

# *the* **Bridge**

December 2022/January 2023



Snow on the sea defences at West Bay. Photo by Antony Spencer

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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*The advertising and copy deadline for the February 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 9 January*

# Let's unwrap Christmas and find its heart

## Christmas is coming!

These words either fill you with dread and panic or with a sense of wonder and joy. But this year perhaps we are all more aware than ever of how the rampant jollity of the season may be difficult to swallow.

Worries about putting the heating on, the rocketing cost of living, the war in Ukraine, political and economic unrest around the world, anxiety over climate change... where does the Christmas story fit in?

It fits in perfectly. For the Christmas story is not about detachment from reality, it's not about setting aside the life we are in and smothering it in tinsel. Sometimes people expect something extraordinary – even miraculous – to happen at Christmas. But when Christ came on earth, he came clothed not in the extraordinary, but in the ordinary.

Don't we want to focus less on the Christmas wrapping and get to the heart of it? For what good is it to us if the angel announces good news of great joy to the shepherds living in the fields if that good news is not also announced to us in the night fields of our lives?

What good is it to us if Jesus is laid in a manger in Bethlehem if he is not also born anew in us and cradled in the manger of our lives?

What good is it to us if the shepherds go to see this thing that has taken place if we do not also see in our lives this thing that has happened?

What good is it to us if Mary treasures and ponders how these things can be if we do not also wonder at the mystery of God-with-us in our time and place?

I want to find the child lying in the manger of my life here and now, don't you? Isn't that why we still hope each

*I want Christmas  
to bring us  
together, to see  
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filled with the  
light of life*

Christmas to experience the joy, the wonder? To see the light born again in the darkness of the world?

I want Christmas to make a difference to how I see the people around me in our amazing town. I want Christmas to bring us together, to see how and where our lives are filled with the light of life.

During the season of Advent, all the congregations of the parish have been



**The Revd Canon Deb Smith**

worshipping together at St Mary's Bridport as we make that journey to Christmas. On the last Sunday before Christmas, we are quite literally going to make a place for the Christ child. Each of us will offer a band of cloth, reminiscent – as we read in the nativity story – of the swaddling bands that his mother wrapped him in. We will each lay our scraps of cloth to transform a cold, bare box into a cradle ready for the baby. And we do it as a sign of how together we get ready to make a place for him in our hearts and in our lives this Christmas. It is an action in worship

that is also our prayer for how we live as a community here in Bridport. Why not join us?

He came dressed in the cloak of our weak, fragile, mortal humanity. "They wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger."

*The Revd Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector*

## Another charity changing lives

**This month I had the pleasure of meeting Alli Baldwin, the volunteer team leader with Read Easy Bridport.**



**Olivia Daly**  
Editor

I was staggered to learn how many adults struggle with reading – about 16% across the UK – so it's reassuring to know that this wonderful charity is working hard to improve things. Acquiring such an important skill as an adult is truly life changing. You can read all about the charity's work on pages 8 and 9.

As we enter December, it only remains for me to wish our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I think The Bridge has continued to go from strength to strength during 2022, which is largely down to our dedicated team of local correspondents and delivery volunteers, as well as the valued advertisers and sponsors who make it all possible. I'd like to say a massive thank you to every single one of you.

There's no separate January magazine, so we'll see you in February. Meanwhile, enjoy the festive season!

## The Living Tree is looking for a new chairperson

**The Living Tree cancer support charity is a Bridport-based self-help group for people who have experienced cancer.**

The chairperson – who is also a co-founder – wishes to step down from spring 2023, so the charity is seeking a replacement who is dedicated to helping the charity flourish and reach out to those affected by cancer. There will be a handover period to help the new chairperson settle into the role.

For more information, including a job description, phone 07341 916976 or email [thelivingtreedorset@gmail.com](mailto:thelivingtreedorset@gmail.com).

The charity holds weekly drop-in sessions and organises other activities. There is more information online at [www.thelivingtree.org.uk](http://www.thelivingtree.org.uk).



**The Living Tree**  
Living well with and beyond cancer

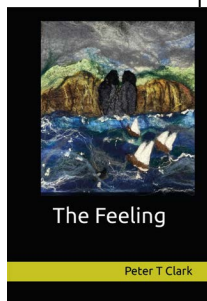


### Change of plan for Bridport Stage Company

Bridport Stage Company has decided to change its next production. They had been planning to perform *Our Country's Good* but have switched to a gothic homage to Bram Stoker's classic, *Dracula*. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings (7–9pm) at the British Legion Hall in Victoria Grove and have a good cast with a wide range of ages, although they are looking for a couple more actors.

### Get The Feeling this Christmas!

The Revd Peter Clark's novel, *The Feeling*, is now available for sale at Good Books in Bridport, price £6. 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. "It's John Wyndham's *Chrysalids* meets *Harry Potter*, with a bit of ancient wisdom thrown in!" says Peter.



### Do not disturb...

Bridport Youth and Community Centre is looking to raise funds to soundproof its sports hall so it can hold music and leisure events there – including a drum and bass night in March next year – without disturbing its neighbours. Previously organisers have partly muffled the sound by hanging up parachute canopies in the hall. The next fundraising event is a Christmas bazaar on Saturday 3 December from 10am to 4pm. There will be festive bargains from local traders as well as a steel band, a local choir, mulled wine and a tombola.

## Emergency services to celebrate Christmas at their Blue Light Service

**This year's Blue Light Carol Service will take place on Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church in South Street.**

"The special event acknowledges the work of all the emergency services here in West Dorset," says the Revd Philip Ringer, Divisional Chaplain to Bridport Police. "It's an opportunity to have a seasonal gathering before 25 December, when many of those involved will either be on duty or on call and separated from their families.

"We are pleased that His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Angus Campbell, will be with us for the service. I hope many people will want to join us on this special occasion."

There will be seasonal refreshments and a retiring collection in aid of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.



**An emergency medic and his motorbike at last year's service**



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## Book now for Bridport's very special community Christmas Day lunch

**If you're going to be alone on Christmas Day, and you'd rather not be – or if you know someone who's in that position – then you'll want to know about Bridport's special community Christmas lunch.**

The event is taking place on 25 December at Bridport United Church Hall on East Street. Doors will open at 12 noon and lunch will be served at 12.30pm. The meal will be a traditional turkey roast with all the trimmings.

To book please contact Sue Herman on 01308 422598 / [bridportsec@gmail.com](mailto:bridportsec@gmail.com). Please indicate any dietary requirements and whether you need transport.

And it's not too late to volunteer to help on the day. If you'd like to get involved, please email Peter Wilson: [peterjwilson8@btinternet.com](mailto:peterjwilson8@btinternet.com)





## Christmas services and events in the Parish of Bridport



### Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 December

4pm	<b>Holy Trinity Bradpole</b> Crib service
	<b>St Mary's Bridport</b> Crib service
6pm	<b>St Swithun's Allington</b> Eucharist
8pm	<b>Holy Trinity Bothenhampton</b> Holy Communion
10pm	<b>Holy Trinity Bradpole</b> Holy Communion
11.30pm	<b>St Mary's Bridport</b> Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day – Sunday 25 December

8am	<b>St Mary's Bridport</b> Holy Communion
10am	<b>St Mary's Bridport</b> Holy Communion
	<b>Holy Trinity Bradpole</b> Christmas Morning Praise
	<b>St Mary's Walditch</b> Holy Communion
	<b>St John's West Bay</b> Holy Communion

### Boxing Day – Monday 26 December

12.30pm	<b>St John's West Bay</b> Community carols led by Churches Together in Bridport & District (CTiBD). This will happen whether or not the Boxing Day swim goes ahead. In church if the weather is bad. Come as you are!
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See the Parish Pages (13–23) for details of other services during December and January. There is a parish service at St John's West Bay on Sunday 1 January at 10am.

On Sunday 8 January at 4pm there will be an Epiphany carol service at the Roman Catholic Church, Victoria Grove, organised by CTiBD.

## St Swithun's food stall will also have toys in December

**The Thursday food stall at St Swithun's Church, North Allington, will operate as usual during December with the addition of toy specials alongside the food (as in the last two years) on 15 and 22 December.**

Refreshments will be available in the hall with some possible Christmas surprises, and some seasonal food should also be available on the stall.

If anyone has clean, useable toys they would like to donate, they can deliver them to St Swithun's on any Thursday morning or call Peter Wilson on 07778 159826. The stall is open from 9.30 to 11.30am in St Swithun's car park.

## St Mary's Bridport Christmas market

**Saturday 10 December  
10am–2pm**

*Cake stall, craft stalls, tombola, hamper raffle and more!*

Serving coffee, tea and mince pies  
10am–2pm; curry and rice or  
soup and a roll 12 noon–1.30pm



## Help to organise next year's Food Festival

**The Bridport Local Food Group is looking for enthusiastic, committed, skilled people to join its committee in a number of key roles in planning the 20th Bridport Food Festival in June 2023.**

Monthly meetings take place throughout the year and last about two hours. Roles include: secretary/administrator; management and booking of trade stands; management of logistics; marketing; and sponsorship.

If you are interested, please email the group at [admin@bridportfoodfestival.co.uk](mailto:admin@bridportfoodfestival.co.uk) for more details of each role and its responsibilities.

## Bridport Nativity going ahead in St Mary's churchyard

**Following last year's highly successful Bridport Nativity, which was held in St Mary's churchyard, organisers have decided to hold this year's event at the same location on Saturday 17 December at 11am.**

"As well as being a safe venue, it has the added attraction of being next to the church in case of bad weather," says the Revd Philip Ringer, Chairman, Churches Together in Bridport and District. "We are looking for people to help on the day, either in the cast as angels, shepherds and kings – no lines to learn! – or as stewards."

Please contact Philip ([philipringer@aol.com](mailto:philipringer@aol.com)) if you'd like to get involved.



# Finding faith, hope and clarity

**These days, it's easy to be worried, writes Alan Heeks, but it takes some skill and conscious choice to stay positive. That's what this article hopes to help with...**

Your top worry may be personal, national or global. In one sense, it's all the same problem: the shift from an era of relative stability to one of ongoing uncertainty. This is part of what I grieved with the passing of our Queen in September.

One of the skills we need for this new era is adaptation: learning to make the best of challenges we didn't – and wouldn't – choose, and finding the emotional support and sense of perspective to help us do this. These are skills a lot of people are using in response to climate change, but they're relevant for many of the issues we face. You can find more briefing on adaptation skills online in the Wellbeing section of [www.bridportclimateresponse.net](http://www.bridportclimateresponse.net).

We have to accept that in some ways the outlook on various fronts is gloomy, and we need to face this with clarity in order to find new faith and hope: diving into denial or escapism won't make the problems go away. So another new skill we need is finding hope, even in worrying times. A book that has helped me with this is *Active Hope* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. They urge us to “identify what we hope for... and take steps to move ourselves or our situation in that direction”.

An important feature of *Active Hope* is that we take steps without being



Sylvain Brisson / Unsplash

attached to the outcome. We can all see that life is getting more turbulent, and we can't control much of it. Relaxing our need for control and stability is part of the skill of adaptation. Active Hope urges us to keep feeling gratitude for all the many blessings in our life, as an antidote to the anxiety we can easily feel.

One reason why clarity is important these days is that we all have to live with so much uncertainty. This is partly because so many aspects of life are changeable, but also because it has become so hard to know what the realities of the situation are. Fake news and social media mean we're deluged with alarming ideas that pretend to be facts. The Quakers set great store by the skill of discernment, and we definitely all need it now.

## Finding faith amid the turbulence

In recent years there have been many research studies on the factors that help people to be more resilient and adaptable. These show that people with a faith framework or spiritual practice are on average more cheerful, and recover better from setbacks of all kinds. I'm aware that this can be a delicate and personal topic for many people, but I'd like to offer some suggestions on how faith can help us, and how to explore this.

The examples I'm offering are from the Christian path, since that's the one I have been exploring for myself. However, faith can just as easily be deepened through many other spiritual traditions, or on a personal path that avoids labels.

For me, the essence of faith is trusting in a power that can't be measured or understood logically. To be honest, if I didn't have faith that there was some power greater than human greed, I'd despair. I believe human love is more powerful than greed, and divine love and wisdom is more powerful still. Although it's often hard, I keep faith that there is a higher purpose even in suffering, and



**Left: Hilfield Friary, where Alan will be co-leading a retreat in February**



# y in uncertain times

that we can reach out in prayer and ask for help for ourselves and others.

While faith is largely an individual path, I find that sometimes sharing it in a group is very supportive, especially singing together. I'm a regular at the weekly group that sings chants from the monastery of Taizé (more details below). Here's an example of a Taizé chant:  
*Our darkness is never darkness in your sight,  
The deepest night is clear as the daylight.*

Another of my favourites is *Nada te Turbe*, a Spanish prayer by St Teresa of Avila. It translates as: *Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, who holds fast to God lacks nothing.* A prayer for our times, from the 16th century!

It's only recently that I've discovered contemplative prayer, an approach to Christian faith that has ancient roots and is seeing a revival of interest in modern times. The teacher I've found most

helpful in this field is Cynthia Bourgeault ([www.cynthiabourgeault.org](http://www.cynthiabourgeault.org)): you can find some good material online, or in her audio and print books such as *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*.

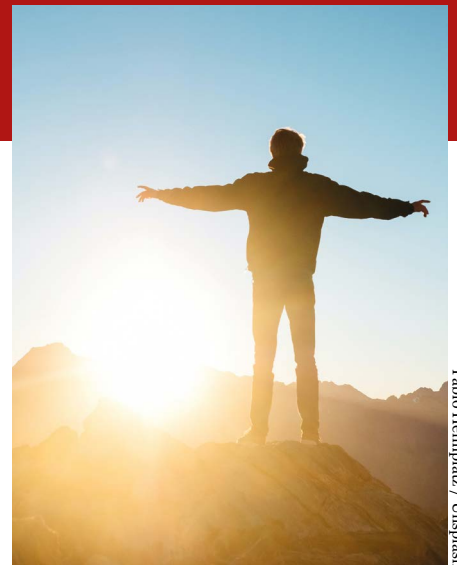
One of the aspects I like about contemplative prayer is that its methods fit not only with Christianity, but also with mindfulness, Buddhism and other meditative paths. These methods include 'centering prayer' – which happens regularly at St Swithun's Church in Bridport – sacred chanting (such as Taizé) and simple 'presence', which is akin to mindfulness.

As we navigate our way into the uncertainties of 2023, I hope you find all the faith, hope and clarity you need to stay positive and adapt well.

Alan Heeks

## Resources

i) *There is a centering prayer group on alternate Wednesdays at 2pm at*



Pablo Heimplatz / Unsplash

*St Swithun's. For more info, contact Caroline Whitaker on 07787 805711. See also page 20 for more details.  
ii) I will be co-leading a retreat over the weekend of 3–5 February 2023 at Hilfield (pictured opposite), the Anglican friary between Dorchester and Sherborne, with Jonathan Herbert from the Hilfield community. Our theme is *Finding Hope and Resilience in the Climate Emergency*. For enquiries and bookings, contact Suzi at [hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk) or 01300 341741.  
iii) The Bridport Taizé group meets on Wednesdays at 2pm for an hour. All welcome, no experience needed. Contact [christina.baines@btinternet.com](mailto:christina.baines@btinternet.com).*

## Community Shed now open first Saturday morning

**Bridport Community Shed is now open on the first Saturday each month from 10am to 12 noon.**



The Shed doesn't yet have the volunteer capacity to open its workshops for these sessions, but organisers hope the extra time will allow people to make use of the stash of materials.

"Does your child need an Anglo-

Saxon costume for school?" says Eileen Haste. "Do they need to make a model volcano? Do you need a scrap of leather for a broken bag handle or some bottle tops for that pre-school rattle project? Come and have a gander on a Saturday at what we have and take what you can use in exchange for a donation to the Shed."

The Shed is in the lane behind the town council offices at Mountfield (also accessible from Bedford Place).

[www.bridportcommunityshed.org.uk](http://www.bridportcommunityshed.org.uk)

## Saving the Amazon and its peoples

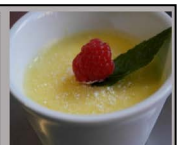
**Monday 12 December at 2pm**

**St Mary's Church, South Street, Bridport**  
Admission free with a collection in aid of the work of the Anglican Diocese of the Amazon in Brazil.

**Speakers:** Bishop Saulo Mauricio de Barros (pictured), first Anglican Bishop of the Amazon on the work of the church in the Amazon; Prof. Philip Howse on the work of the Revd Arthur Miles Moss, 'Vicar of the Amazon' 1912–46; Prof. Sir Ghillian Prance FRS will lead a discussion on the Amazon forest and its peoples.



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# Word up! Read Easy is helping

**In the wake of last month's Bridport Literary Festival – a celebration of the written word and all the ways it enhances lives – we discover Read Easy Bridport, a charity working to make sure everyone can enjoy those benefits...**

Reading is something most of us take for granted. Words are everywhere, and being able to understand them – often at just a glance – is a huge part of how we navigate the world around us. Not to mention the joy of reading for pleasure. But just imagine if you couldn't do it; if, rather than representing things and ideas, all but the most familiar words were just lines and shapes. Imagine how different your life would be.

The National Literacy Trust says around one in six adults in England have “very poor” literacy skills – defined as being able to “understand short straightforward texts on familiar topics accurately and independently, and obtain information from everyday sources.” For these people, “reading information from unfamiliar sources, or on unfamiliar topics, could cause

problems.” This is also known, somewhat baldly, as being “functionally illiterate”. In Bridport, then – population around 13,500 – about 1,800 adults are struggling with this basic skill.

## Slipping through the net

How does this happen? How do people reach adulthood with inadequate literacy skills? “Sometimes it's home circumstances, sometimes emotional or developmental problems, and sometimes patchy school provision, but mostly it's a poorly designed state education system,” says Alli Baldwin, a literacy specialist and team leader with Read Easy Bridport. “At primary level, attention is focused on the children who are struggling, but in secondary school the emphasis is often on the most capable. If kids leave primary school without having reached the right level, it becomes harder and harder for them to catch up as they go through secondary school.

“At Year 7 – the start of secondary school – kids from different primary schools are mixed in together and those who are already behind will often slip back further. The end result is school

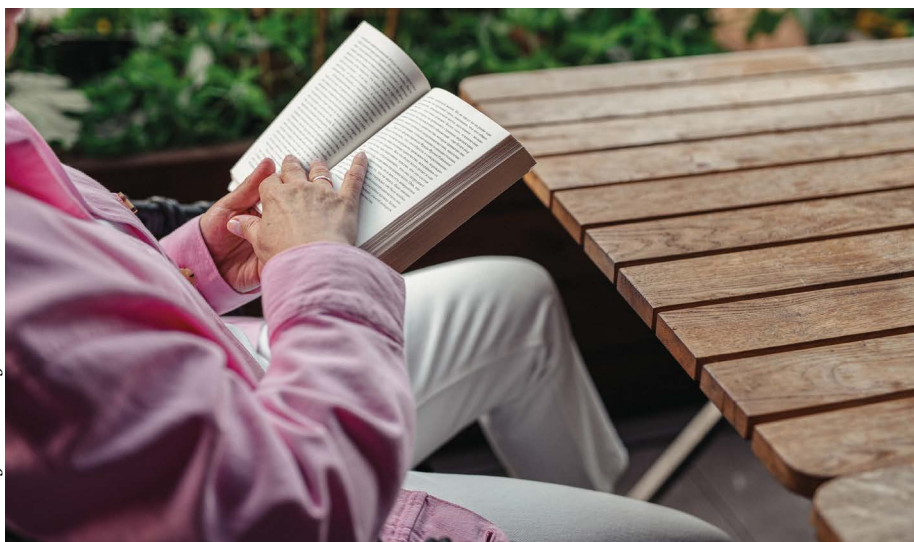
leavers trying to enter the job market without the skills they need to thrive.”

This unfortunate situation is usually no reflection on individual intelligence – quite the reverse, in fact, as most adult non-readers become very clever at hiding this gap in their education. Jay Blades, presenter of BBC1's Repair Shop and a skilled furniture restorer, was recently the subject of a programme about his decision to learn to read at the age of 51. He admits having often said he couldn't fill in a form because he'd forgotten his glasses, and asking someone else to do it for him. Like around 10% of the UK population, Blades has dyslexia, an additional challenge but by no means a barrier to achieving full and fluent literacy.

So ‘coming out’ as a non-reader is difficult, but it's a huge first step towards a different life, one in which reading is a source of pleasure – not, as Blades puts it, “like giving yourself a headache ... pure pain.” Luckily help is available to anyone wanting to learn. Read Easy is a national charity with local branches, each of which operates independently with a team of volunteer administrators and reading coaches. The charity started in Dorset and grew out of the Shannon Trust, which works to improve literacy in prisons (shockingly, around half of prisoners either can't read at all or struggle to do so). The trust provides excellent support and teaching while prisoners are in jail, but there was a need for additional support after their release. This expanded into literacy work in the general population, and so Read Easy was born.

## A team of dedicated volunteers

As a retired teacher, Alli Baldwin was looking to use her skills in a voluntary role, so she approached Read Easy Bridport. “I initially said I'd like to help someone with their reading,” she says, “but Ali Turnock, the charity's fundraiser, phoned me up and said they needed people on the voluntary management team. I agreed to get involved in that way, and now I spend



Words by Olivia Daly

SHVETS Production / Pexels



# g Bridport adults learn to read

about two days a week on this work.”

Alli explains that the management team also has a deputy team leader, treasurer, secretary, publicity champion and referrals coordinator, as well as someone to look after safeguarding, data protection, venues and recruitment. There’s a reading coordinator, too, who looks after the team of reading coaches. “The reading coordinator is particularly important as they organise training for the coaches, introduce them to their reader, and co-ordinate and support their work,” Alli says. “Coaches’ training is all done online and organised by our head office, although it’s paid for locally.”

Various situations give adults the impetus to decide to improve their literacy: many want to read with their children or grandchildren; others find that life is lived increasingly online, to the point where it’s almost impossible to get by without reading. Whatever the reason, when a reader – as the adult learners are known – comes forward, they are treated confidentially with understanding and care, not judgement. They are assessed and paired with a coach, and the two agree a schedule. Together they work through the five books in the Turning Pages series (specially designed for adults) and usually meet once a week, sometimes for as little as 20 minutes.

“It’s very tiring, like learning another language,” says Alli. “Some readers may need to begin with letter recognition. There’s no timescale and people work at their own pace – they can take as long as they need. Some coaches might use additional resources such as magnetic letters – whatever’s needed for the reader to progress.”

When they’ve finished, the reader gets a certificate and is referred to the local library or other organisations that can help them take their reading further.

## Keeping the charity afloat

Read Easy Bridport – which also covers Beaminster, Crewkerne and Ilminster – relies on fundraising for its finances. As well as individual donations, this



Eugene Angolk / Pexels

includes support from the West Bay Car Boot fund, from which all profits go to charity through a grant scheme run by Bridport Town Council, from the Lions Club and businesses including Waitrose, the Co-operative and Waterstones, and from the Bridport Literary Festival, which has made a donation of £500.

Alli says Bridport Town Council has been immensely supportive in other ways, too, such as providing a room at the Mountfield offices for learning sessions. There’s also a room at the Prout Bridge Project in Beaminster where coaches and readers can meet.

A grant from the Dorset Community Foundation has allowed the charity to make a short promotional film about its work. Among other people, it features Steve, a farmworker who learnt to read with Read Easy Bridport in his late 50s. “I have more confidence and I don’t feel ashamed anymore,” he says of his learning experience. “It’s just like they say – it’s never too late to learn. I would not have done it without Read Easy.”

## Learn – and change your life!

Like most charities, the organisation always needs more money; one thing it’s not short of, though, is volunteer

reading coaches – in fact Alli says there’s a waiting list of people wanting to help. “But we need readers!” she says. “It’s hard to get referrals in this small area, and we know there are plenty of people who could really benefit from our help. We know people are nervous about getting started, but the process isn’t formal at all; it’s as relaxed as we can make it. I’d like to encourage anyone who struggles with reading to come forward for help. It will change your life!”

[www.readeasy.org.uk/groups/bridport](http://www.readeasy.org.uk/groups/bridport)  
[www.facebook.com/ReadEasyBridport](https://www.facebook.com/ReadEasyBridport)

*Read Easy Bridport is currently looking for several volunteers to work on its management team. For more details visit the website or to volunteer contact Linda Ryall: [bridportrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:bridportrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk). For help learning to read, contact Christine Walsh: 07707 259 905 / [bridportcoordinator@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:bridportcoordinator@readeasy.org.uk).*

*The charity’s short film about its work is available on YouTube here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxLNTpvfOME](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxLNTpvfOME)*

*‘Jay Blades: Learning to Read at 51’ will be available on the BBC iPlayer until January.*




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# A new face at Bridport United Church as we welcome Jane Wilson to town

**The Revd Jane Wilson came to Bridport this summer to be the minister at Bridport United Church and Uploders Chapel. Now she's settled in, we took the chance to find out a bit more about her...**

*The Bridge:* Welcome to Bridport!  
Where have you moved from?

*Jane Wilson:* My previous role was at Keynsham Methodist Church, in the North East Somerset and Bath Circuit. Before that I was in Droitwich for 10 years – my first post as a minister.

*TB:* So you had a 'first career' before deciding to enter the church?

*JW:* Yes, I was a litigation solicitor for 20 years in Birmingham city centre – about 12 years of that as a partner. I was dealing with cases involving serious injury, sometimes death. To be honest I became less and less enamoured with it.

*TB:* So, ultimately, what made you leave?

*JW:* Basically God did! I'd always had faith, but the catalyst was a colleague who came back to his faith after 20 years away and decided to become a Methodist local preacher – he was on fire! I went to talk to my church minister about the possibility of preaching. It was a big decision: my husband, Graham, has been made redundant three or four times during our marriage and I was the breadwinner at that time – and we had four young children. Luckily I was able to study part time in Birmingham while working, and I got accredited as a local preacher, the first step towards becoming a minister.

*TB:* How did you move ahead with your training after that?

*JW:* I went to an open day at The Queen's Foundation, a theological college in Birmingham. I had a lovely time, and I went to the students' service. At the end



we were each given a slip of paper with a Bible verse, and mine was Mark 6:50 – "Do not be afraid, it is I. Follow me." God was telling me to listen. So I applied to the college and got in. I spent four years there, again part time, before being stationed as a minister.

*TB:* So it was the right decision?

*JW:* Oh yes – this is what I was supposed to be doing. My first minister post was a journey for us all. Our four children were all in education at the time – we moved house and they all changed schools, but after another redundancy Graham had by then changed career from accountancy to teaching the guitar. He was teaching in schools near where we were sent, so God was ahead of us.

*TB:* How does your experience as a solicitor inform your work as a minister?

*JW:* As I went through my ministry training I realised the significance of having helped other people through traumatic experiences in my previous career. Being able to help them spiritually felt far more meaningful than helping to find a legal solution, and fed my compassion and empathy. Now, as a minister, I also walk alongside people going through difficult life changes; it's a massive privilege to do so, and to be

able to give reassurance and comfort. I'm the minister I am because of the experience I've had. As a solicitor I hated legal jargon – I always tried to make it understandable and meaningful for my clients. Now I try to do the same with theological language, trying to translate it to make it meaningful to real life.

*TB:* What makes the Christian church relevant to our way of life in 2022?

*JW:* Christianity is about values that are sometimes hard to find – authenticity, honesty, openness to other people, to God, and to being surprised in good ways. I think Covid unleashed a search for meaning; it brought us face to face with mortality and people started to grapple more with the deep stuff. Superficial things were stripped away and everything was reset. During lockdown people noticed creation, too, as well as the power of stillness. As a society we're not good at being still, but I hope we can keep it going to some extent.

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

*JW:* Hearing and sharing stories, and watching as people realise they can do things. As a minister, I see myself as an enabler and encourager, helping people discover their potential. I also love all our forms of worship – the ancient liturgy, modern services and silent prayer – and I particularly love using music in worship.

*TB:* What do you like to do in your spare time?

*JW:* I love wild places, getting out in nature, and particularly swimming in the sea. I also love gardening – I grew up in a Cadbury house in Bournville and I always helped in the garden. I'll be putting up a greenhouse in our garden here in Bridport so we can try and grow food. And our son Tom and his wife are expecting a baby girl in February – our first grandchild. Now that's something to look forward to!

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## ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

### A busy few months for St Mary's churchyard...

The Living Churchyard gardening group meets every Friday 1.30–3.30pm in the churchyard (weather permitting). All welcome. The photos on this page will give you an idea of what the group has been up to over the past few months.

*Peter Wright*

### December services at St Mary's Bridport. Everyone is welcome:

<b>Sunday 3</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Advent Communion service</b>
<b>Wednesday 7</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Advent Communion service</b>
<b>Thursday 15</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Blue Light service</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Advent Communion service</b>
<b>Saturday 24</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Carol service</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Crib service</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>
	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

### January services:

<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish service at St John's West Bay</b>
<b>Wednesday 4</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Covenant service at Bridport United Church</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>



Above: We have a new 'Eco Church' display in the south transept at St Mary's, so please take a look. We are currently working towards our Eco Church bronze award

Right: Our golden crabapple tree was planted early this year as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark Her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The tree made it through the hot summer with regular buckets of water and is now fruiting ready for the birds to feed from it through the winter



Below left: Our Living Churchyard gardening group has recently created an area for shade-loving plants using recycled pallets and our own compost. We hope to use the plants for sustainable flower arranging in the church

Below: The grass labyrinth is now really established, and many folks have peacefully walked its paths and lots of children have enjoyed running to the middle and back!



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

The festive season is fast approaching and the shops are full of gifts and cards, lights and carols, telling us that Christmas isn't far away. We start December with a coffee morning and Christmas fair with stalls on Saturday 3 December in Holy Trinity, 10am–12 noon. Throughout the year the coffee mornings have been well supported and much enjoyed. The first one of the new year is on Saturday 7 January.

The winter-months lunches continue on Thursday 8 December with a roast chicken or nut roast meal. These lunches started in November and offer a delicious home-cooked two-course meal in the company of others in the warm village hall. Please book with Heather Purse on 423220 or email [heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk). On Thursday 12 January Heather will be serving sausage casserole and a vegetarian option. Again, please book.

There is no film evening in December but there will be a showing on 28 January (date to be confirmed). The film has not yet been chosen, so please look out for information. It will be in the village hall starting at 7.30pm, cost £5.

The village hall committee is holding monthly coffee mornings during the winter, and these resume on Saturday 21 January, 10am–12 noon in the hall. The committee is also planning a cheese and wine evening with mince pies on Saturday 3 December from 7pm in the village hall.

There are no morning services at Holy Trinity during December. This is the period of Advent and St Mary's Bridport will be holding a weekly service for the whole parish at 10am. There will, however, be a service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Holy Trinity on 18 December at 6pm, with a collection for The Children's Society. Mulled wine and mince pies will follow the service.



**Pictured:**  
Holy Trinity  
is always  
beautifully  
decorated for  
Christmas

## Come to our Luncheon Club!



*Come and enjoy a  
two-course hot lunch  
with others...*

**Bothenhampton Village Hall  
Thursday 8 December at 12 noon**

Lunch served at 12.30pm:

Roast chicken or nut roast • Christmas pudding

Cost £4. Please book so we have numbers for

catering. Contact Heather Purse: 423220 /

[heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk)

Our Christmas communion is at 8pm on Christmas Eve. On New Year's Day (which is a Sunday) there will be a parish holy communion at St John's West Bay.

Good wishes, everyone, for a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

*Barbara Ffooks*

### December services at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton:

<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
<b>Saturday 24</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Holy Communion</b>

There is no service at Bothenhampton on Christmas Day

### January services

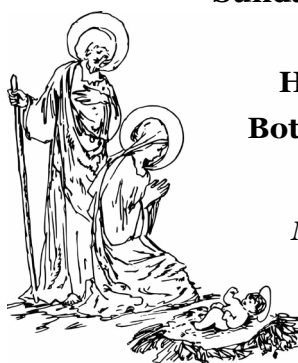
<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish service at St John's West Bay</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Sung Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Matins</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Sung Communion</b>

## Traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 18 December  
at 6pm  
Holy Trinity  
Bothenhampton**

*All welcome  
Mulled wine & mince pies*

*Donations in aid of  
The Children's Society*



## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232

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Tower captain – Janet Robinson

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



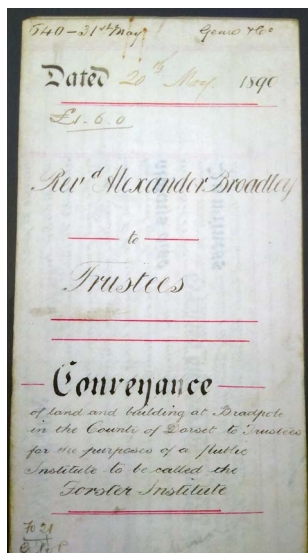
Above: in the coming months the Living Churchyard group will be transforming this area to attract pollinators

### News from the village hall

While making arrangements for the transfer of ownership of the hall with HM Land Registry to the new charity, the secretary to the trustees, Jane Bryant, discovered that local solicitors Nantes held the original deeds to the property. The firm had drawn up the original conveyance on 20 May 1890, conveying the land and building by the Revd Alexander Broadley to trustees for the purposes of a public institute to be called the Forster Institute.

At the beginning of the indenture, it states that after the death of the Right Honourable William Edward Forster, late member of parliament and one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors, born in Bradpole on 11 July 1818 and who throughout his life had taken a warm interest in the affairs and welfare of the parish of Bradpole, "it seemed to divers persons expedient that some memorial should be instituted and erected in his native place to perpetuate and keep alive for future generations the memory of the said William Edward Forster of his unblemished career as a Statesman."

It seems that the Revd Broadley was prompted to set up the institute to be used for the purposes of The Literary and Scientific Institutions Act 1854 and more particularly to establish a library and reading room with the general object of promoting the moral, social, intellectual and rational recreation of Bradpole inhabitants. He lived next door in the Rectory (now called The Old Vicarage) with The Upper Room adjoining the village hall. The original piece of land shown on the title deeds of 1890 was smaller than the site on which the hall now sits and was only large enough for the hall. The land to the right, where the parish council office is, and the land to the left, where the oil tank sits, were donated much later and were subject to quite a lot of controversy at the time. The conversion of the original charity to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) has required this to be formally and legally notified to the Land Registry. This is complicated, and the trustees are grateful to Nantes who are undertaking this work 'pro bono' (free of charge).



Left: The original legal document, dated 20 May 1890, conveying the land and building that became the Forster Institute – the forerunner of our village hall

### Living Churchyard

The focus for the Living Churchyard group in the coming months will be to attempt to transform the area alongside the red brick wall (pictured above) into a nectar-rich area for the benefit of our pollinators. The first stage will be to clear the area of the hidden rubbish that lies below the surface, and then to prepare the ground for planting a range of suitable plants to enhance the area.

### Stained glass windows

Specialist firm Dan Humphries Stained Glass Ltd carried out a cleaning and conservation project at Holy Trinity from April 2021 to August 2022. The work was complicated and involved taking photos in both reflected and transmitted light, taking rubbings of the lead matrix so the dismantled glass panels could be laid out in their correct positions, and re-fixing copper ties to leave the stained glass properly supported.

One of the windows, high up near the roof space in the gable of the chancel, and difficult to see, has a trefoil pattern (pictured). Two sections of the blue ground were damaged, so a sample was removed for reference and new pieces made to match. When a new lighting system is installed, the stained-glass windows and murals will become more prominent features of this Grade II\* listed Victorian building.



### Bradpole Parish Council

Sharon Morgan was co-opted to the council at the October meeting. The council will set up a working party "to report on the legal re-organisation order, when received, to →

## Friends of Holy Trinity

Christmas tea

Thursday 15 December

2.30–4.30pm

Enjoy a cosy tea in the church with savoury and sweet treats in friendly company





## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

consider transition arrangements, seeking the best outcomes for our residents" following the community governance review setting out arrangements for the establishment of the new Bridport Council from April 2024 and the cessation of Bradpole Parish Council. In the democratic ten minutes, two members of the public attended the meeting to introduce themselves as the new owners of 1 Middle Street, Bradpole (previously the post office and village shop). They confirmed that they would be running their business (communications accessories) from the address, which may require a planning application for change of use to B8 (storage).

*(Note: The post office was saved from closure in 2004 by a public campaign in support of the postmaster, Mike Chivers, who had run the post office for 16 years. He said it had been a well-orchestrated, well-run campaign and he thanked the town and parish council, the district council and then-MP Oliver Letwin for doing a sterling job.)*

The fitness equipment at Gore Cross recreation ground (pictured right) is now available for members of the public to use.



## December services at Holy Trinity Bradpole. Everyone is welcome:

<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Advent service at St Mary's Bridport</b>
	<b>3pm</b>	<b>Christingle service</b>
<b>Tuesday 6</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>'Tuesdays Together' Communion with tea &amp; cake</b>
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Advent Service at St Mary's Bridport</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Advent Service at St Mary's Bridport</b>
	<b>3pm</b>	<b>Carol service</b>
<b>Saturday 24</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Crib service (bring your own costume)</b>
	<b>10pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Christmas Praise</b>

## January services:

<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish service at St John's West Bay</b>
<b>Tuesday 3</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>'Tuesdays Together' Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Communion service</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Informal Morning Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Communion service</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Informal Morning Praise</b>

## 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: St Mary's Church

The fourth architectural gem in this series of articles on the village of Walditch is St Mary's Church. The existing small church was built in the Victorian period at about the same time as the village school and teacher's house, which is now the village hall with adjoining residential accommodation.

It is believed that St Mary's was built on the site of a then-decayed Tudor church built in the reign of Henry VIII. A fuller history will be covered in a later issue; in the meantime, we have some photos of the church interior.

James Craddock





## Light the spire

The spire is lit in memory of my parents,  
Emily Irene and Harold Bellamy Brailsford,  
and also my loving husband, Edward.  
*Your daughter and wife,*  
*Anne M Saunders*

The spire is lit in memory of my  
parents, Joan and Donald Spackman.  
*Sally Brown*

The spire is lit in memory of baby  
Alexander John Scott.  
*Marian and John Scott*



## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

### How to manage your energy costs and cut emissions

There will be a workshop on this subject at Walditch Village Hall on Saturday 21 January 2023 at 3pm. As well as tips on managing energy costs, there will also be an opportunity to discuss the best ways to cut our carbon footprint and stay warm and well fed. For more information please contact Cllr Jim Basker of Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council: [jimbasker@btinternet.com](mailto:jimbasker@btinternet.com) / 01308 538149 / 07711 372109.

### Walditch Garden Group

As we do not meet in December, our next garden group meeting will be on Thursday 26 January 2023. All comers will be warmly welcomed and we look forward to seeing new faces at our monthly meetings. Do come along and try us at 10am in Walditch Village Hall on the last Thursday of every month (except December). Garden discussion and topics throughout the year make this a popular slot on the hall calendar. Tea/coffee and biscuits. We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2023. Happy gardening!

### Garden tips for November:

Look after visiting wildlife during these tough months; prevent ponds and bird baths freezing over; to avoid the risk of rotting, reduce watering of plants that are overwintering under cover; prune tall bush roses to guard against windrock; prune wisteria and other vigorous climbers; continue to plant and winter-prune fruit trees and bushes; take root cuttings from perennials; take new-year hardwood cuttings of trees and shrubs; chit early potatoes; start sowing early vegetable crops and some summer bedding plants under cover; warm up soil with cloches for early seed-sowing outdoors; and clean pots and seed trays ready for the joy of spring sowing.

*Jane Mowatt*

### Advent services at St Mary's Walditch

Amid the winter darkness, Advent is a time of looking forward in anticipation to the birth of the child who is to be the light bearer: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overwhelm it."

The season of Advent can be neglected, or even lost, as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. Our 10am Thursday

## Thelma's hymn notes



### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

This carol was written by Charles Wesley (1707–78), who many believe is our country's greatest hymn writer. Wesley composed thousands of hymns, of which this is one of the most famous. He wrote it in 1739 as a hymn for Christmas, although the original first two lines were: "Hark how all the Welkin rings, glory to the King of Kings". These words were changed by George Whitfield in 1753 to "Hark the Herald Angels sing".

Wesley believed hymns should serve a theological purpose, and in this one he tells the entire gospel story. We learn of Christ's nature, his birth and incarnation, his ministry and his purpose in saving humanity.

William Hayman Cummings (1831–1915), a musician, tenor and organist, is credited with linking secular music from Felix Mendelssohn's Festgesang to Wesley's Hark! The Herald Angels Sing in 1855. Cummings was the founder of the Purcell Society in 1876, a singing professor at the Royal Academy of Music for 15 years from 1879, and finally principal of the Guildhall School of Music.

For many years this has been the recessional hymn of the annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, broadcast nationwide. It's one of my favourites, and when played on a church organ with a lot of stops out, it makes a great sound.

### A Catmas carol! (to be sung to the tune of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

God rest ye merry pussycats  
Let nothing you dismay.  
Remember lots of yummy food  
Is served on Christmas Day.  
To save us all from hungry tummies,  
Hip, hip, hip, hooray!  
Oh tidings of catnip and joy,  
Catnip and joy,  
Oh tidings of catnip and joy.



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



services this December will offer a time to reflect on the meaning of Advent as we await the coming of Jesus.

The services will include hymns, readings and prayers based on four Advent themes: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, the last being in the form of a carol service.

The dates are 1, 8, 15 and 22 December at 10am. We hope to see you; you will be welcome.  
*The Revd Ann Ayling (pictured)*



**Other Walditch services are listed overleaf**

## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

**December services at St Mary's Walditch:**

**Morning Prayer every Thursday at 10am (see previous page for details of Advent services)**

**Sundays 4, 10am Parish Advent service  
11 and 18 at St Mary's Bridport  
Sunday 25 10am Communion**

**January services**

**Morning Prayer every Thursday at 10am**

**Sunday 1 10am Parish service at  
St John's West Bay  
Sunday 22 11am Communion**

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock 07903 558568

Chapel warden – Rosemary Russell 423013

**News from St John's**

Sunday 16 October saw us with a double celebration: our Harvest Festival plus the delayed christening of Felix, now 17 months old. His family and friends were out in force and we had 72 people in church. This meant that we ran out of the new hymn books! The Revd Pete Stone was officiating and had to explain to the congregation that the hymn numbers displayed on the board did not necessarily tally with those in the hymn books – in fact, one of the hymns was not even in the old hymn book. This didn't seem to matter, however, and the singing was loud.

The many children in the congregation were brilliant, including Felix, although he wasn't too keen on the water on his head and gave Pete a very odd look. After the service, and for the first time, St John's hosted a 'bring and share' harvest lunch, attended by 11 of us (pictured below). Everyone enjoyed it and it is now down in the calendar for next year.

On Wednesday 7 December at 7.30pm in St John's there will be a concert by West Dorset Community Orchestra (conducted by Walter Brewster) and Local Vocals (directed by Lesley Whatley). There will be a raffle and refreshments. Entry is free with a retiring collection.

**West Bay WI**

I visited the WI's Knit & Natter session on 2 November and was greeted by a very jolly group of ladies knitting various items. The ladies enjoyed refreshments while catching up with the news and helping each other choose new patterns to knit (pictured above right).

West Bay WI was founded in 1925 and there is a banner in their hall in George Street commemorating this. One of the founding members was Amy Wadham, the grandmother of



**Above: West Bay WI's Knit & Natter session in November**

local historian and speaker Elizabeth Gale. Meetings have been held in a number of venues but the group has now been in the hall since 1952. I was interested to hear how the club was faring for members. They currently have 21, and it seems people join mainly through word of mouth, but parking is a big problem, particularly in summer. During lockdown they all kept in touch via phone or, when allowed, held meetings in people's gardens.

Their usual Knit & Natter session is on 7 December at 10am, and on 14 December at 2.30pm there will be some festive refreshments. Currently the programme for January is still in the pipeline but Knit & Natter will definitely take place on 4 January at the usual time.

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**

The weather threatened to disrupt Bonfire by the Beach at the end of October but the rain stopped and the event went ahead. Judging by all the cars parked in the field opposite us, it was very busy. I watched the fireworks from an upstairs window and they certainly were impressive. I wonder how many of you remember Catherine wheels, which had a habit of falling from posts while still alight, or rockets in milk bottles that didn't go off. Unfortunately in those days there were far too many life-changing accidents and horrific burns, so maybe it's best that we now have big displays.

The Discovery Centre has closed its doors for the winter, although it will open over the Christmas period (check online at [www.discoverycentre.co.uk](http://www.discoverycentre.co.uk) for details). There is an interesting small exhibition in the centre about West Bay memories, for which people have been encouraged to bring in memorabilia. The centre has had a very successful

**Below: Eleven parishioners enjoyed a 'bring and share' lunch at St John's in October**





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

year thanks to all the hard work of the manager, Liz Bryant, ably assisted by John and Sarah West and of course the volunteers who help to staff the centre. There have been 22,341 visitors during the year, and the best week fell during the recent half-term holiday, with 1,279 visitors and 322 on the best day. There was a meeting for volunteers in early November (pictured right) when John and Liz gave a presentation about the centre, followed by refreshments. Some volunteers never meet each other, as they have different shift times, so it was good to have this opportunity to do so. If you fancy joining our merry band, be sure to let Liz know as she is always on the lookout for new volunteers. The centre has lots of plans for 2023 with the Beneath the Waves exhibition planned from March to mark the Year of the Coast.

The West Bay Community Forum held a question-and-answer session with Bridport Mayor Ian Bark, who told us all about what's involved in his role. He said one of the reasons he and his wife moved to Bridport was to be closer to their daughter, who lives in Melbourne, Australia! Anyone living in the West Bay area is welcome to join the forum, whose aim is to improve the area for us all. Please email me ([rognsuewbay@btinternet.com](mailto:rognsuewbay@btinternet.com)) for more information.

You may recall that I mentioned recently the challenge by the Bridport Gig Rowing Club to row virtually around Great Britain to raise money to replace one of their beautiful wooden Cornish pilot gigs. To date they have spent over 200 hours rowing and have completed 2,500,00 metres – so only 300,000 metres still to row – and raised just under £3,000. If you'd like to make a donation, details are on their website: [www.bridportgigclub.org](http://www.bridportgigclub.org).

The club is a fast-growing community project that enables people of all ages and backgrounds to experience rowing out of West Bay and competitively throughout the UK. About 150 local people enjoy hard exercise and social connection through rowing in one of the club's beautiful gigs.  
*Sue Pollock*



Above: There was a meeting for Discovery Centre volunteers in early November

### Upcoming events

The Boxing Day swim is currently advertised as going ahead in the harbour at West Bay, followed by carols and refreshments at St John's Church.

### December services at St John's:

<b>Sundays 4</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Advent services at</b>
<b>11 and 18</b>		<b>St Mary's Bridport</b>
<b>Saturday 17</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Service of wholeness</b>
		<b>and healing</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Monday 26</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Boxing Day carols</b>

### January services

<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish service at St John's</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>
<b>Saturday 27</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Service of wholeness</b>
		<b>and healing</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Praise</b>

Also Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock  
[aejsullock@gmail.com](mailto:aejsullock@gmail.com)

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517

### From the parish editor

Winter is a superb time for beachcombing. I have to discipline myself these days not to collect too many things to bring home to draw or to gaze and meditate on. This piece of driftwood (pictured) struck me immediately as a figurine of a joined-up mother and child – or Madonna and child, if you like.

I showed it to a friend who is a musician and composer and makes inspired pictures. She couldn't see what I was seeing, so she suggested I make an interpretive drawing to go alongside to describe pictorially what I was seeing. I saw the mother's eyes looking away as if she acknowledged and could hardly bear, ahead of time, what her son Jesus was



going to go through. Her breasts were full, available and present for the infant. The babe, on the other hand, arms outstretched, was embracing openly all that was to come. I love the cleft that is deeply dark, to my eyes almost a shared heart in that moment. They both appear to have tails, which I like as a symbolic motif of the Holy Spirit entering in. →

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

At St Swithun's Hall on 3 November there was a community coffee morning with the additional Christmas sale of decorations, donated to be used again. Verena Doyle had a lovely array of her knitted double-headed upside-down dolls and other Christmas figures. Evelina had her botanical hand-painted cards reproduced for sale to raise funds for Macmillan Nurses. Liz Jones had organised the baubles and well-chosen colours for publicity. Some of the delicious cakes were donated by Jessica's bakery and Elwyn Walker was doing sterling work in the kitchen providing hot drinks and clean cups.

This event – which is being repeated on Thursday 1 December – was organised by Jo George and the mission group, who decided on a change from the usual Christmas fair. Funds raised were divided between the Bridport Christmas Hampers project and the church to help with heating, lighting and keeping the boiler safe.

*Anna Sullock*

### Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is held at 2pm on alternate Wednesdays in St Swithun's Hall. It lasts about 45 minutes including 20 minutes of prayer and about 15 minutes of Lectio Divina ('Divine reading'; a contemplative way of reading the Bible). About 12 people currently come along and say they find it truly life enhancing. More are welcome – please contact Caroline Whitaker ([carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com)).

### Services at St Swithun's in December and January:

Parish Advent services are being held at St Mary's Bridport at 10am on Sundays 4, 11 and 18 December (no Eucharist at St Swithun's on these days or on 25 December). There is Eucharist at St Swithun's on Saturday 24 December at 6pm. Eucharist is also held every Thursday at 10am.

There is a carol service at St Swithun's at 4pm on Sunday 18 December.

On Sunday 1 January there is a parish service at St John's West Bay at 10am. Eucharist will then be held at St Swithun's each Sunday at 10am as well as every Thursday at 9.30am.

Contemplative Church is held on the first Sunday each month at 4pm in St Swithun's Hall. There is a community coffee morning on the first Thursday every month, 10.45am.



**Clockwise from top: There was a great turnout at the coffee morning and Christmas sale in early November; Elwyn, Liz and Caroline in the kitchen; Yvonne with her stall of Christmas decorations; Rose with her knitted goodies**



## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson 01308 341159  
Church secretary – Sue Herman  
422598 / [bridportsec@gmail.com](mailto:bridportsec@gmail.com)

incorporating  
**UPLUDERS CHAPEL**

Correspondent – Carol Hall  
423163 / [carol@gribb.plus.com](mailto:carol@gribb.plus.com)

### Finding the 'Christ' in Christmas

As 2022 draws to a close, Graham and I are looking forward to celebrating our first Christmas and New Year in Bridport.

At this time of year many of us are getting ready to

celebrate 'Christ-mas', the birth of Jesus, and looking forward to welcoming friends and family. Perhaps we're also remembering those who were making their own journey towards the birth of the long-promised Christ child over 2,000 years ago: wise men journeying across deserts and trade routes searching for the meaning of the bright star they'd observed in the heavens; Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem in obedience to the Roman Emperor's command for another census; innkeepers and hostel owners preparing rooms and food for the expected influx of visitors; and a few bored, dishevelled shepherds preparing for a night shift that would change their lives forever.

We might also be thinking about what New Year's resolutions we could make. One writer argues we should make resolutions for Christmas and carry them forward into the New Year, such as:



## BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

This Christmas/New Year I will...

- be happy with simple gifts
- give more, and expect less
- give an 'alternative gift' to help someone in need
- have an 'attitude of gratitude'
- pray for people in my neighbourhood and around the world
- and remember that it's Jesus' birthday – not mine!



Perhaps, as we give presents, we could also make time to look for God's 'presence' in our lives, and give thanks for the greatest gift of all, the amazing grace and new and eternal life in Jesus Christ which is God's free gift to every single one of us.

As one writer commented: "If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Saviour. He became like us, so that we could become like him." \*

I hope and pray that among all the busyness of this wonderful season you'll find space to remember that Jesus is 'the reason for the season', and discover for yourself the joy and wonder of the angels' message that Jesus is born to you and for you, because "He loves each one of us like there was only one of us to love." \*

In the opening of cards, may you open your heart to receive God's love in Jesus; in the offering of gifts, may you offer yourself to be a channel of God's peace to others; in the sharing of hospitality, may you be ready to welcome the King of Kings and Prince of Peace, who comes to us in the humility of the Christ child, looking for room in our hearts and in our lives.

I wish you a joyful Christmas, and a New Year that's rich in blessings.

*The Revd Jane Wilson*

\* these quotations are from When God Whispers Your Name by Max Lucado.

### December services at Bridport United Church.

All welcome:

<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Brenda Stevenson (HC)</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Soul Space with tea and cake</b>
<b>Tuesday 6</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Christmas Tree Festival opening service</b>
<b>Sunday 11</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson (toy service)</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gill Bumphrey</b>
	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Carol service</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson</b>

### January services

<b>Sunday 1</b>		<b>No service</b>
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson (Covenant service)</b>
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>John Walker</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd John Yarrien</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Peter Jenner</b>

### Regular events

Please note that arrangements for regular meetings are likely to change over the Christmas period.

Our coffee mornings are held every Wednesday and Saturday (including Christmas Eve) from 10am to 12 noon. All are welcome. On Wednesdays we have Warm Space (12 noon to 4pm) when anyone can come after the coffee morning for a chat, a bowl of soup and perhaps some craft. On the fourth Wednesday each month, Warm Space will start at 2pm after Lunch Club.

We also have Stepping Stones pre-school every morning.

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>2–3pm</b>	<b>Art history (5 and 12 Dec)</b>
	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Golden Cap Centre of the National Trust (last Monday only – not December)</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Bridport Choral Society</b>
	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Bridport Blind Club (first and third Tuesdays only)</b>
	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Bridport u3a (fourth Tuesday)</b>
	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Rainbows (in term time)</b>
	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Brownies (in term time)</b>
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>New Elizabethan Singers</b>
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Bridport Big Band (in church)</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Lunch Club (14 Dec only).</b>
		<b>All welcome but please book if possible: 422598</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Fitsteps</b>
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Kick boxing</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Thursday Club (29 Dec only).</b>
		<b>All welcome for tea, games, crafts and chat</b>
	<b>2.15pm</b>	<b>Bridport History Society (second Thursday only)</b>
	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Slimming World</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>6–7.30pm</b>	<b>Kick boxing</b>

### Other events in December (and see the list of services etc, left)

<b>Wednesday 7</b>		<b>'Christmas Cheer' carol singing outside BUC</b>
<b>Friday 9</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Folk carols</b>
<b>Saturday 10</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Bridport Choral Society Christmas concert (see p10)</b>
<b>Monday 12</b>		<b>Stepping Stones Nativity</b>
<b>Tuesday 13</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Bridport Big Band Christmas concert</b>
<b>Thursday 22</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>Messy Church with Nativity at 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Christmas Day lunch (see p4)</b>

### January events

On Sunday 1 January we will have 'Tea at the Ritz', for which booking is essential. Please call 422598.

### BUC Christmas Tree Festival

The festival will begin with a service at 7pm on Tuesday 6 December and will then be open from Wednesday 7 to Sunday 18 December from 11am to 4pm (2 to 4pm on Sundays). There may be occasional variations.



## UPLOADERS CHAPEL continued...

### From Uploders Chapel

Well here we are again. Yet another month has galloped by! It certainly feels more like winter is heading our way, but as I have said many times I would rather be here in Dorset in the cold and wet than in some countries in the sunshine!

Our first service in November was a lovely one taken by the Revd John Walker. We also enjoyed having cuppas and biscuits afterwards, enjoying a good ol' chat. It all makes for a lovely way of coming together and enjoying each other's company. Later in November we had our joint service with Loders Church, also another lovely way of getting together.

We are also very blessed with the friendship that Bridport United Church offers. For example, we went to the Big Breakfast in the hall there on Saturday 5 November and we shall certainly be going to the next one on 10 December.

We still haven't settled on a date for the concert in January, but having learnt about the upgrade of the Eggardon & Colmers View website, we know we'll definitely be able to publicise it there, and we will also put up posters around and about.

With all the talk of people facing financial difficulties, and with Christmas approaching, I found myself thinking how we could perhaps not worry about spending lots of money on presents this year but instead give something that will cost us nothing but could actually be a real gift to others – maybe just smile to as many folk as you can each day. Just a thought!

So let's make December as Delightful as possible and think of lots of Jollifications for January.

With love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Uploders Chapel.

*Carol Hall*

### December services at Uploders Chapel:

<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson</b> <b>(Holy Communion)</b>
<b>Sunday 18</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Peter Clark</b>

### January services:

<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Tony Boyden</b>
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson</b> <b>(Covenant service)</b>

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Monsignor Keith Mitchell  
Presbytery 424754  
[keith.mitchell@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:keith.mitchell@prcdtr.org.uk)  
Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594  
[bridport@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:bridport@prcdtr.org.uk)

### Waiting is good for us!

Christmas will soon be upon us and no matter how we may push the thought aside, still it comes.

But there is war and trouble in the world and continuing political turmoil. Times are hard for us with the sudden and irrevocable rise in our fuel, food, and mortgage bills. This gives us pause, and those of us who are older think back to Christmases in gloomier times. (We had a gloomy Christmas in 2020, the first year of the pandemic, and we all remember that!). However, this coming Christmas may be more reminiscent of the Christmases of the 1950s when times were lean after the end of World War 2. We who were children then will remember Christmas stockings bulging with a handmade toy or two, handknitted socks or gloves, an apple, tangerine, a few walnuts and a penny or a chocolate coin – this is far removed from the rather more expensive gifts of recent years.

In the winters of years gone by, we'll remember, there was no central heating and only one fire in the main room of the house. We'd all congregate by the fire rather than in our separate rooms. In the mornings we'd scamper across the bedroom lino to dress quickly by the oil stove. Off to school we'd go, returning in late afternoon for Children's Hour on the radio and toast and Marmite by the fire. These were austerity years, but because we were 'all in it together' we probably didn't realise it at the time. Looking back, we were satisfied with very little.

It is a shock to be catapulted back in time from the present day and after many more comfortable years. But back then, as now, the church was the hub of our community. Even in big cities, a church community could resemble a village, a unit of mutually supportive people who cared about each other. We were children, but all our parents knew each other and they were all honorary 'aunties' or 'uncles'. Times were lean but for the most part we felt cushioned against life's hardships. The feeling of community overrode the hard times. Is this why we feel nostalgia for the days of our childhood?

Christmas means many things to many people and, for most, a time of getting together with friends and family. Many never even reflect on the significance of the first Christmas, the birth of Christ, who became the pattern for a kinder, gentler, unselfish way of living. For Christians, it is a time when Christ is born again, when he comes among us and with his re-birth each year there is a time of renewal, a continuing process of a Christian way of life. We don't know what lies ahead of us in the coming year – just as the infant in the manger knew not what was in store for him.

Hardships aside, let us embrace the coming of this beautiful season.

*Pat McEvoy*

### Christmas Masses

Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve): 6pm Bridport (carols from 5.30pm); 9pm St John's Beaminster.

Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day): 8am Bridport; 10am Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, Chideock.

On Sunday 8 January at 4pm there will be an **Epiphany carol service** at the Roman Catholic church, organised by Churches Together in Bridport and District.

**Regular Sunday Mass is at 10am** and is streamed online at [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.bridportcatholics.org.uk) and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page.

For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see our weekly newsletter on our website.





## BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

**Three years ago the Community Kitchen opened its doors for the first time. On that opening day I remember standing around feeling slightly nervous and thinking: what if no one comes?**

Three years on, over 7,000 cups of tea and coffee poured and over 5,000 meals served... and to think I considered it a real possibility that no one would come. We initially thought we would open only in the winter months, but such was the obvious need that we realised we couldn't close; this was just the beginning of the journey that lay ahead. The book of Isaiah says: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord."

As the Community Kitchen grew, so did the support of local and national businesses, Bridport Town Council and other agencies. With continued support from housing charities, a dedicated NHS nurse practitioner and the amazing generosity of the Bridport community, we have had the privilege of being able to support, serve and help to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

This year we have installed a shower and clothes washing facilities, which are being used daily. And thanks to the success of our applications to various charitable trusts for funding, we are about to start work on installing a commercial-style kitchen. This will allow us to prepare, cook and serve food and drinks to the highest environmental and hygiene standards. We are currently supporting nine homeless men, and as the winter months approach we have been stocking up on winter clothing, sleeping bags and tents, all generously donated by the people of Bridport.

It's also been our pleasure to meet and serve a number of Ukrainian ladies who have started to attend the Community Kitchen. We hope the kitchen will become a safe and



## Bridport Community Kitchen



**HOT MEALS & REFRESHMENTS**

**SHOWERS & CLOTHES WASHING &  
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Email: [bridportcommunitykitchen@gmail.com](mailto:bridportcommunitykitchen@gmail.com)

Contact: Simon 07598 683456

Charity Number 1161182

welcoming environment for our new friends from Ukraine.

We are also working closely with Bridport Town Council on a project to really help and make a difference to those who find themselves without a safe place to sleep, so watch this space!

We have been blessed with an incredibly committed team of volunteers and I'd like to pay tribute to them all for their hard work and compassion in serving at the kitchen.

Of course, we will be holding our now-legendary Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 14 December, so please join us. For more details, give me a call on 07866 752424 or email [bridportcommunitykitchen@gmail.com](mailto:bridportcommunitykitchen@gmail.com).

The Community kitchen is open from 11am to 2pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – and remember, our doors are open to all.

Merry Christmas and may the Lord bless your generosity in supporting those in need.

Simon Batorski

## 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 12 December the theme will be 'Christmas with friends' and there will be a 'Frosty morning' competition. 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](mailto: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 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.

# Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet on Thursday 19 January at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when Margie Hoffung will present 'Gardening: A Very British Tradition'. Margie has worked at Highgrove as a gardener and guide, and is now conservation officer for the Gardens Trust. Non-members £2. More information online at [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk)

**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](http://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](mailto:margefoster1956@gmail.com)

**Bridport Scottish Dancers** meet each Wednesday evening at 7.15pm (7.30pm start) in Church House, South St, except first Wed each month which is at Salwayash village hall. First visit free, then £2 per session. Please bring the right money & your own refreshments. Contact Caroline 538141 / Malcolm 07790 323343 / [www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk](http://www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk)

**Bridport Youth Dance** offers classes in contemporary, tap, street, urban and musical theatre plus specific boys' classes. To enrol and for more details, contact Nikki Northover 07765 971357 / [bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com](mailto:bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com) / [www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk](http://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](mailto:sastamford@outlook.com) / 425312 / [www.thenewelizabethansingers.org.uk](http://www.thenewelizabethansingers.org.uk)

**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](mailto:bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com). More details online at [www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk)

**Bridport Stage Company** (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group will now be meeting at the British Legion on Wednesday evenings, 7–9pm. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Contact Valerie for more information: [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk)

**Bridport History Society** meets on the second Thursday each month at the United Church Hall, 2 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £3pp. Membership £10 / £15 couple. Contact Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto:jferentzi@aol.com) / 425710.

**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.

**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](http://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 15 December John Iddon presents 'Lucian Freud: The Art of the Man'. On 19 January Geri Parlbay presents 'Fiction, Fallacy and Fake News: Spin and Propaganda in Art Through the Ages'. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome £7.50 per event. [www.taswestdorset.org.uk](http://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.

**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.

**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](mailto:dementiafriendlybridport@gmail.com)

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

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

## Citizens Advice is here to help

Need advice on benefits, debt, employment or other issues? Pick up the phone and talk to us on Freephone 0800 144 8848. You can also email us via the contact form at [www.bridportca.org.uk](http://www.bridportca.org.uk) or 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

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

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

**The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society (West Dorset Group)** meets at Loders Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Contact Jane for more information: [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto:jferentzi@aol.com)

**Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport:** We always welcome new ringers and are happy to train you on our lovely bells. At St Mary's Bridport we meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays. Contact Bob Hardwick 420632. At Holy Trinity Bradpole we practise at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. We have a ground-floor ringing chamber and training simulator. Contact Janet Robinson [jrb-jrb@outlook.com](mailto:jrb-jrb@outlook.com)

**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 Community Fridge** redistributes surplus food free or for a donation. Usually Tues and Sat 10–11.30am 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](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk)

**Bridport & W D I Bowls Club** invites you to a 'fun game' at St Andrew's Trading Est, DT6 3EX every Sunday 10am to 12 noon. First session free. Details 425278.

**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](mailto:joe@thehacketts.uk) for details and to receive newsletter. [www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please](http://www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please)

**Life+line Bereavement Support** is a Bridport Parish 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.

**Bridport Dog Training Society** has been active for over 60 years and meets on Monday evenings at St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. Contact club secretary Sue Palfrey 07787 289425. A trained dog is a happy dog!

**Bridport St Mary's Parkrun** is a weekly free timed run or walk organised by volunteers. Saturdays 9am at St Mary's Field. Great fun for all ages and abilities. Register online first then bring your barcode on your phone or printed out. Find us on Facebook or at [www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys)

**Stepping Out Bridport** is an exercise and wellbeing programme, led by trained rehabilitation instructors, for people living with or beyond cancer. Monday and Thursday mornings at the Pavilion, Bridport Leisure Centre. All ages welcome. Contact [j.perfect@bridportleisure.com](mailto:j.perfect@bridportleisure.com). More info at [www.stepsoutbridport.co.uk](http://www.stepsoutbridport.co.uk)

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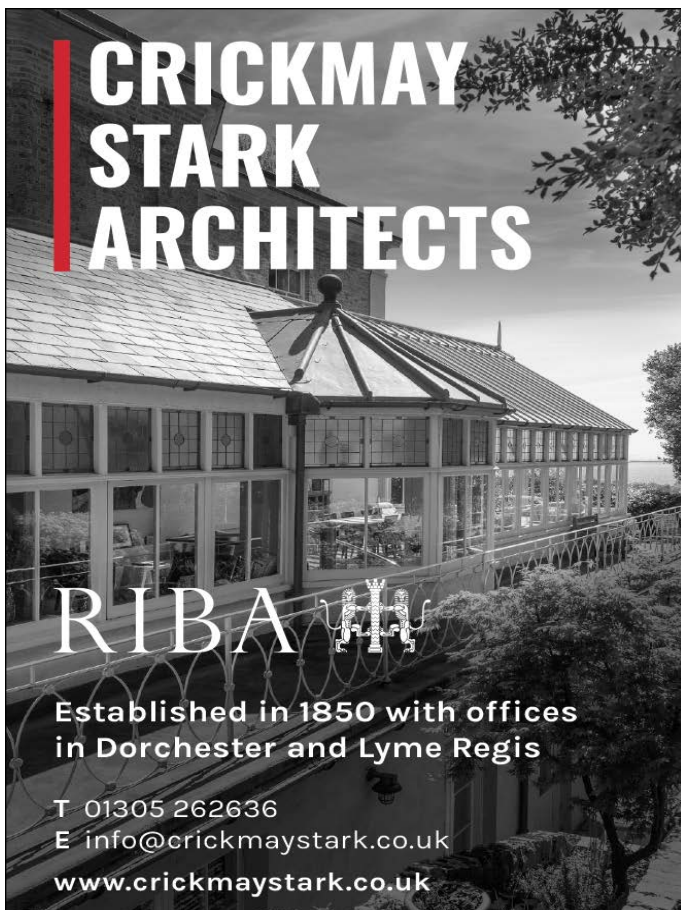
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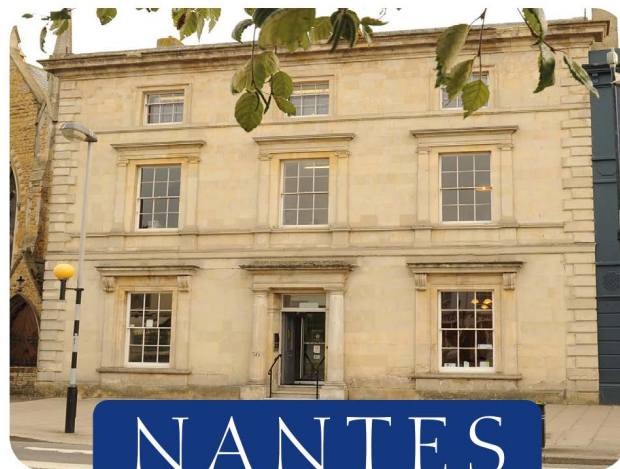
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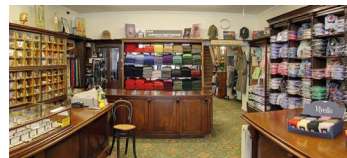
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