

July 2020

the Bridge

A community magazine sponsored
by the Anglican Church



Roses by Coco Parisienne/Pixabay

The ongoing social distancing measures mean we are still unable to distribute a printed magazine, so this issue of The Bridge is being published online only. Some articles contain clickable links that will take you straight to a relevant website for more information. We'd love to receive your comments: please email BridgeEditor@icloud.com

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Hall bookings Halls are currently closed, but to discuss their future use you can contact:

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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 August issue: Copy Friday 10 July · Advertising Monday 6 July

Keeping Calm and Carrying On...

Do you remember the ‘Keep Calm and Carry On’ slogan? It seemed to catch the mood of the nation, with a healthy mix of nostalgia, patriotism, sarcasm and fatalism, and it ended up being everywhere.

Surprisingly, it was never used during World War II. The poster was printed and held in storage, to be used only if there was a gas attack or invasion. It was feared those two awful events could break the ‘stiff upper lip’ of the country and there would be panic and civil unrest.

When we saw some of the panic buying, the confusion, the rumours and ‘fake news’ spreading in March this year, part of me did wonder if this would have been a good slogan to have been brought out: Keep Calm and Carry On. Yet while there was undoubtedly justifiable worry about the virus and the lockdown, there were people who carried on and stepped up, and who should quite rightly be applauded.

Our community is a remarkable place. Over the last several months we have seen volunteers, individuals and groups such as Bridport Coronavirus Community Support and Bridport Community Support stepping up to help some of the most vulnerable in our community with shopping and prescription collections. We have seen businesses both local and national, community groups and many individuals supporting the food

bank and other charities by donating food or goods, helping with logistics or giving money. We have seen respect for our nurses, healthcare assistants, carers, paramedics, doctors and everyone else who works in the NHS and care homes go through the roof as they ‘carry on’ going to work to care for Covid-19 patients as well as others who are ill or needing support.

Our police, fire service and coastguard have continued to be called upon to keep us safe. Our school staff have carried on working, including on bank holidays and during school holidays so that the education of our children – some in school and some by electronic means – can continue. We have seen staff in our local shops, supermarkets, pharmacies and the post office carry on working. Our town and county council workers, refuse collectors, Royal Mail staff and delivery drivers have also carried on. There are many more I haven’t listed who have been essential workers, carrying on despite the risk of catching Covid-19 and the worry that has brought.

We also know that as individuals we have experienced fear, worry, frustration and anger, and that sometimes these feelings have been directed at those who are trying to help. Yet we have got this far, we have kept calm for the most part, and we have carried on in a new and very strange way.

We don’t know what the next few weeks and months hold, yet I have no doubt we will keep calm and carry on. Why? Because I think this pandemic has made us stop, made us realise what is important, and what is not. It has also made us realise how interdependent we all are, and how vulnerable we would all be if this support network were to collapse. The crisis has revealed the absolute best of this town in showing humanity, love and compassion, and in going the extra mile for our neighbour.

It reminds me of Psalm 23 – “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.”

The Revd Pete Stone



The Revd Pete Stone
Team Vicar

BTM’s new curate is on her way here

The Bridport Team Ministry’s new curate, Helen Croud, is due to move to the town with her family in early July. Helen has just finished studying at Ripon College Cuddleston and this will be her first post since ordination. She is pictured below on her last day at college.

We’ll have a fuller profile of Helen in the next issue of The Bridge.



CAW 2020: love unites us all

Our fundraising for Christian Aid Week 2020 brought in a wonderful final total of £989.55 – and the real total is higher as we know many more donations from Bridport went directly to Christian Aid.



Additionally, the Revd Ann Ayling raised £301.50 from the two Lent Lunches that were able to go ahead.

Thank you so much to our wonderful young helpers who made fundraising films and to everyone for your life-transforming support and solidarity with our neighbours of all faiths and none in these difficult times. Love really does unite us all.

The Revd Lorna Johnson & Jill Henderson



Beware of scam calls following the launch of NHS Track & Trace

Action Fraud and other agencies have issued warnings about new techniques that scammers are using following the launch of the NHS Track & Trace system.

Track & Trace aims to reduce the spread of Covid-19 by asking those with positive test results to share details about people they have been in contact with and who may have caught the virus as a result. The NHS will get in touch with people who have tested positive and those who have been in contact with positive cases.

Unfortunately, scammers have already come up with a way to use the system to steal people's money. Scam callers will claim to be from NHS Track & Trace and will tell the person answering the phone that they have been in contact with someone suffering from Covid-19 and need to have a test sent out to them. The caller will then ask for payment card details and, if questioned, say that the test and results cost £500.

It's easy to see how people might fall for this, particularly during this period of uncertainty. However, all Covid-19 tests arranged through official channels are free, and the Track & Trace service has confirmed that it will NEVER:

- ask for bank details or payments
- ask for details of any other accounts, such as social media
- ask you to set up a password or PIN over the phone
- ask you to call a premium rate number (e.g. those starting 09 or 087)

Your favourite hymns – on the end of the phone!

If you're reading this digital edition of The Bridge, you obviously have access to some sort of computer... but some members of the community, particularly older people, aren't online. Daily Hope is for them.

This Church of England phoneline offers daily hymns, reflections and prayers and is ideal for anyone feeling isolated or in need of this kind of comfort during this difficult time. Best of all, it's free.

Daily Hope has been set up in partnership with two other organisations. Faith in Later Life is a national charity that aims to encourage older Christians – particularly those who may be isolated or lonely – in their faith. Connections is based in Claygate, Surrey, and is one of the largest weekly gatherings for seniors in the UK.

The Revd Canon Dave Male, the Church of England's Director of Evangelism and Discipleship, says, "While we all long for the day when we can meet together in person in our churches again, we have a duty in these strange and difficult times to find new ways of bringing prayer and worship to people wherever they are... This is such a simple idea – planned and launched in a few short weeks by a small dedicated team – but I pray it will bring real comfort, hope and inspiration to people at this time."

Daily Hope was launched earlier in the lockdown and received more than 6,000 calls in its first 48 hours. Callers have spent up to 50 minutes listening to the music and prayers. The service received a big boost in June when TV star Miranda Hart tweeted about the service to her 2.3 million followers.



The Bridge is looking for two volunteers

Looking forward to a time when The Bridge is once more published as hard copy as well as online, we are looking for two people to join the core group.

We need a circulation manager who will review the current system of house-to-house delivery (which has certain weak spots), identify other pick-up points for printed copies (such as shops and public

centres), and develop the online and email delivery in line with privacy regulations. This is a crucial role, as the advertising revenue that keeps the magazine going is predicated on a guaranteed reach to potential customers.

Second, we need an advertising sales manager who will market the magazine to potential advertisers and put together the information that will

persuade them that The Bridge can be an effective way of reaching their customers.

Both jobs are conceived of as voluntary, although for the right person a small fee might be possible.

If you would like to talk about either of these roles, with no commitment, please email Philip Sturrock, the chair of the Bridge team: chair@thebridgemagazine.org

Churches open for private prayer

The government has announced that individuals can now enter places of worship for private prayer (from 15 June).

All churches and other sacred buildings have been closed to the public since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown in late March, although following revised guidance from the House of Bishops, members of the clergy have been allowed to enter church buildings to pray or broadcast since early May.

Under the latest change, to ensure people comply with social distancing regulations, individual churches will have to manage the number of people coming in. For this reason there will have to be a member of the church team in the building at all times while the doors are unlocked.

The Bridport Team Ministry hopes to open its churches on a rota basis from Saturday 4 July. In practice this means that one of the six churches – St Mary’s in the town centre, St Swithun’s in North Allington, Holy Trinity Bradpole, Holy Trinity Bothenhampton, St John’s West Bay and St Mary’s Walditch – will be open for a couple of hours each day from Monday to Saturday.

“During lockdown we have come up with all kinds of imaginative and meaningful ways to continue as a community of prayer, but we know many have missed being able to come into church,” says the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector. “We are now preparing to open our church buildings for private prayer. We need to do this safely for all, and we rely on the time and commitment of church members for this.”

The Communities Secretary, Robert Jenrick, has praised religious communities for their forbearance during the lockdown. In a statement released on 7 June he says, “Ensuring places of worship can open again, beginning with individual prayer, has been my priority. Their contribution to the common good of our country is clear, as places of solace, comfort, stability and dignity. And the need for them is all the greater as



congetestian/pixabay

we weather the uncertainties of the pandemic. As we control the virus, we are now able to move forwards with a limited but important return to houses of worship ... I have worked with faith leaders and representatives to prepare guidance that ensures this can be done safely.”

Funerals are currently allowed in places of worship where it is possible for them to take place safely while maintaining the mandatory distance between attendees. Other gatherings and services such as baptisms, weddings, supplementary schools, meetings and classes are not permitted.

The Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London and chair of the Church of England’s Covid-19 recovery group, says, “Throughout this crisis churches have been serving their communities in a range of practical ways, but this announcement recognises that the buildings themselves are important sacred spaces for people... We look forward to when it is safe for our church buildings once again to become meeting places for worship, prayer and all they do to serve and bless their communities.”

Eloise’s fabric masks help local charity

As lockdown is gradually eased and most of us can get out and about a bit more, there are going to be times when we need to wear a mask.

Face coverings are now a legal requirement on public transport (from 15 June), and for hospital outpatients and visitors, while many other places including doctors’ surgeries are insisting on them. And although a scarf or other clothing is acceptable as long as it covers the wearer’s mouth and nose, a shaped mask with ear loops is more likely to stay in place.

Some members of the Bridport Team Ministry have been spotted wearing attractive cloth masks made by local ‘social entrepreneur’ Eloise Matthews (pictured). Eloise is a member of the West Dorset Scrubbers (WDS), a group of sewing enthusiasts who have been making scrubs, scrub bags and other personal protective equipment for hospital staff. By selling her masks Eloise has raised an impressive £250 for the group, which is using the money to buy fabric and other equipment.

“Early in lockdown I started making masks on a small scale for elderly neighbours and relatives, simply as gifts to keep them safe,” she says. “They really liked the masks, and I made

some more for other people to give to their loved ones.

“Some people were giving me a donation in exchange for their mask, so I decided to put the money together and give it to WDS so they could continue their tireless production. So far I’ve produced more than 200 masks and I’m still going!”

At the end of May WDS had made more than 700 sets of scrubs, 1,650 scrub bags and nearly 1,000 headbands. They have a Go Fund Me page here for donations and a Facebook page here for information and messages.

The masks, which have a pocket for a filter, are still available; call Eloise on 07570 033622.



Bridport Town Council: supporting the community response to the lockdown

The challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have revealed something wonderful about Bridport – something that many residents knew already. This is a town that’s quick to step up, to help its most vulnerable people, to coordinate and organise and provide solutions.

A band of keen, capable volunteers has been central to this response, while existing bodies – most notably the town council – have provided additional infrastructure and technology to help make things happen.

Bridport Town Council first got involved in mid-March, before the widespread lockdown but as vulnerable people were starting to self-isolate. Existing agencies, including the Cupboard Love food bank, Citizens Advice and the Harmony mental health service, had started to provide targeted help, and new sources of support were already springing up.

The main volunteer group – Bridport Coronavirus Community Support (BCCS) – came about thanks to Alex and Carl Lewis, a couple from West Bay who recognised a need and responded fantastically by recruiting more than a hundred volunteers to deliver groceries, fetch prescriptions and check in on vulnerable residents.

“The town council had had its last ‘proper’ meeting on 15 March and we knew the lockdown was coming,” says town clerk Will Austin. “Councillors wanted us to take a lead in the community response as much as possible, and we started to talk to BCCS and other groups about getting involved. We knew an integrated approach would be most effective, so we decided to create a helpline with a single number that people could use to access all kinds of help from more than 20 local organisations.”

The Bridport Coronavirus Community Support Helpline went live on 1 April,



Town council clerk Will Austin

publicised by a leaflet delivered to 11,500 homes in the area plus a postcard version in pharmacies and shops. The helpline is staffed by the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) team, working from home, and took its 1,000th call on 4 June. Factoring in the email support service, plus calls received on the council’s usual number, Will estimates that about 1,500 people have benefited.

“The community has really stepped up to help each other – and that includes many people who are new to volunteering,” says Will. “We know that many regular volunteers are elderly so were self-isolating and unable to help, but we’ve seen a new group of people coming forward. Some have used their specific skills to help in other ways, too; Louise Buchanan and Chloe Branwhite, for instance, have put together a wonderful website listing the opening arrangements and services for local shops and other businesses.”

Bridport Town Council has organised several physical expressions of the town’s support for key workers, including this rainbow banner on the town hall



Words by Olivia Duty. Photos courtesy of Will Austin

The NHS flag flies over the town hall in a show of support for the medical community



Council business continues

Meanwhile, the town council has continued many of its usual activities, and its 22 employees have all been working throughout the lockdown. It's been (almost) business as usual for the office staff, who have been able to work from home thanks to online communication, internet-based phones and video conferencing, and the outdoor staff have been cutting grass, emptying bins and keeping the town clean and tidy while maintaining social distancing standards.

Bridport Cemetery and seven allotment sites have all remained open, although Bridport Market was reduced to four food stalls in accordance with government regulations.

Councillors began holding 'virtual' meetings on 27 April. The annual town council meeting took place in this way on 14 May and included the election of the new mayor, Cllr Ian Bark. "Our members have adjusted to virtual meetings with some gusto!" says Will, who has been responsible for setting up the technology that makes this possible. "In particular, the new mayor has made a commitment to online engagement and will soon begin blogging on our website."

Unfortunately, the council has taken a financial hit of more than £53,000 since the start of lockdown. Income is down about £37,000, as its sources – including two car parks, the market, rental on leased premises and meeting rooms, and commission on tickets at

the TIC – have all but disappeared, and extra expenses of about £16,000 have been incurred in dealing with the different circumstances.

This money will be made up from the council's reserves and by future savings in expenditure. "We're not eligible for government help," says Will. "There is money for individuals, larger local authorities and charities, but not town or parish councils. We'll be discussing ways to recoup the money that have minimal impact on our activities in the community."

The council put together its latest five-year plan earlier this year, with a public consultation in March, but councillors will now consider how their spending will need to change in light of the lockdown before putting it to the public again.

"The proposal includes our climate emergency action plan to reduce the council's carbon footprint," says Will. "This is our top priority – it's central to our future activity and cuts across all our other projects. Whatever happens as we recover from the Covid-19 crisis, we will maintain our commitment to funding this work."

A town with heart – and backbone

The council has provided a physical expression of the town's support for key workers with a rainbow banner and NHS flag on the town hall, and the famous clock is illuminated after dark with the colours of the rainbow

in turn. But it's in practical terms that the council's involvement has been most powerful, allowing one of the town's greatest assets – its network of volunteers – to reach its full potential during this crisis and help as many people as possible.

And although the helpline has inevitably been less busy in the last few weeks, as people have got arrangements in place and established a routine, the volunteer network is still there behind the scenes. They're ready to act, to help friends and neighbours deal with whatever comes next, whether this means a second wave of the virus or a totally new situation. The people of Bridport have proved themselves equal to the toughest challenge we've seen in a long time.

The Bridport Community Support Coronavirus Helpline number is 01308 808900, and you can also email enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk. There is more information about the coronavirus response on the council's website at www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/coronavirus.



Bridport
Town Council

Memories of the Atlantic Challenge

Essie Stone – the Revd Pete’s daughter – should have been preparing for this year’s Atlantic Challenge, but she’s locked down in Dorset instead. She looks back fondly on the last competition...

If Covid-19 hadn’t come along and changed everything, I would have been getting ready to travel to St Petersburg, Russia, for this summer’s Atlantic Challenge International. As things stand, however, the competition has been postponed until next year, and until then I shall have to make do with my memories of the last competition, in 2018.

Taking part in the Atlantic Challenge with Team Great Britain has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life. The competition takes place every other year and is a friendly contest of seamanship in Bantry Bay gigs. These very special rowing boats seat 10 rowers and two coxes (one in the bow) – and astonishingly convert to sail by means of a quick change (30 to 40 seconds) by the crew while on the water. The best way to imagine it is like the captain’s gig from Hornblower!

The challenge aims to build trust among nations and form a multi-national community of youth and adults while encouraging the practice of traditional maritime skills. Each competition is held in a different host country, and in 2018 it was in Antrim, Northern Ireland. As well as participants from England, Scotland and Wales in Team GB, there were teams from Northern Ireland (a team in its own right), Ireland, France, Denmark, Belgium, the USA and two teams each from Russia and Canada. I made lifelong friends from all over the world.

The Atlantic Challenge stimulates participants’ personal development by encouraging perseverance, self-reliance, initiative and creativity. It’s a community-building project,

fostering social responsibility as well as an understanding and awareness of our local and global maritime heritage. During the contest teams are housed and fed together in a local school or campsite. Team members from different countries spend lots of time together both on and off the water.

When my experience began, in July 2018, I was very nervous and I wasn’t even sure that I could go through with it. However, I soon realised that giving up on this challenge might be the biggest mistake I could make. Because it was my GCSE year – ok, not the best excuse – I hadn’t been practising my knot tying, but on the night I arrived a couple of my team colleagues took me under their wing and helped me practise for the test the next morning. The kindness and support they showed instantly demonstrated the character of the whole team. I knew the next couple of weeks were not only going to be filled with new friendships but I would also build my skills as a rower, as a sailor and as a person.

I had previously rowed in a pilot gig from West Bay, but before the competition we trained in Portland and I learned how to sail and adapted my rowing technique to fit the Bantry Bay gig. After an intense week of non-stop training and building teamwork, we set off for Antrim.

Over the competition by rotating our crew we competed in 12 events – two or three a day – from land-based ropework to racing the gigs across Lake Antrim using both oars and sails. What stood out most of all was the friendship and camaraderie. In the end we came second to Northern Ireland (it was their lake, after all!) but we did set a two-mile rowing race record. Bring on Russia 2021!

Essie is pictured below, far right in the front row



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

This month we asked members of St Mary's to reflect on their experience of lockdown. Here are two contributions we received...

From Diana Wright: We stood on the pavement opposite St Mary's and the hearse came down the road. It stopped just before the point where a few of us had gathered and one of the undertakers climbed out, donned his top hat, and holding his silver-topped cane positioned himself in front of the hearse. As he walked ahead, the hearse slowly made its way to where we stood, socially distanced from each other, then it paused while we friends of the deceased had a moment to remember, to reflect, and to pray as the traffic ceased and all was still. It was a moving and poignant moment, but not long to remember a long life, a bright personality, no longer with us.

It wasn't long, it wasn't right, but it was the best we could do, for this was a funeral during the lockdown and only six people were allowed to attend the actual service. We should have been gathered in the church with the family to celebrate a life, to pray for those left behind, the family of God together in our sorrow and in our memories. We who were there are grateful for the thoughtfulness of the undertakers for arranging this, and to the family for allowing it to happen. We were able in a small way to say goodbye.

How many, I wonder, have not been able to say their goodbyes? Have not been able to give and receive support, to feel that it had been 'right'? As we move out of lockdown, let us remember that there will be many in our community and across the country who will also have had an unsatisfactory experience of saying goodbye to a loved one, a friend or a colleague. Perhaps, as we continue to be alert, we can be alert to those who may need some extra support and care at this time.

From Peter Phillips: I was eight years old in 1939 when World War II started, and 14 in 1945 when it ended. I remember it very well and I compare it with the present



Elliott Brown

Covid-19 epidemic. Both 'wars' brought out kindness, thoughtfulness and comradeship.

There were Air Raid Precautions (ARP) wardens, men who looked after your interests. They would get food for us (very scarce then) and come and stand at the doorstep to talk to my parents and my grandparents, who were living with us as we had a three-storey house. My father was too old for the services so he was an ARP warden, too.

Just as during the current lockdown, a next-door neighbour would make my meals for me every Sunday, and other neighbours would do my shopping. In the war the streets near us were bombed, and the homeless survivors were taken in to our houses and fed. Just like today – true friendship and kindness.

In war you saw the enemy in the skies above and you did not know if you were going to be next. In this 'war' you don't see the enemy or hear it. It is silent. I find it far more frightening and every night I pray to God to watch over us all – my family, friends, and all peoples all over the world. Today in lockdown it is more frightening than yesteryear. The hidden killer, like a deadly mist you cannot see. You could see the killer in 1939–45.

How long will it last? Who knows? Life will never be the same again, not in my lifetime. God bless you all.

ST MARY'S Walditch

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Churchwarden – Chris Wellman-Herold 281096

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

Call of the Wild

The Chelsea Flower Show may have gone virtual for the first time in its history, but here in Walditch many gardens have been in full bloom in real life. Those lucky enough to have

outdoor space have planted, mowed and sown like never before, allowing others to benefit. And it's not just passers by who reap the rewards. From birdsong to bees, nature has turned up the volume and put on a spectacular show. There are no queues or shortages and it's available 24/7. You don't even need to wear a mask.

As always, Walditch wants to give. Tomato plants arrive in quick succession, seed packets rattle like diamonds and surplus plants sit patiently in driveways awaiting a new home.

When freedoms are restricted, everything comes into sharper focus. Through the lens of lockdown we've seen with fresh eyes and listened more closely than ever before. Nature has been a constant, but in such high definition it is an unexpected and rare gift. →

ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

As lockdown eases and life resumes, imprinted on our memory of this spring and summer is the joy of small things: watching a baby blackbird fledge, children making daisy chains, new shoots peeking into a pandemic world. When absence from family and friends has been so hard to bear, being embraced in the arms of nature has been welcome reassurance for us all. And something we will never forget.

Mimi Moore

The Fun They Had

Isaac Asimov, a well known sci-fi writer, wrote a short story more than 50 years ago entitled 'The Fun They Had'.

It was set in the year 2155. Tommy, aged 13, found a "real book" in the attic: the pages were yellow and crinkly. The words stood still instead of moving. When he showed it to his friend Margie, she asked what it was about and he told her: "school". Margie hated school: her mechanical teacher was giving her geography tests, and she was doing so badly that the county inspector was sent for. He took the teacher apart and put it back together again: the big screen was fine,



as was the slot where she had to put in her homework and test papers to be marked. The inspector told Margie's mum that he'd slowed down the geography sector to an average 10-year-old's level, but otherwise Margie's progress was satisfactory.

Isaac Asimov

Afterwards, Margie asked Tommy, "Why would anyone want to write about school?" Tommy told her it was the kind of school they'd had hundreds of years before. They had a teacher – a man. She was shocked, "How could a man be a teacher? A man isn't smart enough. And I wouldn't want a strange man in my house to teach me!" Tommy laughed at her and told her the "school" was a special building where all the kids went. She wanted to know more, but her mother called her: "Margie! School! Now!"

Margie went into the schoolroom next to her bedroom. The mechanical teacher was waiting for her: "Today's lesson is on the addition of proper fractions. Please insert yesterday's homework into the proper slot."

Margie sighed. She thought about those old schools: the laughing and shouting, the sitting together in the schoolroom, children helping each other with homework, real people as teachers. Margie thought how the kids must have loved it and "the fun they had".

On 1 June 2020 – the first day that primary school pupils were allowed back after our lockdown – a little girl proudly showed her mum her gold star at the end of the day. She explained that it was given to her for "keeping away from other people and not sharing."

Isaac Asimov was, it seems, something of a prophet – although 135 years prematurely – and, at least, behind the screens now are real people.

We pray that, although our idea of "normality" may never return, Isaac Asimov's prediction will not come true. But "the fun they had" has, to some extent, disappeared. The best schools are vitally important to their pupils: places where they can feel loved, valued and affirmed, interact with different children and make lasting friendships, feel safe and secure.

We pray at this time for our children and for all who support them in our schools.

The Revd Ann Ayling

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

Although ministers and individuals are now allowed back into church buildings for prayer, we still cannot experience the fulfilment of worshipping together or the enjoyment of music within our normal services. Across the Bridport Team Ministry we have all styles of music. Here in Bothenhampton, for instance, we normally hear the traditional choral style, which suits our pattern of worship, but have you heard the Revd Dan Shackell's excellent saxophone playing during the team's video services?

Sue Smith, director of music at Holy Trinity, considers the value of music in the church:

I wonder if you watched or listened to a service on 14 June organised by the Royal School of Church Music to celebrate its Music Sunday. We were to have had a special matins at

Holy Trinity on that day, giving thanks for music's role in the life of the church and the way it can draw church and community together, but it was cancelled amid the lockdown.

Music has always been an important part of worship. It is mentioned frequently in the psalms: "O be joyful in God all the lands : sing praises unto the honour of his name," (Psalm 66); and "Praise him in the sound of the trumpet : praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him in the cymbals and dances : praise him upon the strings and pipe," (Psalm 150). No organs in those days!

Paul commanded the early Christian fellowship to sing when they met for worship: "With gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God" (Colossians 3:16). Our church music today ranges from unaccompanied plainsong to hymns by Bach, Vaughan Williams, John Bell and Graham Kendrick, to mention just a few.

Music can 'reach the parts other art forms cannot', to misquote a well-known advert! It can enhance our worship and create, mirror and change our emotions. Indeed, the power of music in worship is almost beyond description. I believe it is one of God's greatest gifts to us. We look forward to singing together at some point in the future.



ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Village editor – June Goodburn 423061
Churchwardens – Mandi Sturrock 420304
Jo George 426457
Children and youth worker – 423061

From our special correspondent...

Some residents in the housing community where I live in Allington have received government food boxes. My neighbour, a Buddhist, was invited to register online and in the dietary requirement section ticked 'vegetarian'. Hmm... not today, friend, because ubiquitous to the food parcels – and regardless of those registering vegetarian, etc – are various Fray Bentos products (not best known for their vegetarian range) and Batchelors marrowfat peas glossy green with E101 and E133.

Now, food is food and very gratefully received, particularly some of the healthier food box contents, but what to do with a glut of tinned meat and processed peas? Some of this and other stuff we redistributed around the community – baked beans and fresh sliced bread being popular – while other items went to Cupboard Love collection points.

All done with a smile and one example of how I have spoken with more neighbours, if only through open windows, during lockdown than in the previous 18 months since arriving here; a feel-good experience common to many of us, I'm sure. And shortly after lockdown started, feeling even more low and lonely than usual, I was inspired by my Buddhist neighbour (shielded and in total lockdown for medical reasons) who said he was going to use this solitary time for back-to-back retreats guided by online sessions, often in the wee hours. Using his example, I shrugged off my lethargic self-pity and began to engage with this brave new world by shopping for neighbours, for instance, fully appreciative that I was able to get out in this glorious weather while many others remained confined to home.

Since lockdown has eased I have daily maximised my happy situation with long walks and cycle rides. From this spot in Allington it is so easy to access a different kind of solitude shared with wild flowers, birds and bees – I favour two footpaths starting near the Community Hospital. As



Socially distanced gardening: Since the lockdown rules have been relaxed slightly, some of our team have taken the chance to tidy up the courtyard garden in the sunshine. Top: Mandi Sturrock, Jo George & Rose Harvey (plus Jo's grandson, Adam). Below: June Goodburn & Evelina Malyon

I write, bluebells and wild garlic flowers have passed, to be replaced with stunning combinations of pink campion, white stitchwort, cow parsley and buttercups. One afternoon time disappeared as I stood silently in the sunshine and watched bumble and honeybees feeding on majestic purple foxgloves; I imagined the pattern of dots inside each flower appearing like navigation landing lights to these little creatures, declaring "come hither, here be nectar".

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

Another month on and we are starting to see changes to the rules on lockdown and how this will affect our lives. Sometimes it is easier to be told you can't go anywhere – go out once a day for exercise and that's it – rather than getting a list of things you can or cannot do. West Bay has certainly seen a big increase in visitors, which from a business point of view is good, although I am not sure whether it is good for the infection rates. Only time will tell.

Our friendly newsagents, opposite the church, opened on 1 June and it was great to see Richard, Margaret and Sharon there again and back in business. Going early in the morning to pick up the paper, there's no problem with social distancing. The Cornish Bakery opened towards the end of

May, but only for takeaways, so not the usual leisurely coffee and pastry or pasty but nevertheless good to see.

Gradually the bikers started to return and then the kiosks opened, so the noise level on the West Bay Road increased and the bay itself got very busy. It looks like there were a number of complaints about the area round the hub and kiosks, and with social distancing in place there is a danger of people being injured while waiting for food here, so plans are being put together to pedestrianise the area.

It is interesting to view the harbour from the webcam and see the problem pinch points. Before the three car parks were open, we once again had people parking on Marsh Barn Road and they learnt an expensive lesson as they were all issued with fines. The main car park is still closed as it is used as a Covid-19 testing facility. Army personnel arrive once or twice a week to carry out tests for people who have booked online.

The Discovery Centre has managed to obtain a grant from the government's fund for retail, leisure and hospitality →

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

businesses and charities. This is very welcome as obviously the closure and loss of income have had a huge effect on the centre's finances. Staff are working hard to see how they can reopen safely, possibly in early July although not necessarily quite the same as before. To this end an email went out to all the volunteers asking whether or not they would be prepared to return in July, and if they had any suggestions for making things safer. It is going to be hard in the space that they have but hopefully something can be worked out.

On my early morning exercise I now regularly see swimmers as well as paddle boarders and kayaks in the sea. It's also good to see the other morning ladies doing yoga and chi gong while observing the group number restrictions.

It would be lovely to think that services could return at St John's, if not inside the church then maybe outside on the



Garry Knight

green like we usually have in the summer. Let's hope that churches are one of the next places to open up.

Sue Pollock

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)

Lockdown reflections

I am wondering if during this time of lockdown you have found yourself reflecting on situations past, present and future. Perhaps you have kept a daily journal or diary. I have not written a journal but I have certainly pondered situations in a different way. The lockdown has, I believe, given us time to slow the pace, to appreciate our communities and to care for one another in a more thoughtful and considered way.

Two poems have come to light during the pandemic. The first, *The Divine Weaver*, was sent to me as a handwritten text, found in family documents by one of my relatives.

*My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me
I cannot choose the colours
He weaveth steadily.*

*Oftentimes He weaveth sorrow
And I in foolish pride
Forgetteth He seeth the upper
And I the underside.*

*Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why*

*The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.*

We are in a time of waiting, uncertainty and waiting causes impatience and God does have a plan for us. In the words from Jeremiah 29:11 – “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

The second poem, *The Fatherhood of God*, was written by William Brighty Rands (1823–82), a Victorian author who also wrote nursery rhymes, hymns and madrigals. The poem was requested at a funeral because the deceased had learnt it as an eight-year-old.

*O you great, wide, wonderful world,
With the wonderful waters around you curled,
And the wonderful grass upon your breast,
O world, how gloriously you are dressed!*

*The wonderful air is over me,
The wonderful wind is shaking the tree,
It walks on the water, it whirls the mills,
It talks to itself on the tops of the hills.*

*O friendly earth, how far do you go?
With your wheat fields that nod and your rivers that flow,
With cities and gardens and cliffs and isles,
And people upon you for thousands of miles?*

*Ah you are so great and I am so small,
I tremble to think of you, world, at all,
And yet when I said my prayer today
A whisper within me seemed to say,*

*'You are more than earth,
Though you seem so small,
You can think and love.
That is best of all.'*

Those poignant words: ‘You can think and love. That is best of all.’

We hold on during this lockdown time to Jesus' greatest command: “To love one another as I have loved you.”

The Revd Janis Moore



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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