



May 2022

the **Bridge**

THIS ISSUE IS
*Scott
Vevers*
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A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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

Cupboard Love food bank

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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 or contact Caroline Whitaker 07787 805711

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The advertising and copy deadline for the June 2022 issue is 5pm on Monday 9 May

Can we open our eyes and hearts to hope?

Moving from Easter praise to Pentecost action...

Have you ever overcome something that you thought was truly impossible?

For me it was a fear that I had to overcome: a combination of the fear of heights and the fear of confined spaces! I was on holiday in Spain several years ago with some old school friends, and we decided to travel south to the Rock of Gibraltar. Now, we could have just got a taxi to the top, but the group decided we would go up in the cable cars. With a deep breath and with eyes closed, I did it – I’m not sure how, but I did it!

Just a couple of weeks ago we declared in our Easter celebration services: “Alleluia, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia.” God overcomes all things, even death, to raise Jesus, and fulfils his promise of love for all the world. Mary, on that first Easter morning, moves through all the human emotions it is possible to feel. From the fear and desolation of finding the empty tomb, to the desperation of her encounter with the gardener (Jesus), when she screams: “Where have they taken my Lord?” – and then of course through to that moment of joy, of peace, of love as Jesus calls out her name. In that moment of being recognised and named by Jesus, Mary overcomes all her fears, and runs to tell the disciples that she has seen Jesus.

Recently at Bridport United Church we started a new group called the Golden Oldies (GO). It’s a chance to gather together for fun and fellowship. We made Easter bonnets and a huge Easter garden, and as we journeyed together through the garden’s creation I found myself reflecting on

Our Christian message of hope and love for all is something we have to share with our community here in Bridport

what it’s like for Jesus to call my name – for Jesus to call you by name, to know you, to walk alongside you. I wonder, in that context does Mary’s desire to “go and tell” take on a new perspective?

It’s on that thought and question that I shift gears from Easter praise to Pentecost action. Mary’s instinct was to go and tell all that she had seen and heard,



The Revd John Yarrien
Bridport United Church

to share the glory of the risen Lord.

As we journey from Easter to Pentecost, will we go and do likewise? Disciples empowered and emboldened by the Holy Spirit go further and wider than we can imagine. But maybe, in building relationships, in talking, praying, building things together here in Bridport, we too can start that journey to grow the kingdom in this place.

In a time such as this, when the queues at our food banks are growing, the cost of living is rising exponentially, and amid the continuing war in Ukraine, people are seeking and searching for God, striving towards certainty in an uncertain world. Our Christian message of hope and love for all is something that as churches here in Bridport we have to share with our community. As we shine the light of love in the darkness of our world, and as we seek to walk alongside the lost and the lonely, may God’s powerful spirit break out across our town, and may God add to our number daily.

May the peace of the risen Lord surround you, and the power of the Holy Spirit embolden you to share, tell and act in his abundant love. Amen.

The Revd John Yarrien, Bridport United Church

Helping schools stay fit for our children

Could you be a school governor?

This month I met Martin Warne, Chair of Governors at St Mary’s Primary School in Bridport, and I found his enthusiasm for the role quite inspiring. Martin’s career gave him decades of experience in some very difficult situations, and he’s the sort of person everyone would want on their committee or team. He’s keen to stress, though, that the best group of school governors is a varied one – people who’ve led different lives and have different skills and experiences. What they should have in common is a desire to make the school the best it can be. Turn to p9 to read what Martin has to say.



Olivia Daly
Editor

We also have news about several fundraising initiatives: for Ukraine (p4), for Christian Aid’s work in Zimbabwe (p7), and for the Joliba Trust’s response to the effects of climate change in Mali. Please give what you can – as the slogan goes, every little helps.

Volunteer drivers required for Bridport food bank

Cupboard Love – Bridport’s food bank – is looking for drivers to deliver emergency food parcels to people who can’t come to the food bank premises at St Mary’s Church in South Street.

“Our wonderful volunteer drivers will soon be leaving us so we need some new volunteers,” says Debra Bates. “We are open on a Wednesday till 1pm and a driver would be required around midday or to suit, for about an hour, to deliver to the Bridport area.”

If you are interested please email Debra at Cupboard Love at cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com or phone her on 07443 596096.



Jubilee money helps local groups

Bridport's Lyric Theatre is among several community groups in the area receiving grants through Arts Council England and UK Community Foundations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Friends of the Lyric Theatre CIC, which runs the Barrack Street theatre, will receive just over £7,000, while Burrough Harmony mental health drop-in centre will receive around £3,000.

Rare birds are doing well in our town

A survey of breeding birds in Bridport and West Bay has revealed that the area is home to some of the UK's most threatened species. The peregrine falcon, firecrest, hobby, nightingale, swift and yellowhammer were all recorded in and around the town. Numbers are much higher than anticipated and 14% more than the national average for a search area of the same size. The survey, led by conservation biologist Tom Brereton for Bridport Bird Club, found 81 species breeding or attempting to breed within a mile of the urban areas of Bridport and West Bay and the proposed development site at Vearse Farm.

Come and join The Bridge's team of volunteers

The Bridge is still looking for a volunteer distribution coordinator for St Mary's Bridport. The role involves sorting about 1,500 copies into rounds for deliverers to collect, and communicating with those deliverers as necessary. The sorting takes two or three hours (with help) on a Friday 10 times a year (not December or July). If you're interested please contact the editor (details on p2). We always need more volunteer deliverers, too, to cover parts of the town where there are gaps.

West Bay woman is collecting vital supplies for Ukrainian diabetics

Chris Ivory, who lives in West Bay, has been collecting supplies to send to Ukraine to help people suffering from diabetes who have had to flee the warzones there.



She has already sent five large parcels and is still collecting in the hope of being able to send more.

Chris says: "Thank you to everyone who has supported the appeal for medical supplies and food for diabetic children and adults in Ukraine. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of friends, neighbours and local businesses. The cash gifts I received meant I could buy compression socks, another necessity.

"My son was a young teenager when he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes 19 years ago, and recently my attention was drawn to an appeal from a diabetic medical supply company, *typeonestyle.com*. Donations are going to the refugees in desperate need."

Chris is collecting the following items, as well as cash: sweets, chocolate bars (Mars/Snickers type); cereal bars and protein bars; glucose and dextrose tablets and glucose gel; blood-testing meters, strips, lancets and needles.

Anyone who would like to donate can contact Chris at chris.ivory@btinternet.com or on 07711 517385.



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May church services in the Bridport Team Ministry churches

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Saturday

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

On **Sunday 8 May** there will be a team service at 10am at St Mary's Bridport, followed by the annual parochial church meeting. All welcome. There will be no main morning service at other Bridport Team Ministry churches on this day.

Thursday 26 May is Ascension Day and there will be a 6pm service at St John's West Bay. Also, the 10am Eucharist at St Swithun's will be a special service for Ascension Day.

On **Sunday 5 June** there will be a Pentecost team service at 11am at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton, followed by a bring-and-share lunch.



Peace and purpose through the Climate Fellowship Circle

Bridport's Climate Fellowship Circle is a peer group, meeting monthly in person, intended for anyone wanting to work through painful emotions about the climate crisis and other current challenges.



"The group aims to encourage people to explore spiritual approaches in the widest sense," says organiser Alan Heeks. "This can help us find inner peace and outer purpose in these confusing times. It could include wisdom from the Christian, Buddhist, Celtic and Sufi traditions, or any other source. The circle is also a space to share thoughts about actions we might take as individuals or in local projects."

The group meets in central Bridport on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9pm (next meetings are 19 May and 16 June). A donation of £5 per person is requested for room hire. Group size is limited to 12 people. For more information or to reserve a place, contact Alan: alanheeks@gmail.com or 07976 602787.



Barry Welch

IN THE PINK: The curate, altar and at least one member of the congregation at St Swithun's were dressed in rose pink to mark Refreshment Sunday (a.k.a. Mothering Sunday) on 27 March. Philip Sturrock – pictured above centre with the Revd Helen Croud, Team Curate, and Graham Williams, Verger – explains: "Rose-coloured vestments are used only twice in the church's year: mid-Lent (Refreshment) Sunday and mid-Advent Sunday. They are meant as a relief from the penitential purple of both seasons. Because rose vestments are so infrequently used, not many churches have a set. We do, however – a full High Mass set, with chasuble for the celebrant, dalmatic for the deacon and tunicle for the subdeacon. They are based on Roman civil dress and have been used in the church since the third or fourth century AD."

St Swithun's project appoints a manager

Arts and heritage consultant **Crystal Johnson** will be managing the ambitious project to reorder **St Swithun's Church** in time for its **200th birthday celebration in 2027**. The parochial church council of the **Bridport Team Ministry** approved her appointment at its meeting on **5 April**.

The steering group, chaired by St Swithun's treasurer Philip Sturrock, is planning a programme of repair and renewal at the Allington building to allow it to fulfil its Christian vocation and serve the Bridport Anglican team and the needs of the local community into the future.

Philip says: "We have big ambitions for the church and we need to consult widely about the ways to realise them. Then we shall need to run a major fundraising campaign and commission an extensive building programme. We needed a project manager with significant experience in turning ideas into reality."

Crystal's background is in museum curating and the visual arts, and she has specialised in developing and delivering heritage projects based in historic buildings. She has worked on some high-profile projects in the town, including the LSi, Bridport Museum and the Town Hall; all have been successfully completed and attracted funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. She is also familiar with working on religious buildings and has recently completed projects at Blandford Forum Parish Church, Exeter Cathedral and Tolpuddle Old Chapel.

The St Swithun's steering group were delighted to learn that Crystal, whose family have lived in Allington for 70 years, already knew the longest-serving member of the congregation, June Goodburn. In fact, Crystal was nursed by June when she was born!



Crystal Johnson (right) with June Goodburn, the longest-serving member of the St Swithun's congregation

June was churchwarden at St Swithun's when the last major development – the building of the church hall – took place in 1987 and she is now a member of the steering group. She says: "I'm delighted with our plan to allow this beautiful church to reach out beyond its current congregation to serve the local community. It was an added bonus when I saw that Crystal had been engaged to help us."

Crystal says: "I was surprised and pleased to see that June was involved in this new project. It shows just what a loyal community St Swithun's is and how committed they are to devoting time and funds to fashioning this beautiful building and its exterior for the 21st century.

"I'm looking forward to working with this team of expert architects and members of the Bridport Team community to see this wonderful project realised."

www.bridport-team-ministry.org/repair-renewal

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The war in Ukraine is inevitably uppermost in our thoughts at the moment. This desperate and brutal conflict has brought devastation and ruin as well as tragic loss of life, and millions of Ukrainians have had to flee their homes.

Christian Aid, as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and in its own right, is working with three partner organisations in the ACT Alliance: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in Ukraine and Hungary, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Poland, and Swiss Church Aid (HEKS) in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. These local partners are in Ukraine to help internally displaced people and refugees with lifesaving aid, shelter, food, water, sanitation and health support, as well as vital information. Many people have responded to the DEC appeal most generously, and have even offered homes and support for refugees.

Meanwhile, in Zimbabwe – Christian Aid’s focus this year – the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica Mwedzi’s, who often eat only one bowl of porridge a day. The combined effects of the pandemic, conflict and drought rob women like her of the chance to earn a living with dignity. And the war in Ukraine, 7,000 miles away, is driving up food prices in Zimbabwe and elsewhere. Without the fertiliser and food – such as wheat and cooking oil – that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable people are being pushed deeper into hunger.

Your donation can help this loving mum and others like her to turn hunger into hope by growing drought-tolerant crops that survive in the harsh climate and by learning how to preserve and store food for the dry season. With your church and community, you can restore some justice to the world and protect the future for our children and grandchildren.

How can you help?

A new development has come to Christian Aid Week: ‘delivery-only collections’. In the past, local collectors dropped off envelopes and returned later to collect donations. Christian Aid research shows that householders now prefer not to be disturbed by collectors at the door (or on the phone) and much prefer the delivery-only method. So last year it started offering a delivery-only envelope, where the recipient is invited to make a donation at a nearby collector’s address. All the collector has to do is put some posters in their window and await the envelopes.

Last year, as well as collecting from my usual roads, I also dropped off delivery-only envelopes over several days while walking my dog, Poppy. I called on everyone who had previously shown interest, and left delivery-only envelopes at houses in additional nearby roads. It was really enjoyable, and I met some wonderful additional supporters who rushed out to give me their envelopes.

Nationwide, the trial was surprisingly successful: although far fewer envelopes were returned, those that were returned held some substantial amounts, being from donors who



Christian Aid / David Brazier

Jessica Mwedzi is hungry to provide food and hope for her family

were keen to give to Christian Aid. So the more people who join us as delivery-only supporters, the more successful we will be this vital year. It works best if the collection point is reasonably near the drop-off point.

The 300,000-Step Challenge

Another way to raise money is through the ‘300,000 steps in a month’ challenge. Sounds difficult? No, not necessarily. You can do this in many ways, such as:

- on your own – perhaps with an energetic four-legged friend (it’s ‘Team Poppy’ for us);
- with your family – as many as want to join in, any age;
- a group of friends – eat up the steps and catch up. My fellow organiser Lorna Johnson, for example, is planning to take part and is looking for walking partners to join her;
- in a small church group – it’s a good way to get to know each other even better;
- with neighbours, members of clubs, choirs, societies, etc.

It can be really fun! You organise where, when and how: there are no rules other than achieving 300,000 steps in 31 days, starting as soon as you can in May. Just contact me for sponsorship forms. Many thanks, and good luck.

*Jill Henderson, Co-Organiser, Christian Aid
jillpetrina13@gmail.com / 07970 685665*

We are looking for a volunteer coordinator for Bridport Child Contact Centre (BCCC)

This rewarding volunteer role involves liaising with families and professionals to facilitate contact for children with their non-resident families. It’s a flexible role, working from home 2–4 hours a week with all expenses paid and supported by a team of volunteers and the BCCC committee. A great opportunity to maintain and develop skills supporting children and families. Email bridportccc@live.co.uk or phone 07792 075972 for a full job description. Anyone interested is welcome to arrange a visit to the centre.



Please visit our website, www.bridportchildcontactcentre.org

WHAT'S ON

DATE	TIME	TITLE	PRICE
► Fri 6 May	11.30am	Classic Concert: Thom, Upshaw & Armstrong	£14 / £5
► Fri 6 May	8pm	Jazz in the Theatre: Skeddadle	£14 / £12
► Sat 7 May	5.55pm	MET Turandot LIVE	£17.50/ £14.50 SUP
► Tue 10 May	7.30pm	The Reason I Jump	£6 / £5 / £4
► Wed 11 May	7.30pm	Living Spit: Elizabeth I, Virgin on the Rediculous	£15.50/ 14.50 SUP
► Thu 12 May	7.30pm	Life, Animated	£6 / £5 / £4
► Tue 17 May - Sat 28 May	10am	D.A.W. Exhibition	FREE
► Thu 19 May	7.30pm	Escher: Journey Into Infinity	£6 / £5 / £4
► Tue 24 May	7.30pm	EOS: Pissarro	£12 SUP
► Thu 26 May	7.30pm	A Promising Young Woman	£6 / £5 / £4

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FRIDAY 6 MAY, 2022 8:00PM
JAZZ IN THE THEATRE: SKEDDADLE



WEDNESDAY 11 MAY, 2022 7:30PM
ELIZABETH I, VIRGIN ON THE REDICULOUS



THURSDAY 19 MAY, 2022 7:30PM
ESCHER: JOURNEY INTO INFINITY



TUESDAY 24 MAY, 2022 7:30PM
PISSARRO: FATHER OF IMPRESSIONISM

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Bridport Choral Society SUMMER IS A-COMING IN

Saturday 14 May 2022 at 7.30pm
Bridport United Church

A selection of choral music from the 11th century to the present day, including anthems, folk music, popular songs and excerpts from Fauré's Requiem

Tickets £12 from Smith & Smith
Bridport Music Centre, or on the door

Musical Director: James Crawshaw
Accompanist: Peter Parshall





Helping to ensure educational excellence in our community

In the pod this month is Martin Warne, Chair of Governors at St Mary's CE Primary School.

The Bridge: Tell us a bit about your career and how your work experiences prepared you for your responsibilities as a school governor.

Martin Warne: My whole career was in social work and I spent 30 years in children's services in London, Hampshire, Somerset and Dorset. It was front-line work: safeguarding, child protection, fostering, adoption and children in care. In the early 2000s I transferred to the NHS and managed CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services) in Weymouth, West Dorset and North Dorset – such a challenge, trying to prioritise needs when there were never enough resources to cover the load that referrers sent to the service. I retired in 2010 but went back to social services on a non-contract basis, mostly dealing with child protection cases.

There were always lots of 'blue light' emergency cases. Occasionally a particularly difficult one would get to me, but I enjoyed the satisfaction of knowing we got it right most of the time. I have to say there was a buzz in that. I think my personality equipped me to deal well with the stress and the type of work – you're either suitable for the work or you realise you aren't and you leave – and a stable home life helped a lot, too.

The role of a school governor isn't operational but we're closely involved in the school's strategic direction. We hold the head and staff to account, challenging and asking questions. My experience means I'm very aware of child protection issues; I'm also used to spotting problems and looking for solutions.

TB: You've been a governor at St Mary's twice: once in the early 90s when your children were pupils there, and now. How has the school changed in those 30 years?



MW: The biggest change is the size: in the 90s it was the biggest primary school in Bridport, with 420 children. Now there are 210. Between the two periods the school went through some rocky times, until about 2010 when it was turned around by the then headteacher and staff. This excellence continues, with high-quality leadership and staff. The school remains a nurturing, caring community for a wide cross-section of families – there's a real energy about it.

St Mary's is part of the Minerva Learning Trust, with our partner schools Burton Bradstock, Bridport Primary and Sir John Colfox. This is a thriving, rewarding arrangement and brings huge benefits in terms of the educational achievements of children in our area.

Being a governor is incredibly rewarding and we're always looking for new people to join us. I'd love anyone who's interested to get in touch!

TB: What are the greatest challenges facing children and young people today?

MW: It's a difficult time to be growing up. First, social media can create a lot of bullying, and it gives young people unrealistic expectations, too. Drugs and alcohol are also a big problem, more so than ever. The pandemic has caused real issues for young people – their education

has been interrupted and they've missed out on a lot of interaction and socialising. All this has caused so much anxiety. There's a lack of meaningful employment opportunities around here as industries decline and workplace patterns change. And those who go on to further education can end up with huge student debts. There's a lot for young people to contend with.

TB: You're very active in community life and are also a member of Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council. What motivates you to get involved in this way, and what do you get out of it?

MW: Our society thrives when people give their time and energy to help each other. Sometimes people think things 'just happen', but they happen because of volunteers – the parish council's footpaths officer, for example, who does such valuable work. I believe everyone should get out and help as best they can.

I certainly enjoy feeling like I've contributed to the community. As a governor, I want to ensure the school is the best it can be, and that gives me satisfaction.

TB: How do you like to relax between your various commitments?

MW: I absolutely love music and I play in a band called Smile & Wave with my friend Mike Smithwick. We both play acoustic guitar. We do gigs in Bucky Doo Square, including a recent fundraiser for Ukraine, which raised £300 in two hours. I love performing! I also enjoy exercise, particularly walking and cycling.

Governors don't have to be teachers; the ideal mix is a cross-section of people who are interested in children's wellbeing. If this is something you'd like to consider, email Martin at mwarne@stmarybridport.dorset.sch.uk.

ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967
 Churchwarden – Lesley Hill 422417
 Director of music – Tim Linsley
 07830 308701
 Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

There's plenty going on this springtime

Spring is recognised as a season in which there is blossom and flourishing; new beginnings after a period of dormancy and inactivity.

It feels a little bit like that at St Mary's at the moment; we are really enjoying the busyness and renewal of activity that's now getting into full swing following the quiet days of lockdown.

March began with the planting of a 'Golden Hornet' crabapple tree in our churchyard. This was part of the 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' scheme and contributed to the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), an initiative that encourages the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of the



Queen's leadership of the nation. Supported by the Bridport Tree Planting Group, the donated sapling was planted and blessed by the team rector, the Revd Deb Smith, on Sunday 13 March (pictured above right) and has since been watered in and tended by members of the St Mary's gardening group. We have sent information about our commemorative tree to the QGC team and it now appears on the

national interactive map at www.queensgreencanopy.org/map. It may be that, by this means, the Queen herself is aware of our little tree!

Music has spilled out from the church in recent weeks, with wonderful concerts from chamber choir Cantamus and the New Elizabethan Singers. This year has also seen a return of our Easter tableau to the chancel of the church. Many children from our local primary schools brought difficult questions and happy chatter on their visit at the end of the spring term.

Watching the unfolding conflict in Ukraine has brought both a feeling of powerlessness and the need for prayer. We have been privileged to have had the opportunity to display the painting 'Soul by Soul and Silently' by Hugo Grenville in the Lady Chapel to act as a focus for our prayers for the people of Ukraine. The artist painted it at the start of the Syrian war, depicting the pain and chaos of war impacting on a displaced family. On Sunday 3 April churches were called to join together in an act of witness to pray and light candles for Ukraine, for an end to war and for those affected. That afternoon Hugo Grenville came to give an illustrated talk called 'Painting Hope' – the history of western art during crisis and war. Eighty people attended the event and donated nearly £400 to the Ukraine appeal.

The days lengthen and there is increasing warmth in the light of the sun. The grass is growing in the churchyard and the beautiful, first blossom on the Golden Hornet



Above: The Revd Deb Smith planted a crabapple tree at St Mary's as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme

crabapple tree appears. We trust that many who walk the path between the Community Orchard and South Street will enjoy the growth and flourishing of the little tree – a symbol of hope for days to come.

Lesley Hill, Churchwarden

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

Sunday 1	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 4	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 8	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Team service followed by the annual parochial church meeting
Sunday 15	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Morning Praise
Sunday 22	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	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

May will be a busy month preparing for the events in Bothenhampton celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As the bank holiday weekend is at the beginning of June, details of the activities appear in this issue of The Bridge, but before then there will still be the

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

monthly coffee morning in Holy Trinity on Saturday 7 May, 10am–12 noon. The coffee morning in April raised a superb total of £225 for church funds.

On Saturday 21 May the village hall committee is offering its Big Breakfast. These occasions have been very well attended in the past, and proceeds are for the village hall.

The working party in the Old Churchyard on 9 April numbered 14 volunteers who worked hard on a pleasant afternoon and completed a variety of tasks. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Many in the village have been supporting fundraising events for the Save the Children Fund, specifically for Ukraine. Social occasions have included a cheese and wine gathering sponsored by The Book and Bucket Cheese Company and the Furleigh Estate Vineyard, and a coffee morning. There have also been a ‘nearly new’ sale and an evening auction of pledges ranging from two-night stays, sailing trips and garden design to ironing. These wonderful events have raised £4,672. Fundraising continues with a plant sale on 30 April in the John Holt playing field. Holy Trinity Church has a box for donations of toiletries, nappies and other goods needed for Ukraine.

So on to the Jubilee weekend! There will be two marquees for functions, and on Wednesday 1 June volunteers are required to put one up in the church garden at 4pm, and then to take the other marquee from the village hall and erect it in the John Holt playing field from 6pm.

On Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June, groups are being invited to decorate a church window for the Jubilee, and residents are encouraged to decorate their front doors and windows, which will be judged and a prize awarded.

On Saturday 4 June there will be the regular coffee morning in Holy Trinity, and a family barbecue will start at 5pm in the John Holt playing field. Tickets are £2.50 (or £10 for a family) in advance from Pennie Jones 458006 or Heather Purse 423220. This will pay for a burger, and there will also be a bar.

Holy Trinity Church will be holding a team service for Pentecost on Sunday 5 June, followed by a bring-and-share picnic in the church garden marquee. All ages welcome.

During the Jubilee weekend the Old Church will have a display about the history of the village, and a quiz sheet will be available to buy. You will also be able to attend the blessing of a tree planted for the occasion by the parish council.

The marquee in the John Holt playing field will be available for private parties over the weekend when not in use for an organised event. To book it please contact Heather Purse on 423220. It would be lovely if someone would like to arrange a children’s party that weekend.

Barbara Ffooks

News from the parish council

Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council (BWPC) organised a successful climate change event at Bothenhampton Village Hall on 26 March, organised by vice-chair Graham Styles.

A range of local environmental groups and experts came along, offering leaflets, advice and support to residents on issues such as home insulation, sustainable energy, tree planting and wildlife, growing more food locally, and electric cars and bikes. The event was introduced by Eddie Rose, a local activist, who offered a young person’s

Big Breakfast

Saturday 21 May, 10am–12 noon

Bothenhampton Village Hall

£8 per person

Please buy tickets in advance
from Pennie 458006 or Heather 423220

Profits will go to the village hall funds



perspective about the importance of taking action on climate change. The hall was packed out, and imaginative children’s activities in the spring sunshine on the John Holt play area – run by Jo Burlington of ‘Oops Wow Messy Art’ – meant that there was something for everyone.

Part of the event was a lively discussion led by Bridport author and environmentalist Horatio Morpurgo. This gave residents a chance to ask further questions of the expert groups and to discuss ideas about how our community might become more sustainable and environmentally aware. A range of ideas came up, including the importance of engaging with the farming community; installation of solar panels and whether planning laws should be liberalised; car share schemes; recycling collection points; road safety; and installation of bicycle shelters.

The event showed that there is a strong local interest in these issues, lots of local expertise for people to tap into, and lots of ideas to take forward on how we can work together to make our shared environment cleaner and greener. The parish council will work on future events focusing on practical actions that we can all make to adapt to a world that is changing at an ever-faster rate.

Jim Basker, BWPC Chair

Community governance review – a personal view on the current situation

Dorset Council has asked residents for their views on its community governance review by 23 May (www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/community-governance-review or phone 01305 221000 for a paper copy). The review proposes abolishing the parishes of Allington, Bradpole and Bothenhampton & Walditch and recasting them as wards of Bridport Town Council. This will see the end of the two wards of Bothenhampton and Walditch and of the parish council, which was founded in 1886. It will give residents the opportunity in May 2024 to vote for three members of Bridport Town Council to represent their interests instead.

There will be no opportunity for residents to vote on the issue, since legislation does not allow for a referendum. This seems unfair. However, my colleagues and I were heartened by the 38 submissions made by local residents during the proposals phase last autumn, strongly supporting us.

None of us had served as parish councillors before my co-optation in September 2018. Our new parish clerk →

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

arrived in January 2019. During 2019 and 2020 the rest of my colleagues were elected or co-opted and we have all enjoyed learning our responsibilities and helping residents with planning and other issues. Little did we know, until last autumn, that Bridport Town Council had long harboured designs on our precept. Apparently their first attempt was in 1947, but that was subject to the decision of the residents, who voted against it. A fully worked-out bid was proposed in January 2017, but Dorset County Council advised waiting until the formation of Dorset Council. So here we are, with only a couple of weeks left for residents to respond to the proposal that we should be abolished.

Once Dorset Council has finally ratified its decision, taking into account the new information provided by residents, it will come into effect in May 2024.

Your parish councillors have already created a parish plan for 2022–27 and they fully intend to proceed with it, come what may. The plan is published online at www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com.

Our 2020 survey of residents told us that their greatest concerns were:

- 1: Planning
- 2: Recycling and energy
- 3: Traffic and road safety
- 4: Stewardship of open spaces
- 5: Better public transport
- 6: Footpaths and cycling
- 7: Supporting community groups
- 8: Play areas

We propose to focus on the most important initiatives in the time remaining to us:

- We will ensure planning applications meet all material

considerations, and conform with the neighbourhood plan, visiting applicants and their immediate neighbours.

- We will promote home energy efficiency, recycling, the elimination of single-use plastic, and community action in association with other parishes.
- We will report street defects and support residents who have experienced problems with roads and footpaths, and will advocate more public transport initiatives in our parish.
- We will lobby for safe passages for pedestrians and cyclists across the A35, and for lower, safer speed limits.
- We will work with the owners of the nature reserves to maintain access and improve their biodiversity.
- We will maintain and improve our three play areas to meet residents' requirements.
- We will support and encourage community groups seeking to improve the environment and respond to the climate emergency.
- Where possible, we will promote community resilience.

There is a limit to what we can achieve by May 2024, but we challenge the town council election candidates to come up with councillors who can successfully meet the expectations of Bothenhampton and Walditch residents for the future.

Jim Basker, BWPC Chair

May services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

Sunday 1	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 8	10am	Team service at St Mary's Bridport followed by the annual parochial church meeting
Sunday 15	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 22	11am	Rogation Sunday service
Sunday 29	11am	Holy Communion

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)

Commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On 23 March the Bradpole Buzz Group was joined by members of Bradpole Parish Council and five little helpers from Bradpole Pre-school to plant a *sorbus aucuparia* 'Joseph Rock' (a stunning variety of mountain ash) in Townsend Way to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The children helped to refill the hole with soil before ensuring the tree was well watered into its new home. Growing to approximately 15 feet tall, the tree will have clusters of creamy yellow fruit that will become yellow/orange as they ripen.

The tree will be dedicated during the Jubilee celebrations taking place on 4 June at Gore Cross recreation area.



Above: Bradpole parish councillors and young helpers at the planting of a tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole

On 1 April the Friends held a spring quiz with fish-and-chip supper in the church. The atmosphere for this much-anticipated event was most convivial as well as competitive. It was heartwarming to see people from the village and further afield (Beaminster!) relishing the opportunity to tackle a well-organised quiz run with good humour by Mike Solomon, quietly assisted as always by Susan. Team scores were nail-bitingly close until the end, but the trophy went deservedly to 'The Latecomers'! Longs' fish and chips were

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

delicious and so fresh even after their trip to Bradpole. The total profit from the evening was £511.15. Above all, though, it was a friendly and happy time, sharing good company.



This event was a careful but welcome addition to the new programme of events that the Friends organise throughout the year. A newsletter with details is available from the church or by contacting the secretary, Wendy Carnell (420716 / wendycarnell@btinternet.com).


The Friends of Holy Trinity Church Bradpole always welcome new members. For more information, please contact Wendy Carnell as above.


Bradpole Parish Council

Dorset Council's community governance review, which closed at the end of October last year, received 480 responses, of which 10% came from Bradpole residents. Of these there was an overwhelming support (90%+) for the retention of Bradpole Parish Council. Despite this, among the Dorset Council draft recommendations is one to support the proposal put forward by Bridport Town Council to annex the parish council area, putting it under the control of Bridport Town Council in a warding arrangement. Draft recommendations of the Dorset Council working group were discussed by a full council meeting and it was resolved that these draft recommendations would go 'en bloc' to a further 12-week public consultation, which ends on 23 May. You are invited to have your say on this proposed annexation and other matters online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/community-governance-review.

Jubilee tea party

On Saturday 4 June between 2pm and 5pm there will be a Queen's Jubilee tea party on Gore Cross recreation area with families bringing their own picnic (see above right). The






THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE TEA PARTY

A BRADPOLE COMMUNITY EVENT
AT THE
GORE CROSS RECREATIONAL AREA
SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2p.m. - 5p.m.



- LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- MUSIC
- DEDICATION OF TREES PLANTED TO COMMEMORATE THE JUBILEE
- PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC, CHAIRS and/or BLANKETS/RUGS

Dogs on leads welcome
Temporary loos on site

A FREE event brought to you by
Bradpole's Community Groups

At 6.30pm in the evening of the 4th June a "Songs of Praise"
will be held at Holy Trinity, Bradpole.

www.bradpole.org.uk

parish council will provide two portaloos and insurance for the event. Full details are online at www.bradpole.org.uk.

May services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

Sunday 1	9.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 3	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 8	10am	Team service at St Mary's Bridport followed by the annual parochial church meeting (no service at Holy Trinity)
Sunday 15	9.30am	Informal Morning Praise
Sunday 22	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29	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)

Flying the flag to remember American soldiers

On 17 May the United States flag will be flown from the Walditch church flagpole to remember two companies, 'E' and 'G', of the 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment, a part of the American 1st Division (The Big Red One). On this date in 1944 they left Walditch, where they had been

stationed since 6 November 1943, to prepare for the D-Day landings in Normandy, which took place on 6 June 1944. They are permanently remembered by a plaque on the south wall of the church.

The battalion moved to a holding camp near Dorchester, which was sealed from outside contact on 24 May to maintain secrecy before the plans were divulged to the troops for the first time. The battalion then started boarding USS Henrico at Portland on 31 May. 'E' company was in the first wave to land on Omaha Beach with 'G' 30 minutes later. They faced murderous fire with heavy casualties; things were not going to plan, with a real risk that the Omaha landing would be thrown off the beach. Through leadership and teamwork, however, 'G' company and a platoon of 'E' found a route to the top of the bluff behind the beach. This breakthrough saved the day and averted a potential disaster. A notice now marks the route taken, reading: 'Route du Capitaine Joe Dawson (commander of 'G' Company)'.

Robin Stapleton



ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

Lower Walditch Play Area & Community Orchard

It gives me great honour as chair to compile the second annual report for Lower Walditch Play Area & Community Orchard 2021–22.

Despite the ongoing challenges of living with Covid, we have been fortunate to build on the success of the first phase of the play area. This was instigated by Anne Loades, who has since retired from the committee, and we are deeply appreciative of all her hard work and tenacity in laying the foundations of this community group.

Following our successful grant application to the National Lottery Community Fund for £9,896, the Viking swing was installed in June 2021 and has become a much-loved asset to the play space.

Despite Covid-related delays we celebrated our belated birthday party in October 2021 to thank those who had helped us so far and to share the space with our community. Alongside the festivities, with lots of cake and a lovely raffle we managed to raise £186.

Our second Christmas trail, which took place in December 2021, involved 55 households and raised £165. It included a decorated window competition in which 15 households took part. This was judged by Bridport Mayor Ian Bark, who commented very positively on the community feel here on the estate.

This year has seen the beginnings of the community orchard and wellbeing area. On 12 February a team headed by Marcos and Kathy broke the ground, planted up five espalier pear trees along the entrance to the park and created a screening area of hornbeam hedging (*pictured*), which now marks out the wellbeing area. We still have the West Bay Car Boot grant money for the provision of seating, and development and planning are ongoing.

We have permission from the parish council to continue adding more small elements to the play area and will be working together to achieve this.

It has been a pleasure to be part of this committee and to work together, creating a sanctuary where our children can be safe, engaged and playful, and working towards providing a quiet space for all to enjoy. In such challenging times it is an absolute tonic to know there are people using their time and skills to improve our lives.

This year we have seen more movement in the committee, and have welcomed Aureen as treasurer. We have continued to work hard behind the scenes with regular meetings and are dedicated to the sustained development of the area as well as the running of the community group. This has included securing another bank account, which has been no small feat; Jan, Aureen and Charlie deserve recognition for their efforts. We are always open to welcoming members to the committee and to taking part in working parties and events planning.

We would like to thank the following individuals and organisations that have provided their support to our group through the past 12 months: Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council, particularly Jim Basker and Tan Cox; Dorset Council section 106 funding for fruit trees; Daryl Chambers of Bridport Town Council; Bridport Tourist Information Centre; John Bright Ltd; Footprints, Toy Master, Morrisons and Groves.

Siobhan Dashwood, Chair
playareaandorchard@gmail.com



Planting a hornbeam hedge to create a screen, and (below) the popular Viking swing



Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our monthly garden group meeting on Thursday 26 May. We meet at 10am in Walditch village hall on the last Thursday of the month for seasonal topics and garden discussion throughout the year with tea/coffee and biscuits. We look forward to welcoming you.

Garden tips for April:

Watch out for late frosts and protect tender plants; prune clematis montana after flowering; prune spring-flowering shrubs; continue taking cuttings from herbaceous perennials; protect young plants from slugs and snails; thin out annuals and veg sown earlier; sow and plant out tender vegetables; continue successional sowing of vegetables; remove all frost protection from plants at end of month.

Jane Mowatt

Please see the Bothenhampton parish column for news from the Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council.

May services at St Mary's Walditch:

**Sunday 8 10am Team service at St Mary's
Bridport followed by the annual
parochial church meeting**

Sunday 22 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

Parnham Voices are holding a day-long singing workshop on Saturday 14 May, and Brit Valley Rotary Club have a bookstall on Saturday 21 May from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Round and about the Bay

You may have noticed, on the track from Meadowlands down to West Bay, that the council has planted over 40 saplings around the trees that were cut down earlier in the year, as well as adding some blue benches. Also, a pathway into the car park has been created for users of mobility scooters, making it easier for them to get to the car boot sale. This returned to West Bay on 10 April; luckily the travellers weren't still in the car park. About 20 caravans and camper vans had arrived the week before and taken over the car park. Fortunately the police issued an emergency notice and the travellers left by Monday night. We also have some new green benches inside the Hub (*see photo*) and they seem very popular.

Parkdean holiday park is in full swing, and news is that they are making major improvements to the park to include more glamping pods, upgrading caravans and installing park-wide wifi. It would seem people are keen to continue 'staycationing' as bookings for the season are at record levels.

West Bay is in for another boost to tourism, having been awarded Stage 7 of the Tour of Britain cycle race in September. It will start in West Bay and travel through Dorset, finishing in Ferndown. I can only imagine the logistics of staging an event like this – not something I'd fancy managing! I witnessed the Tour de France while living in Paris, and it is hard to see how all the cars and vans that accompany these races will be accommodated in West Bay!

The Discovery Centre was as busy as ever over the Easter holidays and the 'Buried in Time' exhibition proved very popular. There was a table at the entrance where you could touch and hold ammonites. The Easter chicks, who were all alone last year because of Covid, appeared again but you

Below: The Discovery Centre team collect their trophy at the South West Tourism awards



Above: new green benches in the Hub area

had to look carefully to find them. There was also a talk by Martin Maudsley entitled 'Wild Tales of West Bay'.

The Discovery Centre shop has been enlarged and is proving popular; the shark's teeth are one of the favourites with children. There is a plant sale on 8 May, then on 14 May the centre is being represented at Bridport Charter Fair.

The big news, though, is that the Discovery Centre won a Gold award at the South West Tourism ceremony in Exeter in the Ethical, Responsible & Sustainable tourism section (*see photo below*). It was hard work but it paid off in the end – well done to Liz Bryant, the centre manager, and of course to trustees John and Sarah West.

The West Bay Community Forum had to move its AGM to Wednesday 6 April because of the chairman's commitments. Unfortunately only 14 members came along but it was good to have two councillors in attendance. As no one has come forward to take over as chair of the forum, amendments to the constitution were voted on to allow it to continue, and the committee will in effect run things for the time being. Committee members all agreed to continue in their roles. The councillors were asked about various issues in and around West Bay and it was good to hear that some of the problems encountered are being looked into. We really do need a chairperson; this role doesn't take up a lot of time, so if you think you could take it on, please email me at rognsuewbay@btinternet.com.
Sue Pollock

West Bay WI

I understand that, unlike many organisations at the moment, the WI has some prospective new members. Guests are allowed to attend three meetings before making up their mind about joining, so hopefully numbers will increase.

On 4 May there is the usual needlecraft at 10am and then on 11 May at 2.30pm there is a talk (with photos) by Charlie Wheeler from Abbotsbury Swannery. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact their president, Alison Ridge, on 01308 897293.

May services at St John's:

Sunday 1	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8	10am	Team service at St Mary's Bridport followed by annual parochial church meeting
Sunday 15	11am	Holy Communion
Saturday 21	6pm	Service of wholeness and healing
Sunday 22	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise
Thursday 26	6pm	Ascension Day service
Sunday 29	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

May, the month of blossoming trees such as horse chestnut, crabapple and the hawthorn (or may) tree. The common hawthorn, *crataegus monogyna*, is a UK native. It is worth planting in your garden, or looking out for one growing wild. This thorny tree is covered with five-petalled creamy white flowers, lasting until June and followed later by autumnal red berries. My father's mother – aptly named Mercy – as a child escaping with friends from their nanny or childminder would eat the hawthorn buds and called them 'bread and cheese' because of their nutritious content. The berries can also be used to make jam.

The difference between hawthorn and blackthorn, as described by Charlie Mellor from the Woodland Trust, is that the blackthorn produces flowers earlier, before its leaves, whereas the hawthorn flowers after its leaves have emerged. Also, hawthorn petals are rounder and fuller than the delicate blackthorn.

The full moon in May is known as the 'flower moon'. The banks and hedgerows are busy with 'Queen Anne's lace', the umbelliferous crowns of white on the green stems of the wild carrot plant. There are stories that the purple flower in the centre was Queen Anne, and the white flowers surrounding her were her lace collars. Another story tells that the flower is named after Saint Anne, the patron saint of lacemakers and the mother of the Virgin Mary. Further, the flower is apparently also known as the 'bishop's flower', a symbol of sanctuary, safety and refuge. Another visual interpretation is as a bird's nest, as when gone to seed it appears to look like one, reinforcing the symbolic idea of sanctuary and safe home.

The Bridport Tree Planting Group (BTPG), co-ordinated by Joe Hackett, has had an active season. One of the last plantings was on 13 March at St Mary's churchyard, where the pink blossom will complement the adjacent hawthorn and cherry to the west. Many saplings have been given away to be planted. The Living Tree allotment by the River Pymore has benefited, for example, and St Mary's fields put 48 saplings in the ground. West Bay playground has a host of trees and a gathering of willows at the Hyde, and there have been community plantings at Shipton Gorge and private plantings at Walditch and West Milton. I joined in planting assorted trees to contribute to a rewilding site at Hogchester nature reserve near Charmouth. More trees were planted around the golf club, at The Cowshed behind Bridport Medical Centre, and at Coneygar Hill by Millennium Green – such is the local reach.

Groves nurseries have generously supported the initiative, giving holly, pine, guelder rose, dog rose, copper beech, spindle, Corsican pine and Bhutan pine. Such an offering of trees for the future!

BTPG's little nursery at Riverside Gardens is now less full, and Joe has applied for a kit called 'Coppice in a box' from Moor Trees, a charity dedicated to restoring native

Community coffee mornings

First Thursday every month
10.45–11.45am (after 10am Mass)
St Swithun's Church, Allington

**Fresh coffee,
biscuits and cake**

All welcome

Free parking



woodland on Dartmoor and nearby. The kit could enable 400 tree seeds to be grown on, and the group also hopes to learn more about seed collection and propagation to help with future planting projects.

To continue the plant theme, St Swithun's is to hold a fundraising plant sale and car boot sale on Saturday 21 May from 10am to 1pm. See the advert on p4 for more details. Volunteers are needed to help tidy up the courtyard and adopt a pot to take home and fill with plants ready for the car boot sale. Please contact Jo George if you can help. The church will be open to receive produce, tombola prizes, cakes, bric-a-brac, clothes, etc., after 2pm on Friday 20 May.

There has also been fundraising at St Swithun's for Ukraine amounting to £1,121: Caroline Cooke's coffee morning on 19 March raised £900 and the community coffee morning raised £221.

Finally, on 3 April Graham and Angie Williams created a cake bonanza with tea and raffle, raising £2,636. They are now looking for the best way to use these funds to buy an electric wheelchair and related equipment for their daughter Melissa so she can become more independent. Congratulations to all involved in these events.

Anna Sullock

The Joliba Trust

One of the stalls at our car boot sale on 21 May will be run by Frances Jobling in aid of the Joliba Trust. This charity has been working since 1992 to reduce the effects of climate change and improve the rural livelihoods of native people in Mali, West Africa.

Land here has become depleted, in the main because of climate change. Vast amounts of fertile land have been turned to dust, and much tree cover and biodiversity of pasture land has been lost. The mainstay of the economy, raising livestock, has become almost impossible.

Joliba has become well known in Mali for its positive, encouraging work in stabilising 2,000 acres of dunes since 2013, protecting the economy of 40 villages in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The hills are now covered with wildlife as well as with pasture for livestock; trees and crops are providing food and traditional medicine for people and their animals. Thanks to these structural changes there is less weather erosion and therefore less damage to harvests, enabling people to live well.

It costs £188 to stabilise an acre of sand dunes. For £10,

ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

20 grafted fruit trees can be planted, producing a significant income in a short space of time. Joliba does not have ex-pat staff working in Mali but employs local people to organise and oversee the work. The physical work is done by local people, too, but on an unpaid, voluntary basis.

Frances has been supporting this successful project for eight years and has raised enough to protect seven villages. Look out for her stall at the sale, where she will be selling homemade wares including scarves suitable for an English summer plus winter scarves, cowls and handwarmers. She also has copies of reports and information about Joliba that she will be happy to share with you.

There are some photos on this page of Joliba's work.

May services at St Swithun's:

Eucharist is held every Sunday at 9.30am (except 8 May) and every Thursday at 10am. On 26 May this will be a special service for Ascension Day.

On Sunday 8 May there is a team service at 10am at St Mary's Bridport, followed by the annual parochial church meeting.

Contemplative Church is held on the first and third Saturdays each month (7 and 21 May) at 6pm in St Swithun's Hall.

There is a community coffee morning from 10.45 to 11.45am (after 10am Mass) on the first Thursday every month – everyone is welcome. At the coffee morning on 5 May there will be a collection for Christian Aid.



Clockwise from top right: collecting water from a reinforced cement well with walls to prevent flooding; watering tree seedlings; a crop of cabbages (front) and onions; dune stabilisation protects fertile valley farmland and has helped 40,000 people; euphorbia cuttings taking root in the sand dunes



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

Spreading the word of Jesus

The Easter period lasts for 50 days, from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. Easter is still with us, then, as we enter May and look forward to Ascension Day (26 May), when Jesus ascended to heaven, and the celebration of Pentecost (5 June) when his disciples were filled with the holy spirit.

As Christians we are called to spread the word of Jesus just as his disciples were called to do all those years ago. We should not be shy or uncomfortable sharing our Christian beliefs but we should embrace them and share the love of God with other folk with enjoyment and fulfilment.

One of the ways to spread Jesus' word is through the way we live our lives and how we treat other folk around us. Respect and compassion are important, along with listening and trying to understanding people and their opinions. Respecting others' views is very important, even though you may not agree with them .

Another way to spread the word of Jesus is to get yourself involved with helping folk by being part of a team, whether that's at church, at a club for music, gardening or rugby, or at any of the other wonderful active clubs we have in Bridport. Folk gather together to experience the satisfaction of working for each other, and this encourages social interaction, the sound basis for a healthy social community.

We are truly blessed at our church with teamwork across all our activities. Our Saturday Big Breakfast, for example, brings together lots of folk, young and old, once a month. The atmosphere in the hall is so enjoyable and gives locals and holidaymakers a chance to meet and enjoy the Big Breakfast experience and chat among themselves. We are also starting a lunch club and 'Golden Oldies' club, and Messy Church will return in the near future.

In these tragic, uncertain times we pray especially for the people of Ukraine and hope this awful war will end soon. Their situation really does focus our minds on how fortunate we are.

Ending on a happier note, as the flowers and trees begin to show growth for the summer, we can look forward to getting involved in the growth of our local social community, which we are so blessed to be able to enjoy.

Richard Plummer, Church Councillor

May services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 1	10.30am	Peter Kershaw (HC)
	4pm	Soul Space with tea and cake
Sunday 8	10.30am	Peter Jenner
Sunday 15	10.30am	Revd John Yarrien
Sunday 22	10.30am	Chris Warren
Sunday 29	10.30am	Revd John Yarrien



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Regular events

Community coffee mornings Saturdays 7, 14 and 28 May plus every Wednesday 10am to 12 noon – all welcome.

Mondays	10am–noon	Local Vocals (in the church)
	2pm	Art history (from 9 May)
Tuesdays	4.30pm	Rainbows
	5.30pm	Brownies
Wednesdays	6pm	Fitstep
	7.30pm	Kickboxing
Thursdays	5pm	Slimming World
Fridays	7pm	Kickboxing

Other events in May

Saturday 7	10am–noon	Coffee morning for Stepping Stones pre-school
Thursday 12	2pm	Golden Oldies 'GO Club': tea, chat, craft, music, etc. All welcome (note change of day)
Saturday 14	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast
	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Soc concert
Sunday 15	11.30am	Church AGM
Saturday 21		Vinyl Saturday
Wednesday 25	12.30pm	Lunch Club (please book if possible: 422598)
Saturday 28	10am–noon	Coffee morning in aid of RNLI
	7.30pm	Big Band concert for Rotary
Sat 4 June	9–11.30am	Platinum Jubilee Big Breakfast

From Uploders Chapel

It's wonderful to be moving into May and enjoying some warmer weather, although the hopefulness of Easter remains with us.

We do now have some dates to put on the calendar, which is lovely and brings a real feeling of normality. So as I mentioned last month, the chapel will be open for part of the Scarecrow Festival. On Thursday 2, Friday 3

UPLODERS CHAPEL continued...

and Saturday 4 June the chapel will be open from 10am to 4.30pm for 'Cuppas & Cake'. Of course, this is the weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so we will obviously have Union Jack bunting in place.

We enjoyed our first service in April, taken by Pamela Woodland, when we joined in with acting out the story of Lazarus. Our service on Easter Sunday, taken by Tim Wells, was enjoyable and thought-provoking as well.

Fifteen of us went to the CAKE meeting, which proved to be yet another thought-provoking occasion. Liz had us

thinking about what 'wilderness' means to us. It was quite amazing how many different thoughts we came up with!

There are still lots of things to look forward to, not least the long daylight hours, sunshine and our delightful countryside. Meanwhile, keep safe and keep smiling and let's do our best to have a Marvellous May.

Carol Hall

May services at Uploders Chapel:

Sunday 1	10.30am	Revd John Yarrien
Sunday 15	10.30am	Songs of Praise (local arrangements)

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

The real message of Ascension Day

On 26 May we celebrate Ascension Thursday, 40 days after Easter. One of the readings for that day puts it like this: "Now as he [Jesus] blessed them, he withdrew from them and was taken up into heaven."

The image is a difficult one to sort in our minds when it's more than 50 years since a man first walked on the surface of the moon. We probably tend to ask the wrong questions: How did Jesus go? Where did Jesus go? Christian art seems to be trying to answer those same questions, but it's not rocket science and these are not the kind of questions the bible tends to ask or answer. The bible much more often seeks to answer the question "Why?" than "How?" – why did Jesus go? The truth is that Jesus' earthly work was fulfilled and completed by his being with the Father and empowering us through the Holy Spirit. The Ascension is about Christ's completed work and our unfulfilled work.

It is worth noting that in the oldest account of the Ascension, "a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9). In both the Old and New Testaments a cloud is not just something to do with the weather, it is a sign of the presence of the glory of the Lord. It tells us that God is decisively present. The conclusion of Jesus' earthly ministry turns out to be continuous with a long history of divine self-revelation.



The cloud recalls the moment of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, when the voice of the Father was heard: "This is my Son, my Beloved." It points to that moment of history when Jesus will come again "in a cloud with power and great glory."

The real message of Ascension is not that Christ has vanished beyond Earth's orbit, but that he enters the Father's glory, a glory which is set to fill the world, a glory for which each one of us is made.

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.

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 meets at the WI Hall, North St, at 2.30pm on the second Monday of each month with demos

and speakers. On Monday 9 May, Angie Blackwell will give a demonstration called 'Spring into summer'. Phone 456339.

Bridport Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster margefoster1956@gmail.com

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

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies continued

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 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 & District Gardening Club meets monthly at the WI Hall in North St, Bridport. On Thursday 19 May Martin Young will speak about gardening on clay and in shady spaces. Based in Weymouth, Martin is a horticultural speaker and a keen plantsman with an interest in butterflies, moths and the plants that attract them, as well as in plant conservation and the National Collections of Dorset. The meeting is open to non-members at £2. More information at 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 10 May when Dr Tim Connor will present 'Mapperton: a study of a local village'. To attend email Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard jferentzi@aol.com. Membership is £10 individual / £15 couple. Membership secretary Celia Martin celiamartin@hotmail.co.uk

Bridport Shakespeare Company theatre group meets every Thursday at 7pm at Bridport Community Shed. All ages welcome; no experience needed. The group is now preparing to perform The Magdalen Whitewash by Valerie Goodwin in July. 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

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 Health Walks are free and take place every Wednesday, meeting outside Bridport United Church at

9.45am, and the first Thursday each month meeting at The Cowshed, Bridport Medical Centre, at 10.30am. The guided walks take 30–40 minutes on level ground. Refreshments available after the walk. No need to book, just turn up.

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 started 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, 2.30pm. On 19 May they have their AGM plus 'British travellers in Mexico: lost cities and surreal worlds' with Chloe Sayer. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome at £7.50 per event.

www.taswestdorset.org.uk

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.

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 for 10.30am start at the WI Hall in North Street. Contact Heather 425219 / 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

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

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 Thursdays 9.30–11.30am. See their Facebook page or email events@bridportunitarians.co.uk

Friday Dance Group, just for women, meets every Friday 10.30–11.30am at St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. Come along and enjoy dancing as you like to a range of music. First session free. More details from Sue 425037.

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

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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 or drop in to 45 South St, Bridport (now open Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).



wellbeing and increased self-esteem. Contact 07597 379290. **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 Shed, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, opens Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am–12 noon. On the first Tuesday of the month there is also an evening stitching session (please book in advance for this). Contact 07593 880428.

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 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.

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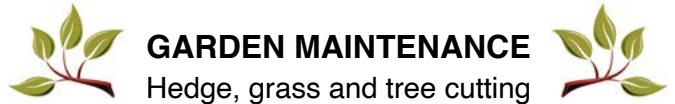
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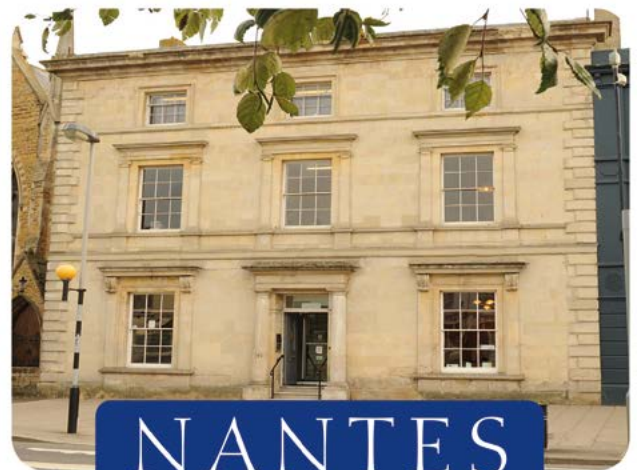
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