

November 2021

the **Bridge**



This month's cover photo was taken in Spimmers' Lane, Walditch

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

Cupboard Love food bank

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cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

Hall bookings

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

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Details online at www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings
or contact Caroline Whitaker 07787 805711
Bothenhampton village hall
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Advertising rates are online at www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise send copy to parish correspondents (details in Parish Pages) at least three days before the deadline, or a week for handwritten/typed copy. We will try to include late copy in the following issue as appropriate.

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

The advertising and copy deadline for the December/January issue is 5pm on Monday 8 November

Like plants, faith needs strong roots

Many people will have been celebrating Harvest in these last weeks, and in this month of November our thoughts return to Mother Earth as the COP26 conference assembles in Glasgow.

This gathering has immense importance for our future and that of our children and grandchildren, and communities of all faiths will be undergirding it with prayer for a successful and meaningful outcome. It will lay the groundwork for the future of our planet – and groundwork is very important.

Bridport is the first parish I have been in that has a garden. In the past I've had to content myself with a car park (or, in one case, a nuns' cemetery!) but here I am blessed in having a beautiful garden surrounding the church and house. My pride and joy, though, is my back yard –or, as I have been told to call it, my 'courtyard'. This summer I have had some beautiful potted blooms and my herb garden is to die for! I am also the proud possessor of some swanky new garden furniture, which I bought with some of the money I was given for my silver jubilee recently.

Because I am new to it all, it has only gradually dawned on me that the real work is the preparation, the 'digging in' – and how you do *that* seems to determine the flourishing. Digging in the right kind of soil, seeing that it is nourishing and moist, is the most important part of the growing process. It has all been quite an education and I have a lot to learn.

It strikes me that this time of year, when the days grow shorter, the damp grows wetter and the chill grows colder, is a good time to look at the roots and grounding of our faith. With our plants we normally observe what is above the soil and we forget what is going on in the silent ground below – yet this is so important and crucial to the growth.

Jesus gave us an example of physical roots in the parable of the sower, and this contains an important spiritual lesson.

If growth is to flourish and be strong, digging in and encouraging good roots are essential. Winds, gales, floods and weeds are less likely to destroy growth that has good roots. Most of this early growth takes place below the surface and in silence. The same is true of faith.

If growth is to flourish and be strong, digging in and good roots are essential... the same is true of faith

Faith grows and flourishes through prayer, and an important part of prayer takes place in a hidden and silent way. Scripture tells us that God speaks most often in silence. He appeared to Elijah not in the earthquake or storm but in the gentle breeze of silence; the psalmist invites us to "be still" if we want to know the presence of God; God enters the world in silence in the birth of his Son; and God, as he is in Jesus, comes silently from the tomb on Easter morning. Yes, God speaks most often in silence. Maybe in these winter months we might have an opportunity to see below the surface and explore in silent prayer how the roots of our faith are faring, to spend silent time with him and know that he is God.

Monsignor Keith Mitchell



Mgr Keith Mitchell
Bridport Catholic Parish

This issue has a literary – and dramatic – feel!

I'm chuffed to bring you another bumper issue this month, with rather a bookish slant. We have dramatic offerings from the Bridport Shakespeare Company (p9) as well as a whole host of attractions at the Bridport Literary Festival (p7). I also enjoyed meeting Joanna Jacobson from the BridLit team in the pod (p11) on one of the last warm days of our Indian summer. And by contrast, we have a visit to the Beacon Church's community kitchen (p10). Now I'm starting plans for the Christmas issue (sorry, too soon?) and looking forward to the lights going up in the town centre. Have a great November!



Olivia Daly
Editor

Sunday 7th – Saturday 13th November

The Seventeenth
BRIDPORT
Literary
Festival
2021

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Hopes for the Churches Together Christmas lunch
Organisers at Churches Together in Bridport and District are hopeful that their traditional Christmas Day lunch will go ahead this year – but there’s work to be done to make it happen.

There had been fears that the scale of the task of organising the Christmas lunches might be too difficult while everyone is still emerging from the pandemic, but churches and community food groups across the town are feeling confident that they could succeed by working together. Planning meetings are being held in the next couple of weeks and these church and community groups are optimistic that they will be able to serve Christmas lunches as in previous years.

The Revd Philip Ringer, Chairman of Churches Together, says: “Over many years the event has been wonderfully organised by Grant and Elaine Butcher from the Christian Fellowship and, in more recent years, by Jill Henderson from the Anglican Church, together with countless volunteers in a variety of different roles, from providing the car journeys that get many of the guests there to serving the meals on the day itself, and not forgetting the entertainment and clearing up.”

We will bring you an update in the December issue of The Bridge.

Come and learn about local birds

On Thursday 25 November at 2.30pm in the WI Hall, North St, there’s an illustrated talk on the birds of West Bexington and Cogden. In aid of Bridport Millennium Green: £5 / £4 members of the Millennium Green Trust. Tea, biscuits, raffle. Details from Sandra Brown 423078.

Christian Aid Week: a fundraising update

Following the hard work and fundraising efforts of many Bridport volunteers during Christian Aid Week back in May, organisers have put together an update about what donors’ money is doing.



This year’s appeal was in aid of Kenyan communities that are on the frontline of the climate emergency and taking the full force of its effects. Despite the financial and practical effects of the pandemic, collections and sponsorship activities in the Bridport area raised an impressive total of £3,506. This is enough to pay for any one of the following for a rural community in Kenya:

- 23,380 tree seedlings for people to plant
- 701 shovels for building an earth dam
- 350 pairs of taps for a water point at an earth dam
- 130 wheelbarrows to help with building the earth dam
- training in financial skills for 117 people who are members of a village savings and loans group
- 10 communal water points to be installed at an earth dam.

“In Kenya, Christian Aid is helping people in rural communities where drought has become more frequent and intense, resulting in food shortages for millions of people as crops struggle to grow,” says coordinator Jill Henderson. “Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, Christian Aid’s partner organisations can empower communities to build water dams or rock catchments near their homes, so women and children are spared the long and often hazardous walk to collect water, and families have an accessible water supply for their crops, livestock and hygiene needs.

“Apologies for the late catch up, but there was lots of sponsorship money to collect (in addition to our house-to-house and church collections) which always takes a while.”

Plans move ahead for ‘Repair & Renewal’ at St Swithun’s

Around 30 people attended the St Swithun’s ‘Repair and Renewal’ open meeting on 11 September.

The purpose of the gathering was to further the plans for marking the church’s 200th anniversary (on its current site) in 2026 and to see how the building could best serve the worshipping congregation and the needs of the local community. Those present included members of other Bridport churches, community leaders and local residents. The Revd Keith Elford, who teaches at Sarum College, introduced the meeting and facilitated the discussion. Various photos of similar redesigns in other churches were presented along with some suggestions for change.

Philip Sturrock, the project leader, says: “We gained a lot from the ideas that were put forward and the general air of positivity that was evident throughout the meeting. We will take the ideas back to our steering group and push forward with bold plans to celebrate the anniversary of St Swithun’s in 2026.”



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Public services at the Bridport Team Ministry churches in November

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Saturday

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

On **Sunday 31 October** at 10am there is a team service at St John's West Bay. On the same day at 4pm there are All Souls services at St Mary's Bridport, Holy Trinity Bradpole and St Swithun's Allington.

At the 10am Eucharist service at St Swithun's on **Thursday 4 November**, names of the departed will be read out to mark All Souls' Day. Sign-up sheets for names to be read out are at the back of the church.

On **Sunday 28 November** at 6pm there is a team Advent carol service, called 'Festival of Light', at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton.



Local team brings 'climate cafes' to Bridport this month

'Climate cafes' – where people meet to share and discuss their reactions to the climate crisis – have grown in popularity over the last couple of years, and now the idea is coming to Bridport.

The town's pilot climate cafe will be held on Thursday 18

November from 2 to 4pm at Soulshine in South Street. There will be another on Thursday 9 December.

Alan Heeks is part of the team hosting the events in Bridport. He says: "I've been supporting groups on climate concerns for four years, and I know that having your feelings heard by others is really helpful and enables people to take action. The cafe is an informal, supportive place, a confidential space for respectful listening, whatever your views. It's not a therapy group, and it's not a place for discussing or planning action, vital as that is."

Alan – who is also a member of the Seeding our Future team behind Bridport Food Matters – adds that no regular commitment is needed, and the cafe is free of charge except for refreshments. "Everyone is asked to arrive promptly, so we can make group agreements like confidentiality, but you can leave at any time. The climate crisis can stir up painful emotions, such as fear and anger, and many people find support and empowerment in expressing their feelings and being heard by others. The upsides of the crisis can include rediscovering our sense of community: realising we are in this together."

Training for the climate cafe team is being provided by the Climate Psychology Alliance (CPA), a network of therapists and counsellors exploring ways to address the impact of the climate emergency. CPA board member Rebecca Nestor, who is co-leading the training in Bridport, has written about climate cafes on her blog here: www.tinyurl.com/4brt5yaj.

Alan says that if these two pilots go well, the group aims to run monthly climate cafes next year. He is happy to answer queries about the project (tel 07976 602787).

Climate forums are planned, too

Meanwhile, Bridport Town Council is working with Seeding our Future and Transition Town Bridport on plans for two climate forum meetings in late November. Representatives will be invited from local organisations including faith groups, Rotary, the WI and hobby groups.

The aim is to work with these organisations to engage as many households as possible in climate responses including reducing waste and emissions, and preparing for emergencies such as floods and power cuts. These responses will be used in a climate response initiative to be launched in early 2022.

Anyone involved with a neighbourhood group or informal network that may not be on the town council's list of organisations can email Alan Heeks to request an invitation: alanheeks@gmail.com. www.seedingourfuture.org.uk



Gerd Althmann

Parish council responds to Bridport community governance proposal

Bridport Town Council's proposal for a merger of four parishes into one 'Greater Bridport' area has met with some dissent in the parishes concerned, despite having been approved at the September meeting of the full town council.

In August, Dorset Council launched a review of community governance – including parish and electoral boundaries and councillor numbers – and asked town and parish councils to submit their ideas for change. In response, Bridport Town Council came up with three proposals, of which it favoured the creation of a single 'Greater Bridport' boundary comprising the existing Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole and Bridport parishes, plus the new Vearse Farm development.

The new council area would have a total of 20 councillors, compared with the current 44 across the four parishes. There would be wards within the boundary, based on local identity and broadly along the lines of the existing parishes.

Town councillors approved the plan on 21 September, although potential changes were permitted until 28 October, when the final proposal was to be submitted to Dorset Council (after The Bridge went to press).

The leader of Bridport Town Council, Cllr Dave Rickard, says: "Many of the services enjoyed by residents across the area are already provided by Bridport Town Council, but people living in some parts of the town... have no say in what is provided and are not asked to contribute to the cost of those services. The creation of a new unitary Dorset

Council, and the difficulties that the parish councils face in attracting councillors to stand for election, [also] make local government feel very distant from many residents. Our proposals will offer greater democracy and accountability, better public services, fairer funding, and a stronger voice for Bridport without affecting people's local identity."

Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council responds

Jim Basker, the chair of Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council, has sent us this response, together with an appeal for parish residents to make their views known:

So what's the problem for us? Bridport Town Council wishes to 'take over' our parishes. Parishes were shown the draft proposal on 13 September. Its consequences would be:

1. Democratic representation: *In a town council of 20, four councillors (paid an allowance) would represent Bothenhampton and Walditch 'wards'. Any decision affecting our wards would be considered and voted on by the full council. Those four councillors would have less time to listen to individual residents because of an increased load of committee work related to, for example, economic, commercial or cultural issues. At present, we can have a volunteer parish council (nine seats) and a part-time parish clerk, who deals directly and promptly with Dorset Council. We have time to listen to residents and deal with problems as they occur. We are more effective.*

2. Precept: *At its meeting on 21 September, Bridport Town Council heard that the consequence of a takeover would be a "small increase" in precept of some £2 per week for a Band D householder. That is £104 per year and represents a 200% increase in Bothenhampton & Walditch, and more for Allington and Bradpole. We are cheaper.*

3. Identity: *Each of our villages has a distinct identity: modern estates round old village centres, but still close to wonderful scenery, open green fields and woodland. The A35 defines the boundary for Bothenhampton & Walditch. The parish plan (online at www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com) details residents' major concerns: planning, the environment, and road safety. The parish council has successfully pushed for a 30mph speed limit, established a new play area, and planted trees on Slades Green. More climate awareness and community initiatives are planned next year. Details for other parishes are online at www.allingtonparishcouncil.co.uk and www.bradpole.org.uk. We are focused on our community.*

Conclusion: *The review document declares: "This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented." It would help the parish council if residents could make their views known, via the Dorset Council website, between 20 December 2021 and 28 February 2022 (the October deadline has passed). We hope you believe that keeping a dedicated parish council, offering care for the local environment and with the needs of its residents at heart, is the best option for you and our community. Visit www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/community-governance-review, or phone 01305 838299 for a paper copy.*

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BridLit is back – with a packed programme of literary gems

For many of us, the Bridport Literary Festival is the highlight of the town's cultural calendar.

Following the cancellation of almost all the festival events last year amid the second Covid wave, organisers are delighted that BridLit 2021 is going ahead in full – and there's a bumper programme of nearly 40 events.

"Once again, BridLit has something for everyone," says festival director Tanya Bruce-Lockhart. "After a disrupted programme last year, we were determined to make the 2021 festival more intriguing, illuminating and entertaining than ever before."

The festival runs from Sunday 7 to

Saturday 13 November in three town centre venues – the Electric Palace, the Arts Centre and the Bull hotel – plus Sladers Yard in West Bay.

Tim Bouverie kicks things off with an illustrated talk (with music) about his book *Perfect Pitch*, an exploration of 100 pieces of classical music that everyone can enjoy. Later that day, human rights lawyer and author Marina Wheeler talks about her book *The Lost Homestead*, a memoir centred around her mother's family's flight from India during the 1947 Partition.

Jim Down's talk on 9 November is sure to be a fascinating – and often harrowing – experience. Down, a doctor,

was running the intensive care unit at a London hospital when the Covid pandemic struck – something for which nothing in his career had prepared him.

On 10 November Patrick Barkham talks about his book *Wild Child*, in which he calls for children to have greater access to nature. And on the final day, 13 November, Christina Lamb discusses her book *Our Bodies Their Battlefield*, a devastating look the use of assault against women as a weapon of war.

BridLit includes so much more than we have space to detail here. For the full programme, and to book tickets, visit www.bridlit.com

James Rebanks is a late addition to the festival

Booked after the BridLit programme went to press, the audience with nature writer and farmer James Rebanks on Saturday 13 November (see right) looks set to be one of the festival's biggest draws.

In September Rebanks won the prestigious Wainwright Prize for his book *English Pastoral: An Inheritance*, the story of his family farm in the fells of northern Cumbria and how he began to run it more sustainably. The award is named after Alfred Wainwright – author of the well-known series of hillwalking guides – and goes to the book that "most successfully inspires readers to explore the outdoors and to nurture a respect for the natural world."

English Pastoral is the story of how rural landscapes have been brought close to collapse, and the age-old rhythms of work, weather, community and wildness are being lost. But it's also a story of hope: of how one farmer began to salvage a tiny corner of England that was now his, doing his best to restore the life that had vanished and to leave a legacy for future generations.

Rebanks says of the book: "It's all about quite a small farm, and quite a small life and a small community, but I think it touches on a lot of the bigger issues."

For the BridLit event, which is at the Electric Palace, Rebanks is in conversation with Elizabeth Wainwright.

The Southcoast
BRIDPORT
Literary
Festival
2021

An Audience with
JAMES REBANKS
in conversation with
Elizabeth Wainwright
Saturday 13th November
at 7.30 pm
at The Electric Palace
Tickets £15

English Pastoral
An Inheritance
James Rebanks

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St Swithun's organ concerts continue with young players

On Saturday 6 November at 3pm, six students from PipeUp – the Salisbury Diocese's training scheme for young organists – will give a concert of organ music at St Swithun's Church, Allington, under the supervision of their tutor, Richard Godfrey.

PipeUp has been running since 2005 in partnership with the Diocese of Salisbury. It was the brainchild of the Venerable Paul Taylor while he was Archdeacon of Sherborne. Thanks to the support of the Mrs R P Tindall Trust and the Michael James Music Trust, the scheme's pupils – who must either live or have their lessons within the diocese – receive a subsidy of £15 per hour towards tuition. Tutors are carefully selected from across the region.

Entry is free with a retiring collection in aid of St Swithun's. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

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*The Gallery is open Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10am to 4pm

The play's the thing for the Bridport Shakespeare Company

“It’ll be what it is,” says Valerie Goodwin about her inclusive approach to the challenge of staging Shakespeare with a community drama group.

Valerie – a retired teacher who was head of drama at Beaminster School for 20 years – set up the Bridport Shakespeare Company (BSC) in 2016 with the aim of spreading her love for The Bard to absolutely anyone who wanted to come along and take part. Since then the company has performed several plays, including Twelfth Night, Measure for Measure and The Tempest. Members range in age from 12 to 70+, and include some of Valerie’s former students as well as drama enthusiasts with a huge variety of backgrounds.

BSC is now rehearsing for a 45-minute version of A Midsummer Night’s Dream next June at Bridport Community Shed, where the players currently rehearse. “Initially we used a room at the Chapel in the Garden, but Covid has meant

we need to be in the open air,” says Valerie. “The Shed is perfect and we’re very happy there – everyone’s been so supportive and they’ve even helped us with making props.”

In September, BSC put on In a Strange Land, a fundraiser for the Bridport Refugee Support Campaign, in which they performed some scenes from The Tempest and ‘The Dream’ plus some songs and even a dance for the players and audience.

Valerie, who has a master’s degree in staging Shakespeare, stresses that BSC performances aren’t expected to be perfect. “Other groups are more selective,” she says, “but we’re all about a team effort, building confidence.



Occasionally people use their script on stage, if that’s what it takes – particularly if we have a last-minute substitution if someone’s ill. This happened recently when Raja from the Shed stepped in to play Ferdinand! Also, people often play more than one part. We all muck in.”

Find the Bridport Shakespeare Company on Facebook. Rehearsals are at Bridport Community Shed on Mondays at 7pm (there is a well-ventilated covered area if it rains). There’s no audition to join the company, although there are auditions for individual parts in a production. The group is currently looking for someone to play Demetrius in ‘The Dream’ – could that be you?

Top right: Puck and Bottom from a previous production of ‘The Dream’.

Right: young actor Avie as Miranda (The Tempest). Below: BSC members at the recent refugee fundraiser





The Bridport Chamber Orchestra

Conductor David Hedges, Leader Alexandra Ennis

Autumn Concert

ST SWITHUN’S CHURCH, BRIDPORT
SUNDAY 28th November at 3 pm

Holst: St Paul’s Suite
Greig: Two Elegiac Melodies
Vivaldi: Violin Concerto in E major, L’Amoroso
Soloist Alexandra Ennis
Elgar: Serenade for Strings
Pamela Harrison: A Suite for Timothy

Tickets £10 from the Bridport Music Centre and on the door. Student admission free. Refreshments available after the concert. Registered Charity No XT13407

Hot, tasty food for people in need at the Beacon Church Kitchen

There's nothing more Christian than helping those in need, and feeding people for free is perhaps the most immediate manifestation of 'God's work'.

Bridport is home to so many examples of this, with the food bank and other community groups redistributing surplus food and fresh produce. Of course, this doesn't have to be done in the name of God – and some groups aren't connected with a church at all – but can we call ourselves Christians if we aren't extending a helping hand to our neighbours who are struggling?

This month we found Christianity in action tucked away in a side street near Gundry Lane. The community kitchen at the Beacon Church has been running for two years, since manager Simon Batorski acted on a calling he felt while on a beach in Wales in August 2019.

"I felt strongly that the building had to be given back to the community for its use," says Simon, who also heads up the Beacon's outreach service. "By the November we were up and running."

Simon covered the setup costs and carried out some of the practical work through his painting and decorating



business. Volunteers started to come forward, and the kitchen now has a team of regular helpers, including the cook, Chris Ivory, and a number of others. There are members of Baptist, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches and some non-religious folk, too.

The kitchen receives donations of food from a number of local businesses, along with toiletries and other things that it can pass on to homeless people.

The kitchen – which passed its food safety inspection in May with flying

colours – is open twice a week from 11.30am until 2pm, attracting up to 25 users at its Wednesday session and about 15 on Fridays. There's no referral system, and users range from homeless people and those with mental health or addiction issues to single parents who are struggling and others who feel isolated. "Some just want to be part of something social; some ask about Christianity or ask for prayers," says Simon. "We see the same people coming back, and often they'll recommend us to a friend, too. We're open to absolutely anyone and it has grown organically – we don't do much publicity and there's no targeting. Word has just spread."

Wednesdays are busier because many users also visit the Cupboard Love food bank then, and the Beacon kitchen provides a hot meal, perhaps lasagne, chilli or cottage pie. There's a real effort to maximise quality, and a vegetarian option is always available. On Friday there's soup – which Simon makes from scratch – and hot dogs.

Amazingly, the kitchen managed to stay open during Covid by adapting to the new rules. "We had a takeaway service in the early days, when the weather was good, and we set up an outdoor eating area. We also delivered food to Borough Gardens, where people in need were gathering. It proved a lifeline to people with diagnosed mental health conditions when other services were closing."

Simon has ambitions for the community kitchen and would like to add a shower cubicle and laundry facilities. "If God is in this, it will stay," he says. "This is real church."

The Beacon Church is in Priory Lane, Bridport (behind Rockburn climbing centre). The kitchen is on Facebook as 'Bridport Community Soup Kitchen'.



Left: Community kitchen manager Simon Batorski (second left) with volunteers Chris, Jenny and Adrian



Helping to inspire and support a new generation of readers

This month in the pod we meet Joanna Jacobson, who has been a pivotal member of the BridLit team for five years. She shares some very personal reasons behind her connection to literature – particularly books for children.

The Bridge: We're so excited for BridLit – especially after most of it was cancelled in 2020 – and there are loads of great events this year. How exactly have you been involved in planning the festival?

Joanna Jacobson: I suppose I'm the 'right-hand woman' to Tanya [Bruce-Lockhart, the festival director] and I do whatever needs doing. I'm involved in all areas, including organising the volunteers. I've also worked on developing the children's events, which started off small but have really grown.

TB: Tell us more about what's on offer for kids this year.

JJ: For BridLit 2021 we've got historian Dominic Sandbrook going into schools to talk about his new Adventures in Time series of books. The school visits really get the children involved as they're there already and their parents don't have to buy tickets. Dominic's writing appeals to both primary and secondary ages, and he'll be visiting St Mary's and Colfox – we're hoping that children from Bridport Primary and Burton Bradstock will be able to join in, too.

TB: What does children's literature mean to you?

JJ: I particularly like being involved with this side of the festival as I've always felt inspired by children's literature. There's often a real connection with nature – Frances Hodgson Burnett in *The Secret Garden*, for instance, or the world of little creatures that authors like Alison Uttley have created – and stories help to



give young readers a sense of self. They also introduce children to some of the most important experiences and changes that they'll face in life.

My husband died in 2017 and I felt that to some extent our two daughters already understood, through books, some of what they were feeling about losing their dad. They'd read about people going through huge life experiences and it helped them process their own emotions. After all, even stories written for quite young children are just about life.

TB: You're originally from Norwich; how did you end up in Bridport?

JJ: I've travelled a lot during my life. I moved here with my family seven or eight years ago from Edinburgh, where I'd studied social anthropology and South Indian classical dance – it's also where I met my husband and had our two girls. I was a full-time mum and my husband was an architect; we wanted to try a different kind of life, so we looked into moving. I'd always loved Hardy, and I'd been on holiday to the Dorset coast a lot as a child – I suppose I felt a connection with the landscape here. Someone suggested Bridport, so we investigated and decided on Pymore.

When my husband died I'd been his carer for the two years that he'd had a brain tumour; it felt important to me as part of the grieving process that I acknowledge my widowhood to the outside world, and I wore black for a year (although I'm sure no one noticed!); then, later, it became important to find out who I was outside being a widow. I trained as a yoga teacher and got involved with BridLit. There was a lot of juggling, with two teenagers, but it's been so rewarding. Fast forward a few years and my girls are now 17 and 19 – one is doing A-levels and the other has just started university.

I used to love the buzz of the Edinburgh Festival and the big book festival that takes place alongside it, and things are very different here, but BridLit is so special in its own way.

TB: Apart from the children's events, what are you most looking forward to in BridLit 2021?

JJ: Definitely Max Porter talking about his book *The Death of Francis Bacon*, and Natasha Brown, author of *Assembly*. Marina Warner's 'unreliable memoir' also looks very interesting, and Horatio Clare addressing his experience of fragile mental health. I read a lot of poetry, so Christopher Reid will be a highlight, too, and of course James Rebanks will be exciting as his work raises lots of topical climate issues. But I'm always surprised by liking events that I don't really expect to, so who knows – I'll be going to all the events, so it's a busy time, but I love that!

TB: How will you be relaxing when BridLit is all over and you can breathe a sigh of relief?

JJ: I love simple things like walking my whippet, Mouse, in the countryside around Bridport. The drama of the coastline is so healing and I know many people in Bridport find solace in nature.

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

Making plans for the future

Spring cleaning in October – whatever next! That is exactly what has happened at St Mary's, however. On 30 October there we were, brushing away cobwebs, chasing away spiders, sweeping up dust, cleaning and polishing until the church was spick and span again. It seems rather symbolic of what is happening generally in church life at St Mary's.

As Covid restrictions ease and we brush away the cobwebs and dust of the past 18 months, we begin to look forward to getting back to normal, or perhaps more correctly looking forward to a 'new normal', a fresh start.

The team mission and pastoral care group has met and identified several areas where we can develop initiatives that St Mary's can be a part of: supporting the bereaved, working in local schools, pastoral care for our congregation, and developing 'Eco church' and a community bench.

Although these are team initiatives, St Mary's is looking at how we can be part of this community-based outreach. We have hosted a team mission morning during which, with the help of local leaders, we tried to discover ways in which the church can support and reach out to the local community. A community in which we are at the very heart.

More immediately, we have started to serve coffee *before* the service, as it's rather late after our 11am service! Work continues to develop the hiring out of the church, opening it up to the community and raising much-needed funds. Work also continues on the churchyard, while Tots' Time has restarted on Thursday mornings. Plans are being made

for Advent and Christmas events, many of which are community based, and to welcome members of the local community into church once more.



St Mary's is very much part of the team vision for the future of the church, in its service and outreach to the town. We look forward to an exciting and busy autumn and winter – then it will be time for another spring clean!

Diana Wright

November services at St Mary's Bridport:

Wednesday 3	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 7	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 14	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 21	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 28	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Parish Communion
	6pm	'Festival of Light' team
		Advent carol service
		at Holy Trinity
		Bothenhampton

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.

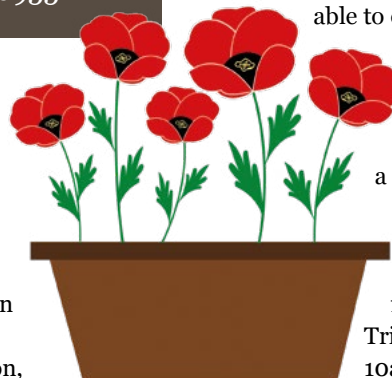


HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

November is the time for reflection and remembrance. All Souls' Day is on 2 November and services are being held just ahead of that date on 31 October for those who have recently lost loved ones (4pm at St Mary's Bridport, St Swithun's and Holy Trinity Bradpole). Remembrance Sunday is on 14 November, when there will be a service of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton,



starting at 10.50am so we can observe the two minutes' silence at 11am.

This month also sees the beginning of Advent, the four-week period before Christmas when we think about the Annunciation and the time leading up to the birth of Jesus. Advent Sunday is on 28 November, and there will be a 'Festival of Light' team Advent carol service at Holy Trinity at 6pm on that day. This is a lovely service for everyone with music and readings (see opposite).

The Harvest lunch in the village hall was very successful, and although numbers were limited we were still able to donate £80 to the Bridport food bank from the profits of the lunch and from an auction of the produce that had been decorating the church. Our grateful thanks go to Pennie Jones for providing a delicious meal, and to everyone who decorated the church so beautifully.

Despite the bad weather, the October coffee morning raised £124 for church funds. The next coffee morning in Holy Trinity is on Saturday 6 November from 10am to 12 noon.

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

If you enjoy making things and would like get creative for the approaching Christmas season, then come to a craft day on Saturday 20 November. Whether you want to make items for your own home or to give away to family and friends, it will be a fun day and an opportunity to pool ideas with others. More details in the panel on the right.

Refreshments after the morning service are returning on the third Sunday of each month, so members of the congregation can enjoy a chat with friends over a cup of coffee. In November this will be on the 21st.

Looking ahead, our service of Nine Lessons and Carols in Holy Trinity will be at 6pm on Sunday 12 December. On Christmas Eve there will be a Holy Communion service at 8pm. There is no service on Christmas Day at Bothenhampton, but there will be a team service at St Mary's Bridport on Sunday 26 December at 11am.

Barbara Ffooks

November services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

Sunday 7	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 14	10.50am	Service of Remembrance
Sunday 21	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 28	11am	Matins
	6pm	'Festival of Light' team
		Advent carol service

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

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Bell tower contact – Wendy Carnell 420716

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

Bradpole rings again

The single bell in August broke the silence of lockdown and helped us look forward with hope – for ringing, for the church, for everyone – and on 5 September (Covid-aware, sensitive to people's anxieties, vaccinated and well-ventilated) we rang the Bradpole Eight. Practices and



Left: The Revd Janis Moore blesses the bells. Right (l to r): Peter Carnell, Philip Wilson, Wendy Carnell, Derek Gratton, Sue Barrance, David Barrance, John Barrance, David Ellery, Roger Smith. Janet Robinson and Delie Perry also rang.

Festival of Light

A team service celebrating the beginning of Advent with carols and lessons

Sunday 28 November at 6pm
Holy Trinity Bothenhampton

Mulled wine and mince pies after the service



Festive craft day

Saturday 20 November
Holy Trinity Bothenhampton

Sessions 11am–1pm and 2–4pm

We invite you to come and join us to make a selection of items suitable for the Christmas season. The cost will depend on the crafts chosen. Please bring with you a selection of scissors, pens and pencils, rulers, needles, embroidery thread and cotton.

Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day. If you'd like to stay for the day please bring a packed lunch.

regular Sunday ringing would follow. The songs of praise were well sung, and there was a good congregation with some new faces. Covid hasn't gone away but good spirits have returned.

We have been surprised and heartened by the number of people who have taken the trouble to tell us how much they appreciate the bells – and by the depth of feeling that appreciation has shown. Many have confessed to lumps in the throat; almost all have mentioned what hope they found as the bells spoke again. How privileged we are to make this offering.

Peter Carnell



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

Bradpole Council

At the time of writing, the council was planning to respond to Bridport Town Council's proposed changes to the town and parish councils set-up, under Dorset Council's community governance review, and had been liaising with Loders and Netherbury parish councils on this subject.



The council has also delivered a flyer to houses in the parish alerting people to the town council's proposal to take over all or part of the parish council (which would result in an increase in council tax) and asking for their views.

At the September meeting Tony Veglio was co-opted as a councillor. Councillors also heard that following concerns raised by a resident about Himalayan balsam growing on stretches of the Asker river, the resident is now liaising with Dorset Wildlife Trust with a view to setting up a working party to clear the invasive plant.

Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The main hall is available for hire by local community groups and is fully accessible with facilities for the disabled. The hall bookings secretary, Jane Bryant (01308 427493 /

Bradpole village lunch club

**Second & fourth Tuesdays
each month from 12.15pm
in The King's Head**

£11 for two courses and coffee



oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com) can answer booking enquiries. There are more details and photos on the village website here: www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall/.

November services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

Tuesday 2	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 7	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Sunday 14	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Sunday 28	9.30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	'Festival of Light' team
		Advent carol service
		at Holy Trinity
		Bothenhampton

ST MARY'S Walditch

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Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421
If you have any pastoral or personal issues,
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(Wednesday is her day off)

Capturing the horrors of war

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 14 November. Those readers who can recall relatives' accounts of the First World War may recollect their sense of sadness. It was a soldier's war – unlike the Second World War – and bereavement was common to all, from the prime minister to the humblest family. Furthermore, many returned either severely injured or mentally scarred. We must give thanks that we live in an era of peace, albeit sometimes fragile.

In Westminster Abbey, 16 WWI soldier poets and writers are remembered, including Rupert Brooke, Robert Graves, Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Isaac Rosenberg and Edward Thomas.

Several female poets and writers were also active at the time, although they are often now sadly neglected. These include Hester Gatty (who was married to Siegfried Sassoon from 1933 to 1945) Elizabeth Cheyne, Catherine Scott and Isabel Hutchinson.

All these writers, many of whom died during WWI, evoke the atmosphere of war for both soldiers and civilians. May they rest in peace.

James Craddock

Where's God?

"If he made all that, you'd want to thank Him there – not in a gloomy building!" said Pop Larkin in 'The Darling Buds of May'.

If Pop Larkin had taken part in 'Ride + Stride' this September, he would perhaps have appreciated that churches don't have to be gloomy, but are beautiful buildings. We have the little village church in Walditch; Holy Trinity Bradpole, with its lovely stained-glass windows and golden rood screen; the wonderful Arts and Crafts church in Bothenhampton; Allington's spacious, light and airy church, St Swithun's; St John's West Bay, which always suggests to me the image of a fishing shed; and the grand church of St Mary's in South Street. All suggest a heritage to be preserved.

There are different ways to worship, as we've found out during the pandemic, but meeting in communion with each other, to share our faith, to pray, to listen to God's word and sing our praises is uplifting and joyful.

However, Pop Larkin is right to a certain extent: God is not confined to a building, but is around us and within us and we can appreciate and give thanks in any setting and in any encounter with the people we meet.

We can perceive God in the movement of clouds over the sea, in the crackle of flames and the woody smell of a bonfire, in the laughter of children watching fireworks.

We see God in the actions of people: the kindness of neighbours to one another; the understanding of the British mother whose 20-year-old son was killed in Afghanistan and who told a BBC interviewer, "Perhaps he brought dreams to people who had no dreams"; the Israeli woman who donated a kidney to a Palestinian child.

"The world is filled with the grandeur of God: Let's give thanks and celebrate, wherever we see God."

The Revd Ann Ayling





Pictured: the committee (above) of the Lower Walditch Play Area & Orchard at the facility's first birthday party and opening of the new 'Viking Swinger' (left)

ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

A celebration for our play area

There was some welcome sun between the showers on Sunday 3 October for our new play area's first birthday party – plus the opening of a Walditch 'Viking Swinger', financed by the National Lottery Communities Fund.

There were drinks and homemade cakes courtesy of the voluntary committee of the Lower Walditch Play Area & Orchard. The committee had received money for the project from sponsors such as the Brit Valley and Bridport Rotary clubs to supplement the grant from Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council. Daryl Chambers of Bridport Town Council had worked with our parish council on the planning.

Tucked away at the back of the Bridport Cemetery, next to the allotment site off Gundry Road, the Lower Walditch Play Area is a sheltered, south-facing area packed with new play equipment. It's well away from busy roads and overlooked by several houses. As recently as 2018 it was just a rough bit of grass with some rickety goalposts – it just goes to show what can happen if a community works together!

Jim Basker, Chairman, Bothenhampton & Walditch PC

Walditch Living Churchyard project – update

The project is about to conclude its third year. From February to September, wildflowers in bloom were recorded monthly along with a single record of grasses in July. Forty-five wildflowers were identified along with 11 grasses plus two as yet unidentified. The predominant species are lesser celandine, primrose, meadow buttercup, red and white clover, hedge bedstraw, oxeye daisy, rough hawkbit, germander speedwell, ribwort plantain, greater bird's-foot

trefoil, musk mallow, yarrow and yellow rattle.

In 2020, red campion, musk mallow, field scabious and common and greater knapweed were added, either raised from seed with a local provenance or from an approved source. All have established to a greater or lesser extent except greater knapweed, which could still appear next year.

Cowslip, lady's smock, wild carrot, fleabane and more red campion are ready to plant this autumn or in the spring. We only look to add plants typical of this part of West Dorset.

One of our aims is to encourage insects. During the first two summers there was little activity, but this year, encouragingly, there was an abundance of insects, especially small flies, but also hoverflies, small beetles, occasional butterflies and moths. Bees were still relatively few. Working on the site in September, I saw three slow worms (not so slow!) and there is possible evidence of a small mammal.

It takes time to establish a wildlife area, which anyhow will evolve continuously. Nature can be perverse and does not work to rule, so plans need to be adaptable to work with it rather than against. Nevertheless, we feel the project is largely progressing in line with expectations.

Robin Stapleton

Walditch Garden Group

The group will meet on Thursday 25 November at 10am in Walditch village hall. Newcomers are welcome so do come along. Seasonal topics and garden discussion throughout the year have made this a popular slot on the village hall calendar. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

Jane Mowatt

Garden tips for November:

Clean out nesting boxes and put food out for birds regularly; lift and divide rhubarb crowns; lift and store dahlias; gather up and bin the fallen leaves of roses affected by leafspot; plant bare-root trees, shrubs, roses, fruit trees and bushes; begin winter pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs; and plan ahead for your 2022 garden and/or allotment.

November services at St Mary's Walditch:

Sunday 14	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28	11am	Holy Communion
	6pm	'Festival of Light' team
		Advent carol service
		at Holy Trinity
		Bothenhampton
Also Thursdays at 10am:		Morning Prayer

Thelma's hymn notes

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

There have been three tunes set for this hymn and I especially like it played to the Welsh 'Blaenwern' tune. The hymn was written by the Englishman Charles Wesley with six verses played to a tune by Sir John Stainer. The second tune was written by Sir Charles Stanford but is not popular and rarely requested. The third is Blaenwern, written by the Welshman William Rowlands. It is a very popular hymn at weddings.
Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

News from St John's

It's great that the residents of Harbour House can join us at last and will swell the numbers and help with the singing. As we do not have a musical accompaniment, a list of well-known hymns has been compiled to ensure we make the most of our voices.

Morning Prayer will now be held every Monday at 10am.

Round and about the Bay

How many of you know that a shipyard operated in West Bay from 1769 to 1879? About 350 ships were built during this time, the largest of which was the Speedy, built in 1853 and 60 metres long – just a bit shorter than Pier Terrace. It is hard to imagine how they managed to build this ship and then get it out of the harbour!

We were lucky enough to have the arrival of the steam drifter Lydia Eva (see photo) recently. This vessel is based in Great Yarmouth and usually acts as a museum. She stayed in West Bay for a couple of weeks before moving on to Lyme Regis, where she was used in the filming of the new Wonka movie. St John's Church has a number of replica ships and boats (see photo), most of which have been donated. They help to emphasise the church's connection with the sea, although the downside is they collect the dust!

The coach trips have returned to West Bay, which helps to boost numbers in the Discovery Centre. The centre was hoping to be busy during the half-term break before closing its doors at the end of October. The Dorset mayors who visited on the mayors' civic day not only enjoyed a tour and short talk at the centre but also a trishaw ride round the Bay. Cycling Without Age Bridport raised funds to bring the trishaw to Bridport and those who were lucky enough to have a go seemed to enjoy it.

The West Bay Community Forum AGM was attended by 20 members and included a talk by Will Austin, the town clerk, about Dorset Council's community governance review of arrangements for town and parish councils in our area. The main points are: to have a single council comprising Bridport and surrounding parishes; reducing the number of councillors to 20; and having wards and council committees within the new council area based on local identity. Will explained the reasoning behind this move and encouraged everyone to support Bridport Town Council's proposals.

This month saw the arrival of a second railway carriage at the Station Kitchen. It will be refurbished and hopefully will be ready for service from December.

Sue Pollock

West Bay WI

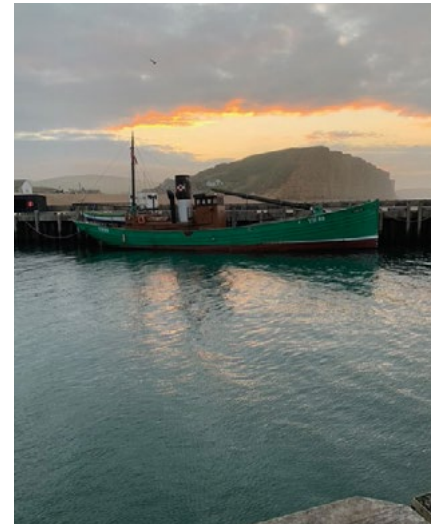
On 3 November at 10.30am there will be the usual Knit & Natter morning, then on 10 November at 2.30 pm there will be an Ascot afternoon, when members will be wearing fancy hats and placing bets on horses using a well-known game.

Upcoming events

West Bay Days, in association with Bridport Round Table, are planning a 'Bonfire on the Beach' event on Saturday 30



Above: Model boats at St John's
Right: The 'Lydia Eva' was moored in West Bay before moving on to Lyme Regis



October from 4.30pm on East Beach. There will be food outlets, music and a funfair. Entrance is free but donations are welcome.

Walking in safety, by Sylvia Gardner

One Saturday morning about 25 years ago, I was walking alone along St Andrew's Road in Bridport towards the town. I became aware of someone following me with measured steps. So I prayed a quick 'arrow prayer' to God: "Please protect me." Shortly after, the person overtook me, walked ahead about 10 metres, turned round to look at me then continued to walk towards the town. He was a young man in his 20s. What he saw I do not know, but I had heard of incidences like this before, when the stalker has suddenly seen a group of people join the one being stalked. I saw no one, but that is probably what happened here. For me that was God's protection and I have used it many times since. Praise God!

Sylvia will be 90 in December and lives in Harbour House, which she reports is a very happy place and full of laughter. She moved there three and a half years ago but sadly lost her husband two years ago. She is delighted at last to be able to return to worship at St John's.

Services at St John's during November:

Sunday 7	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise
Sunday 21	11am	Holy Communion
Saturday 27	6pm	Service of Wholeness & Healing
Sunday 28	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise
	6pm	'Festival of Light' team
		Advent carol service at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock

aejsullock@gmail.com

Churchwarden – vacancy

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

From the parish editor

Autumn can be a time to 'put the garden to bed', to collect seeds for next year and check bonfire heaps for hedgehogs. The air holds the fading scents of hedychium (ginger lily), rose and the last honeysuckle florets as they soak up the Indian summer rays – scents that are soon to be replaced by the aromas of cedarwood, pine, juniper and oak leaf mould – while the slow worm is still resting in the compost bin at St Swithun's. I recently read the phrase 'The Fragrance of God', and I hope I won't offend more orthodox worshippers if I write that I love the smell of God and I hope you do too!

The September boot fair went well. Verena Doyle's knitted dolls, named Elsa and Anna after the characters in the film Frozen, gazed out in their colourful costumes on the plant stall. Each doll sale went towards Dorset County Hospital's chemotherapy appeal. Local parishioner Kate Michell brought some homemade jams to sell and was on hand to help with refreshments. Kate works with the medical centre's 'social prescribing' team, which provides non-clinical help for social support and health and wellbeing. If you feel isolated, would like to walk with and talk to someone, need help with losing weight or with stress, anxiety or mild depression, you can email her at kate.michell@dorsetg.p.nhs.uk (the library can help if you don't have a computer at home). If Kate can't help with your particular concern, she can point you in the right direction.

Kelvin and Debbie returned with their 'succulents with a difference', planted-up jelly moulds and cake stands, and 'plants in a mug'. Debbie says she loves creating ideas



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

for indoor gardening and finds it very relaxing.

The whole event was bathed in sunshine, despite a forecast storm, as was the case in July. Marilyn Sealy said quietly that it must be St Swithun guiding the weather!

The atmosphere was gently stimulated by the permeating tones of the Dynamic Duo making 'Grey Jazz': Dan Shackell on saxophone and Sue Smith on keyboard (plus her husband Roger serving as essential page turner). The stage was set on the church steps and music wafted around and lifted the mood. So 'In the Mood' for autumn first, before winter proper – enjoy!

November is a time to curl up with a good book or collection of poems, possibly by a good fire after a tasty warming soup. November also heralds the Bridport Literary Festival (Sunday 7 to Saturday 13). Yet more to enjoy.
Anna Sullock

November services at St Swithun's:

Sundays	9.30am	Eucharist
Thursdays	10am	Eucharist
Sunday 28	6pm	'Festival of Light' team
		Advent carol service at
		Holy Trinity Bothenhampton

Contemplative Church is on the first Saturday in the month at 6pm. At the Eucharist service on Thursday 4 November, names of the departed will be read out to mark All Souls' Day. Sign-up sheets for names are at the back of the church.

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd John Yarren

01305 262421

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

incorporating

UPLODERS CHAPEL

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

"I am so looking forward to November" – how many times have you heard someone say that? Probably not many.

November doesn't tend to be a month we dwell on: days are getting darker and colder and that cold and dark won't

be going away any time soon. It's a month when we spend time looking back and looking forward. Looking back, we remember hardship and sacrifice and the weight of history. Looking forward, we hope for gathering together as celebration of God's ultimate intervention in the timeline of this world through the birth of Jesus. I've been wondering, however, if we should give November a little more attention – if we should live more for today.

Before that, though, we'll do a bit of looking back and looking forward...

Looking back a short while, at Bridport United Church we had a wonderful 'farewell' service for Peter Clark to mark his retirement. He invited us to see Jesus as if we were a spy, a teacher, a policeman, a clown, a pirate or a child, and challenged us to make Jesus our own. It was memorable and had an element of fun, which is sometimes hard to find in church. The 'Tea at the Ritz' that followed was spectacular and much appreciated. Who needs to travel to London!

We did so miss the Christmas tree festival last year and have been planning one for this year. It will be a →

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

smaller event than previously but will give us a chance to enter into the Christmas spirit and remember and support some of the organisations in our fantastic town. Look out for further publicity.

Soul Space Live (see right) is happening on the first Sunday of each month at the United Church. We gather at 4pm or thereabouts to spend time with each other exploring life, faith and cake. If you want to know what that means, then come along and find out. The music team, expanded a little, are planning an evening of folk carols among the Christmas trees on 10 December.

Turning from what was and will be to what is now, I am reminded of a refugee I met while living in Leicester. He had no means to earn a living and lived in daily fear of deportation yet talked about waking up each morning and thanking God he was alive. I often think of him and what he taught me about living today, not sinking under past events or basking in past glory; not fearing for tomorrow or waiting for some future promise but thanking God for today. So let's remember to thank God for November every day – and then thank God for December.

Gill Bumphrey, lay preacher at Bridport United Church

November services at BUC (all start at 10.30am):

Sunday 7	Peter Kershaw (Communion)
Sunday 14	Revd John Yarrien
Sunday 21	Audrey Standhaft
Sunday 28	Jennie McGinlay

Weekly events

Coffee mornings every Wednesday 10am–12 noon
 Saturday 6 November: Big Breakfast 9–11.30am
 Saturday 13 November: Vinyl Saturday
 Saturday 20 November: coffee morning 10am–12 noon
 Saturday 27 November: coffee morning 10am–12 noon

Other dates for your diary...

Thursday 2 December: A Christmas Carol
 Friday 10 December: Concert of folk carols
 Saturday 11 December: Big Breakfast 9–11.30am; also Bridport Choral Society's Christmas concert 7.30pm
 Wednesday 8 to Sunday 19 December: Christmas tree festival (subject to government regulations!)

From Uploders Chapel

As I write this at the beginning of October, we have had our first service of the month. It was about Harvest, but not as you know it! At Lois's suggestion, and with Peter Jenner's consent, we were all encouraged to think of what Harvest



Uploders Chapel



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means to us. This conjured up some interesting answers of what we are all grateful for.

Well it would seem I was definitely Carol the Confused when I wrote my bit in the last Bridge as I thought I had written the correct information about our second service in October. However, I was wrong as the service was actually taken by Gill Bumphrey, not Pamela Woodland! Apologies for the mistake. Hopefully I have got it correct for the November services!

The Revd Peter's retiring service at BUC was brilliant, with the usual fun and thoughtfulness. We are so fortunate having such a brilliant team of people who take the services.

Having gone through a time when we were unable to raise much in the way of funds for the chapel or any charities, as was our normal thing before Covid, from August onwards things have certainly changed. Sales of bric-a-brac at the village fete, and then at the BUC coffee morning, resulted in our being able to bank £380. We then enjoyed the Ride + Stride event, for which we raised a total of £630.50, made up of the sponsorship support for our two Riders + Striders, Joseph Pullan and Tim Last, plus a final bric-a-brac sale – along with cuppas and delicious cakes – on the day. So yet another BIG thank you to all of you who supported us in one way or another.

As I write this, the sun is shining and there is a definite feeling of autumn in the air. However, by the time you read this (which I hope you do!) it will be officially winter, so I hope you made the most of the sunshine. October has been Outstanding and hopefully November will be more than just Nice!

Carol Hall

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

7 November	Revd John Jarrien
21 November	Peter Kershaw

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

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



November

No sun – no moon!

No morn – no noon –

No dawn – no dusk – no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

No comfortable feel in any member –

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!

November!

At this time of year, Thomas Hood's poem of our schooldays comes back to haunt us and beats like a mantra in our minds as the season progresses. Leaves fall, trees take on their winter bareness, autumn mists float over the fields and we hasten home to close our curtains and light fires, shutting out the gloom of approaching winter. After the warmth of the summer, and a largely outdoor life, we retreat into ourselves and become reflective. We sit and look into the fire and think of those we loved long gone. We remember them all the year round, although in this month it is especially poignant. Everything about the weather conspires to bring those we cherished closer to us: the dark evenings, the mists, the stillness after summer's heat... everything conspires.

For it is a time to remember them with the feast day of All Saints on 1 November. In France this is called La Toussaint, a day to honour all the saints, known or unknown. On this public holiday it is traditional for families to visit cemeteries to honour and remember their dead.

All Souls falls on 2 November. This day, in the Catholic Church, is the day of commemoration of 'all the faithful departed'. Throughout November, the faithful on earth offer prayers to help cleanse the souls who are waiting in

purgatory to be brought into the sight of God in heaven.

November 11 is Armistice Day, when we remember the millions of soldiers and civilians who gave their lives in two world wars. We will hear again the lines by Laurence Binyon: *They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn; At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them.*

This year (as last) we have another vast number of dead to add to our remembering – and that is those who have been lost to the global coronavirus pandemic. It is estimated that across the world more than 4,744,000 people have died and still the numbers mount up. Many families have been affected by this terrible virus that has swept across the world. On All Souls' Day, we will remember them, young and old.

Pat McEvoy

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.

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Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

We list groups' usual arrangements but not all have resumed activities after Covid so do 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 rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster margefoster1956@gmail.com

Bridport & District Gardening Club meets at the WI Hall, North Street, on the third Thursday of the month. The next event is on 18 November at 7.30pm when Paul Bygrave presents 'Seasonal highlights of Forde Abbey Gardens'. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

Bridport History Society's November meeting will be on Zoom, although the group hopes to return to 'live' meetings in the United Church Hall from December. On Tuesday 9 Nov, 2 for 2.30pm, Lucy Goodison presents 'The myth of the 'Green Man' and other fertility fantasies'. New members welcome: individuals £10 / couples £15 (not due until Jan 2022). Contact 425015 / celiamartin@hotmail.co.uk

Bridport Shakespeare Company theatre group meets every Monday at 7pm at Bridport Community Shed (near Mountfield). All ages welcome; no experience needed. Contact Valerie tasterella@hotmail.co.uk (also see p9).

Bridport & District Allotment Society (BADAS) is open to all. Membership is £5/year and gives discount at several gardening suppliers. Contact 250260 / email bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com. More details online at www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

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

Bridport & District Model Railway Club meets each Tuesday at Askerswell village hall 7–9pm. Members can run their railway stock on the club's 'test track', or operate a club layout. Refreshments available. Contact Geoff Trenholme, the club's chairman, on 281379.

Bridport & District RNLI holds five or six events (incl. Seatown BBQ) each year to raise money. Volunteers always needed. Contact Sadie 07811 470127 or Annie 07790 713156.

Colmer WI meets on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. Visitors welcome to come for a no-obligation evening. Contact Gill Smith 301201.

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

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 18 November when Julian Holder presents 'William Morris: a new look at Arts and Crafts architecture'.

Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome at £7.50. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / sandylovelockat81@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

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 Street. Contact pete.bowditch@hotmail.com / 423620 / 421213 / 427819.

Bridport ASCape for young people 7–11 & 11–18, parents and carers affected by autism spectrum conditions (ASC) or social anxiety. Contact Karen Wright wrightmail2@aol.com or visit www.bridportasd.wordpress.com

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

Bridport Community Front Room offers face-to-face support for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Assembly Rooms, Gundry Lane. Thurs–Sun, 3.45–10.45pm. Appointments 07385 290804.

Harmony Drop-in provides a safe, social space and peer support to aid the recovery journey of adults in the Bridport area who are living with mental health difficulties. Our group (Mondays 10am–1pm and 2–4pm, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am–1pm) offers activities and support, fostering wellbeing and increased self-esteem. Contact 07597 379290.

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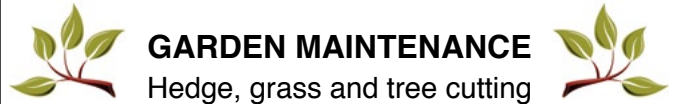
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