

the *Bridge*

March 2023



Looking west from West Bay during a lively high tide



A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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The advertising and copy deadline for the April 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 6 March

Lent is a time to look forward with hope

I wonder what your view of Lent is...

Is it 40 days of giving something up – a mini-diet after the New Year's resolution diet failed? Or is it a time for doing something new that's positive and will make a difference – maybe a new book to read or a new adventure in volunteering? Maybe it's a period of reflection and fasting – or is it the time between Pancake Day and Easter Day when everything carries on as normal except for some reason there are no flowers in church and others seem cranky because they're denying themselves chocolate?

I must admit, I've struggled with Lent over the years (I probably enjoy chocolate too much). The Six Nations happen around Lent, so I always enjoy a cider while cheering England to victory... or a cider when they lose! I must admit the books that are suggested for us to study sometimes bore me, so I'm normally asleep before the end of a chapter!

The journey of Lent can mean a lot of things and can look different for each of us, so rather than feeling guilty I've become comfortable with following Lent in a way that works for me. This often takes the form of observing the world around me, reflecting on my role, and asking God what I can do to help make our community, our town, our world a better place. This year is no exception, but with a slightly different emphasis.

As some of you may have heard, after eight years I am leaving my role as the team vicar of the Bridport Parish and moving to pastures new. In the lead up to this new role and since it was announced I have been reflecting quite a bit on my time here in Bridport.

It's easy to look back and moan or to see the mistakes and regrets. It's easy to notice the gloom and darkness rather than the light. The word 'Lent', at its root, means the lengthening of days, a sign that winter is ending and spring is approaching. It's a time of hope that better days are coming – and that is what I am remembering as I look back.

While Lent can be seen as the journey of Jesus from Galilee to the cross, and we follow him on that path, sometime during the journey we forget that our destination is Easter and the resurrection of Jesus – the reason we can stand, smile and be hopeful.

It has been a privilege to get to know so many of you in good and sad times, to work with amazing colleagues and to be involved in a lot of different activities and events across our



The Revd Pete Stone

It has been a great honour to be involved in the life of the town and its people

community and parish. It has been a particular privilege to work closely with St Mary's School, Bridport Primary and the Sir John Colfox Academy, plus the wonderful staff at Bridport Town Council and the many amazing charities and organisations that work hard across the town to make a difference to our community.

I look back at the town's response to the Covid pandemic and cannot speak too highly of the volunteers who stepped up to help those who needed a hand. Many, many people worked so hard in the hospital, care homes,

schools, the town council and in shops and supermarkets to keep us going over so many difficult days.

The privilege of leading the Remembrance Day services and other momentous occasions in our town's life, as well as baptisms, weddings and funerals marking personal moments: it has been a great honour to be involved in the life of the town and its people in this way.

Bridport has been our family home for eight years and a wonderful place to live as well as to serve as your team vicar. As I reflect on my time here, I take with me the years of lessons and experiences I've learnt and I know I'm going to my new role well equipped for what is ahead.

In all the gloom of what we see in the world, we need to hold on to hope and the promise of better days ahead, asking ourselves what role each of us can play in making our community, our town, our world a better place.

*The Revd Pete Stone
Team Vicar*

Shaping the first years of life

In February, HRH The Princess of Wales launched the 'Shaping Us' project, which aims to increase understanding of the importance of early childhood, and in this month's magazine we feature Home-Start (page 7), a charity that's backing the initiative.



**Olivia Daly
Editor**

Home-Start volunteers, who all have lived experience of parenting, give a few hours each week to support parents of children under five. They work with the same family or families for as long as is needed, so build up a fruitful relationship that brings many benefits. Help from Home-Start gives hope to parents who are struggling or feeling overwhelmed for any number of reasons, and it's available here in Bridport.

St Swithun's hall bookings

Yvonne Welch and Caroline Whitaker are giving up their joint role as administrators of St Swithun's church hall. Anne Ansell will now be taking bookings, updating the website and liaising with hirers. "We are grateful to Anne for agreeing to take this on," says Yvonne, "and to Graham Williams, who will continue as caretaker as well as the church's verger. We have enjoyed the contact we've had with our many hirers!"

Someone is still needed to send out the invoices each month to hirers and receive the payments, etc. This takes two or three hours each month, and the timing is flexible to suit the volunteer. If you feel you could support the hall in this way, please ring Caroline Whitaker on 07787 805711.

March 2023	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
<i>Wednesday 1</i>	2.30pm Holy Communion					
<i>Thursday 2</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 3</i>						
<i>Saturday 4</i>						
<i>Sunday 5</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion	4pm Contemplative Church (Hall)		10am PARISH COMMUNION		
<i>Monday 6</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 7</i>				2.30pm Holy Communion		
<i>Wednesday 8</i>						
<i>Thursday 9</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 10</i>						
<i>Saturday 11</i>						
Sunday 12	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am Holy Communion
<i>Monday 13</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 14</i>						
<i>Wednesday 15</i>						
<i>Thursday 16</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 17</i>						
<i>Saturday 18</i>						
Sunday 19 <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	10am Morning Praise	11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 20</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 21</i>						
<i>Wednesday 22</i>						
<i>Thursday 23</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 24</i>						
<i>Saturday 25</i>						6pm Service of wholeness and healing
Sunday 26	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 27</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 28</i>						
<i>Wednesday 29</i>						
<i>Thursday 30</i>		10am Eucharist				

Sir Ghillean Prance to speak at Bradpole

Bridport Parish is inviting everyone to come along to its parish service on Sunday 5 March when Professor Sir Ghillean Prance FRS will speak about A Rocha's Eco Church initiative. The service is at Holy Trinity Bradpole and starts at 10am.



Sir Ghillean is the former director of Kew Gardens and scientific adviser to the Eden Project. He knows more about the plants of South America than anyone else alive, a knowledge that rests on 30 years of exploration and research in the Amazon, including being stranded after a plane crash and walking for days through uncharted forest while suffering from malarial fever to rescue his expedition members. He has also lived with 16 different indigenous tribes.

Sir David Attenborough wrote of him: "To be the head of a modern scientific institution with a worldwide reputation, and to combine that work with adventures that can compare with the most daring exploits of 19th-century explorers,

might seem impossible. But that is what Ghillean Prance has achieved and it is a thrilling mixture."

A Christian and a scientist who cares passionately about the environment, Sir Ghillean has written and lectured widely on the need for the Church to wake up to

its responsibilities to care for creation. In his book *The Earth Under Threat*, published nearly 30 years ago, he wrote: "True Christianity is not only about personal salvation and a place in heaven, but is also a faith that renews a sinful people and sets us on a pathway from sin to stewardship of creation and social justice. Our faith can lead us on from greedy exploitation to the nurture of the part of creation that is around us."

Sir Ghillean, who lives locally, is also a former director of A Rocha, the Christian environmental organisation behind the Eco Church initiative.

Turn to page 9 for our interview with Sir Ghillean

The Home Library Service – the library comes to you!

If you love reading, but struggle to get to the library, the library can come to you.

The Home Library Service offers regular deliveries of library books for those who are housebound or are otherwise unable to travel to the library.

The service is delivered by volunteers from the Royal Voluntary Service, working closely with your local library team. They choose books for you based on your reading preferences and deliver them personally to your home, usually every three weeks. Large print and talking books are also available.

The service is free and covers the whole of the Bridport area and outlying villages.

For more information, ring the Royal Voluntary Service on 01305 236666.



A special deal on PVs with Transition Town Bridport

Transition Town Bridport has negotiated a discounted price with an established, reputable installer of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels.

The price is based on 20 to 30 Bridport homes having the panels fitted. Some householders may also wish to fit a battery to store their generated electricity for evening use.

"With the ever-rising cost of fuel, and our dependence on fossil fuels from Russia and the Middle East, many people are turning towards renewable, sustainable supplies of electricity," says Sam Wilberforce of Transition Town Bridport. "This year is predicted to be the hottest on record, and the need to reduce our use of oil and gas is clear. Solar panels have become more efficient, and cheaper, and may pay for themselves in five to seven years, as well as raising the value of your home. But beware, there are many inferior installers fitting poor equipment and damaging roofs."

For more details email bridportsolarpanels@gmail.com.

St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington

FUN QUIZ

with prizes for the winning team

Friday 21 April at 7pm

Doors open at 6.30pm

Teams of six (max) @ £5 per head
Bring your own nibbles and drinks

Coffee & cake included

Standing bingo & raffle during the interval

Please book in advance 07741 457505



Congratulations to the Revd Helen and the Revd Mike Stewart (pictured), who were married at St Mary's Bridport by the Revd Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector. Helen is the Bridport Parish Team Curate.



Memories of the 1950s

Bridport Heritage Forum is looking for memories and memorabilia of Bridport life in the 1950s for a commemoration in the Town Hall this August. If you have memories of the Pageant, the Grammar School, Colfox or any other aspect of Bridport life at the time, please come and meet up over coffee and cake in the Royal British Legion Hall, Victoria Grove, on Saturday 11 March any time between 10am and 1pm. If you can't come along that morning but have something to share, please contact Sheila Meaney: 01308 424169 / sheilannmeaney@btinternet.com.

Help Marie Curie help people

End-of-life charity Marie Curie is asking volunteers in Bridport to give two hours of their time during the Great Daffodil Appeal in March to hand out daffodil pins in return for donations. To sign up, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/collect or email kara.frampton@mariecurie.org.uk. Last year Marie Curie, which depends on public donations, provided direct care to more than 46,000 people across the UK via its nine hospices as well as overnight nursing care at home.

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer event is on Friday 3 March at Bridport United Church, starting at 10.30am. The day is celebrated in over 170 countries. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Taiwan with the message 'I have heard about your faith'. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided. For more details contact Kathy Hince on 01308 485626 or hincekathy@gmail.com.



Thanks from the food bank

Organisers and volunteers at Cupboard Love – Bridport's food bank – would like to thank everyone who has donated food or money over the last year.

"So many of our donors don't want to be thanked directly, but we feel it's important to recognise their generosity," says Diane Benjamin, the food bank's treasurer. "We so appreciate everyone's support and would like to assure everyone who has made a donation that everything we receive is put to good use."

Bridport food bank is open at St Mary's Church, South Street 9am–1pm every Wednesday and at the Bridport Youth and Community Centre 5–7pm on Mondays. Those in urgent need, their carers, and education, health and social care professionals can get in touch at any time during the week on 07443 596096.

For donations and other business the correspondence address is The Bridport Foodbank, The Old Bakery, Chideock, DT6 6JQ. Bank details: sort code 60 03 29; account no. 79195156.



We're all about ensuring you feel right at home

When it comes to moving house, we can help:

- Buying and selling your home
- Remortgages
- First time buyer advice
- Buying to let
- Property auctions
- Buying and selling land

For residential property legal advice



Amy Mowlam

01308 555638

amy.mowlam@porterdodson.co.uk

21 South Street, Bridport

www.porterdodson.co.uk

Bridport Chamber Orchestra

SPRING CONCERT

St Swithun's Church, Bridport
Sunday 5 March, 3pm

Conductor: David Hedges

Leader: Alexandra Ennis

Featuring Clarinettist Guillermo Ramasasa

An English Suite - Hubert Parry

Adagio - Samuel Barber

An Englishman in New Orleans - Paul Coles

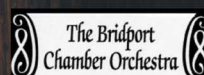
Italian Serenade - Hugo Wolf

A French Folk Song Suite - Gordon Langford

Concertino For Clarinet - Giuseppe Tartini (arr. Gordon Jacob)

TICKETS | £12 (under 16 free)

from the Music Centre and the Book Shop, Bridport,
Orchestra members or at the door.
Tea and cakes will be served after the concert.



Registered Charity No. XT13407

A little extra help for families from a Home-Start volunteer

Babies don't come with a manual, and becoming a parent is a huge, life-changing challenge, even for those with the best resources.

It's no surprise, then, that some people need a bit of extra help in the first years of raising a family – maybe they're a single parent; maybe their own mum and dad aren't around to help; maybe they're new to the area and haven't yet built up a support network. Others might be bereaved, have a physical health problem, or be struggling with post-natal depression. This is when Home-Start can help.

Home-Start was founded in 1973 and is a network of more than 180 independent charities that between them cover 71% of the UK's local authority areas. Around 10,000 Home-Start volunteers – including here in West Dorset – provide in-home support to more than 27,000 families with 56,000 children. The volunteers visit for a couple of hours each week to help as needed, maybe giving parenting guidance, help with budgeting or support to get out of the house and connect with the local community. The service is free and confidential, and parents can either get in touch themselves and ask for support, or contact their GP, health visitor or



children's centre to ask for a referral. The only stipulation is having at least one child under five.

Home-Start West Dorset is based in Dorchester and its patch extends as far as Weymouth and Portland, but it also has volunteers here in Bridport. One of them is Claire*, a retired teacher with adult children and grandchildren of her own. She has been working with one family since last summer and has just been matched with another. She is enthusiastic about the benefits for both parties.

“Both the families I'm working with are single mums, although that's not always the case,” she says. “When I visit I just ask how I can help. Often what's needed is support with basic things like helping them to go shopping or to the library – they just need to have an extra pair of hands around for a while. It's a gentle process – I'd describe it as befriending, with a degree of professionalism.”

“I love chatting and getting to know people and I've enjoyed building a relationship with my first family. It's good to see the mum blossom as her confidence grows. I like a challenge and the feeling that I'm making a difference, doing something useful.”

All Home-Start home visitors undertake at least 28 hours of training over an eight-week period. There is also regular ongoing support and guidance from a dedicated member of staff, →

Pictured: Home-Start volunteers offer free support and practical help to families with at least one child under five. Parents can apply or ask for a referral from their GP, health visitor or children's centre



A little extra help from Home-Start continued

including supervision every six weeks, and numerous additional training opportunities.

“The training was very valuable,” says Claire. “I had mine in autumn 2021 – one morning a week for six weeks – and it was on Zoom because of Covid, but usually it’s done in person. As well as going through practical topics like listening and communication skills, safeguarding and even recognising loan sharks, we were also encouraged to think about our own core values and how we’d apply them to the volunteer role. I also really appreciate having regular supervision – the supervisor is there to make sure we, the volunteers, are OK. As well as regular one-to-one meetings, they’re always at the end of the phone if we need a chat.”

Home-Start West Dorset is looking for volunteers, both in a home-visiting role and as trustees of the charity. “By volunteering with us, you can help families when they need it most,” says Jo Clarke, Community Engagement



Coordinator, Home-Start West Dorset. “We have two types of volunteer roles: helping directly with families, and working with our enthusiastic team of trustees. To become a home visitor, you should have lived experience of parenting and have two or three hours a week available to support a local family. We’re looking for all kinds of people at all stages and levels of life; professional experience in different fields can also be useful but is certainly not essential.

“Our trustees are a hands-on team with a range of backgrounds and experience. They play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of the charity, fulfilling our purpose and business goals. This is a great role for someone who wants to be part of Home-Start but can’t commit to regular home visits.”

To volunteer, or to find out more, email office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk or call Helen on 01305 265072. If you’re a parent of a child under five, and you’d like some support from Home-Start, you can get in touch using the same number or email address.

The charity also welcomes help with fundraising – and, of course, donations, which you can make online at www.justgiving.com/westdorset-homestart/donate.

** Safeguarding regulations prevent us identifying Home-Start’s home-visiting volunteers further. The people pictured on these pages are not local to Bridport. www.homestartwestdorset.co.uk*

Story Traders writing group launches new book

Bridport writing group Story Traders (pictured) has launched a new anthology inspired by the scenic route of the X53 bus from Portland to Lyme Regis. It’s their second book and once again they will be raising money for charity.

A Jurassic Omnibus is an illustrated collection of short fiction and poetry featuring a motley crew of characters and settings. Readers can take a cold dip with wild swimmers, hear the song of the mermen, eavesdrop on Slow Mary as she says her pagan prayers on Colmers Hill, or peer over Turner’s shoulder as he sketches sailors at work.

Story Traders meet twice a month to share ideas and writing. The group was established 12 years ago and previous charity events have included staged performances and readings with themes as diverse as women’s struggles and the history of rope making.

The two local charities to benefit from



the sales of the new anthology are Bridport’s Burrough Harmony Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Fortuneswell Cancer Trust, which works alongside Dorset County Hospital (DCH) to support cancer patients countywide.

The Fortuneswell unit at DCH sees over 12,000 patients a year – and this has included some of the writers – while Fortuneswell is also the main funder of the new chemotherapy outreach service at Bridport Community Hospital.

Harmony offers activities most days of the week, from crafts and exercise

to allotment and walking groups. All aspects of wellbeing, including bereavement, are supported and members play an active part.

The book is published by Wessex Media and is available at many local outlets including, in Bridport, Wild and Homeless Books, The Book Shop, Groves and the Tourist Information Centre.

Story Traders planned this second anthology for 2020 to mark the 10th anniversary of their founding, but the Covid lockdown brought a slowdown in production. Offerings had to be shared initially over email with Zoom discussions and only a few face-to-face meetings but the resulting stories are timeless and the poetry priceless.

Their first anthology, called Narrative Threads, was published in 2015. It celebrated the history of rope-making in Bridport and helped the town’s museum.

Both Story Traders and Wessex Media have Facebook pages.



‘There are so many changes needed... above all, do something’: Sir Ghillean Prance urges action for the environment

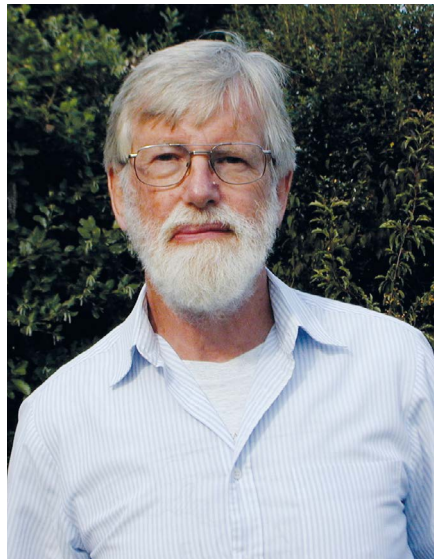
In the pod this month is botanist and ecologist Sir Ghillean Prance. We caught up with him ahead of his visit to Holy Trinity Bradpole on Sunday 5 March (see page 5) when he will be speaking about the ‘Eco Church’ initiative.

The Bridge: You spent 30 years exploring and researching in the Amazon, including time spent living with indigenous tribespeople there. What can we in the Western ‘first world’ learn from the way these native people live?

Sir Ghillean Prance: It is very noticeable that where there is good intact forest in the Amazon, it’s where the indigenous peoples live. As a result, when studying the forest I tended to spend a lot of time in the territory of the native inhabitants. They have learned to manage sustainably the complicated ecosystems of the forest and the rivers. The wisdom of what we now call agroforestry – using multiple crops rather than monocultures – is one of the most important things for us to copy. They also share their resources equitably with the whole community rather than individuals becoming rich at the expense of others. I am a great admirer of these people but do not go along with the theory of the ‘noble savage’; they have their faults, such as intertribal fighting, but overall they know how to manage their environment and have many myths, taboos and legends that help them to respect nature.

TB: What is the single most important change that people in the UK can make to benefit or protect the environment?

GP: There are so many changes needed but one that would have a great effect is to live much more locally. Shop and eat from local resources that have not used a lot of fossil energy to reach you.



Consider the food miles of what you eat. Above all, do something. Every small thing a person does mounts up when many others do the same thing. What you can do may seem small but it all adds up to a big help.

As a nation we must wean ourselves off the use of fossil fuels. We need to transfer to generating all our energy from renewable sources, because the single most dangerous thing to life on this planet is human-caused climate change.

TB: What would you say to people who suggest that scientific knowledge is incompatible with belief in a creator God?

GP: There are large number of scientists who are Christians. It is a falsehood that science and faith are incompatible. God revealed himself to us by two books, His creation and the Bible. When I study both carefully I find no barriers to belief, provided one does not take a too fundamentalist approach to the Bible. It is important to incorporate the findings of science into one’s faith and reconcile the two.

TB: You’re a former director of A Rocha, the organisation behind the Eco Church initiative. Aside from the obvious benefits to church land, what can church communities gain from getting involved with the scheme?

GP: There are now about 1,000 Eco Churches in the world. Each has had to examine and improve its environmental behaviour and this has to be good for the world. Eco Churches look for the best form of energy, avoid use of plastic, use less damaging detergents, etc etc. All this passes on to the individual members. Most importantly, the programme examines the daily behaviour of the congregation such as their means of transport, what they eat, the detergents they use to wash their clothes, and more. All this mounts up to a big contribution towards improving the environment around us.

As Christians we can feel good that we are actually doing something to take better care of God’s creation, to which the world has done so much damage. We have a special motive for environmental action and we can encourage all people around us to act on behalf of the environment.

TB: You were born in Suffolk and have lived and worked in New York and London as well as South America. How did you come to settle on the Jurassic Coast, where you now live?

GP: This was the result of a promise to my wife that when I retired we would live near the sea, which she loves so much. We started to look for a house and quickly found an ideal one in Lyme Regis in 1995. We have lived in it since 1999 and although officially ‘retired’ I have carried on with my botanical research and writing from here, producing 8 books, editing 4 more and contributing →



Ghillean Prance urges environmental action continued

to 159 scientific papers and articles so far. We both greatly enjoy and feel privileged to live on the Jurassic Coast.

TB: Are you hopeful about the future of Earth and its people?

GP: A good question. I oscillate on this one according to the news I get of the world and its environment. Recent good news that tilted me towards optimism was the election of a president in Brazil who wants to stop the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. This is absolutely vital

to prevent climate change getting out of control. My Christian faith greatly helps me to have some hope for the future.

TB: What is your favourite plant?

GP: The royal water lily, *Victoria amazonica*, a beautiful plant that I have studied in great detail, with its huge leaves and star-like flowers floating on the lakes of Amazonia.

www.arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/eco-church



Richard N Home / CC BY-SA 4.0

Above: the royal water lily, *Victoria amazonica*, in the Amazon basin, Brazil

Spotting our varied thrushes in March

In early February a friend played me a recording of a bird ‘singing’ and asked what it might be.

When I say ‘singing’, I mean a sort of hesitant squawking followed by one or two more musical notes. Now I don’t know if birds forget how to sing during winter, or whether this was a youngster trying out his new voice, but it was a sound I’ve heard in a few places recently.

What was it? A song thrush! That marvel of bright joy, subject of many a poem and one of our most iconic birds. Thomas Hardy wrote:

*At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead,
In a full-hearted evensong,
Of joy illimited...*

But here we go again... song thrushes have been in trouble. Once the harbinger of spring, their hammer-blows on hapless snails heard in every hedgerow, they have suffered a sharp decline in numbers over recent years. Between 1967 and 2020 the population fell by almost 50%, owing partly to poor survival of the young but also to loss of farmland feeding and nesting sites for the adults. Despite a slight recovery recently, the song thrush is listed as Amber in the UK threatened bird list.

Of even greater concern is its larger cousin, the mistle thrush. You might hear the strident, less varied song of



Mistle thrush

the ‘storm cock’, as he has been called, thanks to his delight in singing in foul weather from high up in a tree or bush. But they are scarce now, so are listed as of Red concern. If you want to hear their songs, have a listen to ‘Guided rambles through nature, episode 1’ on my Wix site (address below).

By the end of March, some other thrushes will be well on their way to their breeding grounds in the north. These are the redwings and fieldfares. I was lucky in early February to come across a little flock foraging in Watton Hill woods – but you have to be stealthy to get a good glimpse, because unlike our ‘resident’ birds, redwings in particular are as wild as the wind and will be off to the next bush in a flash. If you have good hearing and are out on a quiet night, you may have heard their thin ‘seep’ as they fly across the



Redwing



Fieldfare

night sky to their northern home.

Also by the end of the month, many of the thrush tribe (including blackbirds, of course) will be feeding young, but the cock birds will no doubt continue to ring out their territorial challenges. Stop and listen if you can – it’s free and it lifts the spirit, just like Hardy’s poem.

Alan Bowley

www.ramblewithalan.wixsite.com

ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

Good vibrations...

What sort of music do you expect to hear when you enter a church? What sort of music do you *like* to hear when you enter a church?

Throughout scripture we are encouraged to use music in worship and to sing our praises to the Lord. There is encouragement to use musical instruments, too; in the Psalms we read: "Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!" (Ps 98:5) and "Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!" (Ps 150:5)

Although there haven't been any cymbals or lyres at St Mary's, at a time of the year when we normally expect to be a little quiet there has been music a-plenty – and from a range of different instruments.

We stepped into January with the gloriously joyous sound of the Bridport Steel Band still ringing in our ears; never before has our Christmas carol service had such a Caribbean feel. But it wasn't long before the steel pans and beaters were replaced by the wonderful music of Allington Strings. Early in January a grand piano was delivered to St Mary's to allow Jonathan Delbridge to accompany the orchestra and provide wonderfully soaring music for those who gathered on a winter Sunday afternoon. Pieces by Finzi, Smyth, Mozart and Chevalier de Saint-Georges made up a programme that sought to showcase the work of some of those whose talent was unrecognised at their time of writing.

Music is also an important part of weddings and funerals and St Mary's was delighted to host the recent wedding of the Revd Helen and the Revd Mike Stewart. A most poignant song – written and sung by Helen's daughters – accompanied the signing of the register, and the guests sung the happy couple's chosen hymns with great feeling.

The music of Glenn Miller featured strongly in one of our recent funeral services, while another loved one was remembered in the playing of Homely Girl by UB40, music filling the space above the nave and connecting those who had gathered in sadness in a most special way.

The music at St Mary's always sounds so good and those with technical knowledge of such things would explain that the church's stone walls and pillars allow for long reverberation and give extra depth to the sound. Those who study church acoustics would go so far as to suggest that in some



Right: beautiful flowers decorated the church for the wedding of the Revd Mike and the Revd Helen Stewart



Above: a grand piano was delivered to St Mary's for a concert by Allington Strings in January

churches and cathedrals, architects planned the placement of the necessary columns and pillars so music and sound would bounce gracefully from one surface to another and fill the entire space with lingering intensity.

At our service last Sunday morning, a member of the congregation stayed behind to say she liked it best when we sang hymns that she could remember from school. We had ended our service with Charles Wesley's hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, and singing it had brought her joy.

Johann Sebastian Bach is believed to have said, "I play the notes as they are written, but it is God who makes the music." As we move into 2023 we look forward to the rhythm of our lives at St Mary's being further enhanced by the vitality, verve and vibration of good music.

Lesley Hill

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union Prayer and Fellowship Group of St Mary's Bridport and Holy Trinity Bothenhampton meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. You don't need to be a member to come along, or have children: single, married, male or female, all are welcome. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 28 March at 2.30pm at 110 Crock Lane.

For more information contact Jill Pryke (421134) or Eileen Fuszard (422590).

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

March brings the beginning of spring, when we can enjoy cheerful, colourful flowers and longer days, and look forward to warmer weather. As well as there being a change in the seasons, we have started a change in the pattern of our church worship. On the first Sunday of each month, →

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

and also on the fifth Sunday when there is one, there will be a service for the whole parish, held in a different church each time. All services are now clearly set out in a table near the beginning of the magazine.

We are now in the season of Lent, and our study is based on a book called *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield. There are several groups across the parish that meet at various times and locations, and details can be found in all churches.

The fourth Sunday in Lent – 19 March – is Mothering Sunday, and coffee and the traditional Simnel cake will follow the service in Holy Trinity on that day.

Events in March begin with our monthly coffee morning in the church on Saturday 4 March (10am to 12 noon) with cakes, books, cards and a raffle. If you enjoy meeting people over a cup of coffee and biscuits, there will be another opportunity on Saturday 18 March in the village hall, also from 10am till 12 noon. This is in aid of hall funds.

The Luncheon Club event in the village hall this month is a week later than usual and will be held on Thursday 16 March. Please let Heather Purse know if you would like to go to it (details are on the poster).

The film night is on Saturday 25 March in the village hall

Below: Part of the Old Churchyard wall has collapsed and Holy Trinity is collecting donations towards its repair



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

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Bradpole Brunch

After a long lay-off due to Covid and other circumstances, the monthly Bradpole Brunch is returning to the village hall on the third Sunday of March, April, May and June. Everyone will be welcome at 11:30am for an hour of children's activities, stories, prayer and song, all based on a

Luncheon Club

Bothenhampton Village Hall

Thursday 16 March

From 12 noon; lunch served at 12.30pm

Come and enjoy a two-course cooked hot lunch with others

- Beef casserole or spicy bean chilli
- Trifle

Cost £4.50

Please book so we have numbers for catering:

Heather Purse 423220 / heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk



(title to be announced). Doors will open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. Nick Child would like to know if you intend to go, so please email him at lcnc2413@outlook.com. Refreshments will be available.

Part of the boundary wall in the Old Churchyard was found in a state of collapse early in the winter. The weather was too wet and cold at the beginning of the year to repair it, but the stonemason will be rebuilding the wall as soon as possible. The cost has to be met by members of Holy Trinity, and donations towards this expense would be most welcome. Please contact Graham Purse, the church treasurer (423220) if you'd like to contribute.

The village hall is well used by regular groups on weekday evenings but is underused in the daytime and at weekends. It is available at these times for private one-off hire, such as a party or other celebration. If you are interested in holding an event there, please email Heather Purse: heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk.

Finally, don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour on Sunday 26 March for the start of British Summer Time. *Barbara Ffooks*

theme from the Bible, and thinking about how we can best live as a community, serving one another, whatever our age.

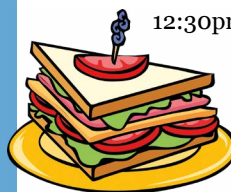
Each session starts with cheese toasties or bacon butties with coffee, tea or squash, and will finish by

12:30pm. Do come along on 19 March, which is also

Mothering Sunday, to see what it's like.

If you have any questions, please send them to bradpoleprayers@gmail.com.

Brunch is provided by members of the congregation of Holy Trinity Church.



Mothering Sunday

Everyone is invited to the Mothering Sunday service at 9.30am in the church on 19 March.

In medieval times, Mothering Sunday was a day of respite from fasting halfway through the penitential season of Lent. Its association with mothering originates in the texts read during the Mass in the Middle Ages, appearing in the lectionary (a book containing Bible readings to be read at divine services) in sources as old as the eighth century.

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

These include several references to mothers and metaphors for mothers. In later times, Mothering Sunday became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members.

'Mother's Day' was first celebrated in the US in 1907 when Anna Jarvis organised a special service at her Methodist Episcopal church. Jarvis was dismayed at the later commercialisation of the day and even tried to stop its observation. However, the name is now widely used in the UK as an alternative term for Mothering Sunday and the event has also gained secular observance as a celebration of motherhood and mothers, rather than its original religious meaning.

Bellringing

'Ring for the King' is the recruitment drive for ringers to train in time to ring for the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May. If you would like to become a ringer and undertake some intensive training in order to be ready to ring for this very special event, please contact Janet Robinson, the tower captain. Practice nights are the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7.30pm.



Local elections

There are no elections due for Bradpole in 2024 but readers might like to be aware of a change in the law, passed by parliament in December 2022, which comes into effect on 4 May 2023. It will require voters to produce a recognised form of identification at a polling station. Polling cards will no longer be accepted. Most people will be able to do this by showing one of the following valid documents: a British passport, a driver's licence, an over-60s bus pass, or a disabled driver's blue badge. Should a voter not have any of these, they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) in advance, or register to vote by post.

Applications for a VAC can be made online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or by contacting Electoral Services, Legal and Democratic Services, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester DT1 1XJ (tel 01305 838299). They will supply a paper form.

To register to vote by post, contact Dorset Council as above and ask for a postal vote ballot pack.

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)

A community village shop in Walditch

To assess demand for a community village shop, we have circulated an initial enquiry among people living on and off Walditch Road in the original village. The replies reveal

Friends of Holy Trinity

Coffee morning

Saturday 11 March, 10am to 12 noon

Bradpole Church

Bring-and-buy table

Books and puzzles

Raffle

All welcome!



The Friends of Holy Trinity

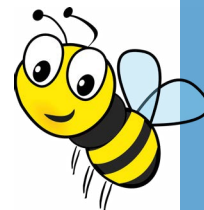
'The Friends' will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 11 March in the church from 10am to 12 noon. There will be a bring-and-buy table, books and puzzles and a raffle. All will be welcome so do come along and invite friends, family and neighbours.

Bradpole Buzz

The Buzz team will be meeting at 'The Green Shed' at Gore Cross recreation ground from 2 to 4pm on Saturday 4, Wednesday 15 and Saturday 25 March. Tools will be provided but please bring your own gardening gloves.

We are a small group of Bradpole residents who would like to see our village looking a little brighter and more wildlife friendly. We are working with Bradpole Parish Council to introduce more bee-friendly indigenous plants to Bradpole's open spaces.

We'd love practical help with planting, offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden, suggestions and general support. Please email bradpolebuzz@gmail.com or telephone Rose Van den Akker on 01308 425756.



Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The main hall is available for hire by local community groups and private hire and is fully accessible with facilities for the disabled. All enquiries for bookings to Jane Bryant: 01308 427493 / oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com. See also the parish council website: www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall.

enough interest to make the venture potentially viable from the outset, so the initial stages of the project can go ahead.

As well as the residents, many other people pass through the village daily whether on foot, by car or bicycle or on horseback, and we are now seeking their views, too, about whether they would use a shop in Walditch. Anyone who would like to respond can email shopinwalditch@outlook.com or write care of the parish editor at Tamarisk Cottage, Walditch Road, Walditch DT6 4LB.

James Craddock



ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

Mothering Sunday

A Jewish proverb reads: "God could not be everywhere and therefore he created mothers."

An American wrote: "By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacation-less class." And they rarely go on strike!

We should give thanks for mothers every day, but often we take them for granted. However, this month, on Mothering Sunday, 19 March, at 10am, we will have a special event at St Mary's Walditch. It will be a joyful celebration with songs, music, readings and refreshments.

Come and join us. Children, mums, dads, grandparents – all are welcome.

The Revd Ann Ayling

Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our regular monthly garden group meeting on Thursday 30 March. We're a very friendly bunch and look forward to welcoming you for seasonal topics and garden discussion throughout the year. Last Thursday of the month at 10am in Walditch Village Hall with tea/coffee and biscuits.

Garden tips for March:

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

Jane Mowatt

Below: The false oxlip



The story of the primrose, cowslip and oxlip

In the March 2022 issue, I explained that primroses have two types of flowers, 'pin' and 'thrum', and mentioned how this affects their pollination. I also pointed out that we were trying to reintroduce cowslips in Walditch Churchyard and that, if this were successful, the primrose and cowslip could hybridise to produce oxlips. I said this was another story with its own twists – and now I bring you that other story.

It starts with the complication that there are two kinds of oxlip: the true oxlip (*Primula elatior*), a distinct species that comes true if raised from seed; and 'false' oxlip (*Primula vulgaris x veris* = *P. polyantha*), a cross between primrose and cowslip, a hybrid that does not come true from seed.

False oxlip (pictured below left) has a primrose-like flower on a cowslip-like stem with multiple flowers, tending to face in one direction. The leaves are the same as primrose. While the two kinds appear similar, I'm sure a botanist would detect differences. Any oxlips we might eventually get in our churchyard will be false. These oxlips have hybrid vigour and once established are strong, long-lived plants (subject to climate change) as long as they remain undisturbed.

In the UK, 'true' oxlips have been confined to a small area on the Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire borders, especially Piper's Meadow in the village of Bardfield, Essex. Charles Darwin studied the Bardfield primulas and proved that the oxlip was a distinct species. In other work he found that 'false' oxlips only arise if cowslip is the seed parent – i.e. the pollen comes from the primrose and not the other way round. While primrose seeds can be spread by ants and rodents, cowslip and oxlip have to rely on wind for dispersal, and that has been found to be a poor method, so seedlings remain close to their parent and distribution is slow. All three species have 'pin' and 'thrum' flowers, presumably primarily to prevent inbreeding. This and other differences, as previously described, can impede though not prevent cross-pollination between the species. It could be said that 'false' oxlip occur by accident rather than design.

Darwin recorded thousands of plants at Bardfield, but by 2007 this had declined to just 12, so seed was collected and 5,000 plants raised in the glasshouses of Writtle College with the aim of restoring the site. It is thought the plant thrived here initially because of a combination of microclimate and soil type. It is, however, found in central Europe, the more so as you travel east, where the conditions are more suitable. The oxlip does not like hot dry summers, though it does seem to recover. Maybe with climate change the prospects for its survival in the UK are not great.

If cowslips become established in Walditch we should one day see 'false' oxlip in the churchyard. In the meantime, the plant can be seen in Loders Churchyard conservation area and no doubt elsewhere where primrose and cowslip are in proximity to each other.

Robin Stapleton

ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock
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Chapel warden –
Rosemary Russell 423013

West Bay WI

The group will have their usual Knit & Natter on Wednesday 1 March at 10.30am. The following week, on Wednesday 8 March, there will be a talk at 2.30pm by Richard Southam on chiropractic healthcare. Richard is a chiropractor who practises in Dorchester.

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

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

Round and about the Bay

“Fuller’s Earth faulted and slipped chapter by stratum, cliff tells a story, setting for stone and thought, net & rope boat & home.” Where have you seen this in West Bay – and what does it mean?

So far I have been unable to find out who decided on this statement but would love to know. When the West Pier was reconstructed back in 2005, these words were embedded in the pathway by the car park on the Mound. Fuller’s Earth, which is used widely in many industries, is found in the cliffs around West Bay, but can be unstable when saturated by rain. We have had a couple of rockfalls, one on the West Cliff before Christmas (pictured right) and the other major one on the East Cliff. Fortunately neither injured anyone, yet people still put themselves and others in danger by walking too close to the cliffs.

The Discovery Centre will continue opening at weekends in March until it reopens fully for the season on Tuesday 21 March. There has been some remedial work during the closure as well as the creation of a new exhibition called *Beneath the Waves*, which tells the story of commercial fishing in Lyme Bay and marks the Year of the Coast. All the latest information about the centre is on the website at www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk.

Lots of activity is taking place at Parkdean to prepare for the reopening on 13 March. They have kindly agreed to store the new specialised beach wheelchairs for the disabled. Elaine Leader has been the driving force behind this project

Pictured: There was a rockfall at West Cliff in December; the gig club rowers have been out on the water



(covered in the February issue, page 5), helped by Neil Barnes, raising funds to cover the cost. We all hope things will be in place before the tourist season starts.

The West Bay Community Forum met recently and discussed a number of issues relating to the harbour. Unfortunately the harbour enhancement scheme will not go ahead this year.

You may have seen that the temporary bus stop outside the Salt House has been moved back close to the church. The new shelter is not expected to be in place until the middle of summer.

It was good to see the gig rowers out on a relatively quiet day with the sun shining (pictured above). I had watched them while they were outside the harbour and it looked quite choppy. Certainly not an activity for the faint hearted!
Sue Pollock



ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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Distribution – Kevin Payne
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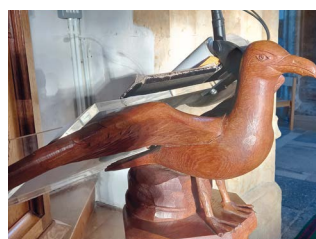
From the parish editor

The early spring days of March can be a time to stretch out and start exploring after the hibernation of the cold months. Visiting the architectural heritage of West Dorset can be a wonderful surprise: the joy of seeing and sometimes touching the artifacts made by hand in local materials, whether the warm Ham stone or the cooler Portland stone, which often contains fossils.



Other materials abound.
St Michael and All Angels,

Pictured: Some of the sea-themed decorations at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Burton Bradstock



the delightful 12th-century church at Winterbourne Steepleton, is a good example. In the corners of the porch there are huge bunches of lavender, meeting the visitor with that aroma, calm and inviting. Visit on a Sunday morning to see inside its ancient space with a mini gallery up a narrow stone stairway and faint traces of frescoes. There is a Saxon stone relief taken in from the exterior wall depicting a horizontally flying angel. It presents as fresh and has an air of contemporary design. The spire is one of three in Dorset and there are four curious objects marking the corners at the base of the spire; my mother named them ‘pepperpots’. The tops of the carved stone tombstones seem to reference an eastern influence – the silk route, maybe. Some cast iron angels have been pinned to a headstone, which is not a usual combination of materials. The church sits beside one of those rare chalk streams, and you may be lucky enough to spot the streak of turquoise that is the resident kingfisher.

If you are walking the dog at Cogden, or going to the Hive cafe for a drink, the church of St Mary the Virgin at Burton Bradstock is also worth a look. There is a nautical theme all over (pictured left). It could be a good game with little ones to count how many fishes there are, some finely carved in wood and others painted on the wall frieze that appears to bind the space around. The lectern has a silk-smooth carved seagull of realistic recent design, its wings outstretched to hold The Book.

The churchyards are as engaging. Some, like St Swithun’s, look like small arboretums. There is one of several tulip trees that flower biennially in the area, and the winter-flowering cherries, various flowering shrubs and male and female yews are very cheering. People walk around this churchyard garden to quieten their babies in prams or to walk the →

ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

bounds, perhaps because they have little garden space with mature trees at home.

June Goodburn of the St Swithun's congregation recited a poem to me that she learnt at school when they were evacuated to Abergavenny:

'A Tree' by Joyce Kilmer

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.*

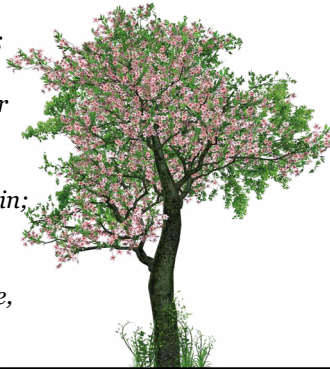
*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*



Above: St Swithun's hosted a well-attended concert by the New Elizabethan Singers in January

St Swithun's has recently hosted the New Elizabethan Singers' concert of Benjamin Britten's *St Nicolas*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, and the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by the choir's musical director, Matt Kingston, who composes under the name Matthew Coleridge. The acoustics at St Swithun's are well suited to the sound of this magnificent music, and the concert was enjoyed by many.
Anna Sullock

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

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422598 / bridportsec@gmail.com

incorporating
UPLODERS CHAPEL

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If you are reading this on a bright, sunny spring day, you won't have to go far to spot the most glorious displays of wild flowers.

Sweet little clumps of crocuses, delicate yellow primroses, lady's smock... they all delight us as we stroll along the banks of the Asker. And, of course, those stunning "hosts of golden daffodils". The stifling darkness of winter is behind us, and our hearts are filling with joy and the hope of fresh, new beginnings. Or are they?

Some years ago I was shocked to read that spring and early summer is the peak season for suicides. Surrounded by such radiant beauty in the natural world, how can that be?



It seems that the explanation lies in the jarring contrast between this natural beauty and whatever cruel darkness has taken up residence in the hearts of those who are suffering.

Spring brings the anticipation that the joy of the flowers and buds will somehow be reflected

in our lives: our depression will lift, our anxieties will fade, and they will be replaced by peace and optimism. However, when the unbearable weight of fear for a sick loved one sits heavily within us, or when we fear for our own life and suffer the pain of sickness, we may be shocked that the hoped-for relief does not materialise with those bright, warm days. If the all-encompassing sorrow of the absence of a familiar loved one seemed unbearable over the winter, what if spring simply doesn't ease the pain? What if depression simply doesn't lift? All that light, those happy, smiling, sunlit faces and bright flowers can feel like an affront.

Spring is so beautiful, but for many this is not enough to restore the hope and joy we have lost. There is, however, a greater beauty and joy, which can hold us and carry us through our fears and sorrow. One of my mother's favourite hymns was a very old one called *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*. I always disliked it and found it slow and depressing, but my sister and I agreed to have it at our mother's funeral as she had loved it so much. Strangely, as we sang it in the church my mother had attended for 60 years, I noticed the words properly for the first time and realised that it is actually one of the happiest, most positive and hope-filled hymns we have. Here, for example, is the third verse:

*Oh joy that seekest me through pain
I cannot close my heart to thee
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

How blessed we are to have the gift of joy from God that seeks us through our pain. Pain and sorrow do not disappear, but God reaches out to us through it and walks beside us. We can talk to Him, we can scream, we can weep, we can shout. God's love will refuse to let go of us.

Not all readers of this will be Christians, but many people are aware of the spiritual side of our lives. We all suffer, we all weep, and we are all subject to the fears, sorrows and

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

tragedies of life. We all need to be enveloped in love and, whatever your understanding or perception of God, that love seeks every one of us. It comes to us in prayer, it comes to us in the form of kind friends and neighbours – after all, we are said to be made in the image of God.

And if there is one thing we know, it is that God is love.
Jennie McGinlay, local preacher

March services at Bridport United Church:

- Friday 3** 10.30am **World Day of Prayer**
- Sunday 5** 10.30am **Revd Jane Wilson (HC)**
4pm **Soul Space**
- Sunday 12** 10.30am **Gill Bumphrey**
- Sunday 19** 10.30am **Revd Jane Wilson (all-age)**
4pm **Revd Jane Wilson (healing service)**
- Thurs 23** 3.30pm **Messy Church**
- Sunday 26** 10.30am **Peter Jenner**

Regular events

Stepping stones pre-school every morning. Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday (except 18 March) from 10am to 12 noon – all welcome.

- Mondays** 10am–noon Art group (inner hall)
2–3pm Art history (first & second)
2.30pm Golden Cap Centre of the National Trust (last only)
- Tuesdays** 7.30pm Bridport Choral Society
2pm Bridport Blind Club (first & third)
2pm Bridport u3a (fourth Tuesday only)
4.30pm Rainbows (not at half term)
5.30pm Brownies (not at half term)
7.30pm New Elizabethan Singers
7.30pm Bridport Big Band (in church)
- Wednesdays** 12.30pm Lunch Club (fourth only). All welcome for two-course home-cooked meal. Please book if possible: 422598
6pm Fitsteps
7.30pm Kickboxing
- Thursdays** 2pm Thursday Club (third only). All welcome for tea, games, crafts and chat in inner hall
2 for 2.30pm Bridport History Society (second Thursday only)
5pm Slimming World
- Fridays** 6–7.30pm Kickboxing

Special events

We are holding our Big Breakfast at Bridport United Church on Saturday 11 March (9.30–11.30am). Bridport Gardening Club’s spring show is on Saturday 18 March.



From Uploders Chapel

Once again I feel I am repeating myself but it doesn’t alter the fact that at the moment the sun is shining and helping to lift the spirits. I am still working on my New Year’s resolution of avoiding anything that is negative!

As I mentioned last time, we have had the privilege of attending lots of uplifting events locally. I have at last been able to track down the words to a lovely song called Rise Up, Rise Up, We Need Each Other Now, which I was able to listen to online. The singer was John Nettle. It really is inspiring, as was the lovely service that Tim Wells took on the first Sunday in February, in which he pointed out that we can do what God wants of us at times when we aren’t attending church services. Giving support to those in need, in whatever way that is, has got to be good and worthwhile.

Getting together can be a really good way of helping each other out, and this can be in various ways. By the time you read this we will have had the concert I told you about last month, on Saturday 25 February, which hopefully will have been well supported and, I am sure, uplifting.

Our regular get-together each month for CAKE is also a way of supporting each other and is open to all. The next one is on Tuesday 7 March at the chapel from 2.30 to 4pm. Why not come along, enjoy the company, laughs, chat – and, of course, cuppas and cake!

There’s another way we are looking to support you, which actually needs your help supporting us as well! This is the setting-up at Uploders Chapel of a pop-up Post Office. We now have a landline connection so are just waiting to finalise the details. One thing we are sure of is that we will be serving teas and coffees for you to enjoy. The plan is to be open every Tuesday afternoon 1.30–3pm from 14 March, and we will share more information as soon as we can.

So I hope you had a Fabulous February – and have a Marvellous March!
Carol Hall

February services at Uploders Chapel:

- Sunday 5** 10.30am **Richard Lownsbrough**
- Sunday 19** 10.30am **Revd Peter Clark**

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Presbytery 424754
keith.mitchell@predtr.org.uk
Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594
bridport@predtr.org.uk



Ever young!

What a wonderful pantomime we have just enjoyed in the town! The cast seemed bigger, the costumes more stunning, the dancers more graceful, the singers more tuneful and the actors more entertaining. It was based on JM Barrie’s Peter Pan, the well-known story of a boy who never grew up. It reminded me of a song that we sing in school: ➔

ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

“You’re never too young... to be disciples... to preach the gospel... to witness... to serve.” How true that is and how blessed we are in our young people.

There is something special about being young, but it is also true that “you’re never too old to be disciples, etc., etc.” Youth is more than simply a period of time; it is a state of mind. That is why an ancient institution like the Church can experience renewal and a return to youth even at such a great age. She is enriched by a long and living history and, hopefully, advancing to be ever-young. The Church must be open to constant renewal: “free”, as Pope Francis has said, “from those who would make her grow old, hold her back or keep her at a standstill.” But, surely, free too from

another temptation: of thinking that she is young because she accepts everything the world has to offer and acts like everyone else. “No!” says the Pope. “The Church is young when she is herself, when she receives anew the strength born of God’s Word, the Eucharist, and the daily presence of Christ and the power of His Spirit in our lives.” Jesus is ever-young and the Church is young when she shows herself capable of constantly returning to Him who is her source – and that’s a pretty good agenda for Lent.

Monsignor Keith Mitchell

Regular Sunday Mass is at 10am and is streamed online at 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.

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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).

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

West Dorset Flower Club meets at the WI Hall, North St, at 2.30pm on the second Monday each month with demos and speakers. On Monday 13 March, Denise Jones will give a demonstration called ‘Spring has sprung’. Phone 456339.

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 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.

Bridport & District Gardening Club will hold its AGM on Thursday 16 March at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St. The spring show will be on Saturday 18 March at Bridport United Church and is open to members and non-members to enter. Refreshments, raffle and plant sale. More information at 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

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

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 Wednesday evenings at 7.15pm (7.30pm start) in Church House, South St. All welcome, no partner required. First visit free, then £2 per session (incl. refreshments). Basic tuition given in the first hour. Pls wear soft shoes if poss. 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 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.

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

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 Stage Company (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group meets at the British Legion on Mondays, 7–9pm. They are rehearsing a new adaptation of Dracula, to be performed w/c 12 June. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie: 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 / 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 November. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport for updates or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298.

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.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) meets at Bridport Town Hall, 2 for 2.30pm, on the third Thursday each month Sept–June. On 16 March Steven Desmond will present 'The Artist as Gardener', exploring painters' use of garden design to study nature. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome £7.50 per event. www.taswestdorset.org.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.

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 & District RNLI holds five or six events (incl. Seatown BBQ) each year to raise money. Volunteers always needed. Contact Sadie 07811 470127 or Annie 07790 713156.

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

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.

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 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

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 →

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Need advice on benefits, debt, employment or other issues? Pick up the phone and talk to us on Freephone 0800 144 8848. You can also email us via the contact form at www.bridportca.org.uk or drop in to 45 South St, Bridport (now open Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).



Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

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 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!

Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport: We always welcome new ringers and are happy to train you on our bells – perhaps to 'Ring for the King'. 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. Janet Robinson jrb-jrb@outlook.com

The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society (West Dorset Group) meets at Lodgers Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Contact Jane: jferentzi@aol.com

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

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.

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. More info at www.stepsoutingbridport.co.uk

The Cowshed Wellbeing Gardens group meets Tuesdays 2–4pm and Thursdays 10am–12 noon. Gardening, talking, art and workshops for people with health vulnerabilities or wishing to enhance wellbeing. Access is to the left of Bridport Medical Centre. For more information please text 07769 720773.

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

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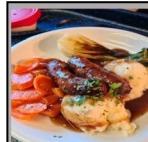
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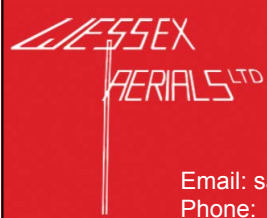


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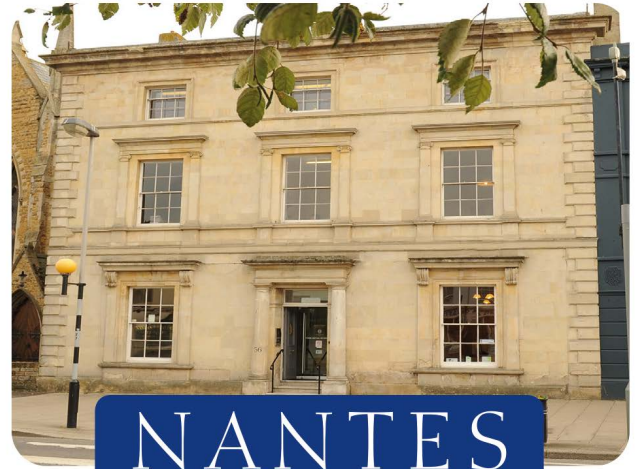
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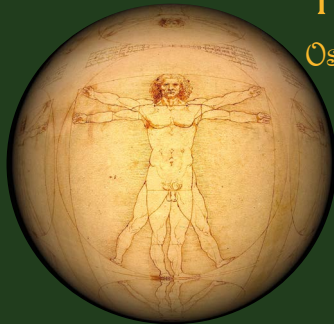
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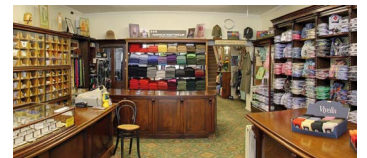
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