final morning with the couplet, "A time to throw away stones,



Community coffee mornings

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and a time to gather stones together". I spent the week worrying about it as frankly I had no idea what it meant and I was miles from home and my reference books!

As the week rolled on, though, and others shared their thoughts, it occurred to me that all eight of us had turned our backs on previous careers (we had a teacher, a nurse, an IT expert and at least two from the RAF). We had laid them down and were training to pick up a completely different role as church ministers. It was as if we had thrown away our past stones and were gathering new ones for the future. Perhaps the experience of holding those previous stones made it possible to handle the future ones.

And here I am, just over 18 years into full-time ministry and preparing, if not to throw away my current stones, at least to gently lay down the one that says 'Minister of the chapel in Uploders and the United Churches in Bridport and Dorchester'. I could happily list all the times of laughing and weeping, mourning and dancing and more, but I'll resist that urge and simply say, as I write my last article for The Bridge in that role, what a privilege it has been to be set aside for this calling, supported by the denomination, funded by local church folk, and a part of these wonderful church and local communities.

The wonderful thing for me (and I hope it's ok for you too!) is that my wife and I have moved to our own house, still in Bridport, and can continue to be a part of this vibrant town and county. There will be a period of separation and my folk and I will necessarily need to recognise that there will be some things that I did by default and will no longer be doing automatically (I think of funerals of 'my' church members, for instance) but I am hopeful that in due course I can be useful and helpful to the churches and the Methodist Circuit as a Minister of Word and Sacrament while no longer being 'their' minister.

I am pleased to say, too, that the Revd John Yarren, my colleague and the other minister of United Church Dorchester, will be responsible for Bridport and Uploders and I look forward to him being able to contribute to articles in The Bridge in future, too. He will no doubt introduce himself after I step down at the end of this month to retire.

With love, gratitude and prayers for you all.
The Revd Peter Clark



BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

Sunday services at BUC during September (all services start at 10.30am):

5 September **Revd Peter Clark (family service)**
12 September **Revd Peter Clark (Communion)**
19 September **Jennie McGinlay**
26 September **Peter Kershaw (Songs of Praise)**

From Uploders Chapel

Since I last wrote we have had our joint service with Loders Church. Because of the Covid restrictions and the need for social distancing, we had the service in the church at Loders, where we could accommodate more people than at the chapel. As usual it was a lovely service, and I even got to do a reading, which was a bit scary as I hadn't done one before in that church. After the service we enjoyed refreshments outside before heading off to the vicarage where we had a delicious lunch in the beautiful garden, which Julia looks after so well. The Revd Chris made the switch to Chef Chris! He is good at both and had some help from other good folk.

Loders Fete was also able to go ahead in spite of the temperamental weather. The chapel had a bric-a-brac stall, thanks to overwhelming support from everyone: those who gave us items to sell, those who sorted them out, those who gave their time on the day and of course not forgetting all the lovely folk who bought things from the stall. In fact, we were given so much that we plan to have a bric-a-brac table at the chapel on the day of the Ride + Stride event on Saturday 11 September. We will obviously do our usual thing at the chapel, providing refreshments for those who are riding or striding or those who pop in, enjoy refreshments and leave a donation. If you would like to support the chapel by riding or striding on our behalf, let us know and we can sort out the paperwork.



stokpic / pixabay

Our first service in August was taken by Tony Boyden, another gentleman we haven't seen for a long time and whose services we always enjoy. In fact I can honestly say that everyone who takes chapel services is just super, each in their own special way. Chris Warren will take the first service in September.

The calendar is beginning to fill up, which is lovely, and Loders Fete was definitely a welcome reminder of what normal life is about. Sensible precautions were taken but that didn't stop the pleasurable buzz that folk were feeling.

So we look forward to seeing you at the chapel for Ride + Stride and, of course, we'd love to see you at our services. Everyone is welcome.

Stay safe and enjoy a Super September, while looking forward to an Outstanding October!

Carol Hall

Sunday services at Uploders Chapel in September (10.30am start)

5 September **Chris Warren**
19 September **Revd Peter Clark**

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

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

The Season of Creation

From 1 September to 4 October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi) the Catholic Church is celebrating the 'Season of Creation'. This is an opportunity to review our practical and personal response in caring for our common home and celebrating the gift of God's bountiful creation. It is also true that if we ignore the wellbeing of our planet we assist the evils of our day that undermine the dignity of the human person – poverty, hunger, social isolation, economic deprivation, human trafficking and modern slavery.

We can approach this task with joy and gratitude, remembering – as Pope Francis wrote in his Encyclical, *Laudato Si* – that this is work that is much more than a problem to be solved, but is seeing "the world as a joyful

mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise".

As Catholics, at the heart of our lives is the Eucharist, the Mass, which gives us "a unique opportunity to establish a deep communion with God and with all material reality. It is a unique encounter of the Divine and the earthly. Here we give thanks for all that is good within us and around us. Here we express our love for the Creator and Lord of the Universe and for the great works that he unceasingly accomplishes. Here we ask that our thoughts, our hearts, and our senses be renewed so that we can see our neighbour and nature as God does. Here we ask forgiveness for the evil and sin that destroy divine harmony in the world."

(*'Ecologist's Breviary'* by Fr Zdzislaw Kijas OFM)

Mmgr Keith Mitchell

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



Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

We list groups' usual arrangements but not all have resumed activities after Covid so check with organisers before making plans to attend a meeting or event. Please get in touch if you'd like your group to appear here. Unless otherwise stated, all phone numbers are Bridport (01308).

West Dorset Flower Club (Bridport) meets at the WI Hall, North Street, with speakers and demos. Phone 456339.

Bridport Blind Club is a social club for the visually impaired. It meets twice a month for tea, entertainment and chat. Part of Dorset Blind Association, which provides personal and technical help. Contact Ian Ibbotson 898484.

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 will rehearse on Monday evenings from 13 Sept at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster: margefoster1956@gmail.com. Also see p6.

Bridport & District Gardening Club hopes to resume live meetings at the WI Hall from Thursday 16 September at 7.30pm when Pam Simpson will talk about Dutch flower painters. Check www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk to confirm venue (may be Zoom). Contact Peter Gough 459469.

Bridport Bridge Club meets Wednesday evenings (duplicate bridge, good standard) and Friday afternoons (relaxed bridge, not 3rd Friday in the month) at St Swithun's hall, plus Thursday evenings online. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport for updates or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) is resuming talks at Bridport Town Hall, usually on the third Thurs of the month at 2.30pm.

The next, however, is on 9 Sept when Lucinda Lambton presents 'Beastly buildings: architecture for animals'. Visitors welcome at £7.50. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / sandylovelock@btinternet.com / www.taswestdorset.org.uk

The **u3a Singers Group** resumes fortnightly meetings on Thursday 9 September at 10am. Please see p6 for full details. Contact Heather 425219 / www.bridportu3a.org.uk

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

Disabled Carers & Friends meet Thursdays 9am–noon at Vernon's Court Community Room, South St. Contact *pete*. bowditch@hotmail.com / 423620 / 421213 / 427819.

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 or visit www.bridportasd.wordpress.com.

Bridport Community Fridge redistributes surplus food free or for a donation. Usually open Tuesdays and Saturdays 10am–noon at The Chapel in the Garden, East St. Also at St Swithun's Church with **Bridport Food Surplus Stall** on Thursdays 9.30am–11.30pm. Updates on their Facebook page or email events@bridportunitarians.co.uk.

Colmer WI is alive and kicking!

Colmer Women's Institute is going strong and members are looking forward to meeting again in person as Covid restrictions ease.

The group has kept in touch during the last year through their monthly newsletter, the Clarion@Home, which gives information on their activities. These include a monthly talk, walks, social skittles, 'knit and natter', Scrabble and Mahjong. Recent speakers – on Zoom, naturally – have been from local organisations doing exceptional work in Bridport. Members were recently involved in the Food Festival and look forward to more community involvement in the future.

From September the WI will meet on the second Thursday each month (not August) at 7.30pm in the WI Hall. Visitors are welcome. At the first meeting (9 Sept) they'll be celebrating with a talk on cocktails – which, of course, they'll be tasting.

"Whether or not you've been a WI member before, you're welcome to come along and join us for an evening, with no obligation," says Gill Smith, President.

See the ad on this page for contact information.



Colmer Women's Institute

We meet on the second Thursday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street, Bridport. Why not join us for a no-obligation evening and see if you'd like to become a member? Contact Gill Smith 01308 301201.


Lifeboats

**Bridport & District
RNLI**

We are looking for volunteers to help at our events at various local locations (pandemic allowing). This entails helping to move items to the site and setting up, plus street collections.

We hold 5–6 events each year, of which Seatown BBQ is our most successful. We are an enthusiastic, fun team and we enjoy raising money for a very worthy cause.

For more information or if you'd like to be involved please call Sadie Miles 07811 470127 or Annie Taylor 07790 713156

Citizens Advice is here to help

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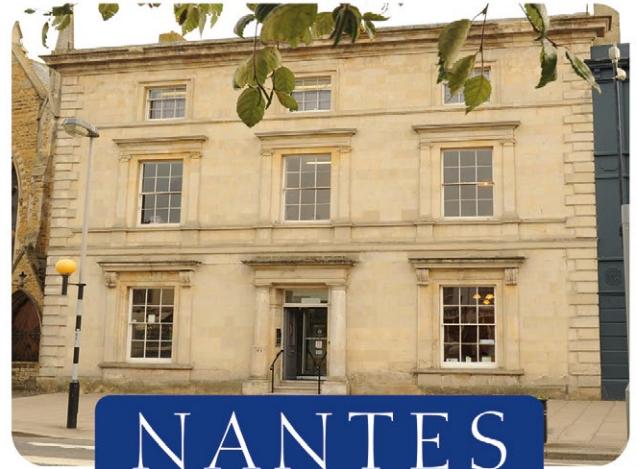
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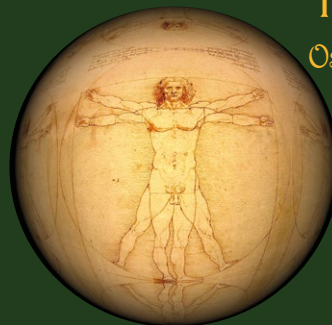
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