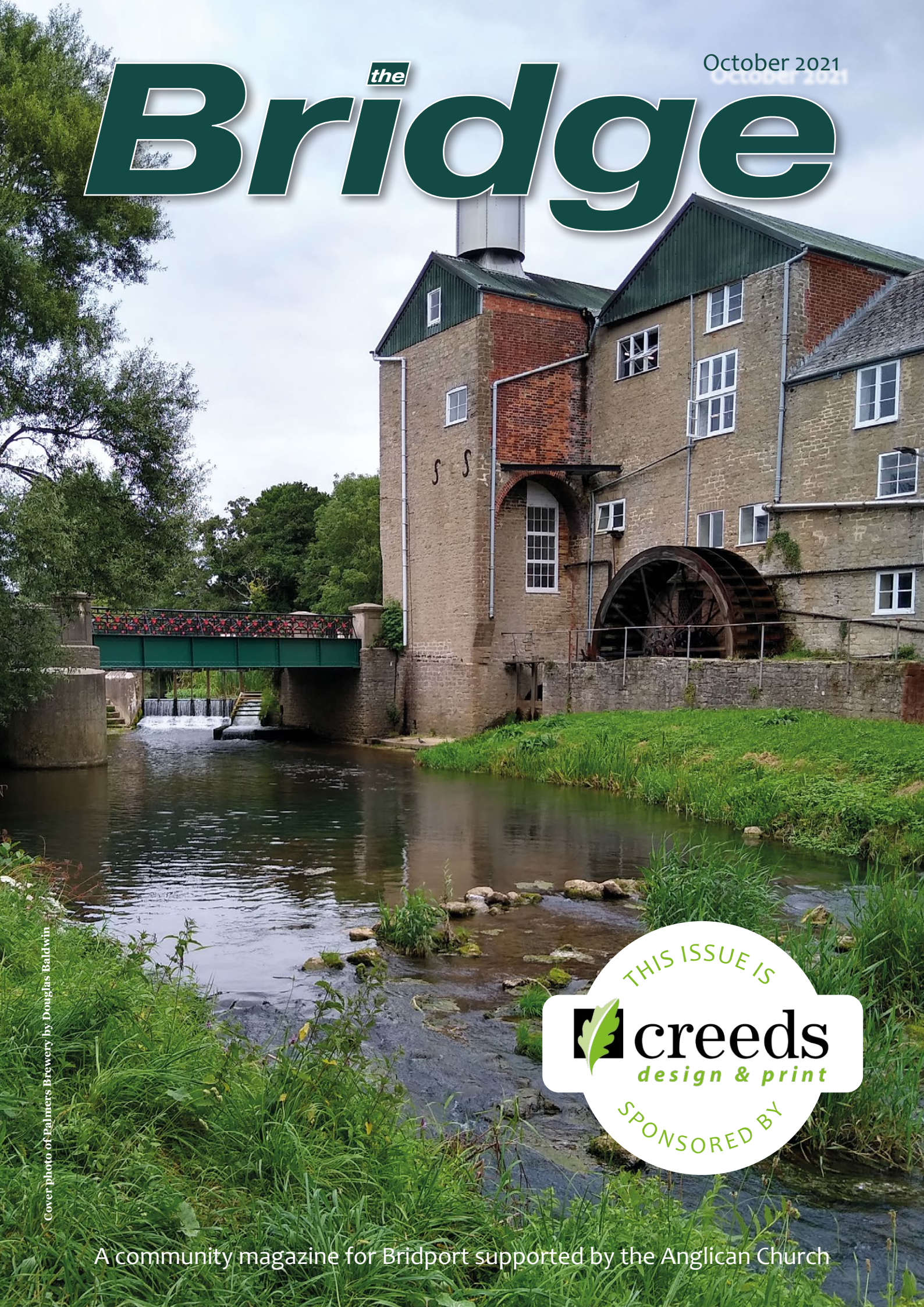


October 2021
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the **Bridge**



Cover photo of Palmers Brewery by Douglas Baldwin

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

Cupboard Love food bank

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
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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 November issue is 5pm on Monday 11 October

What does it mean to live generously?

There is a sense for many of us that life is opening up again. After the long months of lockdown, the many restrictions on what we can do and where we can go, things are shifting at last.

We could look around and focus on what we have lost and how we might clamber back to a new sense of normal. Or, instead, we could reflect on all that we have been through – acknowledging how life may have changed even more radically for others – and wonder where we go from here together.

I guess it comes down to whether our different experiences of living through a pandemic could bring us together as a community, or if this time will simply deepen the divisions between us.

In the church we are being challenged – and are challenging one another – to respond to all of this by living generously. But what does that really mean?

In a time when our churches have been closed for long periods, when the regular round of social activities, gatherings, fundraising and donations from faithful congregations have juddered to a halt, there is a need to think about money.

We are custodians of beautiful buildings, sacred spaces that have sustained people, gathered them and sheltered them in times of celebration and sorrow over generations.

How do we keep our buildings open for all? How can we make our churches meeting places for our communities? And how do we keep paying the bills?

So it's clear that our call to 'live generously' certainly has a

financial dimension to it, but it is much more besides.

Generosity is a way of life; living generously is a choice we make every day. It's about being generous with ourselves, with our time, with our words and with our compassion for others. Generosity comes from a thankful heart, which recognises the needs of others.



The Revd Deb Smith
Team Rector

We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in.

In the Bridport Team through October and beyond, we will be making generosity our focus, thinking about what it means to live generously. Yes, in the way we use our money, but also in how we treat others, how we treat the environment, how we give our time, our energy, ourselves.

Our giving is the way in which we invest in this community and live generous lives in response to the abundance we have received. And maybe it can be a way in which we make our response to forging a 'new normal' after lockdown one that brings us together.

The Revd Deb Smith

Generosity is a way of life; living generously is a choice we make every day

Enjoy our bumper issue as the nights start to draw in

This month's bumper issue – 24 pages! – includes the first of what I hope will become a regular series of interviews held in 'the pod' (p9). The pod is a wonderful 'micro caravan' (somewhere between a tiny 'teardrop' van and a full-size caravan) belonging to the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector. Being in the cute, quirky pod definitely puts interview subjects at ease!



Olivia Daly
Editor

You can also read about why Bridport Mayor Ian Bark loves his allotment (p8) and even put your hand up if you'd like a plot of your own. And there are a few words from West Dorset MP Chris Loder (p7) who stopped by for a quick chat on a recent visit to Bridport.

There's definitely an autumnal nip in the air, which serves as a reminder that Bridport's Literary Festival is just around the corner (7–14 November). More about that annual highlight of town life in the next issue.

'Beyond the Golden Reeds', a stunning exhibition by Dorset artist Keith Rogers, runs at Bridport Arts Centre from 16 October to 13 November. Keith lives on the coast near Christchurch and his large-scale, semi-abstract work is inspired by the breathtaking landscapes around his home.

"It's about the harbour, the marsh, creeks and perfect moons," he says. "It's about the reeds that turn into shimmering wands of gold in the morning sun... colour and light and what lies beyond."

Keith is also giving a free talk on Sat 23 October 2–4pm. www.bridport-arts.com/event/keith-rogers



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
Bridport Branch
TRAFALGAR DAY
SERVICE

St John's Church, West Bay
Sunday 24 October at 3pm

Residents and visitors are welcome to join us

Alfresco wellness project gets off the ground

The Cowshed at Plot 17, a mental health initiative in the allotments behind Bridport Medical Centre, has been launched at a special tea party. The scheme has created a space where people suffering from loneliness, isolation, long-term illness or mental health issues can spend time with others outdoors and grow their own produce.

Bridport Town Council provided groundworks for the project, while a number of local businesses and 50 individuals also contributed, making furniture, giving plants, digging, clearing and creating artwork as well as making practical and monetary donations.

Bridport Mayor Ian Bark – himself an allotment holder (see p8) – came to the launch party with his wife, Anne, members of the Bridport Rotary Club and representatives from the businesses that had been involved.

Fight back against scams

Join more than 3,000 people in Dorset and become a Friend Against Scams. It only takes 20 minutes to become a ‘friend’ online at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk where you can learn about various scams plus how to spot and report them. The initiative is supported by Dorset Trading Standards.

Organ update

We’re delighted to report that following our article about Thelma Pulman and her request for an organ ‘apprentice’ at Walditch in last month’s issue of The Bridge, someone has come forward. As we went to press, Thelma was planning a meeting with the musical volunteer to see if her plan would come together. Watch this space!

Janet joins the team as parish treasurer

Janet Shaw (pictured) is the Bridport Team Ministry’s new parish treasurer.

Janet currently lives in Romford, Essex, but she and her husband have a cottage in Bothenhampton and are in the process of moving there permanently.

She took maths as part of her degree course and says she has always worked with figures, having retired last year after more than 20 years working at an adult training centre in London, heading up an administrative department. Previously she had worked in a university and a further education college, where figures and data analysis were key aspects of her daily working life.

“I feel taking up this voluntary role will be one way of serving the local community,” she says. “Bridport is such a lovely place where everyone has been so welcoming, and I look forward to getting to know everyone in the team more.”

Janet is coming on board during a reshaping of the BTM’s financial structure and will be working with its finance committee as well as serving as an ex-officio member of the parochial church council.



St Mary’s is now available to hire for events & meetings

St Mary’s Church has been serving Bridport for more than 800 years.

It’s a place of worship at its heart, but the team wants to encourage more people to make use of this beautiful building by offering it for hire to the wider community, helping to generate an income to maintain the building for future generations.

St Mary’s has a lot to offer as an event facility, including:

- Flexible space – hire the whole church or a small meeting room
- An iconic ambience
- Excellent acoustics

Find out more by emailing SMBRIbookings@bridport-team-ministry.org.



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Public services at the Bridport Team Ministry churches in October

Sunday

8am	St Mary's Bridport BCP Communion
9.30am	St Swithun's Allington Eucharist Holy Trinity Bradpole Informal Morning Praise (<i>first & third</i>) Communion (<i>second & fourth</i>)
11am	St Mary's Bridport Communion (<i>first, second & fourth</i>) Morning Praise (<i>third</i>) Holy Trinity Bothenhampton Communion (<i>first and third</i>) Morning Praise (<i>second</i>) Matins (<i>fourth</i>) St Mary's Walditch Communion (<i>second and fourth</i>) St John's West Bay Communion (<i>first and third</i>)

On **Sunday 31 October** (the fifth Sunday this month) at 10am there will be a team service at St John's West Bay. On the same day at 4pm there will also be All Souls services at St Mary's Bridport, Holy Trinity Bradpole and St Swithun's Allington.

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*)



Duncan Frith

This year's hospital service will be a 'live' event once more

Covid restrictions last year forced the cancellation of the usual annual hospital service, although the service that organisers recorded in its place and posted on YouTube had nearly 1,000 views.

Thankfully, this year's event can go ahead as in previous years and will take the form of a special service of Evensong at 6.30pm on Sunday 17 October in St Mary's in South Street.

"This year has been an unprecedented one in the life of the NHS; indeed it has been an exceptional year for all of us," says the Revd Philip Ringer, Hospital Chaplain. "The service will be an opportunity for us to reflect together and to give thanks to God for his grace and mercy. It will also allow the people of Bridport to bid farewell to Ellen Holmes, who leaves the NHS at the end of the month after 30 years' service. She arrived in Bridport seven years ago as senior sister and has spent the last three years as our matron. During that time Bridport Hospital and the NHS provision of services have undergone tremendous change, much of it led by Ellen and others, so we give thanks to God for her dedication and work both in Bridport and the wider NHS during that time."

The preacher will be the Revd Jane Williams, who is the rector of the neighbouring team of parishes in the Bride Valley. Before her ordination Jane worked in the NHS as a matron in a hospital elsewhere in Dorset.

If restrictions allow there will be refreshments after the service, to which everyone is welcome.

"So if your life has been touched by the NHS and in particular by our town's hospital during the last year, we hope you'll join us at this special service," adds Philip.

Holidays? Christmas time? Not enough room for friends and family to stay?

The Annexe at Bakers Cottage is available for you. Immaculate, well-equipped first-floor flat in North Allington, just a few minutes' walk from central Bridport. Contact Phyllis Johnson
pjharmony2004@gmail.com



Bridport's precious heritage: can you help to look after the town's church buildings?

Bridport is blessed with many heritage buildings, from its fifth-century Saxon roots, through the flourishing rope-making industrial past, and now into the present day with modern developments and the focus on tourism and hospitality. English Heritage has listed more than 500 of these structures in recognition of their importance.

Through all these times the churches have been the centres of the community, providing space for worship, community gatherings and countless weddings, funerals and civic or commemorative occasions. They offer everyone a sacred space, and set within a well-managed churchyard are often a haven for quiet personal reflection.

The town's Anglican churches vary in style and size. Each is historic and built with the tools and materials of the time, using local tradespeople and suppliers. The Bridport Team Ministry now needs the community's help to maintain and repair them, as directed by the inspecting architects, to enable this shared heritage to be passed on to future generations.

The upkeep of these six churches is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which is gathering a group of like-minded people to form a fabric sub-committee whose brief will be to care for the management of these churches and churchyards. The recent quinquennial surveys have provided a good 'roadmap' of what is needed over the next five years to maintain the churches. From this a workplan will be developed that concentrates on safety matters and the highest priority directions, as well as the



St Mary's Bridport by Michael Day

'urgent unknowns' that occur: perhaps the failure of a church boiler, external mortar damage with water ingress or urgent work from the statutory electrical inspection. It's a mixture of planned maintenance, authorised modernisation and the necessary 'firefighting'.

While the town welcomes visitors throughout the year to enjoy this part of West Dorset, its resident community includes people with many varied skills and experiences, living here from birth or personal choice and with a wealth of knowledge. The PCC is asking people with relevant expertise to come forward and help to manage Bridport's church buildings. It's particularly hoping to find people with experience in any of the following:

- The maintenance and conservation of buildings
- Health and safety
- Sustainability
- DIY skills
- Admin experience, particularly grant applications
- Project management
- Interpreting quotations and discussing jobs with skilled craftspeople

"Working co-operatively in teams is always good, but when you can do so to effect change in the community where you live, the benefits multiply. I can highly recommend it!" says churchwarden Lesley Hill. "We can offer you a friendly, focused group of people who each have skills and expertise that they are keen to share."

If you can help, or if you'd like more information, email Bridget Trump, the PCC secretary, at pcc@bridport-team-ministry.org or phone the parish office on 01308 424747.

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Frances is knitting for Mali

For several years Frances Jobling has been fundraising for the Joliba Trust, a charity working in Mali, West Africa. Among other projects, it works to stabilise sand dunes that are destroying good agricultural land.

Frances has knitted scarves, cowls, hand warmers and bed socks in a variety of styles to raise money. With Deb's permission she will be selling the items after Sunday services at one Bridport church each week in November. Details will be announced in the weekly pew sheet.

Catching up with our MP, Chris Loder

Elected in December 2019 after three years of Brexit wrangling, West Dorset MP Chris Loder knew there were challenges ahead. What he didn't know, however, was that just around the corner lay a global pandemic that would reset everyone's priorities. We had a few questions for Chris while he was in Bridport recently.

The Bridge: Chris, you come from a farming family and had a career with South West Trains (later South Western Railway), where you rose to a senior position. Why did you decide to enter politics?

Chris Loder: Four or five years ago, if you'd asked me about a change of career, I'd have said no, I'm quite happy with the railways. But the situation we started to see with Brexit was deeply troubling for me, because I started to see parliament push back against the democratic will of the country. I try not to be partisan about Brexit, although that's difficult, but I felt we needed to make sure that will was respected and by 2018 I was becoming increasingly concerned about it.

I'd been a district councillor for a while [2013–15] for my home villages south of Sherborne and I got an insight into politics and how we can take it for granted, talking ill of politicians of any party while not really understanding the work they do. When Oliver [Letwin] said he was going to retire, I thought I'd like to put my hat in the ring.

I was elected in the middle of what must have been the most divisive and fractious issue the country has dealt with since the war, and in West Dorset you couldn't get much more divided than 51% for Leave and 49% for Remain. What resonated the most for me was that, regardless of how people voted, the vast majority wanted to see the democratic will delivered, and to see

an end to the bitterness, the really unpleasant discourse that had happened as a result.

TB: Bridport is one of a few towns in a fairly rural constituency. It's also less traditionally Conservative than other parts of West Dorset, with no Tory representative on Dorset Council and only one Conservative out of 18 seats on the town council. How will you engage with the people of this politically diverse town?

CL: There are different priorities for different places, and it's true that Bridport is a political rainbow. I don't like to think of myself as a hugely politically divisive politician – that's not West Dorset. I talk to the mayor and the clerk every two months about where Bridport needs my help, and the fact that the leader of the town council is a Liberal Democrat makes no difference whatsoever. We clearly have different political thoughts, but particularly during coronavirus the town council has had my support every step of the way, and vice versa. There are many more things we have in common than a lot of people think.

In some situations people will think I'm not aligned with them because I have a different perspective. For example, the topic of meat consumption and its impact on the environment. There's a strong view from a number of people that farming in this country is high production, not dissimilar to the US-style of farming, with thousands of cattle, like a meat factory. Nothing could be further from the truth. The reality is [farms like] my mum and dad's, with 140 acres. They don't own the farm, they have about 100 cattle and my dad knows every single animal by name – and I was calving with them the night before the general election. There's a big difference between what people think farming is and the reality here in West Dorset.



One of the biggest learning curves I've had as an MP is that very often we can take things at face value, and we need to learn not to do that, to ask the question: is that really that case?

TB: What issues are the people of Bridport facing?

CL: During coronavirus it's been about getting help to people in need, how our hospital has managed and what we as a community can do to help people. Elsewhere, there are environmental issues such as the considerable litter problem down in West Bay. The situation with plastic and rubbish is something we could not be more closely aligned on. I've spoken many times in the House of Commons about the issue of single-use plastic and how I think the supermarkets have abused plastics to substantiate their dominant market position. They have no responsibility for its disposal and I'm pleased the government is finally taking some action in terms of deposit and recycling schemes and so on, even though in my opinion this doesn't go far enough.

In terms of food production we're in a strong place here in West Dorset to be more self-sufficient by buying local. This is the single biggest thing we can do to help the environment and we should all try and do it. I don't want to break the stranglehold and control, which is making life very hard for our small farmers and at the same time making money from consumers at all levels.

We hope to catch up with Chris again in the new year.

Life on the plot: is there demand for more allotments in Bridport?

Allotments have never been more popular, and many Bridport residents see their benefits first hand every day.

As part of its parish plan, Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council is considering acquiring a site in Bothenhampton, which currently has no allotments. The council's two sites in Walditch are both fully subscribed, and it wants to assess demand from local people for a new site. The allotments would be available to all Bridport residents, not just those who live in Bothenhampton.

To whet your appetite for growing your own, Bridport Mayor Ian Bark has written about the joys and challenges of looking after his own allotment over the years...

For as long as I can remember – and that is a long time now – I have been growing fruit and vegetables.

My earliest recollection is around the age of four, helping my father to plant potatoes on the large plot we had on the farm where I grew up. Even as a student

in Norwich I shared a cottage with some fellow students and we were growing our own and even had some chickens. Throughout all those years my home vegetable patch and allotment have been a source of pleasure, frustration, excitement and disappointment, and a haven away from the hurly burly of the wider world.

I am fortunate to have an allotment in Walditch next to the cemetery. I say fortunate because when I moved to Bridport I was stunned to find that my name was at the bottom of a long list of people waiting for a plot. That was because I live in Bothenhampton and the chance of ever getting one was almost zero. So for several years I travelled to Burton Bradstock, where I was able to indulge my passion in what must be one of the most idyllic allotment sites in the country. It is difficult to top listening to skylarks, the buzz of insects and the rumbling of the stones on Hive Beach while drawing water from the river on a balmy summer evening.

When the opportunity to take on a plot within walking distance of my home

came up, I jumped at the chance. My latest plot is once again the place where I am at probably most at peace with the world. For the first time I have a small polytunnel and a fruit cage, which have allowed me to successfully grow an even more diverse and exotic range of crops. Apart from a wider variety of tomatoes, cucumbers and chillis, I am really pleased with the gherkins, aubergines, basil and melons I have been growing for the past couple of years.

Growing your own is not without its challenges, however. Every year is different, weather patterns are changing and we have to learn to adapt to them. This year I made the mistake of planting some seeds too early, fooled by a warm spell in early spring, only to have them fail to germinate in the cold spell that followed. Learning what grows well on a particular plot takes time and a degree of trial and error. Variations in soil type and local climate conditions – and by local I mean the difference between Burton Bradstock and Walditch – can make a significant difference between success and failure. Even the most experienced of plot holders have their failures so don't be put off if you are not able to achieve the perfection of Monty Don's plot on Gardeners' World.

For me the pleasure of growing, eating and sharing your own produce is one aspect of working a plot that makes it so satisfying. Enjoying it with my granddaughters, who more often than not consume more than they pick, and whiling away time chatting with fellow plot-holders make it a lovely social place to spend time.

Ian Bark

Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council is compiling a list of interested people and looking for a suitable site in Bothenhampton. If you are interested in keeping an allotment, please contact the council at clerk@bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com





It's au revoir – not goodbye – to Peter Clark as he retires

In the first of a new series of interviews in 'the pod' – the team rector's cool micro caravan – we meet the Revd Peter Clark as he retires from his position as the minister for Bridport United Church and Uploders Chapel.

The Bridge: Peter, you're retiring from the role you've held here in Bridport since 2013. Why have you decided to go now?

Peter Clark: I'm so ready! The last couple of years have been remarkably hectic and I've felt really stretched. The minister at the United Church in Dorchester retired early so I took on more of the responsibility for that church on top of my duties in Bridport and Uploders; it was a lot. I'd always planned to retire about now, and events have shown that it's the right decision.

In preparation for this change, my wife, Sue, and I have moved out of the church house and into our own house in Bridport so I'm looking forward to being a part of this vibrant, dynamic town for many years to come.

TB: What are you going to do next?

PC: I have a six-month plan! It feels like there's an element of 'shedding' involved, a transition between working life and retirement, so I'm going to take the first three months off completely – total rest – with no church work at all. Sue and I are looking forward to travelling and we're planning to visit some places in the UK including the Lake District and parts of Scotland as well as down here in the South West.

TB: Sounds great! Then what?

PC: During the next three months I'm going to start some church things again. I want to keep my involvement with Soul Space [BUC's contemporary worship team] and I'll be part of the 'pulpit



supply', available as a retired minister to lead some services at United Reformed churches in the area and perhaps taking some special services such as funerals – but probably not those for 'my' BUC folk. I'll also be ecumenical officer for the South West area of the URC's Wessex synod until March and working with Churches Together in Dorset.

TB: And what's your longer term plan?

PC: I'll become available to be a part of the retired ministry team across the Methodist Circuit too, including eventually those churches that used to be my pastorate. And of course it'll be great to have more time for my hobbies.

TB: Tell us about those...

PC: I started writing a novel in 2015 and I want to finish it! It's in the fantasy genre. I love reading, too, and I sing with the New Elizabethan Singers here in Bridport. I'm looking forward to getting together with them again after the long Covid-enforced break. I also have an urge to do some sailing – I've sailed yachts in Greece and on the Norfolk Broads but I want to try dinghies and

I'm thinking about going to the sailing school in Weymouth. And it would also be great to do something with my hands, so I'm considering a boat building course at the academy in Lyme Regis.

TB: Who's taking over from you at BUC?

PC: The Revd John Yarrien. He's been around this area for about a year and he's the superintendent minister at the United Church in Dorchester, so he'll be adding BUC and Uploders to his responsibilities. I've been sharing duties at Dorchester with him for the last 12 months or so.

TB: What are your feelings on the eve of your retirement?

PC: I feel privileged to have been called to the ministry and to have been supported by this denomination and, in particular, by the folk of this wonderful town, both in church and in the wider community. I wish John all the best and I know Bridport will welcome him as warmly as it did me.

Meet the Revd John Yarrien in his first BUC column in the Parish Pages (p17).

Come and hear the St Swithun's organ this month



On Saturday 16 October professional organist **James Lloyd Thomas (pictured)** will give the first of a short series of autumn recitals at **St Swithun's Church.**

James is the director of music at Holy Trinity Church in Weymouth. He hails from the

West Midlands and while at school was awarded the junior organ scholarship at Birmingham Conservatoire. He later studied at Trinity College London, where he took a particular interest in accompaniment and conducting. He graduated with honours and stayed to continue his postgraduate musical studies.

He holds fellowships from Trinity College London and the Royal College of Organists, as well as a licentiate in teaching from the Royal Academy of Music.

He has a wealth of experience as an organist, teacher, and choral and orchestral director. He has studied the organ with Christopher Stokes, David Sanger, James Parsons and Margaret Phillips, and has extensive recital experience at home and abroad. He has performed in most British cathedrals and major parish churches, has been a finalist in international competitions and has made numerous recordings. He has also held major church appointments in Grantham, Shrewsbury and at St Mary's Bourne Street.

James's teaching career led him to Oundle School, where he combined the roles of organist and teacher as director of chapel music, and subsequently to Kingston Grammar School, Christ College Brecon, St. Leonard's-Mayfield School and Lingfield Notre-Dame. He has played and taught the organ throughout, as well as conducting various orchestras and choirs and taking on further postgraduate study; his academic research and performance featured the German Romantics Ritter and Töpfer.

More recently James has held positions as organist and director of music at Saint Paul's Church, Brighton, organist

Organ recital

Saturday 16 October at 6pm

St Swithun's Church, Allington

James Lloyd Thomas will play a twilight recital including works by Bach and Sweelinck

Refreshments will be served beforehand in the hall from 5pm

Retiring collection in aid of St Swithun's

to the University of Sussex, and director of the Sussex University Chamber Choir, the Ravenscroft Singers and Canticle Chamber Choir. He went on to positions as director of music at the Harrow International School and cathedral organist in Hong Kong, and as organist and director of music at Christchurch Cathedral in Nelson, New Zealand, before returning to the UK and subsequently taking up his current post as director of music at Holy Trinity Weymouth.

Details of further recitals to follow



Join a community orchestra and get back into playing

Are you a frustrated musician who for the past 18 months has been unable to play your violin, flute, trumpet or big bass drum with other musicians?

It's no fun on your own, is it? But don't despair! The West Dorset Music Community Orchestra is a group of like-minded people who play together under the leadership of Walter Brewster. The first half term is free for new members, so you have nothing to lose. All ages and all abilities are most welcome. See ad below for more information.

Concert at Eype Centre for the Arts

Jess Upton, Robbie McIntosh and Steve Wilson

+ support - £12 + booking fee

Thursday 21 October 2021 starts 7.30, doors 6.30

Bookings - <https://umweype.eventbrite.co.uk>

Bar, Parking

St Peter's Church, Eype DT6 6AP

West Dorset Music Community Orchestra

rehearses on Wednesdays in term time
6.30–7.45pm

Christian Fellowship Hall, East St car park, Bridport
New members welcome

www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk / 01308 456297

This month we look at Bridport Area Community Housing, one of the organisations seeking creative ways to address the lack of affordable housing for local people in this part of West Dorset.

In common with many UK towns, Bridport has a housing problem, as many locals struggle to find a home that they can afford to rent, let alone buy. This leads to feelings of hopelessness, as people have no alternative but to stay in unsuitable, crowded accommodation – or even move away altogether.

The need for affordable housing in the area is even greater than before the pandemic and is likely to continue to grow. Currently 513 individuals and families in the Bridport area are on the the Housing Register as being in need of a home.

There is hope, though, thanks to community initiatives such as Bridport Area Community Housing (BACH), a new non-profit community land trust. The organisation’s slogan is ‘Homes for local people, affordable for ever’, and it aims to inspire and implement solutions for the provision of affordable housing for people in genuine need.

“With the cost of housing, both rented and bought, now soaring ahead of the capacity of average local incomes, many families are already facing the stark choice that grown-up children have to continue living with their parents or move away,” says Tim Crabtree, a director of BACH. “However, a community land trust can permanently provide affordable housing for local people.”

The environmental movement’s exhortation to ‘think globally and act locally’ has never been more relevant than in the field of housing, and BACH is clear that it wants future builds to conform to the best technical standards



BACH: the new community group tackling the problem of housing in Bridport

and to be as carbon-neutral as possible. With this in mind, Tim has launched a pilot project called ‘Raise the Roof’ in partnership with Bridport Town Council and other organisations. The project aims to build a row of four or five houses to demonstrate the sustainable use of local resources such as timber and hemp. Structures will be rapidly assembled then self-finished by a group of households working together; this makes homes even more affordable as tenants complete some of the minor work themselves.

Get involved

To succeed, BACH needs enthusiastic members to run it – people with the future of Bridport at heart. “You could have an impact on future generations living here, helping to strengthen the community to be resilient for our children and grandchildren, as well as

ourselves,” says Tim. “Helping BACH is a way to fill the gaps created by hardship and austerity, breathing life back into our local community. You don’t need specialised skills or knowledge, just a desire to make living in Bridport better for the long term.”

Membership of BACH does not require attendance at meetings. Becoming a lifetime member involves buying one or more community shares (from £1), and perhaps adding to this through future share issues. However, coming along to the lively, friendly, informative meetings – currently being held online – is encouraged and is the most direct way to contribute practically to a brighter future for Bridport.

Membership information is online at www.bridportach.org.uk/join-us. You can also email queries to info@bridportach.org.uk

Bridport Housing Week
23rd – 30th October



BACH will be officially launched at Bridport Housing Week, which takes place this month and is a joint initiative with Raise the Roof, Wessex Community Assets and Bridport Town Council. It includes the Bridport Housing Event on Saturday 30 October (10am–2pm) at the Town Hall, when a range of community-led and commercial organisations involved in local housing will be available to answer questions and discuss housing problems and solutions. For the full programme of events visit www.bridportach.org.uk.

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

Tots Time is back!

On Thursday 23 September we re-opened 'Tots Time', the toddler group that's run at Church House Hall and which had been closed since the beginning of the pandemic.

We know many of our 'regulars' are now at nursery or school, so we will miss seeing them, and it's a shame we didn't have the chance say a proper goodbye and good luck. On the other hand, there are babies and toddlers who because of lockdown haven't had the chance to attend such a group, and we hope we can help to replace some of the social interaction – and the development that comes with it – that was lost during Covid because of the lack of opportunities to be with other young children. We expect, too, that parents and carers will again enjoy their own social



interaction, which has been missing for 19 months.

Of course we have made adjustments to conform with current Covid restrictions, including limited singing time and optional mask wearing, and we're not providing refreshments for the time being. However, we look forward to the time when these restrictions are lifted and we can function 'normally' again. For the moment it's just good to be back, and to welcome our young members and their older carers!
Diana Wright

These are the October services at St Mary's Bridport. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 3	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 6	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 10	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 17	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 24	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 31	10am	Team service at St John's West Bay
	4pm	All Souls service

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

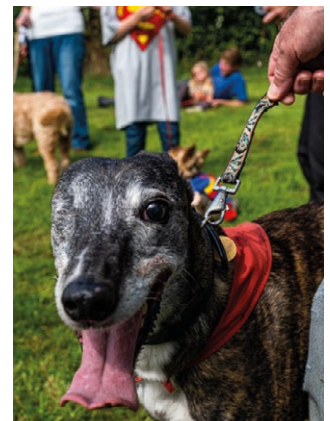
The dog show held in the church garden on 21 August was a great success, and we've received this message from Teddy, one of the doggie participants:

I was taken to the dog show by my carer and was very pleased to meet some of my friends from the village, along with dogs I didn't know. One was only nine weeks old and he behaved himself very well, which pleased everyone. The sun was shining so families could sit on the grass and enjoy their hot sausages in a roll and a drink. Graham called them hot dogs – I didn't like that! There was also a tombola with many wonderful-smelling treats to win.

The show started and we found we could enter 12 different fun classes for a small fee for a chance to win a rosette. I was put in for walking to heel, waggiest tail and sit and stay. To my surprise I won the walking to heel!



I must admit the best thing was all the cuddles and strokes I had from my human friends. They enjoyed the afternoon and laughed a lot. I understand they raised £163.89 for the church and everyone said they would like a similar event next summer. Thank you so much to Graham and Rosamund who had the hard job of judging us all.



HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

The team service on 29 August at Holy Trinity was held in glorious sunshine on the grass outside the church. A table was set for the preparation of communion, which was celebrated by the Revd Helen Croud. The Revd Lorna Johnson preached and the Revd Philip Ringer read a lesson. All the Bridport Team Ministry churches were represented, and the choir led the congregation of 53 people in the unaccompanied singing of well-known hymns.

The next mid-month attraction is afternoon tea in Holy Trinity on Saturday 16 October (see right for details). The coffee morning is on the first Saturday as usual (2 October) from 10am to 12 noon with books and cards.

The village hall committee is holding its AGM on Thursday 28 October at 7pm in the village hall. There are already some new committee members. Everyone is welcome to attend to hear about the activities of the hall.

It's time for another tidy-up in the Old Churchyard so people can enjoy the tranquillity there when visiting their loved ones' graves. There is a working party on Saturday 23 October at 2pm, and anyone who can help will be most welcome (details on the right).

On 31 October at 10am there is a team service at St John's West Bay, so there is no service on that day at Holy Trinity.

Autumn is now here, which means we are heading for darker evenings. The clocks go back one hour on 31 October.
Barbara Ffooks

October services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

Sunday 3	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 10	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 17	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 24	11am	Matins
Sunday 31	10am	Team service at St John's West Bay

You are invited to join us for

Afternoon tea

Saturday 16 October, 3 to 4.30pm

Holy Trinity Bothenhampton

There will be a selection of sandwiches & cakes

£6 per person



Garden working party

Saturday 23 October at 2pm

The Old Churchyard, Bothenhampton

Please help us tidy up these lovely grounds

Bring your own gardening gloves and tools to clear ivy, weeds and tree saplings, tidy old graves, strim areas that haven't been cut, and reduce overgrown areas.

Work area will be allotted on arrival depending on ability and tools

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)



Bradpole anniversary celebrations included a display of vestments in the church

From the parish editor

The weekend of 3–5 September saw the culmination of the celebrations marking the 175th anniversary of the erection of the church (25 years before the Albert Hall!).

There was a display in the church of vestments – the robes with different embroidery work and colours that the clergy wear on particular dates in the ecclesiastical calendar such as Easter – and church silverware used in communion services. The silverware included an Elizabethan chalice (wine cup) dated 1570 and a paten from 1706. This is a shallow circular dish on which the bread is placed for the communion

service, and represents the dish used at the Last Supper.

Cream teas were served in the village hall on the Saturday afternoon and the final event was a celebratory 'Songs of Praise' in the church on the Sunday afternoon, with some favourite songs ranging from the traditional Psalm 23 'The Lord's my shepherd', with a modern tune, to the more recent hymn 'Tell out my soul'. The Revd Janis Moore gave a talk titled 'The value of music in worship, looking ahead'. →

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

Caroline Lumley-Frank, whose great-great-grandfather Canon Alexander Broadley (vicar of Bradpole for 50 years) was responsible for the building of the church, was in the congregation and also cut the anniversary cake at the tea in the village hall afterwards.

An interesting booklet containing the full history of the church and written by the late Ivan Andrews (born in Bradpole, a chorister, bellringer and founder member of ‘The Friends’) is available in the church for a modest £1!
Douglas Baldwin

Bradpole Council

Below is a list of councillors’ areas of responsibility in Bradpole Parish (including Pymore East). If you have an issue or concern relating to a specific area of Bradpole Parish, please contact the relevant councillor direct or email the parish council clerk at *bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk*.



Bradpole Village

Cllr Neil Chilcott 07815 191205
Cllr Wendy Smart 01308 424898
Cllr Alan Smart 01308 424898
Mangerton (land either side of the A3066 up to Broad Farm including Watford Farm)

Cllr Neil Chilcott 07815 191205
Kings Head, Dodhams Estate, the Sir John Colfox Academy & Gore Cross Business Park

Cllr Peter Wilson 01308 423357
Cllr Mecki Testroet 01308 423442
Pymore Village East, St Catherine’s School, St Cecilia’s Gardens & Pymore Industrial Estate

Cllr Peter Wilson 01308 423357
Cllr Mecki Testroet 01308 423442
King Charles Estate, Lee Lane, East Road, River Asker Valley & Happy Island

Cllr Colin Baker 01308 458367
Cllr John Mather 07720 298669
Cllr Paul Everall 01308 428296

Claremont Ward, Beaumont Ave, Claremont Ave, Coneygar Close, Claremont Gardens & Watton Hill
Cllr John Mather 07720 298669

Rights of Way liaison councillors
Cllr John Mather 07720 298669
Cllr Mecki Testroet 01308 423442



There was also a display of church silverware (above) and celebratory bunting outside



October services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

Sunday 3	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Tuesday 5	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 10	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Sunday 24	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31	10am	Team Service at St John’s West Bay
	4pm	All Souls service

The Friends of Holy Trinity

Coffee morning in the church

**Thursday 14 October
10am–12 noon**

Bring-and-buy table and raffle
Do come along and bring family, friends and neighbours



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

St Luke, the author of St Luke’s Gospel, was a doctor and was briefly mentioned in St Paul’s letter to the Colossians. As St Luke the Evangelist, his festival in the Church of England is on 18 October.

Christian doctors and nurses have been inspired by the example and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth to alleviate human suffering, cure disease, and advance medical knowledge and understanding.

Christians led the way in public health. In the fourth century St Basil of Caesarea founded the first hospital, and later John Wesley upheld the view that “cleanliness is next to godliness”.

ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

St Joseph's Hospice in Hackney, founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1905, was the prototype for the modern hospice movement. Dame Cicely Saunders founded St Christopher's Hospice in 1967, aiming to provide as peaceful an atmosphere as possible for those in terminal illness, while offering an environment of Christian love and support.

Great Ormond Street Hospital for children was founded by Charles West, a Baptist, in 1852. The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth in 1865 and provided much-needed medical care in impoverished inner city areas.

There was a strong Christian element in the motivation of the pioneers of medical education for women. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor to be registered with the General Medical Council, was a Quaker, while Elizabeth Garrett came from a very devout family.



Ann Clark, another Quaker, was the first woman surgeon and worked at the Women's Hospital and the Children's Hospital in Birmingham. Sophia Jex-Blake, another devout Christian, founded the London School of Medicine for Women, while Clara Swain was the first woman doctor to go overseas (to Asia) as a medical missionary.



Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing in the UK, was deeply influenced by a small Christian hospital at Kaiserswerth in Germany, run by 'deaconesses', a group of Protestant women who cared for the sick and provided the templates for modern daily hospital nursing. Florence encouraged

Elizabeth Blackwell (top), the first GMC-registered woman doctor, and influential nurse Ethel Bedford Fenwick

better hygiene and improved standards and night-nursing, as well as founding the first nursing school.

Nurses gained professional status at the end of the 19th century, largely thanks to the

work of Ethel Bedford Fenwick, with the majority of nurses being inspired to serve by Christian ethics. Many missionary nurses such as Mother Teresa and Emma Cushman have worked tirelessly, bringing hygiene and Western medicine to the four corners of the globe.

Christians have consistently raised the social status of the weak, sick and handicapped through love and care for them. They have pioneered hospital building and staffing.

Thelma's hymn notes

Blessed Assurance

I first heard this well-known Christian hymn at a mission service in a tent set up in Loders village.

Apparently, the lyrics were written in 1873 by a blind hymn writer, Fanny Crosby, to the music written by her friend Phoebe Knapp. The story goes that Fanny was visiting Phoebe as the Knapp home was having a large pipe organ installed. The organ was incomplete, so Fanny, using the piano, played a new melody she had just composed. When Phoebe asked Fanny what she thought the hymn's message was, Fanny replied, "Blessed assurance; Jesus is mine."

The hymn reflects Fanny's faith, as expressed by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians, 1:21 (ESV): "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Reflecting the lyrics, the tune is now known as 'Blessed Assurance'.
Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch

They have promoted research and ethics. They have raised standards in immunology, public health and preventative medicine. Christian missionaries carried Western medicine across the globe and improved quality of life for countless millions of people.

James Craddock

Walditch Garden Group

The group meets this month on Thursday 28 October 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 some garden tips for October: finish collecting seeds from the garden for sowing next year; divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants; prune climbing roses; cut back perennials that have died down, or leave foliage in place to shelter wildlife; lift and divide overcrowded perennials; take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs; and move tender plants into a greenhouse or conservatory

Jane Mowatt

October services at St Mary's Walditch:

Sunday 10	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31	10am	Team service at St John's West Bay

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

The coffee and Morning Praise services held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month seem to be going down well. Although the numbers aren't great, these occasions have given us all a chance to get to know each other better.

Of course we'd love to have the members of Harbour House join us but fear that this will be a while yet.

West Bay WI

The coffee morning held at St John's went well and raised some much-needed funds, with a craft and cake stall as well as refreshments.

Wednesday 6 October sees the return of the craft session at 10am, and on Wednesday 13 October there will be a tassel-making session at 2.30pm (all are welcome to these events). On Wednesday 27 October there will be a members' harvest lunch at Haddon House. →

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

Round and about the Bay

I wonder whether we realise just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place – sometimes we forget. However, I was reminded of this when my granddaughter was telling me about some London university friends visiting recently, who said they had never seen the sky so full of stars, never actually seen lambs in the fields, and so many other things that we just take for granted. Cycling early on the Sunday of the bank holiday weekend, I enjoyed seeing so much going on: there were paddle boarders, canoes, yachts, lots of swimmers as the sea was so calm, and then to cap it all I saw seven swans swimming on the sea, probably having fancied a change of scenery from the Swannery. We used to have a pair of swans in the river but I haven't seen them for a while.

I know that volunteering at the Discovery Centre has given me the opportunity to learn more about West Bay, and Pier Terrace (see photo) is one of the places that springs to mind. The Victorians called it Noah's Ark because of its shape and location. It's a terrace of 10 houses and was built in 1884 by Edward Prior, who fell in love with the daughter of the vicar of Symondsburry. In 1929 the seaward end was destroyed by fire and if you look carefully you will see it was rebuilt in a slightly different style. Most of the houses have now been converted to flats.

Local historian Elizabeth Gale released her latest book, 'West Bay: Swimming and Some More', in August and she was at the Discovery Centre signing copies. In the book she mentions the water polo played in the harbour, which many longtime residents will no doubt remember.

The Discovery Centre will be showcasing an art exhibition revealing Dorset's underwater landscape with original artwork by Bridport artist Antonia Phillips. The artwork was commissioned by the Dorset Wildlife Trust for a new guide entitled 'Dorset's Wild Seas'.



Phil Beard

Pier Terrace

The West Bay Community Forum met recently and among the items discussed was the state of some of the pavements and also access in and around the Bay for disabled people, something an able-bodied person does not always appreciate. The forum aims to highlight issues such as this and raise them with the relevant bodies. Their AGM will be held on Thursday 7 October at 7.30pm in the Salt House, hopefully with a guest speaker, and refreshments will be served. This meeting is open to members of the public.

The funfair has gone, and the campsite has closed, although Parkdean campsite remains open until the end of the half term. However, I think we will still see an influx of visitors as so many people still don't want to travel abroad.
Sue Pollock

Services at St John's during October:

Sunday 3	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise
Sunday 17	11am	Holy Communion
Saturday 23	6pm	Service of Wholeness & Healing
Sunday 24	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise
	3pm	Trafalgar Service (Royal Naval Association)
Sunday 31	10am	Team service

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock

aejsullock@gmail.com

Churchwarden – vacancy

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

From the parish editor

October can be a time to take stock of memories; as gardeners start to plan bulb planting there is the recollection of the spring pushing through earlier, of summer delights, fruits and fragrance. It also brings a chance to swim in the sun-warmed sea, for the best and last time. There are a few who have always swum locally daily, safely avoiding only the stormiest waters.

The month brings a slowing down of energies, the sap returning to root, reflective contemplation in leaf-litter musk, roast nut and peat aromas. As the birds quieten it's a good time to shawl-wrap up warm and 'forest bathe' as the leaves fall. To focus on that falling into autumn and for it to be all right.

Sunday 3 October is the feast day of St Therese of Lisieux. Mother Teresa of Kolkata borrowed her faith name in

A painting of St Therese of Lisieux that hangs in the English College in Valladolid, Spain



reverence to this saint, who is commonly known as 'the little flower'. On a Sunday afternoon in May 1887, Therese was sitting with her 63-year-old father, Louis, while he was convalescing from a mild stroke. She confided to him that she wanted to celebrate the anniversary of her conversion by entering the Carmelite community of nuns before Christmas. At this request they both became emotional and wept. Soon Louis collected himself and

St SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

gently picked a small white flower, root and all. He gave it to his daughter, explaining the care with which God had brought it into being and kept it for that moment.

Therese later wrote, "While I listened to my father, I felt I was hearing my own story." Therese, it seems, regarded the flower as a metaphorical symbol of herself, yet "destined to live in another soil."

A simple flower represented her rich spirituality; she believed that every soul is like a flower. Some souls are magnificent and grand like the rose, while others are simple and small like the purity of the lily of the valley. Small acts of kindness are welcome.

Anna Sullock

St Swithun's: the way ahead

This issue of The Bridge went to press just as leaders and members of the church and Allington communities were getting together to discuss meaningful ways to mark St Swithun's Church's 200th birthday (on its current site) in 2027. The aim is to prepare the church to fulfil its mission in the town over the next 200 years.

We will bring you news from the meeting, which took place on 11 September, in a future issue. Meanwhile, look out for updates on the Bridport Team Ministry website and weekly pew sheets.

Community coffee mornings

First Thursday every month

10.45–11.45am (after 10am Mass)

St Swithun's Church, Allington

**Fresh coffee,
biscuits & cake**

All welcome

Free parking



Services at St Swithun's:

Sundays 9.30am Eucharist; Thursdays 10am

Eucharist; Fourth Saturday in the month at 6pm

Contemplative Church; Sunday 31 October at 10am

team service at St John's West Bay; Sunday 31

October at 4pm All Souls service

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd John Yarrien
01305 262421

Church secretary – Sue Herman
422598 / bridportsec@gmail.com

incorporating

UPLODERS CHAPEL

Correspondent – Carol Hall
423163 / carol@gribb.plus.com

It's a great joy to bring you a word from the wonderful community here at Bridport United Church (BUC) and Uploders Methodist Chapel as their new minister.

We were overwhelmed by the wonderful service to say farewell to the Revd Peter Clark as he begins his next phase of life as a retired minister. We hold him and Susan in our prayers, and thank God for their ministry among us over the past years.

My name is John Yarrien, and I am the superintendent minister for Dorset South & West Methodist Circuit, which as part of a joint pastorate



The Revd John Yarrien
Minister of BUC and Uploders
Methodist Chapel

with the United Reformed Church encompasses BUC and Uploders. I am still getting to know the wonderful folks and vibrant town of Bridport, and look forward to sharing ministry with you in the coming months.

Much of 2021 has felt very different from any year I have encountered in my life before, and as we come now into the autumn and winter months we are starting to see changes happening across creation and in our communities.

As the days shorten, the leaves turn and fall, as nights are cooler and we begin to feel those early morning frosts, this can often be a challenging part of the year, when people can feel isolated, mental health can be low, and folk need us to reach out and watch over one another in love.

Yet, in this part of the year, I find that the colours, sights and sounds of the season reveal new beauty, awe and wonder, as I encounter God's creation preparing itself for winter. When my wife, Cora, and I are on an early morning walk with our labradors, Rolo and Poppy, we see the sun picking out the early morning dew, the frost-encapsulated spider webs, the sheep grazing, and the amazing panorama at the top of Maiden Castle in Dorchester or over at West Bay in Bridport.

So, as the seasons change, we too are changed, and I wonder what God is saying to you today. What preparations do you need to be making for the winter ahead? When I'm seeking guidance, strength, courage from God, I often turn to the words of Psalm 121: "I look to the mountains – from where does my strength come?" I want to encourage you to pick up the phone, write a card, invite someone round who may need to know you're thinking of them in this season of change. God reaps the harvest of the kingdom, bringing people to Christ through our actions of reaching out, being connected to others and showing love, compassion and hope in our community of faith here in Bridport. →

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

May this autumnal season be one of colour, light, grace and thankfulness for you all.

*With grace and peace,
The Revd John Yarrien*

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

October 3	Peter Kershaw (Communion)
October 10	Roger Phillips
October 17	Revd John Yarrien
October 24	Jennie McGinlay
October 31	Gill Bumphrey

We also have some other dates for your diary now that events are starting up again...

Coffee mornings every Wednesday, 10am–12 noon

Saturday 2 October – BUC coffee morning, 10am–12 noon

Saturday 9 October – Big Breakfast, 9-11.30am

Saturday 16 October – coffee morning in aid of Bridport Choral Society

Saturday 23 October – Ella's coffee morning, 10am–12 noon

Saturday 30 October – BUC coffee morning, 10am–12 noon

From Uploders Chapel

Well I think I can honestly say that some sort of normality seems to be returning! We have just enjoyed a lovely service this morning taken by Chris Warren, who we haven't seen for a long time. We are now looking forward to our October services but before then sadly we will have had our last service with the Revd Peter, who is retiring and is going to be missed a lot.

On the positive side, having a stall at the BUC coffee



morning proved successful and we managed to sell more of the bric-a-brac. Our final bric-a-brac stall is on the day of the Ride + Stride event, Saturday 11 September, which will of course be over by the time you read this but is still a week away as I write. I must confess I am definitely Carol the Confused at times!

What I am definitely not confused about is how wonderful and caring people have been at various times recently. In many ways this Covid situation has brought out the best in many people, which is something to celebrate.

So as September wasn't entirely Super and we have yet to make October Outstanding, let us look forward in the hope that November is at least Nice!

Carol Hall

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

October 3	Peter Jenner
October 17	Pamela Woodland

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keith.mitchell@predtr.org.uk

Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594

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“You and I have a guardian angel...”

I am far too young to remember but I think it was Bing Crosby who sang this song to Grace Kelly in the film High Society! At some point in that song (again, I think...) were the words quoted above. In the Catholic Church, 2 October is the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels and this comes from the church's understanding that each and every one of us has a guardian angel.

The trouble is, though, that angels are often relegated to twee greetings cards, calendars, fridge magnets and figures like this one (see photo)! Angels in our minds have become mixed up with fairies – and anyone who has ever been to a children's nativity play can be forgiven for that!

The word 'angel' means 'messenger', in particular a

messenger from God. In Catholic faith, they are heavenly beings entrusted with helping us human beings. Many saints have trusted steadfastly in their guardian angels, including Thomas Aquinas, Francis of Assisi and Pope John Paul II. It is indeed consoling to know that we are always under the protection of a heavenly spirit, who never abandons us and is a messenger of God himself to help and guide us. A guardian angel is like a friend, a brother or sister, who points us in the right direction and accompanies us on the road.

Of course, we also have guardian angels who are human messengers from God – that person who encourages us, walks with us, points us in the right direction. We can always try to be angels (messengers of God) to one another in life's journey. It's nice sometimes to be called an angel!

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, at 2.30pm on the second Monday of each month 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.

Bridport Scottish Dancers meet every Wednesday evening at 7.15pm (7.30pm start) in Church House, South St, except first Wed each month which is at Salwayash village hall. First visit free, then £2 per session. Please bring the right money & your own refreshments. Contact Caroline 538141 / Malcolm 07790 323343 / www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk

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 meets at the WI Hall on the third Thursday of the month. The next event is on 21 October at 7.30pm when Ben Candlin presents 'The Unusual Plants of the Canary Isles'. Contact Peter Gough 459469. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

West Dorset Music Community Orchestra meets on Wednesdays in term time 6.30–7.45pm at the Christian Fellowship Hall in East St car park. Contact 456297 / www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk. Also see p10 for more info.

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.

The 'Help our Planet' talks at the Marine Theatre in Lyme Regis continue at 7pm on Tuesday 12 October with 'Bringing Back the Beaver and its Pals'. The speaker is farmer and conservationist Derek Gow, who has played a leading role in the reintroduction of the Eurasian beaver and the white stork to Britain. He is currently working on a reintroduction project for the wildcat and a project to save the water vole from threatened extinction. Derek's book 'Bringing Back the Beaver' is a best-seller and he now advises dukes, landowners and even the prime minister on rewilding.

Tickets £10 / £12 on the door / £5 under-21s from www.marinetheatre.com or 0333 666 3366.

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset), in support of the National Trust, organises illustrated talks on the last Monday of the month (except summer) in the United Church Hall, East Street, at 2.30pm. Contact Mike Nicks 459855.

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) meets at Bridport Town Hall, usually on the third Thursday each month at 2.30pm. The next is 21 October when Lucia Gahlin presents 'Ancient Egyptian Treasures in the Fitzwilliam Museum'. Visitors are welcome at £7.50. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / sandylovelock@btinternet.com / www.taswestdorset.org.uk

The u3a Singers Group meets alternate Thursdays at 10am at Bridport Town Hall. Contact Heather 425219 / www.bridportu3a.org.uk

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

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.

British Sugarcraft Guild

The Bridport branch of the British Sugarcraft Guild has now resumed its 'live' gatherings. It meets in the Ivy House cafe at Groves on the second Tuesday each month. Contact Jan 281085.



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

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