

October 2022

the **Bridge**



A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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The advertising and copy deadline for the November 2022 issue is 5pm on Monday 10 October

What will the priorities of this new age be?

It was when we sang the National Anthem the day after the Queen died that it really started to feel real.

Gathered in church for a service of reflection and thanksgiving for Her late Majesty, we sang to that familiar tune but with words that were new for all of us. “God save our gracious King”... we were stepping into a new age.

Sometimes we know things in our heads, but it takes a while for our hearts and our lives to catch up. In these weeks since the Queen died and Charles III was proclaimed King, we have all been on that journey. With loss comes great sadness, of course; time for looking back, remembering with love and gratitude, appreciating all that we have received. But there is also the task of facing change, travelling onward, stepping forward into the days ahead.

Whereas Queen Elizabeth came to the crown at a young age and much earlier than she hoped or expected, King Charles has served as Prince of Wales for more than 50 years and has known since childhood that he was destined to be King. He has lived with this expectation all his life and follows a monarch who was much loved and who served with dedication and wisdom for 70 years.

While grieving for his mother he has taken up his new duties, pledging himself to maintain the ethos and sense of service he learned from her. In his first speech as our monarch, he said: “Wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love.”

But he will have also given much thought to what it is that he brings to the crown. What kind of king will he be?

For more than 40 years, as Prince of Wales, Charles championed environmental causes, including the need to transition the global economy off fossil fuels to avert a climate catastrophe. In November last year, at the start of COP26 (the United Nations climate change conference in Glasgow) he said climate change was an “existential threat, to the extent that we have to put ourselves on what might be called a war-like footing” and called on world governments to begin “radically transforming our current fossil fuel-based economy to one that is genuinely renewable and sustainable.”

He has made it plain that as King he will no longer be free

Pictured: thousands of flowers were left at the gates of Buckingham Palace after the Queen’s death last month



Samuel Regan-Asante

to be vocal in his personal views, but will he, like his mother before him, use his ‘soft power’ to influence and set an agenda that will speak to us on this most pressing issue?

Like the Queen before him, King Charles has spoken of his great sense of his duty to work



The Revd Canon Deb Smith

As Prince of Wales, Charles championed environmental causes, including the need to transition the global economy off fossil fuels

for the future, to take seriously the responsibilities he has been entrusted with

and to serve unstintingly. His words on hearing he was to become a grandfather a few years ago give a powerful sense of this. He said then: “I don’t want to be confronted by my future grandchild and [have] them say: ‘Why didn’t you do something?’ It makes it even more obvious to try and make sure we leave them something that isn’t a total poisoned chalice.”

As we move into this new age, beset with so much uncertainty for the future and so many difficulties to contend with, I hope we can look to our new monarch to keep that most critical issue ever in the forefront of our thinking and a guide to the decisions we make to care for our fragile world.

The Revd Canon Deb Smith

Thanks for the memories!

The Revd Philip Ringer reflects on his 30 years in the clergy, in advance of a special service this month to mark the occasion...

‘Thanks for the memories’ is the title of a song recorded by Bob Hope many years ago. I am thankful for the many memories I have of my life, and I’d like to take a little space in these pages to reflect on them and how various events have fashioned me into the person, partner (husband), parent and priest that I am today.

On the last Sunday in August I had the wonderful opportunity of attending the Sunday Eucharist in our cathedral church in Salisbury. The preacher on that occasion was Canon Kenneth Padley, the recently appointed Canon Treasurer. He spoke of his own journey of faith and how it had been inspired by a copy of the New Testament and Psalms he had received from the Gideons as a schoolboy.

It was an informative and enlightening sermon and began my thinking on my own journey of faith. I was confirmed on St George’s Day 1961, the year after my father was found drowned in the Thames at Windsor. I was just 13.

Many of you will know part of my story and many more will not; suffice it to say that the memories I have of certain key events inform and inspire me today. Perhaps you are a fan of Facebook, perhaps not, but in recent months it has allowed me to get back in touch with some of my former →

Beavering away at Mapperton

Beavers are now living in Dorset for the first time in 400 years. The owners of Mapperton, Viscount and Viscountess Hinchinbrooke, arranged for a pair of the creatures to be brought down from the River Tay in Scotland in early September as part of the estate's rewilding project. The beavers are now living in an eight-acre woodland enclosure complete with their own lodge, built by ranger Ben Padwick, who also made a start on a couple of dams in the stream to give them the right idea. Beavers are a native British species but were hunted to extinction for their fur, meat and 'castoreum', a secretion once used in perfumes, food and medicine.

There's a novel in all of us!

The Revd Peter Clark – retired BUC minister and chair of the Bridge committee – has written and self-published a novel, 'The Feeling'. Set far in the future, when humanity has been reduced to a simple agricultural society, it's the fantastical story of an isolated community under threat from the wider world. Peter says it is "John Wyndham's Chrysalids meets Harry Potter, with a bit of ancient wisdom thrown in!" There will be a launch and signing at Good Books as soon as the copies are delivered.

Stitching our surroundings

Bridport textile artist Deborah Tiltman is staging an exhibition of her work at Art Unlimited in South Street until Thursday 6 October. It's open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Deborah takes inspiration from local landscapes and nature to create hand-embroidered pictures with painted, wet felted or chiffon backgrounds.

Thanks for the memories! *continued*

colleagues in the Metropolitan Police. I also have just as many Facebook 'friends' in the clergy who keep in touch with my daily 'Tonight in Bridport' post, which I have put up daily, just before 9pm, since the beginning of the first Covid lockdown.

For seven years after leaving the police I was vicar of Lynton and Lynmouth in North Devon, and I have abundant memories of that time. The ordinary pastoral offices, the baptisms, weddings and funerals, remain etched in my mind and have helped me become the priest I am today. But there were other memorable events as well, including a High Court action against the local health authority, the school extension that was opened by the late Duke of Edinburgh, and the presentation of my green stole by the staff and pupils of Lynton School.

I came to Bridport after five years as rector of the Wriggle Valley Benefice in the Sherborne Deanery. More memories were made, and I give thanks to God for them all.

I hope you will permit me to mark my 30 years as a priest on Tuesday 4 October at 7.30pm at St John's Church, West Bay, with a celebration Eucharist at which our team rector, the Revd Canon Deb Smith, will preach. The service will be followed by refreshments. All are very welcome to attend.

So thanks for the memories you have helped me to create during the last 14 years, and may God bless us all in whatever plans he has for our future together.

The Revd Philip Ringer



The Revd Philip Ringer



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St Mary's Church House Hall, South St

7pm • £5 per team

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

For more information, or to book, phone
01308 456138 (or just turn up)

Sunday 9 October at 5pm
St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington

This event was rescheduled following the Queen's death. The organisers have contacted teams who had booked for the original date, but some spaces might still be available so please call 07741 457505 if you'd like to take part.

£5 per person • Tea/coffee and cake available
Bring your own nibbles and drinks

October services in Bridport Team Ministry churches

Sunday

8am	St Mary's Bridport BCP Communion
9.30am	St Swithun's Allington Eucharist (<i>not 9 October</i>) Holy Trinity Bradpole Informal Morning Praise (<i>first</i>) Harvest Thanksgiving (<i>third</i>) Communion (<i>fourth & fifth</i>)
11am	St Mary's Bridport Communion (<i>first, fourth and fifth</i>) Morning Praise (<i>third</i>) Holy Trinity Bothenhampton Communion (<i>first & third</i>) Matins (<i>fourth</i>) Morning Praise (<i>fifth</i>) St Mary's Walditch Communion (<i>fourth only</i>) St John's West Bay Communion (<i>first & third</i>) Morning Praise (<i>fourth & fifth</i>)

Monday

10am	St John's West Bay Morning Prayer
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Tuesday

2.30pm	Holy Trinity Bradpole Communion (<i>first only</i>)
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Wednesday

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

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

4pm	St Swithun's Allington Contemplative Church (<i>first only</i>)
6pm	St John's West Bay Service of wholeness and healing (<i>fourth only</i>)

On Sunday 9 October (the second Sunday this month) at 10am there will be a team service at St Mary's Bridport (South Street) with the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, to mark the Revd Lorna Johnson's licensing to the Parish of Bridport.

Help to plan the Parish of Bridport's future

In early October across the Parish of Bridport we are holding a series of consultations in each of our six churches to share ideas from the 'away days' involving our ministry team and the PCC.



These away days were run so we could take a bit of time out to think about what's most important for us as the body of Christ here, to consider who we are, our priorities and to think together about the future. We really want as many people as possible to join in the conversation. This is a chance for us all to think about our values, how we come together and how we serve God and our community. Come and contribute, listen to each other and to God, as we look ahead together.

You are invited to any of these meetings. If you can't make the meeting in the church where you regularly worship, come along to another. The final meeting will have a more parish-wide focus, and we hope some of you will come along to that last consultation, as well as another, having reflected on the questions and discussions we will already have had.

Look out in the pew sheets for more information on the consultations.

The Revd Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector

The meetings are as follows:

Monday 3 October	3pm	St John's, West Bay
Tuesday 4 October	3pm	Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton
Wednesday 5 October	3pm	St Swithun's, Allington
	7pm	St Mary's, Bridport
Thursday 6 October	11am	St Mary's, Walditch
Thursday 6 October	3pm	Holy Trinity, Bradpole
Sunday 23 October	4pm	St Swithun's Hall

A service for Hospital Sunday

Sunday 16 October at 6.30pm

St Mary's Church, South Street, Bridport

This our annual opportunity to give thanks for everyone involved in our hard-pressed NHS.

Most of us have experience of needing to use the healthcare system and this will be a chance to reflect and to pray for the healing of all.

The special preacher will be the Revd Jean Saddington, who is one of the chaplains at Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester. The service will be followed by refreshments.

The Revd Philip Ringer
Hospital Chaplain

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Harmony presents '80 Days Around the Mind' to celebrate Mental Health Week

To celebrate World Mental Health Week, local mental health hub Harmony will be putting on their 80 Days Around the Mind show at Bridport Arts Centre on Monday 10 October at 7pm.

The event, which features well-known local storyteller Martin Maudsley, will showcase the work Harmony members did for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee's creative arts celebrations. It will be a unique stage and screen arts event exploring their

own experiences of mental health through storytelling, spoken word, photography, art and music.

After a similar event in June, an audience member said: "The first half alone reached my own emotions and the second half topped it for me. The talent we have is amazing."

Musical supporter Chris Deacon said: "That was fantastic. I feel privileged to work with Harmony," while participant Roz Copson said: "I am extremely proud to have been a part of it and congratulate our staff,

volunteers and especially members who did everything asked of them and more."

A lot of behind-the-scenes effort has gone into the production. By collaborating with with local artists, members have learnt new skills such as writing, storytelling, art and theatre.

Tickets are available from Bridport Tourist Information Centre (BAC box office) 01308 424901, from www.bridport-arts.com or on the door.

See page 24 for details of Harmony's drop-in services.



THE BRIDGE COMPETITION

The Bridge feature competition for young writers is now open. The closing date is Monday 12 December

There are full details online at www.thebridgemagazine.org/featurecompetition



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

Bridport Branch

**TRAFALGAR DAY
SERVICE**

St John's Church, West Bay

Sunday 23 October at 3pm

Residents and visitors are welcome to join us

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The trustees supply low-cost social housing for those of retirement age. Applications must meet our criteria as follows: (a) to have lived in the Bridport area for at least two years or to have family in Bridport; and (b) to be in need of suitable accommodation and/or in financial need. For further details and an application form please write to the Clerk to the Trustees, Delta, Allington Park, Bridport DT6 5DD. The closing date is Monday 31 October.



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Let's follow the late Queen's example by looking after the natural world

What a summer of extremes this has been! Intense heat, drought, energy crisis, climate crisis, cost-of-living crisis. Even birds and insects seem to have been hammered by the heat... followed by the storms and rain of early autumn.

And then came the death of our Queen of 70 years. Her late Majesty's care and concern for the natural environment may not always have been at the forefront of publicity but it was a major part of her life. In 2015, she launched the 'Commonwealth Canopy' project, with an appeal to all 53 Commonwealth nations to contribute areas of indigenous forest to be preserved in perpetuity to mark her lifetime of service to the Commonwealth. The first forest areas dedicated to the scheme were in Singapore; by 2019, 46 countries had taken up the challenge, from Angola to New Zealand, with many thousands of hectares of precious forest protected or planted.

In the United Kingdom, this was taken further by the 'Queen's Green Canopy' scheme, which encourages people to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee' and provides free trees to mark 70 years of the Queen's reign as well as her headship of the Commonwealth. This initiative has been extended following Her Majesty's death and will now run until March 2023. Applications from schools and community groups can be made on the Woodland Trust website (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities).

The late Queen was passionate about the Commonwealth community working together to achieve a more positive future for the world's forests. The benefits of working together have also been a key theme of the Bridport Great Big Green Week celebrations this year (24 September to 2 October) organised by Dorset Friends of the Earth. Community groups have been coming together to demonstrate their efforts to tackle the environmental and community challenges of our time.

As an example, several of the Bridport team churches have been transforming areas within their churchyards to make them more wildlife-friendly and provide areas for quiet reflection and healing for people. There is a great opportunity to make these part of a comprehensive 'green network' across the town and surrounding villages and it is hoped that Green Week will encourage community groups to come together to achieve this.

The Queen's life was dedicated to service and community. While we may mourn the end of her life, the new King Charles has himself led a life of dedication to the natural world. He has demonstrated a deep understanding of the fragility of nature, its vital part in our lives and the benefits of working together for the common good. Perhaps we can all take inspiration from this to work more closely together to care for our local patch of the planet.

Alan Bowley



Bridport Stage Company plans its next activities

Bridport Stage Company – formerly known as the Bridport Shakespeare Company – is holding a series of workshops this month.

The 'Voice and confidence for presentations' sessions will begin on Wednesday 5 October at 7pm at the British Legion Hall in Victoria Grove. There will be a series of workshops, possibly until mid-November, depending on take-up. The suggested donation per session is £3.50.

The company is now considering its next production, and has held two read-throughs of *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. It's a 'play within a play', the story of a group of Royal Marines and convicts in an Australian penal colony in the 1780s who put on a production of *The Recruiting Officer*, a 1708 play by George Farquhar.

The players performed *The Magdalen Whitewash* by Valerie Goodwin in the summer, raising €250 for Women's Aid in Ireland and drawing rave reviews from audiences



Above: applause for the company's last production, *The Magdalen Whitewash*

at the British Legion Hall. "A wonderful performance of high emotion, sadness, humour and truth shining a light on some... dark issues," read one letter of praise.

The company is holding an open mic night at Tortilla Cantina on Sunday 16 October and hopes to hold a 70s disco on Saturday 26 November at the British Legion Hall.

See the group's entry on page 24 for contact details.

The baronet who gave Bridport o

As the Royal Naval Association holds its Trafalgar Day service on 23 October (see page 6), our regular contributor Robin Stapleton takes a look at a colourful naval character with a local connection.

Bridport Town Hall's clock tower and cupola were added about 20 years after the hall itself was built, and were donated by Sir Evan Nepean around 1805.

This seems to be little known, so who was he? Evan Nepean was born in 1752 at Saltash, Cornwall, the son of an innkeeper; he died at Loders in 1822. In between he had a remarkable career, rising to the very top of government service and influence.

Nepean joined the Royal Navy in 1773 at Plymouth as a captain's clerk and served in the American War of Independence, during which he was promoted to purser. His last navy posting was to HMS Foudroyant, as secretary to Captain John Jervis (later Earl St Vincent). Jervis was impressed by Nepean's "superior talent for business, unremitting diligence and integrity".

In 1782, when he was 29, Nepean's career took an extraordinary meteoric advance; he went from serving as purser on a navy ship to being appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State, Home Department (now the Home Office) by the Prime Minister, the Earl of Shelburne. This was almost certainly on the recommendation of Jervis, who was a close friend of Shelburne. Jervis's patronage and judgement were to prove well justified.

His responsibilities included:
 (i) the Secret Service, spies, political, naval and counter intelligence;
 (ii) planning the first convict fleet and making plans to start a colony in New South Wales;

(iii) commissioning botanical expeditions, notably the voyage of the *Bounty* in the quest for breadfruit as well as the successful second voyage;
 (iv) Irish Regulation; and
 (v) war and the Colonies, especially Canada. Each one of these responsibilities is a story in itself.

Also in 1782, Nepean married Margaret Skinner, daughter of Captain William Skinner, at the Garrison Church in Greenwich. Nepean's memorial in Loders Church says they had six sons and two daughters, but records exist for only five of these: Harriet, Molyneux Hyde (later Sir Molyneux, 2nd Baronet Nepean), Frederick, William, and Evan (later the Revd Evan Nepean, Canon of Westminster 1860–73 and Chaplain In Ordinary to Queen Victoria).

In 1794, at a time of heightened tensions, Nepean transferred with the Secretary of State to the new Department of War and Colonies, soon moving on to become First Secretary to the Board of Admiralty in 1795. Along with the Treasury, this was one of the two most senior government positions.

In this post he worked closely with the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Admiralty Commission, who relied heavily on his administrative abilities. There were two First Lords during his tenure, and as it happened one of them was Earl St Vincent, Nepean's old boss from HMS Foudroyant. The earl thought him the best secretary "since the days of old Pepys of immortal memory".

The Admiralty office was the centre for naval administration and practically everything that happened there passed through Nepean's hands. He attended Admiralty Board meetings, which were usually held daily, and drafted or dictated orders and communications. Apart from the most important letters, which were signed by three Board members, Nepean signed these himself. Dispatches received were normally directed to him.

This was the time of the Napoleonic wars, when troops were being massed at Boulogne to invade England (not unlike in 1940) and there were also threats to Ireland. Only the Royal Navy stood against invasion, at the same



Right: Bridport Town Hall with its familiar clock and cupola, financed by Sir Evan Nepean around 1805

one of its most famous landmarks

time protecting trade and the colonies. At times the workload was intense, with messages being drafted, dispatched and received late at night.

While at the Admiralty, Nepean continued his intelligence work, sometimes secretly on behalf of the Foreign Office, employing informants and involvement in a 'deniable' plot by French royalists to assassinate Napoleon. The plot was exposed by a double agent with disastrous consequences for the French conspirators who were uncovered.

In 1799 Nepean bought Loders Court, near Bridport, and on 16 July 1802 was made 1st Baronet of Bothenhampton and Loders in the County of Dorset by King George III. He was admitted to the Privy Council in 1804 and in the same year, to the surprise of many and



the consternation of Earl St Vincent, was asked by Prime Minister Addington to fill the vacancy of Chief Secretary of Ireland, which he reluctantly accepted. It was a post to which he was seemingly ill suited. However, that reason needs investigating as none of his three successors stayed any longer in the post than he did. With the approval of the King, he returned from Dublin and was back at the Admiralty as a commissioner within a year. His government career ended in 1806.

Nepean served two terms as MP for Bridport between 1802 and 1812. At that time Bridport returned two members on a small voting franchise! In 1812 he was appointed Governor of Bombay (now Mumbai) by the East India Company, a post he filled for seven years. While in Bombay he was able to advance his

botanical interests, corresponding with Sir Joseph Banks (a botanist, a founder of Kew Gardens and president of the Royal Society) and sending seeds and plants. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1820.

Finally he was appointed Sheriff for Dorset in 1822 but died later the same year and is buried in the family vault in the nave of Loders church.

There are numerous places named after him in Australia including the Nepean river (which skirts Sydney) dam, gorge and reservoir; Nepean Highway; Nepean Bay; Nepean Point; Nepean National Park with heritage site; Nepean Blue Mountain District; Nepean Island; and others. In Canada, 'Nepean' was a town, later designated a city and now a district in Ottawa. Two roads were named after him in Bombay, too.

It seems that throughout his career Nepean was highly regarded for his talents, hard work, diligence and integrity, not least by Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger, Lord Nelson, Earl St Vincent and other prominent individuals. He was also trusted by King George III, who would deal with him direct, unusual for a commoner at that time. Remember, he started life as the son of an innkeeper in Cornwall.

Nepean has a large memorial on the South wall of Loders Church. I am not aware of any other recognition of his remarkable achievements and he seems forgotten to local history, except perhaps in Loders.

Robin Stapleton

Below: the memorial to Nepean and his wife, Margaret, in the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Loders



Organ recitals at St Swithun's

Sunday afternoons at 3pm. Admission is free with a retiring collection. St Swithun's Church, North Allington, Bridport DT6 5DU

<i>Date</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>To include music by</i>
2 October	Peter Shepherd Organist at Paisley Abbey	Pachelbel, JS Bach, Mendelssohn
23 October	Tim Linsley Musical Director, St Mary's Bridport	Bach, César Franck, Vierne, Philip Glass
13 November	Richard Godfrey & Medwin Stephen (senior PipeUp student)	Handel, Bach, Mendelssohn, Parry, Stanford, Ibert, Peeters
4 December	Alex Davies Musical Director, Lyme Regis Parish Church (St Michael's)	Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn

Ласкаво просимо до Брідпорту*: Bridport's collective support for its new Ukrainian community



When Russian troops invaded Ukraine on 24 February, the watching world knew that millions of people would be displaced.

During the first month of the war alone, around a quarter of the population fled their homes, moving either within Ukraine or across the border to neighbouring countries, and the exodus has continued. To date, more than 7 million Ukrainians have sought refuge elsewhere in Europe.

Faced with this humanitarian crisis relatively close to home, the reaction of ordinary British civilians was simple: how can we help? People immediately began donating money and goods to official charities – and some ad-hoc individual schemes – delivering aid to displaced Ukrainians. Then in March the UK government launched the ‘Homes for Ukraine’ scheme, under which residents (known as ‘hosts’) can sign up to offer accommodation to Ukrainian people for a minimum of six months.

Anyone who knows Bridport could have foreseen that the town's residents would respond to this call to action

with impressive speed and enthusiasm. The first refugee from Ukraine – Mila Bielicova – arrived here in April to stay with Glenn and Valentine Crawford, following a local contact through Mila's niece. Since then the number of Ukrainian refugees – or ‘guests’, as they are known – in the town has grown to around 60.

Extending a warm welcome

This is a large number for a place of this size, and it's partly down to the repurposing of a ‘Welcome to Bridport’ video that the Bridport Refugee Support Campaign (BRSC) had previously produced for their work to resettle a family from Sudan. “We had lots of footage of the town so we decided to make a Ukrainian version,” says Margie Barbour, the charity's fundraising lead. “We shot some new clips of locals saying ‘Welcome to Bridport’ in Ukrainian, and made a new 11-minute video. It got shared far and wide between the first guests here and their friends and family back in Ukraine, who realised that this corner of the West Country would be a wonderful, welcoming place for them to seek refuge.”

Support for this new community quickly became a coordinated effort, driven by Bridport Town Council and organisations such as Bridport Quakers, Brit Valley Rotary and Citizens Advice as well as BRSC, plus many, many individual volunteers.

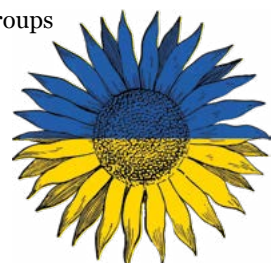
Sue Beckers from the Quakers set up a WhatsApp group called ‘Bridport Ukrainian Friends’, which has proved central to the success of this coordinated support. It's a way for refugees, hosts

and helpers to ask questions, offer help, publicise events and more. There's also a chat group just for guests on the Telegram application, conducted in Ukrainian and Russian.

The Quakers also offered space at the Meeting House in South Street for a weekly meeting for hosts and guests to come along and ask questions, get advice or just enjoy a chat and a cup of tea. The gathering is run by Jim and Jenny Tigg, who have been hosting a Ukrainian mother and daughter since May. Jim has also put his research and experience to use in producing two really useful documents: one is a practical guide to hosting Ukrainian guests, while the other brings together information for guests and their hosts in the area.

Jenny organises the issuing of weekly bus passes, which have proved absolutely vital, particularly as many of the guests have found work that isn't within walking distance. They are worth £24 but the scheme is currently being funded by First Bus so they are free to the user. She also looks after the Bridport Leisure Centre swimming passes, which let hosts swim for just £1 and guests for free.

“At the start we knew there was a steep learning curve ahead,” says Jim. “We had to pioneer some of the processes and gather information to share with the hosts, potential hosts and guests. Now it runs much more smoothly, thanks partly to a number of volunteers who have agreed to take on certain aspects of the organisation. We've also had great support from groups such as Rotary and of course Bridport Town Council has been a driving force. Caroline Pearce – the town council's



Words by Olivia Daly - Photos by Tim Russ

Left: Mila Bielicova was the first Ukrainian refugee to settle in Bridport

Right: the choir of Ukrainian guests performed traditional songs in Bucky Doo Square on 24 August, Ukrainian Independence Day



community initiatives officer – always comes along to our Tuesday sessions to answer questions about the help that’s available.”

Bella Blanchard from Skills and Learning – the provider of adult education for Dorset Council – has been organising English lessons at beginner and intermediate levels. This is a huge job that involves a number of volunteers. The lessons, held at the Quaker Meeting House in South Street, are proving very popular and are often full, although the Quakers have kindly made facilities available at additional times.

Government financial support is being paid through Dorset Council, with a one-off payment of £200 for arriving guests and an optional monthly payment of £350 for hosts for up to a year. There is also a local community hardship fund, administered by the Revd Pete Stone, which can make emergency payments to refugees in acute financial need.

A Ukrainian with local knowledge

Valentina Osborne (pictured, inset) is Ukrainian but has been living in Bridport for some years with her British husband. She has responded to her homeland’s refugee crisis by becoming a vital part of the local support network. She has been appointed by the town council to provide direct support to guests and hosts



including translation, accompanying guests to appointments at Citizens Advice and elsewhere, and generally giving help and advice.

“This is my life now,” says Valentina. “There are many people who need help. They ring me all the time with questions, and I go along to meetings to translate, help mothers find school uniform for their children, get help for others with their computer or phone – many different things. Also, many Ukrainians are worried and just want someone to talk to. I’ve realised, though, that some of the refugees coming over speak better English than I do, so now I’m going to lessons with them. I just want to help – this has changed my life.”

Valentina has also helped BRSC to put together Bridport’s Ukrainian Choir, in which she sings. They have performed a few times in Bucky Doo Square – including at a celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day on 24 August – singing traditional music from their country, and are looking forward to being involved in a performance at the Electric Palace

later this year.

Also on Independence Day, the group was invited to sing again at Brit Valley Rotary’s Ukraine Community Picnic at West Bay and enjoy the evening event with their families.

Challenges lie ahead

‘Homes for Ukraine’ has been a success in Bridport, but those involved are aware that the long-term issues have still to present themselves. “Trickier challenges will appear when the guests come to the end of their hosted period and move out,” says Jim Tigg. “They are nearly all on Universal Credit and many private landlords are reluctant to take tenants on this benefit. Also, there are already 600 local people in the Bridport area waiting for local authority housing. It looks like the refugees will be facing the same daily challenges as many British nationals face.

“To help our guests prepare for this, we held a ‘Next Steps’ workshop during one of our Tuesday gatherings at the end of September. We’re all conscious of the inevitable transitions and what they’ll mean for our Ukrainian community.”

Bridport Town Council’s website (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine/) gives a wide range of information, advice and useful contacts for the town’s Ukrainian guests. There are also links to downloadable guides including those compiled by Jim Tigg.

Turn to page 13 for our ‘In the pod’ interview with one of Bridport’s Ukrainian guests, Viktoriia Tkachenko.

** ‘Welcome to Bridport’*



Left: Lindsey Luxton and Adrian Scadding from Brit Valley Rotary at the organisation’s Ukraine Community Picnic at West Bay this summer

Bridport Tree Planting takes a root-and-branch approach to greening

‘The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.’

In the spirit of this proverb, and fully aware that there’s no time to lose, the green-fingered people behind the Bridport Tree Planting (BTP) group got together three years ago with a mission to bring more trees to public and private spaces around the town.

“We were inspired by a Friends of the Earth scheme to double the tree cover in this country,” says Joe Hackett, the group’s coordinator. “Great Britain has a low level of cover compared with other European countries, and Dorset is among the less well covered English counties. As well as looking beautiful and providing shade, trees have a beneficial effect on local biodiversity that’s clear to see – we can see the increase in certain species where we’ve planted.”

The group was launched at Bridport’s Apple Day celebrations in 2019, and many people signed up to the mailing list and promised their support. The first BTP planting was just a couple of months later at Asker Meadows, where 70 people got together to plant 200 trees. “They’re native species, including downy birch, willow, rowan and wild cherry,” says Joe. “Happily nearly all of them have survived and are now up to six or seven feet tall; the ones near the river have fared best.”

BTP works closely with Bridport Town Council to monitor the local tree stock as well as to secure permits to plant trees in public spaces. This winter the group will be embarking on its most ambitious scheme yet at Flaxhayes, near the end of St Swithin’s Road, where it will be planting pollinating shrubs, large specimen trees and fruit trees, among others, to help biodiversity and improve the area for local people. This is in addition to the 75 saplings the group planted here last year. This part of town is becoming a haven for nature, with a new wildflower meadow and the neighbouring Otter Bend community project that’s creating a natural space filled with trees, herbs and fungi.

Below: John Hinsley (left) and Joe Hackett with a crabapple tree that BTG supplied for St Mary’s Church earlier this year



Above: Dave Dixon – a project worker with Bridport Town Council – and a young helper plant a tree at Asker Meadows

The group planted about 600 trees in public spaces during last year’s planting season, including around 90 saplings at Millennium Green, 54 saplings near the playground in West Bay, and a 30-metre mixed native hedge at Bridport Youth & Community Centre.

The other vital part of BTP’s work is helping people to plant trees on their own land. Some of this work is on a large scale – such as the hundreds of trees the group provided for a farm out past Broadoak, and the 10,000 trees in a valley near Melplash, schemes for which they worked with Nick Gray of Dorset Wildlife Trust to determine the best varieties to use. Organisers emphasise, however, that planting even a single sapling in a back garden is very worthwhile.

“Planting a tree is simply a wonderful thing to do; trees grow and you see the results; but if you don’t plant it, it won’t grow!” says volunteer John Hinsley. “We can provide three free trees to every household, plus advice about which variety would be most suitable. We give away about a thousand trees each year for private planting.”

In spring 2020 the town council provided an enclosure on land at Riverside Gardens, at the bottom of East Street, so BTP could establish its own tree nursery. “We started with 400 trees there, and the number has grown,” says John. “About half are bare-rooted saplings, which we provide for heeling in to a shallow trench in situ and the rest we grow on for a year or two.”

BTP buys some of the trees it plants, including from Groves Nurseries, who have been sponsoring the group for two years by giving them a free tree for every tree sold. Other saplings have come free from the Woodland Trust and some larger trees have been donated by Ovo Energy under the company’s ‘I Dig Trees’ scheme.

Members of the public sometimes donate trees, too, but if you don’t have a spare sapling – or room to plant one – there are other ways to help. “We always need volunteers for weeding and watering” says Joe. “Please get in touch!”

You can find BTP on Facebook, or email Joe Hackett (joe@thehacketts.uk) to join the group’s mailing list and receive their bi-monthly newsletter.



A long way from Kharkiv: finding a safe family refuge here in Bridport

In the pod this month is Viktoriia Tkachenko, a refugee from Ukraine who is living in Bridport with her family.

The Bridge: Please tell us a little about your family and your life in Ukraine.

Viktoriia Tkachenko: There are four of us: I've come to the UK with my husband, Oleksandr, and my sons Maksym, who's 16, and Daniel, 8. We also have a Westie dog named Utah after the US state where Daniel was born.

We are from Kharkiv, a large city in north-east Ukraine. It's a lively, vibrant place with many students, wonderful sports and activities for people of all ages. My husband has his own business supplying equipment for the fruit and vegetable industry, and I have worked as a pharmacist and also in property renovation and refurbishment, although I had a break to raise my children.

We had a good life there: good jobs, good schools, and our children were happy. I miss Ukraine a lot. Kharkiv has been bombed very heavily; in just 10 days the Russian military destroyed most of the new infrastructure that had been built over the last 10 years. Many familiar buildings and facilities have just gone. But my family is safe now and we're grateful to be in Bridport.

TB: How did you come to be in Bridport?

VT: A week before the war started, we had all travelled by car to Moldova for a meeting for my husband's business. Then the war started and we couldn't go home. We moved from Moldova to Bratislava in Slovakia, where we stayed for two months, then on to Poland, where we met my mother who had come on an evacuation train with our dog. Then we came to the UK (with the dog) and my mother stayed in Poland.

We couldn't find a sponsor in the UK for ourselves, but we heard about a woman in Sherborne who was arranging



accommodation for Ukrainians. She connected us with Bridport Christian Fellowship, where we've been staying since early July. The people there are truly wonderful! They have provided everything we needed and are so kind and generous. We are deeply grateful to all of them and everyone else who took part in organising our housing. I could not even imagine how many people wanted to help us. Thank you all so much for your kind hearts and support!

Many Ukrainian refugees want to be in a big UK city – and we had come from a big city at home – but schools were our priority so we are happy to be in Bridport. I'm glad we came here, and I'm so grateful to the community – we've met so many generous, friendly, kind, caring and funny people.

TB: How are things working out for your family now you're here?

VT: Maksym is now at Colfox and Daniel is at Bridport Primary, and they're happy, although they also have to attend Ukrainian school online, so it's a lot of work for them.

In September we went to London to celebrate Maksym's birthday, and we stayed with my husband's business partner from Kharkiv, so I've been able to compare life in London a little bit with

life here. London's obviously a great city but people seem to be more kind and friendly here in Bridport. When you're in a new country, I think it's easier to be in a smaller town.

When it comes to work, we have to start from zero now and prove our knowledge and our qualifications. I'm having English lessons three times a week and I'm trying to learn pharmaceutical terms although I can't work as a pharmacist here at the moment because the system and laws are so different.

I'm also interested in finding a course in 3D design so I can explore my other work in property renovation; I love the process, seeing the 'before' and 'after'. I don't know which kind of work I want to do in the longer term, though.

TB: What are your plans for the future?

VT: It's very hard to make plans because we don't know how long the war will last. Obviously we'd like to return home and we hope and pray for a fast end to the fighting. Ukrainians are peaceful people, we don't want to fight, but Russia has always put pressure on Ukraine, has never let us just live and develop. Many Russian people don't understand what it is to be free, to live in a democracy. I know that most of them believe the propaganda that their government puts out, promoting the idea that there are enemies all around. They pretend we are 'brothers' but in fact they see us as second-class people.

It's not just 'our' war and I fear that Putin won't stop; if he's victorious in Ukraine he will go after Poland and the Baltic countries. European leaders try and speak with him as if he understands human values, but he doesn't. For him, people's lives – including those of his own citizens – are worth nothing. He won't even allow dead Russian soldiers to have military funerals.

For now, all Ukrainians, no matter where they are, are supporting our →



A long way from Kharkiv continued

country and our troops however we can. My husband has given equipment from his business to the military, for example, and he and our sons helped a voluntary organisation while we were in Poland.

It wasn't our choice to be uprooted;

we did it for our children. I'm just happy that we're safe and that they don't hear the bombs now.

Our family would like to thank all the people of the United Kingdom for their great help and support. Everything you

do for the Ukrainian people is invaluable!

Thanks so much for your kindness and generosity, for your brave decision to open your hearts and doors to strangers from another country. God bless you all!



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EXHIBITION | FREE ENTRY | 10AM - 4PM

An exhibition of work by Nick Berkeley, combining images from *Time After Time* (1999) and *The Wild ones* (2016) shown together for the first time.



BLACK SHEEP

THEATRE

FRI 14 OCT | 7:30PM



MARK SIMMONS

COMEDY

SAT 29 OCT | 8:00PM



GRACE PETRIE

MUSIC

MON 31 OCT | 7:30PM

THEATRE FILM SPOKEN WORD COMEDY EXHIBITIONS MUSIC FAMILY DANCE



Booking is easy: Book in person at Bridport Tourist Information Centre, visit us online at www.bridport-arts.com or call 01308 424901.
The Gallery is open Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10am to 4pm

ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

Morning what...? Morning Praise!

It's now more than a year since St Mary's started its monthly Morning Praise service, so it's a good time to reflect on how it has developed.

Lockdown was over, services in church could begin again, but life was different. Since the clergy team was reduced in numbers, maintaining a communion service every Sunday would be hard, so across the parish a new pattern of worship was established. At St Mary's, a 'Service of the Word', led by a licensed lay minister, was introduced on the third Sunday of the month. This rather strange title was soon changed to 'Morning Praise'.

As we all know, change can be challenging. "Why do we have to do anything different?"... "Let's keep to what we are familiar with!"... "I'm not coming to a service where I don't know what's going to happen!" These natural fears may not have been expressed out loud, but I suspect were felt by many. It is to the credit of the St Mary's congregation that many accepted this change despite their fears, and others joined to worship in this new way. So what are the key features of Morning Praise at St Mary's? They are:

- teaching that presents a challenge to our faith as lived out in our day-to-day lives;
- planning the services collaboratively, initially with an ordinand and more recently with a lay worship leader;
- children's activities embedded in the service;
- putting the words of the service on the screen, so people are looking up and don't have their heads buried in a service sheet;
- using modern and challenging words – often in the Celtic tradition, with its emphasis on creation and care for the environment;
- having a 'snappy' title to engage people's imagination;
- using some new hymns and songs; and
- sometimes using video clips.



Many thanks to the congregation at St Mary's for their support and encouragement over the past year in developing Morning Praise. Here are the titles of some of the Morning Praise services:

- Holidays are holy days
- All at sea
- Who am I?
- Where is God... who is to blame?
- Jesus Christ – who do you think you are?
- Walking the way

I'll finish with some words from The Iona Community that we have used at the end of Morning Praise:

Make us passionate followers of Jesus
rather than passive supporters.
make our churches
cells of radical discipleship
and signposts to heaven,
then in us, through us,
and – if need be – despite us,
let your kingdom come.

Peter Wright

Bell Ringing

Do you want to learn how to ring the bells? St Mary's bellringing team welcomes new members – no experience is necessary and training is provided. They meet every Thursday at 7pm. Contact Bob Hardwick on 01308 420632.



Christmas Hampers & Stockings appeal

There will be two fundraising quiz nights this season in aid of this great cause. Saturdays 15 October and 19 November at 7pm in St Mary's Church House Hall, South Street. See the advert on page 4 for details.

October services at St Mary's Bridport. All welcome:

Sunday 2	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 5	2.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 9	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10am	Parish Holy Communion with the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, for the Revd Lorna Johnson's licensing to the Parish of Bridport
Sunday 16	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Morning Harvest Praise
Sunday 23	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30	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
 Children & youth worker –
 Jean Mitchell 422127
 Home communion –
 The Revd Kay Watters 427290
 Director of music – vacancy

From the parish editor

Great fun was had by all at the ‘Doghampton’ dog show in the grounds of Holy Trinity in August. Over 40 dogs took part, making a very lively occasion. The Bridport Dog Training Society gave a display of obedience on and off the lead. The 12 lighthearted classes included waggiest tail, most appealing eyes and best trick. The photos below are of best dog in show and reserve best dog.

Sunday 4 September was the last service at Holy Trinity with Sue Smith as our director of music. Sue had chosen all the hymns herself and the choir sang a joyful and uplifting anthem by Handel. The service of sung communion, which closed with an organ voluntary by JS Bach, was taken by the Revd Deb Smith. We send our best wishes to Sue and thank her for all the music she has given us, and hope she will now have more time to spend with her family.

Other events in September were the Ride+Stride, organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT), during which several members of Holy Trinity cycled or walked to as many churches as possible. The money raised from sponsorship is divided between DHCT and our own church. The proceeds from the delicious cream tea held in Holy Trinity on the same day also went to the charity.

October starts with the monthly coffee morning on Saturday 1 October from 10am to 12 noon. These occasions are always popular and a lovely way to catch up with friends. We intend to make the coffee morning on 3 December into a small Christmas fair. If you do craft work or are involved with a charity and would like to hire a table, please contact Heather Purse on 423220 or heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk.

On Saturday 15 October there will be a soup and sandwich lunch in the church from 12 noon until 2pm. There is no need to book, just come for a tasty light meal.

It is time for the autumn tidy up in the Old Churchyard,

Below: The best in show (left) and reserve best in show at Holy Trinity’s ‘Doghampton’ dog show in August

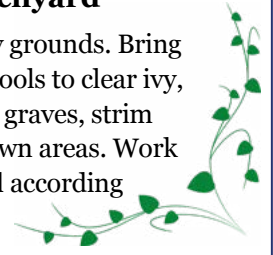


Garden working party

Saturday 15 October at 2pm

The Old Churchyard

Please help us tidy these lovely grounds. Bring your own gardening gloves & tools to clear ivy, weeds & tree saplings, tidy old graves, strim uncut places & reduce overgrown areas. Work areas will be allotted on arrival according to ability & tools brought.



Soooper Saturday!

Hosted by the Holy Trinity Social Committee

Saturday 15 October

12 noon to 2pm

Holy Trinity Bothenhampton

Soup and sandwiches served in church

Suggested minimum donation for lunch £4

*Just come
 along – no
 need to book
 in advance*



making a pleasant place for families to visit their loved ones. If you would like to help, come to the Old Churchyard from 2pm on Saturday 15 October. Please remember to bring your own tools.

We are planning to start a hot cooked luncheon in the village hall over the winter months on the second Thursday, beginning in November. A small team of helpers would be appreciated, so if you wish to volunteer please contact Heather on 423220 or heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk.

British Summer Time comes to an end on 30 October so don't forget to put your clocks back one hour.

Barbara Ffooks

Our film evening is on Saturday 29 October

from 7.30pm

showing ELVIS

starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks

Bothenhampton Village Hall, doors open 7pm

Admission £5 on the door

or ring Nick Child 07876 780091

or Linda Child 07876 780092

October services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

Sunday 2	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 9	10am	Team service at St Mary's Bridport (see page 5)
Sunday 16	11am	Sung Communion
Sunday 23	11am	Matins
Sunday 30	11am	Morning Praise

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)



Flushing away poverty one toilet at a time

Following an appeal to the congregation for contributions to the Tearfund 'Toilet Twinning' venture – for which we hoped to raise £60 – we in fact raised the astounding sum of £180. The consensus at the service on 28 August was that our toilet should be twinned with one in South Sudan. Since so much was raised, we were also able to twin our tap with one in Uganda, and we gave an additional donation of £60 to help Tearfund's work on this extremely worthwhile project.

www.toilettwinning.org/why-60

The Friends of Holy Trinity

Everyone is warmly invited to enjoy an autumn walk of about 45–50 minutes on Saturday 1 October starting from the church at 2pm and led by Martin Whiting. Cream teas will be available in the church from 3pm.

Do also come to a coffee morning in church from 10am to 12 noon on Thursday 3 November. There will be a bring-and-buy table, some guest tables and a raffle.

Samaritans Purse

The congregation will be taking part in the annual 'Operation Christmas Child' initiative, in which shoe boxes are packed with things such as fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies, and sent to children in a country where they may not receive anything at Christmas. If you would like to pack a box there are leaflets available in the church giving advice on what and what not to put in a box. Further information is available online at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child.



Church bells

A visitor to one of our services in August was a lady called Ursina from Switzerland. She was on a cycling tour that had brought her across France and southern England, and

she was heading for Cornwall. Noticing that the bells were more rhythmical than continental ones, she asked how this was possible. One of our bellringers explained the ringing method to her using the model and showing her the ropes, but Ursina was keen to see the real thing so she climbed to the belfry and took some photos!

If you are interested in joining a lively band of ringers, please contact Janet Robinson, the Bradpole tower captain (jrb-jrb@outlook.com). You don't have to be a member of the church to take part!

Eco Church and Living Churchyard

Holy Trinity is now the joint owner (with St Mary's Bridport) of an Austrian scythe, which will be used to cut the wildflower meadows that have been created between some of the rows of graves. This will ensure that the flower seeds are suitably scattered and hopefully will produce a beautiful display in years to come.

Bradpole Parish Council

The council will meet on Thursday 6 October at 7.30pm in Bradpole Forster Village Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend and take part in either of the two democratic ten-minute sessions to address the meeting for three minutes. More information online at www.bradpole.org.uk.

Village defibrillator

The defibrillator is on the wall in front of the village hall with full instructions to guide anyone through the process of using it. It is an automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable lifesaving device that can give a casualty's heart an electric shock when it has stopped beating normally in a sudden cardiac arrest. It works by checking the casualty's heart rhythm once the defibrillator pads are placed on their chest and giving them a shock if needed. They can be used on adults or children over one year old. By using a defibrillator before an ambulance arrives, you can significantly increase someone's chance of survival.

October services at Holy Trinity Bradpole:

Sunday 2	9.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 4	2.30pm	'Tuesdays Together'
		Communion
Sunday 9	10am	Team service at St Mary's
		Bridport (see page 5). No
		service at HT Bradpole
Sunday 16	9.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 23	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30	9.30am	Holy Communion

Friends of Holy Trinity

Coffee morning in the church

Thursday 3 November, 10am to 12 noon

Coffee, cakes and other treats. Raffle and bring-and-buy table. All proceeds used to maintain the church building



ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725
 walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com
 Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421
 If you have any pastoral or personal issues,
 please contact the Revd Ann Ayling 424896
 (Wednesday is her day off)

The buildings of Walditch: the village hall

The second in our series of articles about the architectural gems in Walditch concerns the village hall, which was built around 1860 as the village school and schoolhouse for its then resident village teacher. I will cover the school's history in a later issue and I'd be interested in receiving any family memories or photos from descendants of its former pupils. The school closed in 1921.

The hall is modest in size so is easy to heat. Its capacity is 45 seated or 70 standing, and there is a fitted pine country-style domestic kitchen. Limited space means the toilets aren't wheelchair accessible, although there are ramps into the hall. Private bookings are available through Jill Tobutt on 01308 458999 or Pat Pullen on 01308 425703.

The village hall committee is keen to foster a community spirit and its members work hard to encourage village residents and the wider Bridport community to use the hall. Several groups regularly meet in the hall and their activities are advertised on the noticeboard outside.

The calligraphy group meets on alternate Monday afternoons from 2 to 4pm during the autumn and spring. More details are available from Eileen Dearden on 01308 425383 or mikeandeileen@hotmail.co.uk.

There is regular table tennis on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9pm at £2 per session. Booking is essential: contact Pat Stapleton on 01308 456421.

An art group meets from 2 to 4pm on Wednesdays in the hall during the colder winter and spring months. Contact Robin Stapleton on 01308 456421 for more information.

A fun-filled keep-fit class to get your blood pumping and body moving meets in the hall from 10 to 11am every Wednesday. For more information, contact Mary George on

Thelma's hymn notes

The Lord's My Shepherd

This hymn was one of our late Queen's favourite pieces of music and was sung at her funeral. The words, based on the text of Psalm 23, are usually attributed to the English Puritan Francis Rous (1581–1659). His version was included in 'The Psalms of David set forth in English meeter', which he published in 1641, although the words were then heavily revised by a committee of editors before being approved for use in church.

The hymn is often referred to by its usual tune, 'Crimond', as well as by its title. The melody is by Jessie Seymour Irvine (1836–87), the daughter of a Church of Scotland parish minister at Crimond, Aberdeenshire. She has been described as standing "in a strong Scottish tradition of talented amateurs". It was arranged by Christopher Tambling (1964–2015), director of music at Downside School and choirmaster at Downside Abbey.

There is an alternative tune, 'Brother James's Air', by James Leith Macbeth Bain (1860–1925), who was known as 'Brother James'. He composed Psalm 23 as a sacred choral anthem.

Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch



01308 422034 or email mary3george@hotmail.com.

On the third Monday of each month the 'Krafty Women' group meets for crafting, coffee and chat. Contact Mary George as above for more details.

On the third Tuesday of each month WOW (Women of Walditch) meet from 10am to 12 noon. Details from Pat Pullen on 01308 425703 or dorsetpullens@btinternet.com.
James Craddock

Species identification in Walditch churchyard

In June, as last year, we took part in a national event called 'Churches Count on Nature'. During the week we recorded species in the entire Walditch churchyard, not just the conservation area. The result was: 58 wildflowers (plus 1

Pictured: Walditch Village Hall (below), which overlooks the village green; (right) the hall interior and kitchen



Penny Hall



Chris Wellman-Herold



ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

that wasn't identified), 10 grasses (plus 2 not identified), 2 ferns and 1 rush.

Overall the number of species counted was more than in the previous year, probably partly because we were drawing on more botanical expertise. Despite the increase, a few species recorded in 2021 were missing this year, although this is not an unusual occurrence in nature. We were not asked to record numbers, which ranged from extensive, (though not everywhere in the churchyard) to only a few plants. In one species (stinking iris) there was just a single plant. We also made an informal observation of insects.

During the last two years we have successfully established red campion, wild carrot, common knapweed, field scabious, musk mallow and cowslips to widen the diversity, though it remains to be seen whether the young cowslip plants have survived the hot dry summer.

Using the provided 'species indicator chart' we have identified the site as neutral, i.e. not calcareous or acid.

Our results will be submitted via the Bridport Team Ministry to the national database

Robin Stapleton and Rachel O'Hara

Walditch Garden Group

The group meets this month on Thursday 27 October at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Do come along and join us – you'll find a warm welcome, with discussion and advice on various garden topics. Informal and friendly. Refreshments.

Garden tips for October:

Bring in your harvest; clean the greenhouse; rake up fallen leaves and make leaf mould; clear up the garden and burn or bin diseased leaves, etc.; save seedheads; prune and train tall shrubs and climbing roses; cut back and divide perennials or leave foliage in place to shelter wildlife; plant climbers, perennials, and lily and tulip bulbs; lift and divide rhubarb; take hardwood cuttings from shrubs; move evergreen shrubs; and move tender plants into a greenhouse or conservatory.

Jane Mowatt

October services at St Mary's Walditch:

Sunday 23 11am Holy Communion

Also Morning Prayer every Thursday at 10am

**Sunday 9 10am Team service at St Mary's
Bridport (see page 5)**

ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

West Bay WI

The WI enjoyed a very nice meal at Haddon House in August and then held a cake stall on 20 August, raising £147. October sees the usual Knit & Natter on 5 October at 10.30am and then on 12 October at 2.30pm Mary Tassel will give a talk on herbal medicine.

The WI is always keen to see new members. If you are interested in joining, phone Alison Ridge on 01308 897293.

Round and about the Bay

This summer the visitors to West Bay basked in sunshine and heat – did they think they were in the Mediterranean? The campsites were full, it was hard to get a place on the beach and there were many more people swimming in the sea than the usual hardy Blue Tits group who swim throughout the year.

The dry weather ended dramatically when we had a deluge of rain, resulting in flooding outside Seagulls Restaurant and all along West Bay Road (see photo, right). It was the first time I had seen a fire engine pumping the water into the fields; I understand they were on their way back from the Bay and stopped to assist Wessex Water. However, come the first weekend of September, the fun fair had packed up and the last of the campers had headed off home in time for the new school term.

If you have been down to the West Beach you will have noticed there is now wheelchair-friendly matting in place to allow those in wheelchairs to get onto the beach. Local

photographer Neil Barnes has been campaigning for this for more than eight years, and with help from Elaine Leader it has finally come to fruition. Apparently there have been some very emotional moments, as for most disabled people it is the first time in their lives they have been on a beach. It's hard for most of us to appreciate what this means.

It was good to see the torchlight parade back again and it was certainly well supported, culminating on the East Beach. There was no bonfire this year but the display of fireworks made up for this. →



Right: The heavy rain in September led to flooding along West Bay Road and in the neighbouring fields

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

The Melplash Show returned for the first time since 2019 and was extremely busy with over 400 trade stands selling a wide variety of items. I resisted the urge to buy a tractor!

Much preparation had gone into the hosting of Stage 6 of the Tour of Britain. I followed the previous stages that week on TV and hoped we would at least have good weather to show off our fantastic scenery. It was not to be, however, owing to the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II, when the organisers decided to cancel the three remaining stages. Who knows if we will ever get this chance again. One good thing, though, is we now have a much improved surface on the Marsh Barn road.

Sue Pollock

Upcoming events

West Bay Community Forum will be hosting a meeting for all members on Thursday 13 October at 7 pm, when we will have the opportunity for a question-and-answer session with Cllr Ian Bark, Mayor of Bridport. All members are welcome and as always we would love to see some new members. If you have any questions please contact Sue Pollock at rognsuewbay@btinternet.com or on 07903 558568.

The Discovery Centre will stay open throughout October, (Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm) and the Buried in Sand exhibition will then finish so if you haven't seen it be sure to pop in. The guided walks will continue every Thursday throughout October and can be booked either at the centre or online at www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk.

West Bay Days will be holding their bonfire night on Saturday 29 October from 4.30pm with fireworks at 8pm.

October services at St John's:

Sunday 2	11am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 4	7.30pm	A service to mark the Revd Philip Ringer's 30 years in the priesthood
Sunday 9	10am	Team service at St Mary's Bridport (see page 5)
Sunday 16	11am	Holy Communion
Saturday 22	6pm	Service of wholeness and healing
Sunday 23	11am 3pm	Coffee & Morning Praise Royal Naval Association Trafalgar Day service
Sunday 30	11am	Coffee & Morning Praise

Also Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock
aejsullock@gmail.com

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

From the parish editor

Could it be that Queen Bertha of Kent, later made a saint, was the woman who bought Christianity to Britain? Bertha was a princess of the Franks and was born around 565AD. Her father was Charibert I, the Merovingian King of Paris.

She was a Christian but married Ethelbert, the heathen King of Kent, and settled in Canterbury around 580AD. Ethelbert is widely known as the first Anglo Saxon king to convert to Christianity, and this was possibly as a result of his wife's persuasion.

The Christianisation of Anglo Saxon England is often associated with Augustine of Canterbury. Augustine was an influential theologian and philosopher who wrote many texts of Christian doctrine and proselytised throughout Europe. Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine to convert the English in about 597AD. He landed at Thanet in Kent alongside 40 monks.

Bede, in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People, describes how Ethelbert was initially distrustful of the mission and met under an open sky to safeguard against the use of sorcery to immediately convert him. Despite his wariness, Ethelbert did allow the mission to secure a base at Canterbury and permitted them to preach, although he was not converted until some time later.

It is known that a Christian sect would have come to England earlier with the Romans, but they were a small group and hadn't integrated as such possibly until the arrival of Queen Bertha.

Anna Sullock



Above: A statue of Queen Bertha in Canterbury

St Swithun's fundraising quiz

The quiz planned for 18 September, which was postponed after the Queen's death, will now be held on Sunday 9 October. See page 4 for details.

October services at St Swithun's:

Eucharist is held every Sunday (not 9 October) at 9.30am and every Thursday at 10am. Contemplative Church is held on the first Saturday each month at 4pm in St Swithun's Hall (NB: new time for the winter months). There is a community coffee morning on the first Thursday every month 10.45–11.45am. See page 5 for details of the team service on 9 Oct.

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159
Church secretary – Sue Herman
422598 / bridportsec@gmail.com

incorporating
UPLODERS CHAPEL

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



Settling into autumn

We are now definitely into autumn, and the first few weeks of the new season are a time of change. The end of warm evenings sitting on my decking marvelling at the view of the sea; no longer having to walk my dog in the early morning and late evening to avoid the heat; even putting the lights on earlier as the nights draw in.

Already we're seeing a big change in the weather. I now have to dodge the sometimes very heavy showers when I walk my dog as the welcome rain changes the landscape from dry, parched earth to the lush green fields we are so used to. In his poem 'Ode to Autumn', Keats describes this time as a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", and mellow – meaning subdued or low key – is a fitting description as it's neither very hot nor very cold. It's certainly fruitful, too, as the final harvests are gathered in and berries and fruits appear in the hedges and on the trees.

BUC is certainly not subdued at the moment, however. In early September we were very pleased and excited about the arrival of our new minister, the Revd Jane Wilson. Her welcome service was a joyous occasion attended by civic and church dignitaries as well as BUC and circuit members. We were also pleased to meet Jane's husband, Graham, and their two daughters, Jess and Alice. As a church we are looking forward to Jane's ministry and to working with her to serve the community of Bridport and sharing the good news of Jesus.

As the holiday season ends and Bridport returns to a slightly quieter time, we are still busy at BUC offering opportunities for fellowship and food. Our pre-school, Stepping Stones, is under way once more, while the next Big Breakfast will be held on Saturday 8 October from 9 to 11.30am. This is a once-a-month opportunity to join with many and enjoy a full cooked breakfast or a bacon sandwich with a cup of coffee. We also hold a coffee morning every Wednesday and most Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

On Thursday 20 October from 2 to 4.30pm we have Thursday Club, where you can try crafts, bring your knitting, play board games or just sit and talk with others. The session finishes with tea, cakes and sandwiches. Finally, on Wednesday 26 October we have Lunch Club when we serve a two-course lunch at 12.30pm for a minimal donation. It's another opportunity to join with others and enjoy fellowship and a hot meal.

All our events and activities are listed on the right. Everyone is welcome to come along, and as autumn continues and the weather cools, you can be sure BUC will remain warm and welcoming.

Ros Hilliard

October services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 2	10.30am	Songs of Praise
	4pm	Soul Space with tea and cake
Sunday 9	10.30am	Revd Jane Wilson
Sunday 16	10.30am	Revd John Yarren
Sunday 23	10.30am	Gill Bumphrey
Sunday 30	10.30am	Revd Jane Wilson

Regular events

Our coffee mornings are held every Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 12 noon. All are welcome. We also have Stepping Stones pre-school every morning.

Mondays	10am–noon	Local Vocals in the church
	2.30pm	Golden Cap Centre of the National Trust (last Monday of the month only)
Tuesdays	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society
	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first and third Tuesdays only)
	2pm	Bridport u3a (fourth Tuesday)
	4.30pm	Rainbows
	5.30pm	Brownies
Wednesdays	7pm	New Elizabethan Singers
	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band in church
	6pm	Fitsteps
Thursdays	7.30pm	Kick boxing
	2.30pm	Bridport History Society (second Thursday only)
Fridays	5pm	Slimming World
	6–7.30pm	Kick boxing

Other events in October

Saturday 8	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast
Thursday 20	2pm	Thursday Club – tea, chat, crafts, etc. All welcome
Saturday 15	7pm	Barn dance in aid of the Christmas Day lunch
Wednesday 26	12.30pm	Lunch Club (please book with Sue: 422598)

From Uploders Chapel

As I write this we are entering autumn, and the weather seems to be having trouble making up its mind what it wants to do! One minute the sun is shining and the next it is tipping down with rain. However, at least the grass is beginning to green up and the fruit trees are looking as though we should have a good harvest.

Our last service in September was our Harvest Festival. Earlier in the month the Revd Peter Clark took a →

UPLODERS CHAPEL continued...

service during which he said he had been challenged to include Mickey Mouse in his sermon. Of course he coped with the task, and Mickey (pictured) is now a valued member of the congregation. Well would you expect anything less at an Uploders Chapel service?

On a more serious note, we have sadly lost Melanie, who was very supportive of the chapel in many ways. She is going to be much missed. Such an interesting person, which we learnt more about at the service of thanksgiving for a happy life on 19 August. We really appreciate that Melanie wanted all donations at the service to be given to the chapel. It has also been lovely that her partner David has come to our regular services since she died.

The Ride+Stride event took place on 10 September and my concerns that we wouldn't be able to have our usual welcome with cuppas and cake were happily overcome. Thanks so much to everyone who did their bit to make it all go well. Joseph Pullan once again agreed to ride or stride for the chapel. With my treasurer's hat on, I'd like to say that if anyone reading this would like to give a belated sponsorship donation for Joseph's efforts, please let me know before the end of October.

As we move forward, we will be enjoying our first service with the Revd Jane Wilson. We are also hoping to have a coffee morning sometime in the not-too-distant future plus



Left: Mickey is now a member of the congregation at Uploders Chapel!

a musical evening. Keep an eye out for further information.

Do you ever find yourself asking yourself odd questions and going on Google to try and get an answer? Well, I decided I wanted to know where the clerical collar, called a 'dog collar', came from. This is what I found on Wikipedia: The collar has always been and still is the dress code for Protestant preachers and lawyers in Europe. In days past, these individuals wore black and chose a white sweatband (cravat) to wear round their necks for the purpose of riding on

horseback. This became personified in the UK by John Wesley, founder of the Methodists, who rode on horseback the length and breadth of England, preaching the Bible. Well there you go!

So, with the hope of an Outstanding October, having had rather a mix of a Scorching and Soggy September, I wish you well and hope we see you at Uploders Chapel for one event or another.

Carol Hall

October services at Uploders Chapel:

Sunday 2	10.30am	Revd Jane Wilson (Holy Communion)
Sunday 16	10.30am	Tim Wells

**St MARY & St CATHERINE
Roman Catholic Church**

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



I love pigs!

Yes, I really do. If I go to a country show, I can be quite happy to spend a whole day looking at them. Sadly, I couldn't make the Melplash Show this year but a friend sent me some lovely photographs (there's one on this page).

My love for pigs probably goes back to my early formative years in a monastery, where among other animals we kept pigs. They taught me more about God's love than much reading and lecturing. I used to love to spend time with them, especially when things seemed hard going. They seemed so much more sensible than some of my brethren and we spent most of the day in silence anyway!

When we want to know something of God's love, we are often told to look at a beautiful sunset, a rough sea, a lofty mountain. I found it in the pigs. We don't necessarily need God to see that the beautiful things in the world are

beautiful, but a God who can find beauty and worth in those pigs, well, that's the God for me. A God who can laugh softly at their funny antics, at their self-satisfied expressions, is for me. Pigs are absurd and messy and funny – and so am I, and probably most of you too. The God who I can understand is the One who created and values those bundles of incompetence and stupidity that pigs often are, because then I understand that he loves me too.

Yes, if God can love pigs – and I am sure he does – then he can love and value you and me too.

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.

BEACON CHURCH

Priory Lane, Bridport

Church office 456031
office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk
www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk

Like all churches, we at Beacon Church have gone through significant transformation during the pandemic.

Having sought God's direction, we focus on communicating with God through prayer; being family to all who come through the doors; and reaching out to the community of Bridport.

During the week we meet on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes to be a place of peace and to be family for the hungry and lonely through the community kitchen.

On Thursday evenings we open the door at 5pm and provide a place for anyone who wishes to come and sit and rest from the busyness of life as we pray for the community of Bridport. Each week different people pop in; some stay



for 10 minutes and others rest for a full hour. Some pray, some listen – all are welcome and we never know who will turn up – and it is always exciting to see who is drawn in.

Our Sunday mornings are very relaxed and Spirit-led. We follow a pattern of prayer and worship, teaching and fellowship.

Our heart is that all will feel welcome, and that through this all will meet the Lord and be transformed for the life that He intends for them. We'd love you to come along and join us.

James Houston

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

Please get in touch if you'd like your group to appear here. Entries are free but are limited to a few lines and are for non-profit community groups and clubs and their events (not ticketed events such as concerts). Unless otherwise stated, all phone numbers are Bridport (01308).

West Dorset Flower Club meets at the WI Hall, North Street, at 2.30pm on the second Monday of each month with demos and speakers. On Monday 10 October Elizabeth Whitcomb presents 'The Three R's' and there is a competition on the theme of 'Autumn's Bounty'. Phone 456339.

Bridport Stroke Club meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact the secretary, David Lawrence dandhlawrence@gmail.com

Bridport 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 & District Gardening Club will meet on Thursday 20 October at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North Street, when designer, author and nurseryman Charles Cheshire will speak about new and unusual plants for Dorset. Non-members £2. More information online at www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

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

West Dorset Music Community Orchestra meets on Wednesdays in term time 6.30–7.45pm at the Christian Fellowship Hall in East Street car park. Contact 456297 / www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk

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



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, tap, street, urban and musical theatre plus specific boys' classes. To enrol and for more details, contact Nikki Northover 07765 971357 / bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com / www.bridportyouthdance.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.

The New Elizabethan Singers meet for choral rehearsals in the United Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from September to May. For more information please contact the secretary, Sarah Stamford sastamford@outlook.com / 425312 / www.thenewelizabethansingers.org.uk →

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



Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies continued

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.

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 & 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 will meet on Thursday 13 October at the United Church Hall, 2 for 2.30pm, for 'Looking for Agnes: Bridport's first woman town councillor' with Professor Karen Hunt. Visitors welcome at £3pp. Membership £10 / £15 couple. Contact Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard jferentzi@aol.com / 425710.

Bridport Stage Company (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group will now be meeting at the British Legion on Wednesday evenings. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Contact Valerie for more information: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk

Burton Bradstock Duplicate Bridge Group meets at the village hall Tues 1.45–4.45pm. Contact Kathy 485626.

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.

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, 2 for 2.30pm, on the third Thursday each month Sept–June. On 20 October John Davies presents the story of William Arnold, an Elizabethan master mason active in the West Country. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome at £7.50 per event. www.taswestdorset.org.uk

Bridport Community Shed, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, opens Mon, Wed & Thurs 10am–12 noon. On the first Tues of the month there is also an evening stitching session (please book in advance). Contact 07593 880428.

Bridport & District u3a is for people in their 'third age'. No minimum age, but you must be no longer 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

Dementia Friendly Bridport has spaces in its gentle exercise group for people with dementia and their carers. It's run by a qualified instructor and volunteers. Tuesdays 1.45–3.15pm at Bridport Leisure Centre. Contact Debra: 07890 649561 / dementiafriendlybridport@gmail.com

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

Friday Dance Group, just for women, meets every Friday 11.30am–12.30pm 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.

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

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

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, 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, 3.15–10.45pm. Appointments 07385 290804.

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 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.

Free play singing, improvisation and earth/peace movement chants. Spontaneous compositions of sound; few words. Tuesdays 2pm at Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane, for about an hour. All welcome, £1 per person. Phone Pen 07713 008290.

Bridport Tree Planting plants and gives away 1,000 trees a year in public and private spaces around Bridport. Three free saplings available per household. Help needed to water and weed young trees. Contact joe@thehacketts.uk for details and to receive newsletter. www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please

Bridport Bellringers at St Mary's

We meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays and always welcome new ringers. We have three learners now, progressing very well, and are happy to help train people on our lovely bells. Contact Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain 01308 420632.

The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society (West Dorset Group) will meet at Lodders Village Hall on Saturday 8 October when Andy Violet will present 'A century of ceramics: Torquay Potteries 1869–1969'. Starts at 2pm with tea and biscuits. Members £1, visitors £3. Contact Jane for more information: jferentzi@aol.com.

Life+line Bereavement Support is a Bridport Team Ministry initiative for people of all faiths or none meeting in a supportive, confidential environment to listen to and encourage one another in our experience of grief. Fourth Monday of every month 2.30–4pm at Greenfields, Bridport Community Hospital. Contact Diana Wright 456967.

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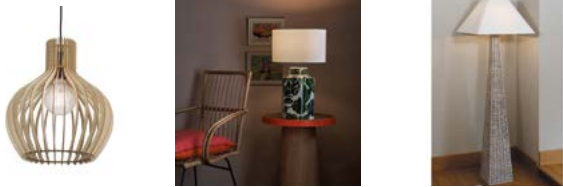
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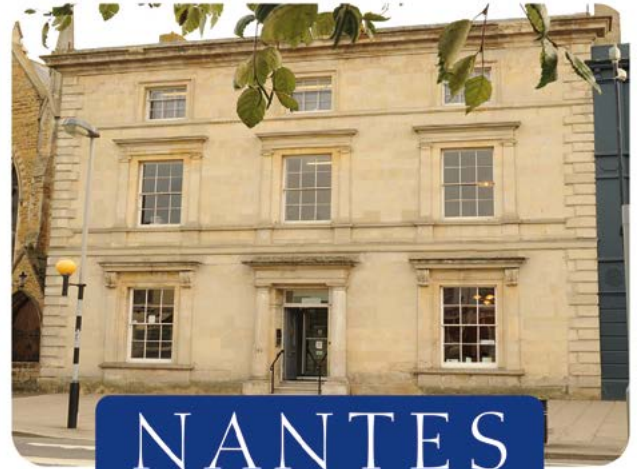
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