

February 2022

the **Bridge**



THIS ISSUE IS
NANTES
Solicitors & Notaries
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Horse logging at Cooper's Wood, Allington Hill – photo by Tim Russ

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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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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The advertising and copy deadline for the March 2022 issue is 5pm on Monday 7 February

The yearly miracle on East Street

The word ‘miracle’ comes via Old French from the Latin ‘miraculum’, meaning ‘an object of wonder’. The annual Bridport Christmas Community Lunch, as anyone who has been to it or volunteered to make it happen will know, is just that – an object of wonder.

Elaine and Grant Butcher are legends who ran the event for more than a decade with a Churches Together team. Jill Henderson from the Bridport Team stepped forward for two years and put on a whole Christmas Day in two hours, including folk carols, Father Christmas, and a disco! Then Soulshine and the Red Brick Cafe, led by Lisa, stepped in during the first lockdown. The home deliveries to those too vulnerable to come out were for many the only face-to-face contact they had. This is of course in addition to the weekly miracle of the Cupboard Love food bank at St Mary’s and the amazing Bridport Christmas hampers and stockings initiative supporting 84 families in the town.

This year Peter Wilson, Sue Herman and Giles Smith joined forces to put on another amazing lunch with a team of helpers. Peter is a member of the Bridport Local Food Group committee and organises the weekly food stalls at St Swithun’s; Sue is secretary at Bridport United Church and chair of Pathways to Care; and Giles is a caterer and also involved with the Local Food Group and Food Festival. They wrestled with a temperamental oven to turn out a fantastic full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. It used locally sourced ingredients and really was top quality.

An event like this doesn’t just happen. Like lightning conductors that gather the electrical charge in the atmosphere, the organisers are the conductors for all the goodwill in the town, bringing it together into something special. It takes many lists, emails and phone calls, but the common experience of the organisers is that Bridport people just want to make Christmas special for anyone who wants what a community lunch offers. Contributions come in from everywhere. Peter carefully matched up the right people with the right jobs and took care to keep everyone Covid secure. People of all ages and all walks of life arrived on Christmas Eve to peel potatoes, carrots and sprouts. Two hard-working volunteers supported Giles in the kitchen; waiting staff – some repeat attenders because it’s such fun – did their bit without fuss; and table hosts made sure everyone felt at home and had what they needed. There was a dedicated washing-up crew, too: I spotted a young man who arrived halfway through the meal, cleared a mountain of plates with

an industrial dishwasher, then strolled out again!

Red Brick and Hive Beach cafes, Washingpool Farm, Felicity’s, Rawles, Leakers and Morrisons all supplied free or reduced-price food, and donations came from the United Church, the Dorset South West Circuit, Bridport Christian Fellowship and A J Wakely and Sons, who also supported the lift team. “How can we help?” they said. “Lifts!” said Peter, so their minibus ran people to and fro all day. A young man on his way out from the meal said he worked for a dairy and promised to sort out our milk and cream next Christmas.

The lunch was free for guests, but there was a bucket for anyone who wanted to make a donation and Peter couldn’t believe his eyes when he saw there was £300 in it.

Everything we needed was provided, which makes it a thing of wonder. I was asked to welcome people and say Grace at the beginning, and I chose one that didn’t name that wonder – we were of all faiths and none – but gave thanks for everything and equal thanks to us, the guests. It is a wonder to give and a wonder to receive and it wouldn’t have been a party without us! The concept of ‘parish’ takes the word ‘paroikia’ (‘stranger’) and gives it a twist, making it a community of strangers, not a clan, not a family by blood, or a group who share the same interests, but a community of strangers bound together by something bigger. That is what the meal feels like to me: the hosts and guests become a wonder-full community of strangers for a couple of hours, and it’s a community you want to join again each year.

We need 2022 to be a year of wonder as we face some huge issues together. I am looking out for all the organisers who’ll step forward and become lightning rods for the town’s huge reserves of goodwill and translate them into action. I know Peter and the Bridport Local Food Group are hatching plans, as are many other groups and churches. The new Bridport Climate Response has amazing community organisers who dream of being lightning conductors to transform fear and worry about the climate crisis into ground-breaking practical local solutions. I am full of anticipation for more objects of wonder after such a miraculous Christmas.

The Revd Lorna Johnson



The Revd Lorna Johnson
Team Curate



**The Christmas Day lunch at
Bridport United Church**

Rooks and wild flowers on our winter ramble

If you're finding it hard to get through these dark winter days and difficult times, it can be a great tonic to just look around at the natural world in Bridport and surrounding countryside. The woods, orchards, hedge-banks and gardens are full of life just waiting to be explored.

The five churchyards make up a significant part of the town's green space, and efforts are being made to encourage more wildlife into them. I was out recently at Holy Trinity Bradpole, planting seeds of the yellow rattle flower in some of the wildlife plots. This semi-parasitic plant will reduce the vigour of the coarser grasses, allowing wildflowers to flourish and provide nectar and food for insects like butterflies and moths. On my way, I heard several great-spotted woodpeckers hammering out their spring challenge on nearby tree trunks, and although it was a dull cold day I was cheered by the joyous and irreverent cawing of rooks as they investigated last year's nests in the trees around St



James' Park nursing home. Rooks nest early and will be sitting on eggs before the end of February. It's a great

Rookeries are easy to spot in the bare branches of winter

sign of early spring and the best thing is you can see them so easily. Apart from Bradpole, there is a little colony near the Groves roundabout, another along Pymore Road and more in the villages including Netherbury and West Milton.



Pretty lesser celandine

While many bird species are struggling to maintain their populations, rooks are doing rather well. About a million pairs nest in Britain, which in these uncertain days is certainly something to celebrate. As long-lived birds (oldest recorded 22 years) a pair of rooks often stay together for years or even for life, and may use the same nest several times.

While you're keeping an eye out for these noisy neighbours, now is also a good time to watch for the first wild flowers. I saw my first bright yellow lesser celandine in Netherbury on Boxing Day and along many road verges the first lilac flowers of winter heliotrope are appearing. The big round leaves have been evident for some time, but it really is worth getting your nose down and breathing in the marvellous vanilla flower scent!

So let's banish the winter blues and embrace the lengthening days. Great tits are chiming, song thrushes singing, so go for a walk or look out of the window – you might get a pleasant surprise!

Alan Bowley

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THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY, 2022 7:00PM
MET ENCORE RIGOLETTO

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 2022 7:30PM
LAURENCE JONES WARM UP TOUR

SATURDAY 19 MARCH, 2022 7:30PM
LUKE WRIGHT

SATURDAY 23 APRIL, 2022 7:30PM
ERIC STECKEL BAND

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY, 2022 7:30PM
MARTIN CARTHY

We no longer produce a printed programme, so be sure to check our website, visit the Bridport Tourist Information Centre, or call us to book tickets or find out what's on. You can also join our mailing list to keep up to date with the latest news and events.

KEY: THEATRE DANCE MUSIC FILM SPOKEN WORD COMEDY EXHIBITIONS TAKE PART

Booking is easy: Book in person at *Bridport Tourist Information Centre*, visit us online at www.bridport-arts.com or call **01308 424901**.

Public services at the Bridport Team Ministry churches in February

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 & third</i>) Morning Praise (<i>second</i>) Matins (<i>fourth</i>) St Mary's Walditch Communion (<i>second & fourth</i>) St John's West Bay Communion (<i>first & third</i>)

Monday

10am	St John's West Bay Morning Prayer
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Tuesday

2.30pm	Holy Trinity Bradpole Communion (<i>first Tuesday of the month only</i>)
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Wednesday

2.30pm	St Mary's Bridport Communion (<i>first Wednesday of the month only</i>)
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Thursday

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

6pm	St Swithun's Allington Contemplative Church (<i>first Saturday in the month only</i>) St John's West Bay Service of wholeness and healing (<i>fourth Saturday in the month only</i>)
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Positive progress from climate forums

Representatives from more than 40 local organisations, including Rotary, the WI and the Chamber of Commerce, attended two climate forums in Bridport in late 2021.

The events explored ways to involve more local households in responses to climate change, and how voluntary groups can help with this. The Mayor, Ian Bark, who opened both meetings, says, "To say the responses were positive would be putting it mildly. Many of those present came up with innovative ideas and the result was much food for thought and a determination to turn these words and ideas into action at the earliest opportunity."

A small team is now planning to launch the Bridport Climate Response this spring. "We want to create a one-stop shop for advice on how people can minimise waste, reduce their costs and help the community," says team member Jane Smallman. "We aim to offer free workshops and create a new website, with all the local projects and resources in one place." Another aim is to help young people share their views on what happens locally about climate change.

Local environmental group Seeding our Future is coordinating work on the Bridport Climate Response and is looking for volunteer helpers, contacts with young people, and community groups who would like to be involved. Please contact them at bridportclimateresponse@gmail.com (you can also use this email to sign up for occasional free email updates on progress). There's more information, too, at the new Facebook page for Bridport Climate Response.



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helen.williams@porterdodson.co.uk

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www.porterdodson.co.uk

Volunteer required

The Bridport Team Ministry is looking for a volunteer administrator for the parish office, to work every Friday, 9am–1pm. Good communication and computer skills are important. For more details, email the Revd Deb Smith at deb@bridport-team-ministry.org or phone 01308 301457.

ON THE COVER: The Allington Hillbillies have been felling and clearing ash trees on the hill using a local horse logging company. The group celebrates its first decade of activity this month. Turn to p7 for an interview with founding member Cathy Harvey.

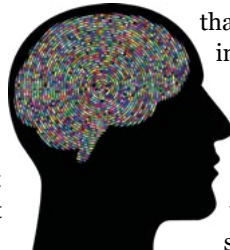
Take small steps towards improved wellbeing

When it comes to mental health and wellbeing, small steps can cover the same distance as long strides – it just takes a little longer!

We all know how important it is to look after our own wellbeing in these challenging times, but this is sometimes easier said than done, isn't it?

The pandemic has certainly changed our lives. For some, this has meant enduring greater stress or isolation, while others have had to navigate unexpected grief or the pain of being separated from loved ones. Many are facing financial difficulties as a result of increased expenses or having lost their job... the list goes on.

We all deal with these difficult situations and emotions so very differently – that's what makes us human. However, many find they are getting caught in unhealthy spirals that are quite difficult to get out of, particularly during and after the winter months.



One common response can be sedating these unwelcome emotions through comfort behaviours such as over-indulging in food or using alcohol excessively. Others isolate themselves or, having already been isolated for far too long, feel unable to take that first step outside their comfort zone to connect to others. Some manage their stress and anxiety by becoming irritable with loved ones or over-critical of themselves. We all have our own personal story, but the difference with the pandemic is that we are more aware that we are not in this on our own. We have all been impacted in one way or another.

Understanding our 'go to' patterns when we are stretched is so important. Without awareness, we can stay stuck and keep doing the same old things that bring us down. Awareness empowers us and helps us regain a little control. Taking small steps to change the situation or – if we can't change the situation – to feel more in control of our response is the difference between drowning and staying afloat. Being kinder to ourselves and those around us will have such a knock-on effect, not only to our own mood but also impacting those around us in a positive way.

In a recent blog post, the mayor of Bridport invited us to reflect on whether we are a 'giver' or a 'taker' and encouraged us to think about the feel-good factor in doing good for others. I couldn't agree more.

The pandemic has bought huge distress to people across the world but it also has highlighted just how resilient, kind, compassionate and selfless we humans can be. This is often seen in the small acts of day-to-day kindness we make to others and also to ourselves.

So, if you can relate to any of the above, then why not take a moment to think of a small change you can make?

- Pop on your coat and scarf and go for that 10-minute walk you've been meaning to for a week.
- Phone that friend who is on her own and have a catch-up.
- Tidy that cupboard that's full of junk and put on some music you love but haven't heard in a while.
- Contact one of the many wonderful charities we have in Bridport and offer your services.

Given that we might be in this pandemic for a while yet, let's try to keep taking small steps to look after ourselves and those around us the best we can.

Sandra Jay, psychotherapist and wellbeing consultant

Some useful links

MIND – www.mind.co.uk

No Panic – www.nopanic.org.uk

Free wellbeing resources – www.getselfhelp.co.uk

Confidential emotional support – www.supportline.org.uk

Samaritans – www.samaritans.org or call 116 123

NHS helplines – www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines

Welldoing, a mental health resource and therapist-matching service – www.welldoing.org



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Putting nature at the heart of the Allington community

This month in the pod we meet Cathy Harvey, one of the founders of the Allington Hillbillies and now the group's chairperson. The Hillbillies – who have just celebrated the 10th anniversary of their founding – are a volunteer group who carry out conservation work on Allington Hill, including Cooper's Field and Cooper's Wood.

The Bridge: What do you think sparked your interest in nature and wildlife?

Cathy Harvey: My father was a contract farmer but when I was nine he left farming because he was disillusioned with the way it was going, particularly all the chemical fertilisers and weedkillers being used on the land. The feeling of being in tune with nature has come down through my family, and now I want to give something back to our local wildlife.

TB: How did the Allington Hillbillies come into being?

CH: I live near the hill, and I know a few people who share my interest in wildlife. In January 2011 we asked the Woodland Trust, which owns the hill, to run a volunteer day teaching conservation skills such as hedge laying, dead hedging and coppicing. There was lots of interest, and about 30 people came along. Afterwards we decided to take it from there and form an 'official' group with a proper structure and constitution, which allows us to fundraise and apply for grants. Of that original group of 30 volunteers, 15 are still involved and several are on the committee.

TB: How have things moved on since those early days?

CH: We're now supported by Allington Parish Council, who provide our insurance and annual allowance. We've been very fortunate in securing grants



for a lot of our projects and we're financially independent. Most of our work is focused on the 14-acre Cooper's Wood and Cooper's Field site alongside Hospital Lane, and the parish council leases this area from the Woodland Trust on our behalf. The Coopers were a local farming family who sold the land to the Woodland Trust in 2004, and they're still involved.

TB: What kind of projects do your volunteers get involved in?

HC: Our activities really fall into two categories: we look after the land, and we hold community events there. We volunteer for work with the Woodland Trust on the hill as well as running our own sessions on Cooper's Wood and Field, to do whatever needs doing.

We have a five-year plan for Cooper's Wood. About half the trees here are ash, and sadly they've been affected by ash dieback, so we're felling sections, clearing the area and replanting with a more diverse selection of species. We use Toby Hoad and his horses for logging and moving the timber. It's an environmentally friendly way of doing this as the horses don't damage the woodland floor. They also attract a lot of interest from passers by!

Within the wood we've created Cooper's Circle as a space for people

to meet and enjoy being outside in the peace and quiet of nature. All sorts of activities take place here: storytelling, outdoor cooking, dog training workshops and parties. Allington doesn't really have a community focus – there's only one pub now and the shop has closed – but we do have Cooper's Circle.

TB: Has the pandemic affected your activities much?

CH: Actually not that much, because it's all outdoors. After the initial total lockdown, our volunteer sessions restarted and have carried on ever since, although of course numbers have been down a bit as some people have been shielding. In 2021 we managed to get some new providers on board to run events in Cooper's Circle including 'Nurtured by Nature' for parents and under-fours, and outdoor arts sessions for families with slightly older children.

Before Covid we had more free community events – a mini festival, music events, barbeques, that kind of thing – and we did a beacon for the Queen's diamond jubilee. We're now thinking what we can do for her platinum jubilee!

The Allington Hillbillies run two-hour volunteer sessions every Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday, meeting at 10am by the main gate on Hospital Lane. Anyone interested can just turn up – please wear stout shoes and gloves. Jobs are allocated based on volunteers' experience and interests and seasonal requirements. Sessions go down to one a week from mid-March through the summer because of nesting birds.

There's more information on their website (www.allingtonhillbillies.org.uk) and Facebook page.

The Hillbillies will be holding an open event with taster sessions of their Cooper's Wood and Field activities on Sunday 27 March from 11am to 2pm.

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

That's how the light gets in!

Writing in the December issue of this magazine, I encouraged you to take a little time over the Christmas period to look at the beautiful stained-glass windows in St Mary's Church – something I hoped would bring you joy!

However, when I was sitting, mask-clad and muffling my way through the familiar words of a Christmas carol, raising my eyes to the stained glass definitely did not bring me joy. I was sure I could see the night sky through one of the panels of the window. On closer inspection it seemed that a stone had been thrown through it, and shards of broken glass were later found on the floor of the north aisle. The hole that the stone has made is only about 5cm across (see photo below), and can only be seen if you look really carefully, but the damage to such a beautiful window did make me really sad.

This window dates from 1906 and was commissioned by Alice Good in memory of her husband, Walter Hughes Duncan, who had died at sea. Alice was part of a Bridport family and married Walter in St Mary's on September 21 1876, but the story of their meeting and their marriage is by no means straightforward. Walter was born in Scotland and then at the age of six went with his family to Adelaide, Australia. Alice's brother had also emigrated and after an initial venture in South Africa had taken up ostrich farming in Australia. It's likely, then, that Alice met Walter through a connection with her brother.

Following their marriage, Alice went to live with Walter in South Australia. He became a successful agriculturalist and in 1896 was made a member of the South Australian House of Assembly. However, on May 12 1906 he died suddenly on the RMS Ormuz on a return journey from London and was buried at sea somewhere between Port Said and Colombo. Alice commissioned the stained-glass window the same year. She returned to Dorset and lived in



Charmouth for many years until she died in 1927. She is buried in Bridport cemetery.

The stone thrown on a December night in 2021 has broken the top of the anchor on which the angel leans (pictured left) and sadly the cost of repair will amount to almost £1,000. Leaving the broken anchor would be



The 1906 memorial window at St Mary's and (below left) the damage to the anchor in the right-hand panel

unthinkable but raising the funds to make good the repair will also be difficult. Please do contact me if you feel you could contribute, even in small part, to the restoration of Alice's window. Your help in making this happen would be very much appreciated as well as being a small nod to those who changed the course of history by wearing ostrich feathers in their hats!

Lesley Hill, churchwarden

February services at St Mary's Bridport:

Wednesday 2	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 6	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 27	11am	Holy Communion

Covid-19 has made a huge impact in so many ways and many of our regular donors have not been able to support the church as they once did. If you can make a donation, whatever you can give, you will be helping us to maintain our beautiful church and its ministry in the heart of Bridport.



HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

From the parish editor

Although we are in a new year, and Christmas already feels quite a long time ago, here are a few reflections on the season at Holy Trinity.

The atmospheric team service on Advent Sunday evening started in candlelight, with the light gradually growing. The lessons were read by members of all six churches in between the anthems, hymns and prayers. This was a lovely service and well supported by the team.

We were a small group for the informal carol singing in the church the week before Christmas, but everyone enjoyed the occasion, helped along by mulled wine and mince pies. Many thanks to Graham and Heather Purse for organising a very pleasant evening.

For many people, the service of Nine Lessons and Carols is the beginning of Christmas. The church was attractively decorated for our service and the tree was beautifully lit, creating a seasonal setting for hearing the story of the birth of Jesus, singing favourite carols together, and listening to other, less well-known carols sung by the choir.

The main Christmas service was 'midnight' communion on Christmas Eve. Traditionally held at 11.30pm, it was brought forward to 8pm to help those who didn't want to be out so late at night. This change proved popular and the service was well attended.

We had a memory tree in the Old Churchyard over the Christmas period, which was very successful. Heather Purse, our churchwarden, would be happy to hear whether people would like to have it again.

Sooouper Saturday!

Hosted by the Holy Trinity Social Committee

Saturday 19 February

12 noon to 2pm

Holy Trinity Bothenhampton

Soup and sandwiches served in church

Suggested minimum donation for lunch £4

Just come
 along – no
 need to book
 in advance



Thank you to everyone who put up festive lights outside their homes throughout Bothenhampton. They looked really good and brightened up the village.

Moving on to February 2022, our events start with the usual coffee morning in the church with books, cards and a raffle on Saturday 5 February, 10am–12 noon. This is an opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new people. On Saturday 19 February there will be another of the well-liked soup and sandwich lunches in Holy Trinity. There is no need to make a reservation.

Events for the rest of the year are being planned, and ideas are being discussed for the platinum jubilee celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen, so we hope there will be several occasions when we can all get together.

Barbara Ffooks

Coopers Drive gets a Saturday bus service!

Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council is very pleased that Dorset Community Transport has expanded the No 7 bus route on behalf of Bridport Town Council (BTC). One of the objectives in our parish plan is to improve public transport throughout the parish, and we hope this extension will be popular with residents. If it is a success, there's a good chance that we'll be able to persuade BTC to look at other parts of the parish that we think need a similar service. Please email clerk@bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com if you have a view.

On Saturdays the route now includes Chestnut Road, Valley Road and Coopers Drive. It leaves Coopers Drive at 9.38 am (11.38, 13.38, 15.38), getting to Morrisons at 9.43

(11.43, 13.43, 15.43), St Mary's Church in South Street at 9.46 (11.46, 13.46, 15.46), West Street at 9.48 (11.48, 13.48, 15.48) and the bus station at 9.50 (11.50, 13.50, 15.50). It returns in the other direction from Bradpole, leaving West Street (on the western side) at 11.24, reaching Morrisons at 11.33 and Coopers Drive at 11.38 (13.38, 15.38) Later shoppers can catch it from there to take them straight on to Morrisons at 11.43, St Mary's at 11.46, West Street at 11.48 and the bus station at 11.50. Later buses follow the same route, starting at Morrisons at 13.33 and 15.33.

A service also operates on Wednesdays out of school terms, calling instead at Maple Gardens at 10.41 (12.41, 14.41), arriving at Morrisons at 10.45, (12.45, 14.45) before going on to the bus station.

You can join the bus at any point along the route. Each journey costs £2 single. Copies of the full timetable are available from the Tourist Information Centre and the BTC website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/community-bus-service.
Jim Basker, Chair of Bothenhampton & Walditch PC

February services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

Sunday 6	11am	Sung Communion
		for Candlemas
Sunday 13	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 20	11am	Sung Communion,
Sunday 27	11am	Matins

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232

douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com

Distribution – Janet Robinson

jrb-jrb@outlook.com

Tower captain – Janet Robinson

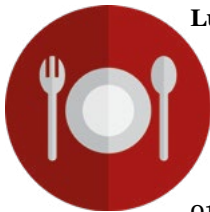
If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (Wednesday is her day off)

Church news

After the Christingle service in December, a cheque for £150 was sent to The Children's Society. You can read about the work of the society here: www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

Bell tower

We are pleased to announce that Janet Robinson has volunteered to be our tower captain. The church will provide a supportive, inclusive and positive environment to help her enjoy this role. If you have bell ringing experience and would like to take it up again, or if you would like to know more about bell ringing and what training may be available, please email Janet at jrb-jrb@outlook.com.



Lunch Club

Subject to any Covid restrictions, the club continues to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (8 and 22 February) in the King's Head at 12.15pm. Please ring Daphne King on 01308 427552 the week before to book a place (please don't just turn up). Currently the price is £11 for two courses and coffee.

The Friends of Holy Trinity

The Friends enjoyed a busy six months at the end of 2021 and are looking forward to managing some safely distanced social and fundraising activities in 2022. Following the 175th anniversary of the church building in August and an open weekend in September (including cream teas in the village hall) we held a coffee morning in October, an afternoon Christmas tea in December, and a social stroll around Bradpole village in January, again finishing with tea and cake – there seems to be a theme here! There are plans for further events this year, and we recognise the need to follow current Covid safety guidance and rules.

Details of the events are shared with Friends members so we can manage the numbers attending. Membership is only £6 per year, or £100 for life membership. The Friends also run a 100 Club with a monthly prize draw, from which half the income is returned as prizes and the other half used to support church fabric projects, most recently the new lectern and refurbishment of the west window. Details of membership and the 100 Club are available from thefriendshthb@gmail.com or by contacting the secretary,

Wendy Carnell (420716) or the chairman, Martin Whiting: martinjwhiting2@gmail.com.

News from Bradpole Parish Council

The council has responded to Dorset Council's community governance review (details at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk-community-governance-review). The main changes proposed are:

- To transfer the Ward of Claremont to within Bridport Town boundaries as this residential area has both proximity and clear characteristics that align with Bridport Town.



- To bring areas around the south of the Bradpole boundary, including Wellfields, Fishweir, etc., to within Bradpole Parish boundaries as these residential areas have a close proximity to Bradpole Parish.

These boundary adjustments would provide for a greater level of cohesion and more effective and convenient local government for those affected, and would preserve the distinct identity of Bradpole Parish by the retention of the parish council, which many residents have said they wish to see continue. Other minor amendments have been considered relating to the parishes that adjoin Bradpole. Our proposals will result in some residents closer to Bridport Town services facing an increase in the local precept and those further away seeing a reduction. Generally, the proposals are financially and numerically balanced. Within the Bradpole Parish precept are the costs of maintaining and enhancing parish-owned green spaces, which are not only available to local residents but are also used by residents of surrounding parishes. The electors of Bradpole Parish have always been able to enter into the electoral process by standing as candidates for the parish council. The legal right of the parish council to co-opt qualifying applicants has, over the years, provided a range of new skills and fresh thinking.

The final proposals from Dorset Council are expected to be published on 28 February and the parish council encourages all residents to send in their views on the proposals to Dorset Council during the 12-week consultation period to 23 May.

The Bradpole response is available in full at www.bradpole.org.uk/dorset-council-community-governance-review or from the parish clerk (email bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk).

Colin Baker, Chairman, Bradpole Parish Council

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

February services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

Tuesday 1	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 6	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Sunday 27	9.30am	Holy Communion

ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725

walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com

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

I would welcome any articles or just news of local village events to appear in future issues of The Bridge magazine. Please email copy to walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com or just deliver by hand to me at Tamarisk Cottage, Walditch Road, Walditch, DT6 4LB.

James Craddock

Why bring nature into churchyards?

Following extensive enquires, the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee concluded that at the present level of worldwide decline, around one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction.

This global picture is reflected in trends in the UK, which is said to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. The 'State of Nature' reports indicate that since the 1970s 41% of all UK species surveyed have declined and 15% of species are threatened with extinction. The abundance of UK priority species of greatest conservation concern has declined by 60%, and since the 1930s wildflower meadows have declined by 97%. Dorset Wildlife Trust says 41% of insects are threatened with extinction (you only have to look at the front of your car after a journey for proof of this).

While there have been some gains, the overall outlook is grim. However, there is still time to put things right. Among the reasons for the decline are loss of habitat through urbanisation, infrastructure and deforestation, as well as pollution, land drainage, agricultural practices and invasive non-native species of plants, fungi, bacteria and so on.

We are just one species among an estimated 10 million on the planet. Everything in nature is interconnected: humans, animals, birds, insects, fungi, plants. Through our actions we are having an enormous impact on the environment. We humans must take care of nature for our long-term wellbeing – and, ultimately, for our survival. Now we have to add global warming to the mix.

Churchyards are agriculturally unimproved, receive no fertilisers or pesticides and if suitably managed are a potential oasis for wildflowers, which support insects including bees, moths and butterflies that pollinate many of the world's food crops as well as providing food for birds and animals. What's

more, insects and fungi are nature's recyclers and, along with plants, are the origin of many of our medicines. Through photosynthesis, plants remove carbon



Light the spire

The spire is lit in memory of Emily Irene and Harold Bellamy Brailsford.

*From their loving daughter,
Ann M Saunders née Brailsford*

The spire is lit in memory of baby Alexander John.

From Marian and John Scott

The spire is lit in memory of Donald Humphrey and Joan Margaret Spackman.

*From their loving daughter,
Sally Brown née Spackman*



dioxide and provide the oxygen we breathe, so the health of nature really matters. It is being shown that getting close to nature benefits mental health and wellbeing, even to the extent it is sometimes prescribed by the NHS. What could be more calming than a peaceful churchyard with an ever-changing tapestry of wildflowers, grasses gently waving in the breeze or highlighted by evening sunlight, bees buzzing and butterflies flitting about?

Of course this does not happen overnight, but cannot even start without the wildflowers and grasses. In general, the larger the area, the greater the benefit. Better still if there are wildlife corridors to other green spaces. Churchyards with a closely mown grass monoculture do little for nature.

No one is suggesting entire churchyards be put over to nature, and the balance will vary between churches. However, it's heartening to find an increasing number of churchyards with a part devoted to biodiversity.

Robin Stapleton

Walditch Garden Group

Seasonal topics and garden discussion throughout the year make this a popular slot on the calendar. Everyone is welcome to come along so do join us for our next meeting on Thursday 24 February at 10am in Walditch village hall. There's tea/coffee and biscuits. We are a relaxed, friendly bunch and look forward to welcoming you.

Jane Mowatt

Garden tips for February:

Continue to feed garden birds regularly; remove old stems of herbaceous perennials; check plant supports before they are hidden by new growth; repot or top-dress shrubs in containers; prune winter-flowering shrubs (including winter heathers) when the flowers have faded; divide and replant snowdrops; apply organic-based fertilisers towards the end of the month; prepare seedbeds for sowing vegetables outdoors; continue planting bare-root trees, shrubs and bushes, including fruit; and firm newly planted trees and shrubs that may have been lifted by frost.

February services at St Mary's Walditch:

Sunday 13 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 27 11am Holy Communion

Also Morning Prayer every Thursday at 10am

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

News from St John's

We had 26 people at our Christmas Day service and as Anne had a day off work, it was great to have her playing the organ. Although the annual Boxing Day swim was cancelled again, the Churches Together carol service still went ahead outside St John's.

Fortunately it was a lovely sunny day so there were plenty of people in the Bay and 36 of them enjoyed singing some well-known carols (see photo).

It's good that the residents of Harbour House can still attend church, and our numbers are remaining steady. As we are downloading music from a website, we are constantly having to adjust our singing style; some hymns are slow, others fast, but at least it keeps us on our toes. This year the Christmas tree will remain up – hopefully not too battered by the wind – until Candlemas.



Above: the Churches Together carol service went ahead on a sunny December day

Round and about the Bay

The Discovery Centre held a small Christmas party for volunteers in December. For people like me who always

volunteer on a particular day and time, it was a great way to meet up with other volunteers who I never normally see. The centre decided not to open over the holiday period because of the very infectious new Covid variant, so all being well it will reopen for the February half term and then just at weekends. Work, however, does not stop. A retail consultant came and gave advice on how to improve the shop's income. The shop has been the mainstay of the centre's finances during the pandemic so it is essential that we make the most of it. The next exhibition will be entitled 'Buried in Time' and will focus on fossils found in the area, many of which have been loaned to the centre.

On Sunday 2 January more than 100 people came to a special beach clean in memory of Simon Jordan, a well-known and popular environmentalist who died suddenly in December. Incredibly, 115kg of waste was collected even though the beach had been relatively clean. The beach cleans will continue on the third Sunday of every month, meeting at the Watch House Cafe at 10am.

You may have noticed some more cliff falls and slips on East Beach, and with all the heavy rain it is likely there will be more. Unfortunately they often happen without warning, so you are advised to only walk along the beach when you can safely stay a good distance away from the cliffs.

Sue Pollock

West Bay WI

Because of the increase in Covid infections, unfortunately West Bay WI had to cancel their programme for January. They are hoping to return to their normal meetings in February, and details of these events are available from their president, Alison Ridge, on 01308 897293.

February services at St John's:

Sunday 6	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise
Sunday 20	11am	Holy Communion
Saturday 26	6pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sunday 27	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise
Also Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am		

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock
aejsullock@gmail.com
Churchwarden – vacancy
Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

From the parish editor

This month we are anticipating the arrival and settling in of a refugee family fleeing war and the consequences of war. We are nearing the time to welcome this family into our community of Bridport. The dreadful circumstances that they are fleeing remind some of the great upheaval talked about in the book of Exodus.

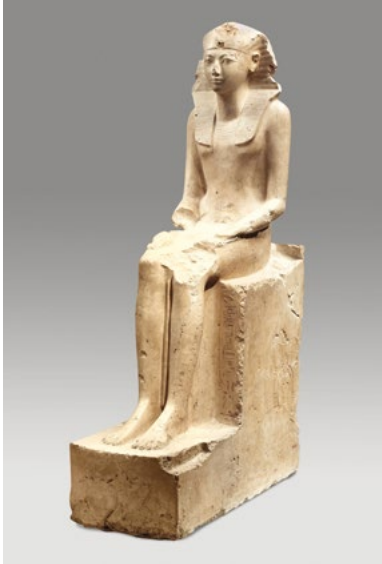
Many people have regarded Moses, the protagonist in the book of Exodus, as a legendary figure, rather than necessarily a real historical person. A Moses-like figure could have existed, however, and author Annette

Duckworth* believes the Moses character can be identified as the close confidante of the female Egyptian pharaoh Hatshepsut.

As a young girl, Hatshepsut – the pharaoh's daughter – finds an abandoned baby boy in a basket of reeds and adopts him. Hatshepsut is too young to realise the huge implications of this seemingly innocent act; in rescuing this infant, she finds love. The boy becomes the centre of her attention as they grow up together. She witnesses his extraordinary ability and makes it her ambition to put him on the throne, to be the king that Egypt needs so it can become the most respected empire.

From the Bible we understand that the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt happened during the 'New Kingdom' period of Egyptian history. If we accept the biblical dating of the building of Solomon's temple to be 960 BC, and the text of 1 Kings 6:1 says it was 480 years since the Exodus in the fourth year of Solomon's reign in Israel, we can deduce the date of the Exodus to be 1440 BC, when Moses would have been 80 years old. This suggests he was born around 1520 BC and was an adult in the court between 1500–1480 BC.

Right: a statue of female pharaoh Hatshepsut in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



Queen Hatshepsut was pharaoh from about 1478 until 1458 BC. Her father was Thutmose 1, whose name means ‘son of Thoth’, the god of wisdom. The common meaning of the word ‘mose’ was ‘son’, as in Rameses, son of the sun god Ra. The biblical text tells us that it was the pharaoh’s daughter who named Moses: “She called him Moses because she said, I drew him out of the water.” (Exodus 2:10) Yet we do not find a Prince Moses in the Egyptian court, because another bible reference, Hebrews 11:24, states that “when Moses was grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”

Instead we locate a close consort of the queen, a man called Senenmut. This appears to be a unique name, and one of its meanings is ‘mother’s brother’. Such a name could make sense; at the time she found him abandoned in the basket, her instincts were to protect the helpless child.

Exodus 2:6 says “she saw the child was crying, and she took pity on him.” Hatshepsut knew he was a Hebrew child. Later, Hatshepsut married her stepbrother, Thutmose 2, and bore him two daughters. When he died, after a reign of 13 years, his son by a ‘harem’ woman was made pharaoh:

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**

this was Thutmose 3. Because this new pharaoh was an infant, Hatshepsut was made regent.

Google Hatshepsut and you’ll find she had a mortuary temple at Deir-el-Bahri, where she was referred to as Djoser-Djoser or ‘Sublime of the Sublime’. The temple was built of limestone in the Valley of the Kings. Its architect was Senenmut, who may have been her consort and seems to have predeceased his queen. Sometime after her death, most temple references to her were chiselled off.

The conclusion of this gathered-up story is that we all have the power to protect and offer a safe welcome to people needing refuge.

Anna Sullock

*Annette Duckworth is the author of *The King and her Children*, a novel about Hatshepsut.

www.facebook.com/TheKingAndHerChildren

**February services at St Swithun’s:
Saturday 5 6pm Contemplative Church
Eucharist is held every Sunday at 9.30am and every Thursday at 10am**

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

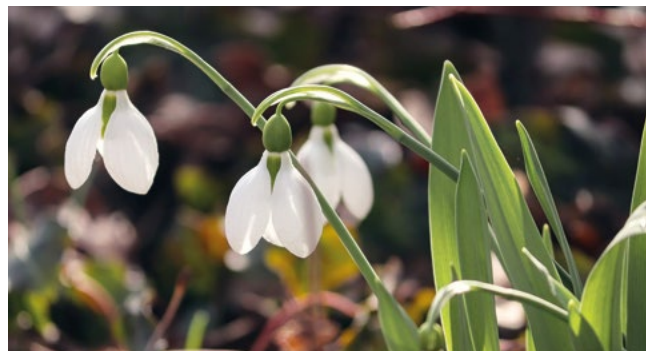
Minister – The Revd John Yarren
01305 262421

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

incorporating

UPLODERS CHAPEL

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



at 10.30am and our more informal Sunday gathering, ‘Soul Space Live’, is on the first Sunday of every month at 4pm.

In the cold and gloom of winter, any days of bright sunshine are especially welcome. February brings us snowdrops, delicate white and green blooms to bring a smile and the promise of spring. It’s a time to throw off the gloom and look forward, a time to seize every opportunity to repair our own lives and the life of our community in the long recovery from two years of pandemic trauma.

In our church community February is a time to consider some of the amazing experiences of the first disciples of Jesus told to us in Luke’s gospel. Of fishermen catching a huge haul of fish and deciding it was worth leaving their fishing boats to follow Jesus (Luke 5:1–11). Of a motley →

February thoughts

Once we’re in the new year, it’s easy to forget the bright lights of Christmas, the joy of wonderfully decorated trees and community activity at the United Church tree festival, the folk well fed at the Christmas Day lunch (massive thanks for all the work that went into that event), and the singing of carols, even with masks!

Bridport United Church continues to offer coffee mornings on Wednesdays and Saturdays, giving us a chance to meet and chat. Sunday morning worship is every week

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

group of disciples listening to Jesus teaching them how God wanted them to live, and about blessing (Luke 6:17–26) and love (Luke 6:27–38). Of him offering a few of them an experience of the very presence of God on a mountaintop (Luke 9:28–36). Stories of them trying to understand this prophet/preacher as they walked with him across countryside and town.

Our challenge is to learn about those amazing, long-ago experiences and allow our eyes to be opened to our own amazing experiences with the Jesus who continues to walk alongside us through every moment of our lives. So it's time to look for a snowdrop, banish the gloom and step forward into each day with Jesus at our side.

Gill Bumphrey, lay preacher

Christmas Day lunch

There is fuller coverage elsewhere in the magazine but I wanted to thank everyone at BUC for their help and co-operation to make this event such a success. Without everyone's willingness to lose the use of the hall after the carol service and Christmas Morning service, and without the use of all the crockery, cutlery, etc., and all the facilities, it wouldn't have been possible. Thank you!

Sue Herman

New Year 'Tea at the Ritz'

Ros Hilliard hosted a beautiful afternoon tea on New Year's Day for BUC members and friends. Set out formally, with little sandwiches, cakes, trifles and traditional bone china – not to mention the Christmas tree – the room looked really festive. Although fewer people came than two years ago, mainly because of Covid worries and some chest infections, about 30 people enjoyed a really delicious tea and good company.



Again, because of Covid worries there was no carol singing or quizzes, but when the non-alcoholic fizz had been poured into champagne glasses, Auld Lang Syne was sung and a toast proposed to 2022. Thank you, Ros, for a wonderful afternoon.

Sue Herman

February services at Bridport United Church:

- Sunday 6 10.30am Revd John Yarrien (Holy Communion)**
- 4pm Soul Space with tea and cake**
- Sunday 13 10.30am Peter Kershaw**
- Sunday 20 10.30am Revd John Jarrien**
- Sunday 27 10.30am Jennie McGinlay**

Other events in February

Coffee mornings every Wednesday and most Saturdays* 10am–12 noon – everyone welcome
 *12 February is Vinyl Saturday so no coffee morning then.

- Tuesday 22 2pm Bridport u3a meets for a talk
- Monday 28 2.30pm Golden Cap Association talk
- Mondays 10am Local Vocals meet in the church
- 7.30pm Bridport Choral Society
- Tuesdays 10am AgeUK dementia group in the inner hall
- 4.30–7pm Rainbows followed by Brownies
- 7.30pm New Elizabethan Singers
- Wednesdays 6pm Fitsteps
- 7.30pm Kick boxing
- Thursdays 5–8pm Slimming World
- Fridays 10am Tai Chi in the inner hall
- 6pm Kick boxing

also Stepping Stones pre-school every weekday morning

From Uploders Chapel

Well, as I write this it is raining, but on the positive side we are now into the new year and heading in the right direction for spring.

We have enjoyed some lovely services, which have helped to raise the spirits. At a recent CAKE session the theme was music and what it means to us. It proved a very thought-provoking subject and brought back some happy memories, which we shared. I also took the opportunity to ask Liz if I could let you have the recipe for the Bible cake, which you can see below. A bit of a brain teaser but fun!

Bible cake

- 8oz Psalm 55:21
- 8oz Jeremiah 6:20 (AV)
- 1tbl 1 Samuel 14:25
- 3 Jeremiah 17:11
- 8oz 1 Samuel 30:12
- 2oz Nahum 3:12 (chopped)
- 2oz Numbers 17:8 (chopped)
- 1lb 1 Kings 4:22
- 1tsp Exodus 35:28
- 3tsp baking powder
- Judges 4:19, to mix



As I have mentioned before, the Covid situation has restricted our activities at the chapel, but we are hoping for some semblance of normality in the months to come. So should you need somewhere for a small group to gather, the chapel might be ideal for you. We have a kitchenette, disabled access and WC. For more information contact Lois (01308 459020) who will be very happy to help.

So, do your best to have a Jolly January and a Fun-Filled February!

Carol Hall

February services at Uploders Chapel:

- Sunday 6 10.30am Revd John Walker**
- Sunday 20 10.30am Tim Wells**

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

An invitation from Pope Francis

How often has a Pope wanted to know what you think about the Church? Well, Pope Francis wants to hear from us all!

In the autumn of 2023 there is to be a Synod of Bishops and others in Rome and he wants us all to be involved through a two-year consultation at local, diocesan, national and international levels. It's not just Catholics that he wants to hear from – it's everyone who has something to say to him.



Pope Francis

The question he is posing is: what kind of church are we? He invites us to dream aloud about the kind of church we want to become. The process is not about doctrine but about how we can become better equipped to witness by our lives what being a disciple of Jesus truly means. This has to be an open listening process; nothing is excluded, including those questions where RCs are sometimes seen as taking a very rigorist line. The process is called 'walking together', which is what 'synod' means. It's a conversation rather than a church convention, one that goes beyond the borders of our church to include the baptised of other communities, those of other world faiths and those who profess no faith at all. It's a listening process – listening to everyone who wishes to contribute.

The first stage of the process is taking place in parishes and we've been having conversations together among our parishioners. If you would like to contribute, please email our parish office (bridport@predtr.org.uk) or through the Plymouth Diocese website: www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/walking-together-reflections.

Each diocese will then have its own conversations before the whole thing is taken forward, country by country, and

Scout Post – a thank you

Pippa Davis, Scout Post Area Manager, would like to thank everyone who volunteered to deliver Scout Post before Christmas or who used the service.

"We were very pleased with the number of cards that passed through our boxes here and in Dorchester and Beaminster," she says. "We raised £6,000, which will go towards Scout activities in the Dorchester and West Dorset District. We hope to repeat the scheme next Christmas and look forward to your support again. We did, however, have a problem with two of the cards, addressed to Buderim in Queensland, Australia, and Saint-Martin-de-Belleville in Savoie, France. These are well out of our area! If the sender calls me on 01308 485365 we can return your cards to you."

eventually to Rome in 2023. What kind of church are we?

What kind of church do we want to be? What do we need to do to make that a reality? We need everyone's help in this conversation.

Monsignor Keith Mitchell

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday 4 March at 10.30am at Bridport Catholic Church, Victoria Grove

The service this year has been prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the theme is from the book of Jeremiah: 'I know the plans I have for you'.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world. All welcome; refreshments provided. Details from Kathy Hince hincekathy@gmail.com / 485626

GOOD BOOKS

Opening times: 10am–1pm Monday–Friday (Wed 10am–3pm)

During February and March we are preparing for Lent and Easter. On our shelves you will find some new books for children to help them understand more about Easter, as well as a variety of Lenten study books

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book is *Embracing Justice* by Isabelle Hamley

01308 420483 orders@goodbooksbridport.co.uk
www.goodbooksbridport.wordpress.com



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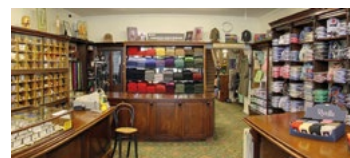
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Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

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. On Monday 14 February the club will be holding its AGM. 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

Bridport Youth Dance offers classes in contemporary, specific boys classes, tap dance, street, urban and musical theatre. To enrol and for more details of BYD, Bridport Boys Dance and the BYD street dance crew, contact Nikki Northover bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com / 07765 971357. www.bridportyouthdance.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 St, on the third Thursday each month. On 17 February at 7.30pm Bryan Madders will talk about dahlias and chrysanthemums. He has been growing dahlias for 40 years and is a National Dahlia Society judge and chair of the New Forest & District Dahlia & Chrysanthemum Society. Members only. Please bring proof of Covid vaccination. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

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

Bridport History Society is currently holding meetings on Zoom only. The next is on Tuesday 8 February with 'A Century of Ceramics: the Story of the Torquay Pottery' by

Andy Violet. To attend email jferentzi@aol.com or phone Celia Martin on 425015. Membership is £10 individual / £15 for a couple. Contact the membership secretary on 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

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

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.

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. Beginners' lessons starting in January. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport for updates or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) meets at Bridport Town Hall on the third Thursday each month at 2.30pm. On 17 February they have 'Tracing the Three Hares: A Link between the West Country and Ancient China'. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome at £7.50 per event. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / sandylovelockat81@btinternet.com / www.taswestdorset.org.uk

Bridport & District u3a is for people in their 'third age'. No minimum age, but you must no longer be in full-time employment. Monthly meetings in Bridport United Church Hall with a guest speaker plus socialising over refreshments. Also more than 50 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Vincent Sheppard 485763 / chair@bridportu3a.org.uk / www.bridportu3a.org.uk

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

Bridport Health Walks are free and take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Meet at 10.30am in Borough Gardens, Gundry Lane. Guided walks last 30–40 minutes on level ground. No need to book, just turn up.

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

Bridport Child Contact Centre facilitates contact in a safe environment for non-resident parents following family

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breakdown. Volunteers always welcome. Phone 07792 075972.
www.bridportchildcontactcentre.org

Bridport Folk Dance Club meets every Monday evening 7.15–9.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. All welcome, including beginners. Phone 458165 or 459001.

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 Tues and Sat 10am–noon at The Chapel in the Garden, East St. Also at St Swithun's Church with

Bridport Food Surplus Stall on Thurs 9.30am–11.30pm. See 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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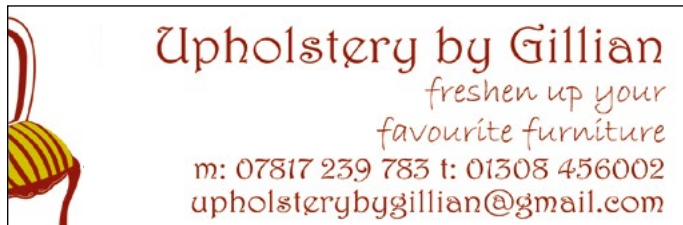
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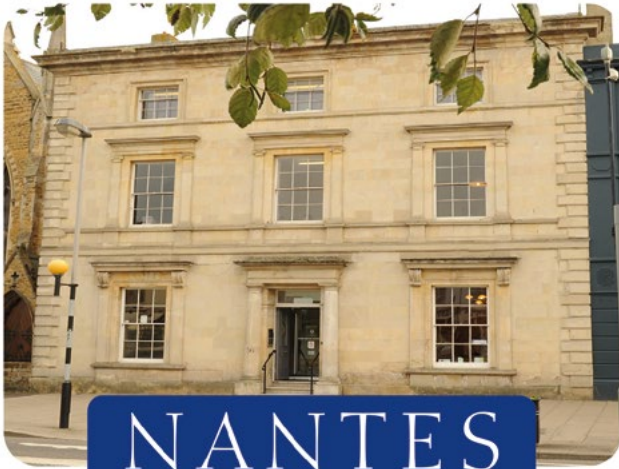
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