

March 2022

# *the* **Bridge**

Preparing for a fruitful  
year at Bridport  
Community Orchard



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THIS ISSUE IS

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A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church



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**Hall bookings** Halls are reopening with certain Covid restrictions. For bookings please contact:

*St Swithun's church hall*  
Details online at [www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings)  
or contact Caroline Whitaker 07787 805711

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

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

# A time of more questions than answers

**Oh what a beautiful morning! Cue for a song? Perhaps not; maybe the best song for a day like today is the birdsong of spring. The sun is shining, the temperature is getting warmer and the bulbs have started to burst out, heralding the end of their winter hibernation.**

I look up to the blue sky, with wispy clouds floating by, and across this beautiful image are the recognisable white lines left by jet aircraft taking people off on their first holiday for a couple of years, thanks to that hated word – lockdown. Are we really there, on the other side of this pandemic? Or are we starting to learn to live with this virus?

The last couple of years have challenged us, in so many ways, to reevaluate what really matters both to us personally and to our world. It wasn't so long ago when the 'impossible' became reality. Who would ever have believed that one volcanic eruption would bring European air traffic to a standstill? Yet in April 2010, an Icelandic volcano did just that for several weeks, at a cost of more than £3 billion. Only three years ago, who would have believed you if you'd said that a worldwide pandemic would bring the whole world to a standstill for nearly two years, and that schools, colleges and universities would close, with children and students being educated at home? But here we are, still trying to guess whether we can safely book that much-needed foreign holiday.

Who would have believed that a 100-year-old man would top the pop charts and raise around £34 million for the NHS, simply by walking up and down his garden. Who would have believed that a profoundly deaf person would win Strictly Come Dancing, and then head a movement to persuade parliament to make British Sign Language a legally recognised language in the UK?

It all makes my head spin! There are so many more questions than answers: Why and how has this happened?

*'Where is God in the pandemic? Out there on the front line, suffering and dying to bring healing and hope'*

Who is to blame? When will it end? Where will I be safe?

I recently read a book called 'God and the Pandemic', which helped me focus on the positive aspect of this chaotic time. To quote the author, Tom Wright:

"Actually, the best question I've heard in the last few weeks has not been the question 'Why?' It's been the question 'What?' What can we do? In the UK, the government asked for volunteers to help the National Health Service with all the extra urgent non-specialist tasks.

Half a million people signed up almost at once – so many it was hard to find appropriate tasks for all of them. Retired doctors and nurses have come back into the front line. Some have themselves caught the virus and died.

"They are doing what the early Christians did in times of plague. In the first centuries of our era, when serious sickness would strike a town or city, the well-to-do would run for the hills (part of the problem was often low-lying, foetid air in a town). Christians would stay and nurse people. Sometimes they caught the disease and died. People were astonished. What was that about? Oh, they replied, we are followers of this man Jesus. He put His life on the line to save us. So that's what we do as well.

"Nobody had ever thought of doing that kind of thing before. No wonder the Gospel spread. Even when the Romans were doing their best to stamp it out... "Jesus doesn't need church buildings for His work to go forward. Part of the answer to the question, 'Where is God in the pandemic?' must be, 'Out there on the front line, suffering and dying to bring healing and hope'."

*Coral Hatton, licensed lay minister*



**Coral Hatton**  
Licensed lay minister

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Friday 4 March at 10.30am at Bridport Catholic Church, Victoria Grove. The theme is from the book of Jeremiah: 'I know the plans I have for you'.

The service this year has been prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will celebrate diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here.

The Day of Prayer begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels through over 170 countries. All welcome; refreshments provided. Details from Kathy Hince [hincekathy@gmail.com](mailto:hincekathy@gmail.com) / 485626.



## So many green spaces in our beautiful town!

This month I visited Bridport Community Orchard's site at St Mary's Church Field. It's an oasis of calm just off South Street and I realised how truly blessed we are to have so many green spaces right in the middle of town.



**Olivia Daly**  
Editor

The orchard and the allotments alongside it are another Bridport institution that benefits from the work of volunteers, who turn up in all weathers, don their wellies and roll up their sleeves to get stuck in to whatever needs doing. The rewards of their labour include the joy of working the land in the short term and a bumper crop of apples (weather conditions permitting) in the long term! Turn to page 8 to read more about the community orchard.

**Stepping Stones Pre-School**  
We are looking for a volunteer treasurer  
*A knowledge of basic book-keeping is essential*  
*Training will be given*  
For more details please contact Gary Mitchell  
07443 394153

**Notice of AGM**

Pathways to Care will hold its annual general meeting on Monday 21 March at 2pm in the inner hall at Bridport United Church. Anyone wanting to attend should email [ruth\\_jenkins@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth_jenkins@btinternet.com) or phone Jon Jenkins on 01308 423034 in advance. This organisation, which is based at Good Books in Gundry Lane, runs the Good Neighbours and Hopeful Hampers schemes.

**Gongs for Bridport businesses in tourism awards**

Several businesses and organisations in Bridport have been honoured in the annual Dorset Tourism Awards, which were held online on 10 February. The West Bay Discovery Centre scooped gold in the Ethical, Responsible & Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Information Service categories, while the Station Kitchen, also at West Bay, won gold in the Casual Dining & Restaurant category and Highlands End Holiday Park won gold in the Holiday Park category. Bridport Museum Trust was commended in the Small Visitor Attraction category.

**Mother's Day is on 27 March**

This year's Mother's Day – also known by many as Mothering Sunday – falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, which is 27 March. A couple of the Bridport Team Ministry churches will be having special services (see the Parish Pages for details).

**British Summer Time begins**

The clocks go forward an hour at 2am on Sunday 27 March, marking the start of British Summer Time.

# St Swithun's Church renewal programme makes progress

**The current St Swithun's building will celebrate its 200th birthday in 2027.**

To celebrate, the congregation has been looking at a building programme – 'Repair & Renewal', or 'R&R' – to fit it to serve God and the community for the next 200 years.

The steering group is looking for volunteers to join its working team. It needs a treasurer, fundraisers, and people to help with publicity and communications and with the church and civic permissions systems. Organisers promise that no offer of help will go unanswered.

"Our vision is to be a busy, active, outward-facing lighthouse for the people of Allington, the wider community of Bridport and the Bridport Team Ministry," says Philip Sturrock, chair of the project steering committee. "Our mission is to celebrate our 200th birthday by modifying our lovely church building to make it more welcoming, visible, accessible and flexible."

As well as considering the St Swithun's building itself, the project team has looked at the church's community outreach, its external site, its liturgy and other forms of worship. The actions they are considering include:

- making the building more visible through the garden;
- making more parking spaces;
- installing glass doors at the entrance to make the interior visible from the street;
- creating a 'welcome area' to greet visitors;
- creating more flexible seating to make a different, inspiring and practical space for use by the church congregation and others from the community;
- installing wifi and large screens to improve communication;
- creating a quiet area for private prayer or contemplation;
- overhauling energy use, aiming at a zero-carbon footprint;
- creating a paid appointment in the long term to realise the church's outreach potential.

"The principles behind R&R are summed up in the word SERVE," says Philip. "Security; environmental objectives; our relationship with God and the creation of a holy space; visibility – we want to be seen from the road, with better lighting; and engagement with the wider community."

To be part of this exciting project, or to find out more, please email Philip Sturrock at [chair@stswithunsrandr.org](mailto:chair@stswithunsrandr.org). You don't have to be a regular churchgoer.



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Michael Day



# Care for our planet by going green(er) for Lent



**The Bridport Team Ministry wants to challenge Bridport to go green(er) this Lent. The Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector, writes:**

How can we all do our bit to become better at caring for creation and improving our lives and the lives of others through healthy, eco-friendly and sustainable living? Coming up is the season of Lent – the 40-day period before Easter – and we can all use this as a chance to reflect on our impact on the environment. Perhaps

we could each commit to an action that brings a real benefit to nature and helps address climate change, whether that's giving something up or taking something on.

In the Bridport Team we plan to challenge one another through Lent to consider how we might use the traditional season of prayer and fasting to live more sustainably in an area of our life.

We have been inspired by the Christian charity A Rocha UK, which works for the protection and restoration of the natural world and is committed to help churches care for the environment.

Here are some changes you could make to join in. Take time to reflect and consider these options – pick one or two or however many you'd like (you never know, the changes might just stick!) Make this part of your prayerful keeping of this season, too.

- Go plastic-free. Even if you can't become totally plastic-free, make it your goal to at least reduce your use of plastic.
  - Switch off from digital. Explore technology-free times or areas of the house, switching to 'airplane mode' for the first hour in the morning and the last hour at night. Or try 'switch off Sundays', doing something creative or reaching for your Bible over your device(s).
  - Boycott fast fashion. Buy less, or buy secondhand. Why not support pre-loved and charity shops, reusing lovely things instead of always buying new, cheaply produced throwaway clothes? Or clear out your wardrobe and offer old favourites to friends or take them to the charity shop or online marketplaces.
  - Buy local or in bulk. Support our local shops and businesses, favour Fairtrade items or bulk buy some products to save on transport and packaging.
  - Become zero waste. Slowly try to reduce your waste a bit every week. Consider giving a homemade gift instead of buying a present. Try upcycling items or looking at your food shop and seeing what items you could buy differently, spending a bit more on loose fruit and veg, for example.
  - Spend more time in nature. Aim to leave the car at home and walk more if you can. Make time to get out into the beautiful places we are so blessed to have on our doorstep. Being outside is so good for our mental health and helps us connect with God as Creator.
  - Invite wildlife into your garden. In some of our churchyards, groups have been encouraging insects and bird life by leaving areas of land wild. If you have a garden, how could you get involved in this? Find out how to encourage wildlife.
  - Try a plant-based recipe or diet. Start by cooking yourself vegan or plant-based meals once a week and go from there.
  - Grow your own. Whether you have a garden or a window-sill, find out what you can sow and grow each month.
- These are just a few ideas to think about. We are all different: what matters is that you take the first step. So choose a change to make – be gentle on yourself and realistic, but challenge yourself too!

[www.arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent](http://www.arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent)

## Church services in March

### Sunday

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

### Monday

10am	<b>St John's West Bay</b> Morning Prayer
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### Tuesday

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

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

10am	<b>St Swithun's Allington</b> Eucharist <b>St Mary's Walditch</b> Morning Prayer
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### Saturday

6pm	<b>St Swithun's Allington</b> Contemplative Church ( <i>first Saturday of the month only</i> ) <b>St John's West Bay</b> Service of wholeness and healing ( <i>fourth Saturday of the month only</i> )
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# Five Lent courses are running this year

**After the success of last year's sessions, the Bridport Team Ministry (BTM) is running five Lent courses again this year.**

The courses run from Monday 28 February until Friday 15 April and take place at three BTM churches. The Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector, says: "A focused course of study through the days of Lent allows participants to spend time alone with the Father-God, time that Jesus found essential to prepare for his earthly ministry."

## **Mondays**

Theme: 'Reflections on The Glory of the Cross based on readings from the Gospel of St John'  
Six weeks starting on 28 February at Holy Trinity Bradpole  
Time: 10am (tea/coffee at 9:30)  
Facilitator: Martin Whiting [martinjwhiting2@gmail.com](mailto:martinjwhiting2@gmail.com)

## **Tuesdays**

Theme: 'Caring for creation'. This is one of the York Courses, described as "open-minded courses for discussion groups and individual reflection crammed with questions to stimulate thought and lively debate". Each session includes interviews with leading theologians and thinkers, a Bible passage and questions for discussion.  
Five weeks starting on 8 March in the meeting room at St Mary's, South Street. Time: 7.30-9pm  
Facilitator: Peter Wright [pwdewright@gmail.com](mailto:pwdewright@gmail.com)

## **Wednesdays**

Theme: 'Living in love and faith'. How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it

mean to live in love and faith together as a church?

Time: 7-9pm St Mary's Church, South Street, from 9 March  
Facilitators: Deb Smith and Lorna Johnson  
[deb@bridport-team-ministry.org](mailto:deb@bridport-team-ministry.org)

## **Thursdays**

Theme: 'Looking at the Easter story'  
10 March What are Lent & Easter?  
17 March Journey to the Cross / Why the Cross?  
24 March Communion  
31 March Crucifixion  
7 April The Resurrection accounts  
Five weeks at St John's, West Bay, starting on 3 March  
Time: 7.30pm  
Facilitator: Pete Stone [pete@bridport-team-ministry.org](mailto:pete@bridport-team-ministry.org)

## **Fridays**

Theme: 'Wicked weather for walking'  
Rudyard Kipling's poem Eddi's Service, from which this book takes its title, is a set of verses put into the mouth of Eddius Stephanus, St Wilfrid's earliest biographer. Set in the tiny chapel at Manhood End, close to Selsey Bill, it tells of a dedicated priest persevering with a midnight celebration despite appalling weather, and with just a donkey and bullock as his companions. Reflecting the challenges of the seventh-century missions to Britain and Ireland, it captures how would-be disciples of Christ must take up their cross and follow him. This book focuses on those challenges in the early missions to these islands, set in the context of Jesus' passion and, ultimately, his crucifixion. Each of us is invited to walk that same path in Lent, Holy Week or at any time in our own life or pilgrimage.  
Time: 7-8.30pm at St John's, West Bay, starting on 4 March  
Facilitator: Philip Ringer [philipringer@aol.com](mailto:philipringer@aol.com)

To join a course, contact the facilitators direct or the Revd Helen Croud [helencroud84@gmail.com](mailto:helencroud84@gmail.com) / 07712 481835.

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## **Keep safe – register your appliances**

**The UK Association for the Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (AMDEA) is asking people to register their household appliances to keep homes safe.**

Both new and in-use appliances can be registered through the scheme, allowing people to be contacted more quickly if their appliance is ever subject to a safety recall. Consumers can register appliances with the manufacturer or online at [www.registermyappliance.org.uk](http://www.registermyappliance.org.uk).

Many manufacturers allow owners to register appliances up to 12 years after purchase. Landlords also need to make sure that products in their rental properties are covered. If the renter has not registered the appliances they own, landlords can do this.

If you are concerned about a product's safety, contact Dorset Council Trading Standards by calling the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.



## Contemplative Church grows in popularity

From April, Contemplative Church will be meeting twice a month after services have gathered a growing community.

Services have been running on the first Saturday of the month since September, but from April they will run on the first and third Saturdays.

Contemplative Church – which operates from St Swithun’s, Allington – grew out of a small group who practise contemplation getting together to explore prayer and silence. Services are at 6pm from April to October while in the winter months from November to March they start at 4pm instead.

The Revd Dan Shackell explains: “Contemplative Church is an inclusive meditative worshipping community, seeking to be ‘church’ in a different way than is traditionally experienced. We want to offer a safe space to all to experience silence using a simple practice of meditation.”

Everyone is welcome to come along. The services are held in St Swithun’s Hall and usually last for around half an hour. Refreshments are served afterwards.

For more information about Contemplative Church call Dan on 01308 426514.

## Bridport Climate Response plans are shaping up...

Following the success of two climate forums in Bridport late last year, the team working on the Bridport Climate Response (BCR) is starting to put some concrete plans together.



Several initiatives are planned for the next few months, aiming to encourage local households to take simple, positive steps to reduce their emissions and waste, and raise resilience to emergencies like floods and power cuts. The plans include:

- Free workshops on practical climate actions that we can all take. Any local voluntary group can contact [alanheeks@gmail.com](mailto:alanheeks@gmail.com) to arrange a session for their members.
- A directory of all the local organisations involved in some aspect of climate change, including food access, mental wellbeing and habitat restoration. This will be published via a website and other channels. To be included, contact Nigel Mawditt on [nigel.mawditt@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.mawditt@gmail.com).
- There will be a progress and networking meeting on Thursday 10 March, 2–4pm in the Town Hall. This will be a chance for organisations and individuals to share an overview of climate work in Bridport and discuss what more is needed, including updates from the town council and BCR. To book a free ticket, go to: <https://bcrprogressmeeting.eventbrite.co.uk>.

BCR welcomes help from volunteers and other local organisations: please contact [alanheeks@gmail.com](mailto:alanheeks@gmail.com) to get involved. To find out more about the project, visit BCR’s Facebook page or [www.seedingourfuture.org.uk/bridport-climate-responses](http://www.seedingourfuture.org.uk/bridport-climate-responses), where you can also sign up to receive the free monthly e-bulletin.

## ...and the Climate Fellowship Circle is to hold its first meeting

**The climate crisis can feel overwhelming and alarming, but it’s also a chance to find spiritual insights and opportunities for positive change.**

The aim of the Climate Fellowship Circle is to offer a supportive space to share concerns and explore spiritual approaches from Christian, Buddhist and other sources, so we can find inner peace and outer purpose in these turbulent times. There will be a pilot session on Thursday 17 March, 6–8pm in central Bridport, with the possibility of monthly meetings. Group size limited to 12: if you are interested, contact Alan Heeks 07976 602787 / [alanheeks@gmail.com](mailto:alanheeks@gmail.com).

## The Queen’s Green Canopy

The Queen’s Green Canopy is one of the many ways the UK is celebrating Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee this year.

It’s a UK-wide tree planting initiative hosted by Cool Earth, an international charity for halting deforestation and fighting climate change, supporting local communities who want to manage and protect the threatened forests they live in.

The Prince of Wales is the patron of the project, which is a partnership between the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Cool Earth, the Woodland Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society, Trees for Cities, the Forest Canopy Foundation, the Cavendish Group, the Conservation Volunteers, the Tree Council and the Community Forest Trust.

Cool Earth provides advice, assistance and commemorative plaques to councils and groups planning Jubilee trees. Its board includes the Head Forester of the Duchy of Cornwall, Geraint Richards; the Director of Cool Earth, Matthew Owen; and Lord Frank Field.

Here in Bridport, the Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council has approved the planting of a tree at the Howard Road Amenity Site in Lower Walditch (more details on p10) and is considering planting another at the John Holt Play Area in Bothenhampton. Keep an eye on the Parish Pages for updates in future issues.

[www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)



# The community orchard that's the apple of Bridport's eye!

## At Bridport Community Orchard (BCO), nature is preparing herself for the seasons ahead.

It might look like nothing much is happening, but just below the surface every tree is waiting to burst into life, using the energy stored over the winter to produce leaf and flower buds that will open in April and May. Then, by September – sooner for some varieties – the first apples will be ripe for harvesting, ready to be eaten, cooked, or squeezed for delicious tangy juice.

BCO's main site is St Mary's Church Field, behind the parish church on South Street. It's owned by Dorset Council and leased to Bridport Town Council. Way back several centuries ago this area was used for drying rope, then in the 1700s it belonged to the Priory Mill and was probably gardens or orchards. It later became allotments, then land for grazing animals, and finally fallow meadowland. Losing land like this to development is always a possibility, but early this century a building plan was rejected after local campaigners called for the site to be retained as a green space, and in 2006 this designation was enshrined in the Bridport Local Area Plan.

That's when the idea first popped up for a community orchard in the town,



inspired by the Symondsburry Apple Project and with help and advice from its organisers, David and Kim Squirrell. Talks between representatives from Bridport Town Council, the Bridport Environment Group and orchard advisers Treewise Cooperative resulted in the formation of the Bridport Community Orchard Group.

Planting began in January 2009 with 23 half standard trees, and a further 35 were added in February 2010. There are about 45 apple varieties plus three different pears, two gage fans, a black mulberry, a quince and most recently a damson. That early planting also

included a 70-metre hedge of traditional native species to divide the orchard from the allotment area; by 2015 this hedge was sufficiently established to be laid in the 'Southern Counties' style.

The site is designed to be as wildlife-friendly as possible, and also now includes an enclosure with three beehives – one of the traditional type plus two 'top bar' hives – an impressive composting system and a pond. A triangular area of the orchard has been left to form a wildflower meadow and doesn't get cut until the seeds have fallen, then it's scythed in the traditional way. The species that grow here include yellow rattle, which parasites itself on to grass, keeping it to a minimum and giving other flowers a chance.

## Not just fruit trees

Three of the adjacent allotment plots are run by BCO, too, and these are a valuable resource for people who want to learn how to grow vegetables and those who don't have a garden of their own. There's a polytunnel, put up at the beginning of last year, and a smart new shed for storing tools. Some of the money for these projects has come from community grants, including one from the West Bay Car Boot Fund, which supports groups in Bridport and Dorchester. BCO has recently applied for another grant from this fund to replace some of its raised beds.

All this takes quite a lot of looking after – particularly outside the dormant winter months – and that's where the volunteers come in. "We're always



**Pictured clockwise from left: Bridport Community Orchard on a misty winter morning; this local apple variety is one of about 45 at the St Mary's Field site; pruning the fruit trees in winter; summer jobs include scything the grass; the beautiful spring blossom of the Beauty of Bath apple tree**



looking for volunteers,” says Jenn Baker, chair of BCO. “We have a pool of between 150 and 200 people, including a core of about 25 stalwarts who come most often, but we’d love to have more because there’s so much to do. Some volunteers have specific jobs – there’s a tree pruning team, for instance – but people can just turn up and they’ll be given a job. We have our own tools so people don’t need to bring any unless they want to.”

Orchard work parties are held on the second Sunday each month from 9am and are organised by Ian Bark, treasurer of BCO. Jenn runs the allotment sessions, which are held from 2 to 4pm on the first Thursday of the month during the winter (end of October to mid-March) and every Thursday during the rest of the year. There’s a small charge of 50p per person for the allotment sessions, which goes towards seeds, plants and compost – but volunteers do get tea and biscuits!

BCO has a second orchard, Jubilee Green, at the end of Park Road on the lower slopes of Allington Hill. The group has been looking after this site since 2012, the year of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee (hence the name) and it has eight fruit trees, a large ash tree over a small copse, a range of native trees and shrubs including an established weeping lime, and some open grassland. Much of the planting here was funded by the Lions Club of Bridport as part of the Lions’ international tree planting project. There are four voluntary work party sessions each year at this site.

### A social space

For several years BCO has held regular events at the St Mary’s Church Field orchard, and will hold its popular Mayfest ‘in the flesh’ this year after the



Covid-enforced virtual festival in 2021. May Day has been celebrated across the UK for centuries, marking the arrival of spring and its longer, warmer days, and Mayfest is the perfect opportunity to see the BCO trees in full blossom as well as to enjoy traditional music, dancing, food and all-round merrymaking!

Looking less likely, however, is Apple Day. This national celebration of the fruit and its many uses was designated as 21 October by environmental group Common Ground in 1990, and BCO hold their Apple Day event – the group’s main fundraiser – on the closest Saturday. “That was cancelled in 2020 and 2021,” says Jenn, “and it doesn’t look like we’ll be holding it this year either. Some of our volunteers have drifted away during the pandemic and we need new committee members to help with running things and planning events. We do hope to hold the event again, though, in future years.

“However, we do still need to pick the apples, so we hold juicing sessions in the orchard around that time, where people can come and have a go at making juice.

Last year we filled 200 bottles; one of our volunteers pasteurises the juice and we sell it on the market, where it’s always popular. We keep some back to use for hot mulled juice at our wassailing event in January, when we sing and recite poems to the trees to encourage a good harvest in the coming year.”

*Mayfest is on Monday 2 May from midday at the St Mary’s Church Fields off South Street.*

*There’s more information about BCO and its events online at [www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk](http://www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk) and on the group’s Facebook page. If you want to volunteer for a work session, you can just turn up, or send a message through the website first if you prefer.*

*The orchard is a public amenity space and is available for use by other groups. In the past two years, yoga sessions, choir practice and school activities have taken place in the central circle. Please contact BCO via Facebook or the website, where there are more details under Policies & Management in the main menu.*





# Bible brainteaser

See how many books of the Bible you can find in this passage!

I once made a remark about the books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept some people looking so hard for the facts while for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot, and others will require judges to help them.

I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is finally found.

A little lady I know says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better, to see how well she can compete. Relax, for there really are 17 books of the Bible in this story. One preacher found 16 books in 20 minutes but it took him three weeks to find the 17th.

Thanks to Melanie Elliott for this quiz



## The Bridport Chamber Orchestra

Conductor David Hedges, Leader Alexandra Ennis

### Spring Concert

ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH, BRIDPORT  
SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March at 3 pm

**Mozart: Divertimento in D, K 136**

**Paul Coles: Tango de la Vida**

**Joseph Fiala : Concerto in E Flat  
for English Horn**

*Soloist: Emily Penn*

**Finzi: Prelude for String Orchestra**

**Bartok: Romanian Folk Dances**

**Paul Coles: Three Dorset Seascapes**

**Karl Jenkins: Palladio**

*Tickets £10 are available from the Music Centre  
and The Book Shop, South Street, Bridport.*

*Student admission free.*

*Registered Charity No XT13407*

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THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY, 2022 7:00PM  
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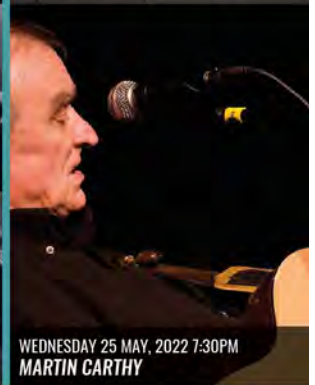
SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 2022 7:30PM  
LAURENCE JONES WARM UP TOUR



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.

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# From computers to church: one minister's journey of faith

**In the pod this month is the Revd John Yarrien, superintendent minister for Dorset South & West Methodist Circuit. Since October his responsibilities have included Bridport United Church (BUC) and Uploders Methodist Chapel, following the retirement of the Revd Peter Clark. He lives in Dorchester with his wife, Cora.**

*The Bridge:* What are your earliest memories of your Christian faith?

*John Yarrien:* My earliest memory of faith is standing as a five-year-old in Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire, breaking out in song in the nave, singing Away in a Manger – in the middle of summer! I remember the feeling of awe, wonder and peace as I stood looking up at the sky – and as I pointed up, shouting: “God’s up THERE, Mum...?”

*TB:* What drew you to the United Church?

*JY:* Well, to be honest, I was ‘sent’ by the Methodist church to Bridport United Church. When I arrived the first thing I did was tuck into one of their famous ‘big breakfasts’ and I knew I would fit right into this welcoming and hospitable church. More seriously, the congregation’s heart for opening the doors, coming alongside and serving the community in Bridport shone through, and I knew God had called me here to build on the wonderful work already being done, through a ministry of enabling and encouraging.

*TB:* How do your own life experiences help you in your work as a minister?

*JY:* Before I entered ministry I worked as an IT consultant for Hampshire County Council, and was responsible for the computer systems used by a part of Children’s Services. I was a bit like a bridge, a translator between the techy



IT teams and the ‘client’. At the time I had no real idea that God was equipping me with some really important skills in terms of ‘change management’, which we do a lot of in ministry, as well as both being part of, and leading, a team. I was nicknamed the ‘agony uncle’ of the office because I used to chat and listen to colleagues in the office kitchen, and it was amazing to me what people shared and sought counsel about. Now, in ministry, I am called to sit with folks, listening to them at points of joy and points of desperation in their journeys of life and faith, and this is such a privilege. I loved my IT job and found it a nurturing and supportive work environment, but looking back I realise I never felt as at peace as I do now, doing a job I feel called to do, serving God, church and community.

*TB:* What makes Christianity relevant to our way of life in 2022?

*JY:* In our world, turned upside down by Covid-19 and with the rising costs of living, I believe people are seeking truth and certainty and are trying to find their place in the world. Christianity offers the truth and certainty that God holds all things in his hands. He created all things, and whether or not we know that truth for ourselves, God loves each one of us. At the heart of Christianity is community

and the truth that all are welcome. In a difficult period in our global lives, we need more than ever to be ‘in community’, so we might share the joy, hope, peace and love that Christian community and faith in Jesus Christ offers.

*TB:* What’s your favourite part of the job?

*JY:* It’s the moment when I’ve preached a sermon and a member of my congregation comes up to me at the end of the service and says “you know when you said... well that got me thinking...” Then I know that, for that person, God has connected my words with their lives and experience, and they are changed, or something has shifted in their thinking and on their journey of faith.

*TB:* What do you like to do in your spare time – if you have any?

*JY:* Cora and I have two lively labradors, Rolo and Poppy, and we love finding fields and waterside walks for them. They love nothing more than chasing after a ball or sloshing in the water. I love films, and although we haven’t been to the cinema much lately, we’ve got caught in the warren of movies and shows on Netflix! And if I need to de-stress I assemble my clarinet and play for a few minutes. I get lost in the music, which really helps on busy days when I can’t see the wood for the trees!

*TB:* Please tell us a fact about yourself that our readers don’t know...

*JY:* In 2013 I spent a year in the USA as part of my training as a Methodist minister. In December 2013, Cora (then my girlfriend) came out to visit for three weeks. When we arrived in the Great Smoky Mountains, along the Tennessee/North Carolina border, I popped the big question, and Cora said yes. We were married on a hot summer’s day in 2014 at Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire.

## 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 – part 2!

Last month in this column Lesley Hill wrote about the broken stained-glass window at St Mary's, and gave us the story behind it. This helped me reflect on the huge amount of history – people's lives, joys and tragedies – contained within this historic building, a building that we hope all members of the Bridport community can feel is 'their' church, a place where Bridport's history is seen in windows and memorials.

On reading last month's article, one person (not a regular church attender at St Mary's) recognised this 'ownership' and has offered to pay in full for the repairs to the window. For us at St Mary's this is a real answer to prayer and an affirmation of our desire to continue to maintain this historic building and make it available to the wider community. This already happens through our civic services on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday and other historic anniversaries, and we look forward to a service of thanksgiving to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee later this year.

The church is for all of us to enjoy and cherish. We at St Mary's strive to keep our beautiful and historic church in good repair and we hope that the whole community will feel that it is part of their heritage. As such it needs the support and sometimes the money of our local community.  
 Diana Wright



### Lent

This year the Bridport Team Ministry will be focusing on having a 'greener' Lent, so at St Mary's we will be registering as an 'Eco Church' and continuing the journey of building a church lifestyle that 'treads lightly' on our God-given earth.

### March services at St Mary's Bridport (all welcome):

<b>Ash Wednesday 2</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 6</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 13</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 20</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 27</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

*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

March begins with Shrove Tuesday on the 1st. This is traditionally the day for consuming all the remaining rich food in the household in preparation for the more frugal diet eaten during Lent, which begins the next day on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time for self-examination and reflection, a time when we might give up something we normally like to have, or even take on an extra task to help others. Five Lent study courses are being run across the Bridport Team, one every weekday at various times and venues. Each course has a different theme, and there are more details on p6.



It's lovely to see the colourful spring flowers coming into bloom, encouraging us to tidy our gardens and clear away the disorder left by winter weather. The church garden is also brightened by the cheerful daffodils, and we are very grateful to those who look after it and cut the grass and hedges. Part of the garden, alongside Crock Lane, is left as a wildlife meadow and has many species of plants and grasses. It is strimmed after the flowering season, producing a lot of dried grass, so to reduce this amount this year it is proposed to mow around the seats and the flagpole. An area in front of the millennium seat has been planted with spring bulbs, which will give a colourful display.

The soup and sandwich lunch in January was very successful and attracted 38 people, raising £119 for church funds. We held a similar lunch in February. There is no social event on the third Saturday this month, but our usual coffee morning will take place in Holy Trinity on Saturday 5 March from 10am to 12 noon. The coffee morning on 5 February made £197, which must be a record, so thank you everyone who came and contributed to that excellent result.

British Summer Time begins on 27 March and the clocks go forward one hour. This day is also Mothering Sunday, and coffee will be served after the 11am service.



## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

The regular day for serving refreshments after our service is changing to the second Sunday of the month, as Morning Praise is slightly shorter so allows people more time to catch up with other members of the congregation before returning home for lunch.

*Barbara Ffooks*

### A very special service

Holy Trinity Bothenhampton opened its doors to the community on Sunday 6 February after the tragic death of two teenagers nearby in late January.

More than 50 people gathered to light candles of hope and to pray for the families of Jack Williams and Katie Powell and all those who have been shocked and saddened by their death.

During the service Bridport Mayor Ian Bark read poignant words from Dylan Thomas's Under Milk Wood, and the Revd Deb Smith, Team Rector, led a meditation, saying: "Perhaps we don't know what brought us here to church, but we gather anyway, to console each other, to think of those whose suffering we can scarcely imagine; we come to tend to the pain in our lives and the lives of those we don't know as well as those we do."

Katie's family travelled from Warwickshire for the special service and Jack's family attended online. Both thanked the community for the support and the prayers offered for their children.



**The Revd Helen Croud lights candles at Holy Trinity before the memorial service on 6 February**

The Rev'd Helen Croud, Team Curate, who organised the service, said: "The community is in shock and we wanted to reach out and offer a safe place for people to come together."

### March services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

<b>Sunday 6</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Sung Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 13</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Praise followed by coffee</b>
<b>Sunday 20</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Sung Communion,</b>
<b>Sunday 27</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday Matins followed by coffee</b>

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232  
douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com

Distribution – Janet Robinson  
jrb-jrb@outlook.com

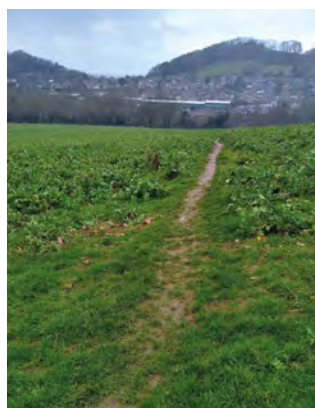
Tower captain – Janet Robinson

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

### Bradpole village green

In 2013 a petition was submitted to Dorset County Council by The King Charles Estate Residents' Association to register Happy Island field as a village green.

Happy Island field is the area bounded by Happy Island Way to the southwest, Jessopp Avenue to the southeast,



Footpath 8 to the northwest adjacent to the Asker, open fields to the northeast and crossed by Footpath 9. The land is owned by the Farmers Club Charitable Trust, which objected to the proposal.

**The field is currently planted with a crop of turnips**

## The Friends of Holy Trinity

### Coffee morning in the church

**Thursday 10 March**  
**10am–12 noon**

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



Owing to a lack of resources, the matter was only dealt with by the new Dorset Council at the end of January this year. Although the residents' association had submitted considerable detailed evidence, the council's planning committee did not approve the petition at their meeting but decided that the application did not meet the legal tests required by the Commons Act 2006 (although they did recognise the importance of the field to residents). Had the application been granted, it would have protected the land from future development; even though it is in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and currently outside the local development plan, this could be subject to change.

### News from Bradpole Parish Council

The council dealt with a lot of business at its December meeting, including:

- The hedge at Pageant's Field needed to be flailed and this work was authorised.
- The council will ask for details of a petition to show that there is community support for a resident's request to Dorset Council for road markings to enable →

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

pedestrians to walk on the road safely at Caley Way from the junction of the right-of-way footpath to the Village Stores.

- Essential safety tree work in The Gore was given the go-ahead.
- Six residents had completed the British Red Cross defibrillator training course.
- Councillor Testroet had taken the decision to resign from her role for personal reasons. Thanks had been passed on to her for her time and service to the parish council.

There are full details on the council's website:  
[www.bradpole.org.uk](http://www.bradpole.org.uk)

### The Buzz Team

The team will be meeting at 'The shed' at Gore Cross recreational field on Wednesday 2 March and Saturday 12



March from 2 to 4pm. Tools will be provided but please bring your own gardening gloves. The Buzz Team contact is Rose Van den Akker 01308 425756.

### 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](mailto: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/](http://www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall/).

### March services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

<b>Tuesday 1</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 6</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 13</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 20</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 27</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday service</b>

## ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725

[walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com) or just deliver by hand to me at Tamarisk Cottage, Walditch Road, Walditch, DT6 4LB.  
*James Craddock*

### Primrose – pin or thrum?

The signs of spring are always welcome, and happily there is the prospect of having a good show of primroses in the Walditch churchyard conservation area by the end of March or early April.

Unless you have studied botany, primrose flowers are maybe a little more complicated than you might think. The flowers have an intriguing design feature that lessens the likelihood of the deleterious effects of inbreeding. The primrose has two types of flower, commonly known as pin-eyed and thrum-eyed. The pin flowers have the single female style, which supports the pollen-receiving stigma,



held well above the male pollen-producing anthers. In thrum flowers the arrangement is the other way round, with the anthers held above the style. All the flowers on an

individual plant will be either pin or thrum. In sizeable plant populations the distribution is likely to be 50:50.

Broadly because of the manner in which pollinators collect nectar from the base of a primrose flower, long-styled flowers can theoretically only pollinate short-styled flowers and vice versa (though that is not infallible) but as we will see there are other mechanisms that provide backup.

Darwin was fascinated by the process and went on to study the primrose in some detail. He found that artificially pollinating pin flowers with another pin flower produced very little or no seed, and the results were similar when cross-pollinating thrum flowers. He then went on to study the flowers in microscopic detail and found other differences that also impede or prevent self-pollination. So, with these other safeguards, why bother to have pin and thrum? Botanists have puzzled over this and speculated that it may serve some other, as yet unidentified, purpose, not least because it also occurs with some similarity in 28 other unrelated plant families.

There is still another twist to the story. Owing to genetic accidents, a change in the DNA can result in a self-fertile primrose plant, which does not need to be pollinated by insects. The 50:50 ratio does not apply in small isolated populations, so when these deviants arise there is a heightened risk of self-fertile inbred plants becoming dominant, gradually weakening the population to the extent that it could become extinct in time.

All in all, the primrose has a lot of insurance – albeit not perfect – to avoid the damaging effects of inbreeding. When you next see a colony of primroses, see if you can spot the pin and the thrum.

At one time there were cowslips in our churchyard but they have long since disappeared. During the autumn we planted cowslips and hope they will become reinstated. Their pollination setup is the same as the primrose and they can potentially hybridise, producing oxslips. Nevertheless, these are not true oxslips, which is a distinct species and another story!

*Robin Stapleton*

### Jubilee tree project

Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council (BWPC) wants to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year by



## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

planting two trees, one in each community, as part of the national Queen's Green Canopy project. Previously, trees have been planted to celebrate the coronations of George V and George VI as well as Queen Elizabeth II.

After carefully considering several sites, we selected the Howard Road Amenity Site in Lower Walditch, the green space facing the houses on Howard Road in Lower Walditch. This is on public land and can be seen by everybody going past. There are some big park trees in one part of the area, and some sapling fruit trees in another. The council agreed to the tree planting proposal at its meeting on 7 February.

We are conscious from experience that trees can't just be planted and left. People living nearby need to be involved in choosing the most appropriate tree and finding its best location in the green area. Residents are needed not only in this capacity but also as tree stewards to follow its growth and note any damage or disease. The parish council can supply a tree, but it has to be planted firmly, staked, and watered during its first two summers. The one-metre diameter bare earth area around its base needs to be weeded, and mulched annually. From its third year, the tree can be pruned to encourage growth.

We know community projects can succeed, because of the achievements of the Lower Walditch Play Area and Orchard. It is essential for the successful establishment of this tree that people living nearby feel that it is theirs. As a special tree, it could be the focus of family or group celebrations and parties.

For more information, or to take part in this project, contact Jim Basker, BWPC Chair:

[jimbasker@btinternet.com](mailto:jimbasker@btinternet.com) / 07711 372109 / 01308 538149 or email [clerk@bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com).

For details of The Queen's Green Canopy, visit [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org) (and see p7).



### Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our monthly garden group meeting on Thursday 31 March at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. We're a very friendly bunch and look forward to welcoming

## Thelma's hymn notes

### Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

In his 1899 book *Old Plantation Hymns*, William Eleazar Barton wrote that this hymn was most likely composed originally by enslaved African Americans.

In 1940 the American Episcopal Church included this hymn in its church hymnal, making it the first African American spiritual to be included in its hymn listings. However, some English hymn books state that it was originally a folk melody. I have always thought that it was the former. I am fond of these spirituals.

The hymn has been arranged by Francis Westbrook (1904–1975) with music composed by Richard Hey Lloyd (1933–2021). When I was in a village choir, I sang this hymn as soloist at a Good Friday service.

*Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch*



you on the last Thursday of each month throughout the year for seasonal topics and garden discussion. Tea/coffee and biscuits are available.

### Garden tips for March

Prune shrubs with colourful winter stems; prune bush and shrub roses; mulch bare soil in borders; protect fruit blossom against frosts; sow sweet peas outdoors, or plant out young plants raised under cover; sow hardy annuals where they are to flower; plant early potatoes and asparagus; sow vegetables outside; harden off young vegetable plants before putting outside; increase stocks of herbaceous perennials (basal stem cuttings); and propagate shrubs by layering.

*Jane Mowatt*

### March 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

Despite the colder weather we are still managing to keep our numbers up in church, which is remarkable in view of the age of many in our congregation and the hesitancy in many churches over returning to in-person services.

There will be a Lent group meeting (open to everyone) every Friday from 28 February to 15 April, 7–8.30pm.

### West Bay WI

The good news from West Bay WI is that they have been able to resume their face-to-face meetings. In February they started knitting Easter chicks and gnomes, which will

be on sale at their AGM in April. They had a speaker on Arts and Crafts in February and on Tuesday 8 March at 2.30pm the speaker at their meeting will be Theresa Grinter on Dorset buttons. They currently have 21 members but if you are interested in joining this group please contact their president, Alison Ridge, on 01308 897293.

### Round and about the Bay

Often I struggle to think of interesting things to write for *The Bridge*, and this was the case this month, so on a bright but bracing Saturday morning I took myself off for a walk round the harbour, along the promenade and through the caravan park to see if I could find inspiration. I love looking out at the sea, but so far have resisted the temptation to join those hardy swimmers who swim daily throughout the year.

We have a beautiful coastline, and this is not only my opinion but that of travel company Kuoni, too. They named the Jurassic Coast as the third most beautiful destination in the world, behind Peyto Lake in Canada and Meeru Island in the Maldives. However, we were reminded recently →

## ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

by yet another large rockfall close to The Hive at Burton Bradstock that although this is a beautiful destination, visitors and locals alike need to take care while walking along the beach!

The Parkdean caravan site is gearing up for its opening with new static caravans arriving regularly – it's amazing how quickly this comes around.

On a clear day in late January a cortege (pictured right) headed by the harbour master travelled into West Bay and on to East Pier, where many swimmers and litter pickers gathered to give Simon Jordan a fond farewell. The cortege then went round the harbour, where people were gathered, before heading off to the crematorium. A memorial service was held in the afternoon at St John's and attended by over 90 people. Simon was an environmentalist and much loved by the community, and he will be sorely missed. I understand that the monthly beach cleans are to continue, organised by Roy Beal and Sara Bennett on the third Sunday of every month except April when it will be on the second Sunday because of the fall of Easter.

You may have noticed the work going on at the northeast area of the harbour, where the timber pilings are being replaced. This is expected to take about two weeks.

The Discovery Centre opens 19–27 February for half term, then weekends until 20 March when it opens six days a week for the season. The centre hopes to have its 'Buried in Time' exhibition up and running by the Easter holidays. There will be new gifts with a dinosaur theme available to purchase to coincide with the exhibition. The very popular

**Below: This year's Dorset Tourism Awards were held over Zoom on Thursday 10 February**



**Above: Simon Jordan's funeral cortege passes through West Bay, allowing a crowd of swimmers and litter pickers to wish him a fond farewell**

guided walks will probably restart at the beginning of May.

Trustees of the Discovery Centre attended a black tie tourism awards ceremony via Zoom on Thursday 10 February. They were delighted to receive a gold award in both the Ethical, Responsible & Sustainable category and the Visitor Information Service category, and bronze in the Small Visitor Attraction category. The actual awards will be presented in May. Credit goes to the centre manager, Liz Bryant, and to John and Sarah West.

*Sue Pollock*

### West Bay Community Forum

The forum will be holding its AGM on Thursday 7 April from 7.30pm at the Salthouse. A guest speaker will be announced in due course. Members and those interested in joining the forum are welcome to attend.

The forum is looking for a new chairperson this year as John West, who has been chair since 2016, is stepping down to concentrate on his role as a trustee for the West Bay Discovery Centre. Anyone who has a keen interest in West Bay and lives in the general area is invited to express an interest. The forum is also looking for new committee members to enable it to stay active. Please email John at [johnandsarahwest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnandsarahwest@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.

### March services at St John's:

<b>Sunday 6</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 13</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Morning Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 20</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Saturday 26</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Service of Wholeness and Healing</b>
<b>Sunday 27</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Morning Praise</b>

**Also Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am**

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock  
[aejsullock@gmail.com](mailto:aejsullock@gmail.com)  
 Churchwarden – vacancy  
 Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

### St Swithun's Repair & Renewal project

On Wednesday 26 January there was an open Repair & Renewal meeting with Philip Sturrock in the chair. The discussion panel included Crystal Johnson, who we hope will secure funding for the project, and there was a large

group of observers, of whom I was one. The purpose of the meeting was to hear presentations by four architects from Dorchester, Salisbury and in between. It was like a very elaborate interviewing process to begin to decide which architects would be carrying out the project.

On display were some fabulous photos showing these architects' previous work in churches, both in Dorset and further afield including Gloucester Cathedral and a church in Dublin. It almost felt like a guided tour of some of our great examples of church architecture, and it made me want to look at the map and plan a route, jump in the car and explore possibilities that we could incorporate at St Swithun's. To see a photo isn't the same as touching the engraved glass or smelling the various woods; cedar of Lebanon was mentioned as well as oak and beech.



## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

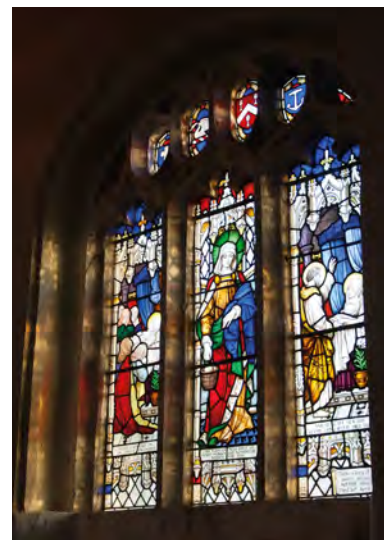
The coastal environment was one aspect considered in terms of materials; for example, brass pegs corrode less quickly than steel, and silicon bronze was also mentioned. We were told about St Mary's at Maiden Newton, one of the oldest churches in England still in its original position. Ron Emmett, who for many years sustained the Beaminster festival, designed the altar and lectern.

Sustainability was also a talking point. There is a shortage of some materials as well as a shortage of people to do the specialist work. Would the project use recycled glass and local Portland stone? In relation to energy, would we want to keep the memory of the pattern of pew platforms while considering underfloor heating or warm air conduits? The technology of energy is changing fast, and Denmark was cited as a country that's ahead in that kind of design.

The panel also discussed how changing the building would feel in terms of its atmosphere as a spiritual space. How would we maintain a holy place amid such change? To hold on to a sense of combined vision; to gather items in a strong 'statement of significance' to decide what we keep and what we don't. To consider the church arena as a multi-function room where creative events such as concerts and theatre can happen (the word 'god' is included in this latter word: thea = theos = god). How would changes in flooring, ceiling materials or levels alter the acoustics for such performances as well as for regular services of worship? Lighting would also be a feature, not least to light the music scores and text.

St Swithun's is not on the 'at-risk register' of buildings that can benefit from particular funding streams; however, Charmouth church is and that hasn't helped their funding application. The funding will be a challenge, although it may be in our favour that we are the only 'high' church in Bridport. In the words of the woman quoted in Mark 4:3-9, who poured an extravagant amount – a year's salary's worth – of perfumed nard over Christ's head from an alabaster jar, it is to give grateful thanks. We are pushing into the future, providing a community resource for the Allington end of town. Some councils have held competitions for the design of certain aspects, such as the font or altar. A community

Right: stained glass at  
St Nicholas Church,  
Abbotsbury



survey might take place. Physical and practical accessibility was explored, in terms of design and aesthetics, and communication was also key.

These are some of the considerations that were aired gracefully that day. It felt very exciting, albeit a touch daunting, too. It will take courage to persevere and hold on to the vision.

I was left with the imagined title for a song or poem: 'Cherries and Limestone'. Pictured above is a stained-glass window at St Nicholas Church, Abbotsbury, which is the first church I have visited since the meeting. I viewed it with refreshed eyes, taking in all that makes up a held, sacred architectural space.

*Anna Sullock*

The team behind the St Swithun's Repair and Renewal project, which will mark the 200th birthday in 2027 of the church's current building, are looking for volunteers. They need a treasurer, people to help with publicity and communications, fundraisers, and helpers with the church and civic permissions systems, and they promise to respond to all offers of help! See p4 for full details.

### March services at St Swithun's:

**Saturday 5 6pm Contemplative Church Eucharist is held every Sunday at 9.30am and every Thursday at 10am. There is a community coffee morning from 10.45 to 11.45am (after 10am Mass) on the first Thursday every month – all welcome.**

## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd John Yarrien  
01305 262421  
Church secretary – Sue Herman  
422598 / bridportsec@gmail.com

incorporating

### UPLODERS CHAPEL

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

### Springing into Lent

The green shoots of spring are emerging across God's wondrous creation all around us at this time of year. As bulbs burst into flower, I hear lawn mowers kicking into gear for the first cut of the year, and I see animals large and small emerging as the temperatures rise. After the dark

winter months, the energy and vibrancy of nature seemingly springing back into life makes me turn to God in prayer, full of hope and joy and thanks for the months that lie ahead.

I'm delighted to announce that from September 2022 we will have a new full-time minister for Bridport United Church and Uploders Methodist Church. We very much look forward to welcoming the Revd Jane Wilson and her husband Graham.

Alongside the news of our new minister, the lovely team at Stepping Stones Pre-school are currently looking to recruit a new voluntary treasurer to join the management group, so if that's something that interests you, please see the advert on p3 for more information and contact details.

March also sees the beginning of Lent. This is a season in the church year when we often give something up, but I wanted to challenge you this year to start something new. It might be a big thing or a small thing; maybe like me you'll start practising 'random acts of kindness'. If you've not →



**BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...**

heard of this before, I will be trying to do something kind every day of Lent, so watch this space. You never know, an act of kindness may be shared with you!

A monthly highlight for me at BUC is our ecumenical ‘Soul Space’ service on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm. We are embarking on a series around the question ‘What is God like?’ so do join us as we explore, learn and worship together.

Lent is also a season of reflection and repentance, as we remember Jesus’ journey towards the Cross, and all the pain that entailed, but also towards the joy of rising again, that we might all live. So I leave you with this short reflective prayer. I hope it may help you in some small way as we journey through Lent together this year:

God, our companion and guide, bless our journey of renewal and hope. Lead us together toward the celebration of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Grant us grace to be a community of love, bringing your word of life to the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*With grace and peace in this season of Lent,  
The Revd John Yarrien, BUC Minister*

**March services at Bridport United Church:**

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

**Other events in March**

Coffee mornings every Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 12 noon – everyone welcome

- Saturday 12 9.30–11.30 Big Breakfast
- Tuesday 22 2pm Bridport u3a
- Wednesday 23 12.30pm First Lunch Club (please book with Sue 422598)
- Tuesday 28 2.30pm Golden Cap Centre of the National Trust
- Mondays 10am–noon Local Vocals in the church
- 2pm Art history
- 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
- First & third Tuesdays 2.30pm Bridport Blind Club
- Wednesdays 6pm Fitsteps
- 7.30pm Kick boxing
- Thursdays 5–8pm Slimming World
- Fridays 10am Tai Chi, inner hall
- 6pm Kick boxing

Also Stepping Stones Pre-school every weekday morning in the hall

**From Uploders Chapel**

Even after all the time that I’ve been writing the chapel’s contributions to this magazine, I still find it difficult to remember that if you do read this it will be at the beginning of March, whereas I am writing it at the beginning of February. That said,



**Above: The CAKE group gathered at Uploders Chapel in early February for a Candlemas-themed meeting**

it hasn’t really altered the course of things.

It is really lovely that we can now enjoy activities at the chapel, which to date have included CAKE on Tuesday 1 February with the theme of Candlemas and more music. (see photo above).

Our service on 6 February was taken by the Revd John Walker. It was very interesting and highlighted that at the beginning of each day we all have 86,400 seconds ahead of us before the day ends. The point of the story was to show that whatever time we waste cannot be retrieved. It was certainly thought-provoking as we had only just learnt that Janet Fowler, a dear friend and a great supporter of the chapel, had sadly died the day before. She had played the organ for us until Parkinson’s had made it too difficult for her to do so. However, she still attended services at the chapel, giving us the benefit of her lovely singing voice. An amazing lady.

As we have the blessing of living in such a beautiful part of the country, we definitely have a good reason for using our 86,400 seconds each day as well as we can, whatever the weather!

So with spring definitely on our doorstep we can start to look forward to other events we hope to put on the chapel’s calendar. We will hopefully be able to come up with some dates soon and will obviously let you know as soon as possible. The chapel very much appreciates your support.

*Carol Hall*

**March services at Uploders Chapel:**

- Sunday 6 10.30am Revd John Walker**
- Sunday 20 10.30am Chris Warren**





## 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 annual service

It will soon be time for my annual car service and all the expense that normally involves. It is all intended to make sure my car (pictured) will run smoothly and reliably for another year.



In the same way, when you are very young or very old, you get annual medical check-ups, and I have recently been invited to such a 'service' at the medical centre. It's to make sure that we are as healthy as we possibly can be and to get some tips on how we can do that. We need to look after our bodies – that's why we wash, clean our teeth, go for walks, eat our five (or is it seven?) a day, get enough sleep, etc., etc. Our bodies are important, not least because they are a gift from the Lord and we have a duty to care for them.

It is important, too, to look after our souls, that part of me that is my friendship with God and others. At the beginning of this month we begin Lent – the annual service for our souls. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes in the sign of a cross, and this reminds us that while our bodies will not last for ever, our friendship with God will. Lent is a time to check up on that friendship, to see how it is going. It is a time for us to come back to him and be more the people he wants us to be. That means being a little less 'me' centred and more God and others centred. Each of us has to work that out for ourselves but just as a car service is essential for the wellbeing of our cars, and a health check is essential for our bodies, so Lent is essential in our Christian journey.

*Monsignor Keith Mitchell*

**Sunday Mass is at 10am** and is streamed online at [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.bridportcatholics.org.uk) and Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see our weekly newsletter on the website.

*During Lent we have Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at 12 noon.*

**Station IV, Jesus meets his mother, is one of the 14 Stations of the Cross in the prayer garden at St Mary & St Catherine in Bridport**





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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 March the club will be holding a workshop session. 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com) / 07765 971357 / [www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk](http://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](mailto:margefoster1956@gmail.com)

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will hold its AGM on Thurs 17 March at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North Street. Members only. The club is looking forward to welcoming back members after a two-year break. Outings are organised, shows are planned and monthly meetings at the hall will resume in April (open to non-members at £2). There are currently no Covid restrictions for the meeting. [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://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](mailto:bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com). More details online at [www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk)

**Bridport History Society** is currently holding meetings on Zoom only. The next is on Tuesday 8 March with 'The Myth of the "Green Man" and other Fertility Fantasies' with

Dr Lucy Goodison. To attend email [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto:jferentzi@aol.com) or phone 425710. Membership is £10 individual / £15 couple. Membership secretary 425015 / [celiamartin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:celiamartin@hotmail.co.uk)  
**Bridport Shakespeare Company** theatre group meets every Thursday at 7pm at Bridport Community Shed (near Mountfield). All ages welcome; no experience needed. Contact Valerie [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://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, 2.30pm. On 17 March they have 'The history of couture embroidery from 1850'. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome at £7.50 per event. Contact Sandy Lovelock 01305 848390 / [sandylovelockat81@btinternet.com](mailto:sandylovelockat81@btinternet.com) / [www.taswestdorset.org.uk](http://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](mailto:chair@bridportu3a.org.uk) / [www.bridportu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridportu3a.org.uk)

The **u3a Singers Group** meets on alternate Thursdays for 10.30am start at the WI Hall in North Street. Contact Heather 425219 / [www.bridportu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridportu3a.org.uk)

**Bridport Inner Wheel** meets monthly at Haddon House, West Bay, to enjoy friendship and listen to speakers as well as helping the community. Contact Sue Pollock 07903 558568 / [rognsuewbay@btinternet.com](mailto:rognsuewbay@btinternet.com)

**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](mailto:pete.bowditch@hotmail.com) / 423620 / 421213 / 427819.

## Citizens Advice is here to help

Need advice on benefits, debt, employment or other issues? Pick up the phone and talk to us on Freephone 0800 144 8848. You can also email us via the contact form at [www.bridportca.org.uk](http://www.bridportca.org.uk) or leave a message on 01308 456594 – we will call you back.





**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](http://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 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 9.30–11.30am. See their Facebook page or email [events@bridportunitarians.co.uk](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk)

**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](mailto:wrightmail2@aol.com) or visit [www.bridportasd.wordpress.com](http://www.bridportasd.wordpress.com)

**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.

**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.


**Bridport Quaker Climate Action** meets Tuesdays at the

Friends Meeting House. The fourth Tuesday of the month is a film evening (in Feb we showed local film This Good Earth); other Tuesdays are an open evening, a discussion evening and an opportunity for environmental groups to use the facilities. Contact Jeni Edwards 538105 / [bridportqcag@gmail.com](mailto:bridportqcag@gmail.com)

# Bridge

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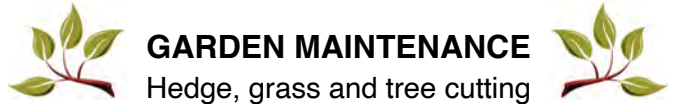
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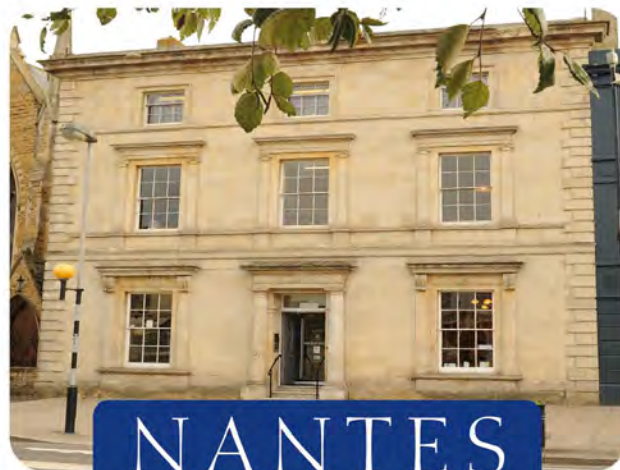
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