

April 2023

the **Bridge**



A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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The advertising and copy deadline for the May 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 10 April

Seeing signs of the true message of Easter

We all rely on signs to help us understand the world and the people in it.

We read one another's signs, in the expressions on our faces and in body language, just to sense if someone is in a good mood, or if they are grumpy or sad or worried.

We pick up on signs to help us see the changing of the seasons: the longer days, the warmer weather, new life coming as we move into springtime. Signs in the mood of a community, a nation, and within our family and friends. We are connected to each other; we affect one another and the world where we all live. And we can't always put into words what those connections really mean.

All of us rely on all sorts of signs to help us know what's what, to get a sense of the life we share with others, even at times to understand our own deepest feelings, fears and delights.

The church has always made use of signs to help us navigate life, to help make sense of the journey we're all on. Whether or not we regularly attend worship, many people speak of the power of churches to communicate beyond words. It's why people often find themselves sitting in a church in times of great sorrow or intense thankfulness. Times when we are beyond words, and we just need to be. Perhaps it's about being still for a little while in a place where people have come for generations to pray, to ponder.

As we come close to Easter, we also rely on signs to help us understand the journey we have made through the season of Lent, and where it's leading us. To travel through Holy Week and the darkness of Good Friday and then to celebrate new life at Easter.

If you come into church on Good Friday, you'll see it bare, with no cloths covering the altar and certainly no flowers or candles. A stark place as a sign of the bleakness of that day. A few days later, however, you'll see the place is bursting with colour, so many flowers, and a sense that we have come back into the light and that new life can be seen and celebrated.

The Early Church Father Irenaeus said that the glory of God is to be seen in a person who is fully alive. That image of glory is about connectedness, about being rooted as the person we are created by God to be. It is about vitality and verve.

God is other than us, often unseen and unknown. And the mystery of God – what the poet Gerald Manley Hopkins calls the “incomprehensible certainty” of the presence of God, even when we don't think we can see him, feel him, or even want him – keeps us searching for him, straining for glimpses that are often right under our noses.

And even when we don't know God, when we can't see him or feel him, when we don't even want him, that doesn't change the mysterious truth that we are known by God, and he has promised to be with us always. That is the glory of God and that is how we are glorified by God.

Easter is about coming face to face with the glory of God. And most of the time that happens in very ordinary ways, in our life together, in cherishing those we love, in our worship, in living out our faith as the body of Christ, in the ways in which we treat one another and the earth, and how we serve Christ in the world.

Easter brings new life; it brings transformation and change and new ways of seeing and understanding. My prayer for us all is that we will catch a glimpse of real life this Eastertide, that we see the signs, as we journey onwards.
*The Revd Canon Deb Smith,
Team Rector*



The Revd Canon Deb Smith

We all rely on signs to help us understand our own deepest feelings, fears and delights

Community halls are so important

This month I met Monty Crook and Steve Bartlett, two of the stalwarts keeping St Mary's Church House Hall running.

The hall is just one of the venues that groups across our town use to get together, learn and practise new skills, keep fit, train their pets, or just have fun. These are the kind of facilities whose value we only really realise when they've had to close, either through lack of funds or lack of people to do the behind-the-scenes work. The former isn't a problem in the case of this hall, but one or more people are needed to come forward as potential trustees. Please turn to page 7 to read about the hall, and think about whether that person could be you!

In this issue we're also asking for donations towards The Bridge's work. In the past we've inserted a flyer in the magazine, but this time we're saving money by printing a cut-out form on page 5. Huge thanks from me and the team for anything you feel able to give – we'll be sure to use it wisely.

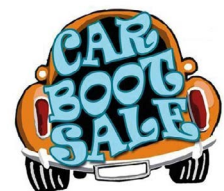


**Olivia Daly
Editor**

St Swithun's to repeat its popular car boot sale

Calling all car booters! St Swithun's Church in North Allington is holding another of its very successful car boot sales on Saturday 13 May. If you'd like to book a space or have a stall, please ring or text 07887 483228. Ten pitches are available: first come, first served.

There will be more details of the event in the May issue, but don't lose any time in booking your space if you want to be among the sellers.



April 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>Saturday 1</i>						
Sunday 2 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am PARISH COMMUNION	4pm Contemplative Church (hall)				
<i>Monday 3</i>				8pm Compline		10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 4</i>			8pm Compline	2.30pm Holy Communion		
<i>Wednesday 5</i>	2.30pm Holy Communion				8pm Compline	
<i>Thursday 6</i>	7pm Holy Communion & foot washing	10am Eucharist 7pm Vigil with Communion & foot washing		7pm Holy Communion & foot washing		
Friday 7 <i>Good Friday</i>	2pm One-hour meditation	2pm One-hour meditation	12pm One-hour meditation	12pm Three-hour meditation		11am One-hour meditation
Saturday 8 <i>Easter Eve</i>		8pm Easter Eve service (fish & chips first*)				
Sunday 9 <i>Easter Day</i>	8am BCP HC 10am Easter Day HC service	10am Easter Day Eucharist	10am Easter Day HC service	10am Easter Day HC service	10am Easter Day HC service	6am Service at East Pier* 10am Easter Day HC service
<i>Monday 10</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 11</i>						
<i>Wednesday 12</i>						
<i>Thursday 13</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 14</i>						
<i>Saturday 15</i>						
Sunday 16	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Praise		11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 17</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 18</i>						
<i>Wednesday 19</i>						
<i>Thursday 20</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 21</i>						
<i>Saturday 22</i>						
Sunday 23	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 24</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 25</i>						
<i>Wednesday 26</i>						
<i>Thursday 27</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Friday 28</i>						
<i>Saturday 29</i>						6pm Service of wholeness and healing
Sunday 30	8am BCP Holy Communion	10am PARISH COMMUNION				

The Ps and Qs of Christian Aid Week

Ahead of Christian Aid Week (14–20 May), local coordinator Jill Henderson brings us the 'Ps and Qs' of this year's appeal and the people it's supporting...

The Peas:

I don't know about you, but ever since childhood, peas have been my favourite vegetable. And now the humble but mighty 'pigeon pea' – a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, delicious high-protein crop – is helping to transform the lives of small-scale farmers in Malawi.

For farmers like Esther (*pictured, centre*), a mother and grandmother, this amazing crop is life-changing. For a start, instead of having to sell her crops through an expensive



middleman, she now belongs to the Nandolo Farmers Association, a long standing Christian Aid partner.

The Qs – questions! What can you do with the pigeon pea? Well, you'll be surprised how versatile this little vegetable can be (answers coming next month!).

How can I get involved with Christian Aid Week?

There are plenty of things you can do or take part in, although more ideas are always welcome. Can my church, local group or my friends get involved? Absolutely – just contact me to find out more.

There will be more news about Christian Aid Week and how you can get involved, in the May issue of The Bridge.

*Jill Henderson, Christian Aid coordinator,
Churches together in Bridport and District
07970 685665 / jillpetrina13@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

Two extra church events for the season of Easter

In addition to the Easter services shown in the table opposite, there will be a couple of extra events to mark this special season in the church calendar.

On Easter Day (Sunday 9 April) there will be a sunrise service at East Pier, West Bay, starting at 6am. A breakfast of coffee and a bacon roll is available for £5. Please book with the parish office (424747 / di@bridport-team-ministry.org) so organisers know how many to cater for.

On Easter Eve (Saturday 8 April) there is an evening service at St Swithun's Allington at 8pm, with a fish and chip supper beforehand. Again, please book as above.

The parish service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Bridport on Palm Sunday (2 April) will be the Revd Pete Stone's last service as team vicar in Bridport. Turn to page 9 for an interview with Pete as he prepares for his relocation.

On Sunday 30 April (the fifth Sunday this month) there will be a parish service at St Swithun's at 10am, followed by a discussion about how the new pattern of services is working. The new arrangements see all the Parish of Bridport churches getting together for a parish service on the first Sunday of every month, plus the fifth Sunday when there is one.

Appeal for donations

In the past few years The Bridge has made an annual request for donations so we can continue our work and maintain our high standards.

Readers have been very generous, for which we're extremely grateful. If you'd like to make a donation, there are two ways for you to do so:

1. It's quick and easy to donate online through the Charities Aid Foundation, and the site will automatically process your Gift Aid if you tick the relevant box. You'll find our donations page here: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14198>

2. You can send a cheque, payable to 'St Swithun's DCC', to The Bridge, Allington Lodge, 52 West Allington, Bridport DT6 5BH. If you're a UK taxpayer you can help us increase the value of your donation by completing the Gift Aid declaration overleaf. Please cut out and enclose this panel showing your original signature (photocopied signatures are not acceptable). St Swithun's Church is registered with the Inland Revenue and will undertake claims for repayment of income tax on donations eligible for Gift Aid relief.

With grateful thanks and best wishes,
Olivia Daly, Editor

Bridport's film festival celebrates the art of adaptation

From Page to Screen – Bridport's popular film festival – takes place this year from 26 to 30 April at Bridport Arts Centre and the Electric Palace.

The annual festival celebrates the art of adapting books for the big screen, and this year is curated by double-Oscar-winning writer and director Christopher Hampton. Highlights include recent movies *She Said*, *Emily*, and *The Son*, and classics such as *Au Hasard Balthazar*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *The Pumpkin Eater*. There's also a discussion with Hampton, led by broadcaster Francine Stock.

Tickets are available online at www.frompagetoscreen.info.

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Could you be the trustee St Mary's Church House Hall is looking for?

Monty Crook says St Mary's Church House Hall is "the best hall in Bridport," and while we can't possibly comment – other halls are available to hire, including the excellent facility at St Swithun's – he's right that it is a superb, flexible space in a great spot.

A host of hirers would doubtless agree. The hall hosts regular groups from yoga and dance to dog training and Slimming World, plus the Thursday Tots Time sessions for under-fives and their parents or carers, and it's also available for one-off events such as parties. Last year there were 16 regular (mostly weekly) users and 30 single bookings.

Constructed in 1925 by 12 local church 'worthies', the building was run by an unregistered charitable trust and used as a church and community hall until the late 1990s, when it became clear that the trust was in financial difficulties and the hall was sold to Magna Housing for a nominal fee. In 2001 Magna converted three quarters of the building into seven flats while leasing half of the lower floor as a hall to the trustees, who are responsible for the upkeep of its interior. The hall trust has been a registered charity, with a formal constitution, since August 2019.

Monty got involved with the hall when he started organising ceilidhs there in 2011, and he's now a trustee and secretary to the hall's management committee. He'd love to see the team of trustees boosted by some new blood. "I worry about the future of the hall," he says. "We haven't had any new people for ages, and it would be a huge loss to the town if the trust failed and the hall had to close."

Only four out of the possible five trustee roles are currently filled, so Monty and his colleagues are looking for someone to take this on. Additionally, charity regulations state that trustees have to step down after a certain length of time, and they may not all choose to stand for re-election, so there's scope for



Clockwise from top left: the interior of the hall; the building from South Street; the colourful mural in the play area; the hall is ideal for dances and ceilidhs

more new people to get involved. "Our management committee looks after the day-to-day work," explains Monty. "They report to the trustees, who in turn report to the Charities Commission. In the past we've had trustees who were also on the management committee, but this doesn't need to be the case and in fact we're now looking for someone who'll just be a trustee. It's not an onerous role – the trustees usually meet no more than four times a year for a couple of hours, and there's some additional admin that's done by email."

During Covid the hall had to close completely, so lost the income from hirers while retaining some of the expenses of upkeep. It weathered the storm, however, thanks largely to a crowdfunding project that raised more than £10,000 from 92 donors. Grants from Dorset Council, furlough money for the part-time cleaner, local donations and money from three national charities brought the total to more than £23,000.

"We've been through lean times and kept going," says Steve Bartlett, chair of the management committee. "In fact,

in 2021 we ended up with about £7,000 more than our income in a typical year, so we looked at some projects to improve the facilities for our users. We commissioned artist Marina Renée-Cemmick to create a stunning mural in our outdoor play area, and we installed wifi, which is a huge boon for hirers. We're planning further projects, too. As a registered charity, we can't make a profit, so all the money we make is put back into the hall."

"This facility is important to the whole community," says Monty. "It has a great atmosphere and a lovely floor, and I know bands love coming to play here. We just need someone – or more than one person – with commitment and enthusiasm to come forward and help us secure its future. Please get in touch!"

If you're interested in becoming a trustee, or have a question about the role, please email Monty Crook: monty3dayslate@yahoo.co.uk. The hall is next to St Mary's Church on South St and is available to hire for £10 an hour. www.stmaryschurchhousehall.org

The Delphine Trio – clarinet, cello and piano
Friday 21 April at 3pm • St Mary's Church, Beaminster

Music by Beethoven, Zemlinsky and Delanoff
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 The Bookshop, Bridport; or at the door

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Bridport Choral Society presents

'Sing Into Spring'

Saturday 22 April 2023 at 7.30pm • Bridport United Church

Music for a spring evening featuring songs from musicals, operetta, opera, traditional songs and spirituals.

Tickets £12 (incl. refreshments) from Bridport Music Centre, Smith & Smith or on the door.

Musical Director: James Crawshaw
 Accompanist: Peter Parshall
 Soloist: Anna-Maria Geare



Bridport Rotary Club

Coronation Celebration Concert

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Bridport United Church, East Street

Saturday 29 April at 7.30pm

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‘It’s been a privilege & an honour’: Pete leaves Bridport for a new job

We caught up with the Revd Pete Stone on the eve of his departure from the Parish of Bridport, where he has been the team vicar since 2014. At the time of going to press, we’re not allowed to reveal where he’s off to, but rest assured it’s an exciting appointment!

The Bridge: Pete, you’re leaving us! What are you going to miss most about Bridport?

The Revd Pete Stone: I’m definitely going to miss the buzz of this wonderful town. It’s been a privilege and an honour to be here, particularly being part of civic occasions and Remembrance parades as well as important occasions in people’s lives like baptisms, weddings and funerals. I saw first hand during Covid how strong the sense of community is here – there’s a real determination to make life better for others.

TB: Apart from your parish duties, what else have you been involved in here?

PS: Vicars are usually encouraged to take on an extra ‘thing’ alongside their day-to-day responsibilities, and I chose a military role. For the last eight years I’ve been padre to the 39 Signal Regiment, a Royal Signals reserve regiment with locations in Bristol, Bath, Windsor and Cardiff. I’ve provided pastoral and spiritual support to the soldiers, who are people of all faiths and none.

I’ve also been a governor at St Mary’s Primary School and it’s been wonderful to witness the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff there, as well as the joy and wonder of the kids. The staff are some of the most inspirational people I’ve ever come across; they do an amazing job helping the kids to shine and be all they can.

TB: Will you be continuing your army connection alongside your new job?



PS: I’m afraid not. The role of padre is a military one and I’d be expected to help physically on the battlefield as well as in a pastoral way. Unfortunately I’ve had to resign my army commission because I damaged my Achilles tendons a while ago, and although they’re much better now, I wouldn’t pass the army fitness test! There may, however, be an opportunity for me to apply for a civilian role as an army chaplain at my new location.

TB: What did you do before you came to Bridport?

PS: I was a curate in Charminster and Stinsford, near Dorchester, for four years. Before that I was training at Cuddesdon for ordination, and before that I was working with a charity called REinspired as project manager. We helped schools to deliver religious education creatively and fruitfully in ethnically diverse, multi-faith settings.

I’ve also spent time as a youth and children’s worker, and way back in the early years of my career I was a civil servant at the Ministry of Defence.

TB: How does your family feel about the impending move?

PS: My wife, Anne, is a nurse practitioner working at the minor injuries unit in Bridport and the urgent treatment centre in Weymouth. She will definitely carry on nursing and she’s looking forward to our new adventure!

I know our children will enjoy visiting our new home. Our son, Josh, is 23 and studying zoology at Aberystwyth University. He worked in farming for a while and decided to go into disease management in animals, so he did biology A-level in a year then started the degree course.

Esther – known as Essie – is our 21-year-old daughter and this year she’ll be finishing her degree in film and theatre at Royal Holloway, part of the University of London. She wants to be a teacher; she went to Colfox and she’s hoping to do her teacher training practice here in Bridport.

And I know our dogs are going to love our new home, too! We have a ‘spoodle’ – spaniel/poodle cross – called Tilly, and a ‘kelpador’ – kelpie/labrador – called Barney. They can’t wait to start exploring all their new walks.

One of the things I’m looking forward to is setting up my model railway in its new location! I’ve been building it in our garage for seven years and it’s currently boxed up ready for the move. I’ve heard that vicars love model trains because they’re the only thing they can control...

TB: Can you give us a clue about where you’re going?

PS: Not really! It’s a Crown appointment so the King himself has to sign it off before I can make it public. I can say that it’s a coastal location, although that’s not what drew me to it. It’s a church that wants to grow spiritually as well as in numbers; for me the attraction is always about the people rather than the place.

ST MARY'S Bridport

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

New growth

After a long, hard winter with dark and cloudy days that continued into March, it's wonderful to see spring now getting into full swing. Signs of the new season's growth and emerging life have gathered pace over the last month or so, bringing with them a sense of hope. In the churchyard, dead-looking bushes have been sprouting and bulbs have burst into bloom in once frost-hard ground.

Events at St Mary's in recent weeks, however, have centred around the end of life, and we have had two significant funerals. The first was of Marjorie Bailey, who died aged 100. She was a faithful member of St Mary's for many years and more recently was resident in St James' Park care home in Bradpole.



Above: winter-flowering narcissi blooming at St Mary's last month

The second funeral was for a person from a traveller family, and the church was packed. The horse-drawn hearse and walking procession to the cemetery created traffic chaos but marked the passing of a key member of their community.

As we mark the end of life for some, through funerals, we celebrate new birth, too. At Tots Time every Thursday morning we join with about 20 parents, grandparents and carers – plus of course their babies and toddlers – for an hour and a half of play, learning and sharing. It is inspiring to see how anxious new parents grow in confidence and babies and children learn how to play and relate to one another.

Following Sir Ghillean Prance's visit to the parish service at Bradpole in March, when we heard him speak about the Eco Church movement, we will be meeting to plan how we can achieve the Eco Church Bronze certificate.

We are pleased to see from the 'mission statistics' that there has been growth in our congregation. During 2022, 18 adults and 3 children have joined our congregation, while 15 adults and 2 children have left.

As Lent comes to a close and we celebrate Easter, with its promise of new life, we celebrate all the growth that surrounds us at St Mary's and further afield.

Peter Wright

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

April brings Holy Week and Easter, palm crosses, hot cross buns and Easter eggs, and new-born lambs in the fields.

On Palm Sunday, 2 April, we shall be joining the service at St Mary's Bridport to say goodbye to the Revd Pete Stone and his wife Anne as they move on to pastures new. Pete has been a very good friend to us in Bothenhampton and we shall miss him and his humour and interesting services. We'll miss Anne, too, for her help with music over the years in church.

Holy Week continues at Holy Trinity with compline on Tuesday 4 April at 8pm. On Maundy Thursday, 6 April, a small table will be set in the church for anyone wanting time for private prayer and thought during the day. On Good Friday there will be a said meditation at 12 noon, and the service on Easter Day will be Sung Communion (please note that this will start at 10am). All April services throughout the parish are listed on page 4 of the magazine.

Luncheon Club

Bothenhampton Village Hall

Thursday 13 April

From 12 noon; lunch served at 12.30pm

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

- Thai chicken or vegetable curry

- Pineapple sponge

Cost £4.50

Please book so we have numbers for catering:

Heather Purse 423220 /

heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk



Our usual coffee morning in church on the first Saturday of the month will be on 1 April. The next one would normally fall on 6 May, which is of course coronation day and a time when people will want to be at home watching the events in London, so we have decided to bring the coffee morning forward a week to Saturday 29 April, 10am till 12 noon.

The Luncheon Club has been very popular through the winter months, and the last one of this season will be held on Thursday 13 April in the village hall. We owe Heather



**Bothenhampton Village Hall Committee
presents...**

A celebration party following the coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6 May at 6.30pm

John Holt Playground

*Tickets in advance £2.50
to include a burger and roll*

from Pennie 458006 or Heather 423220

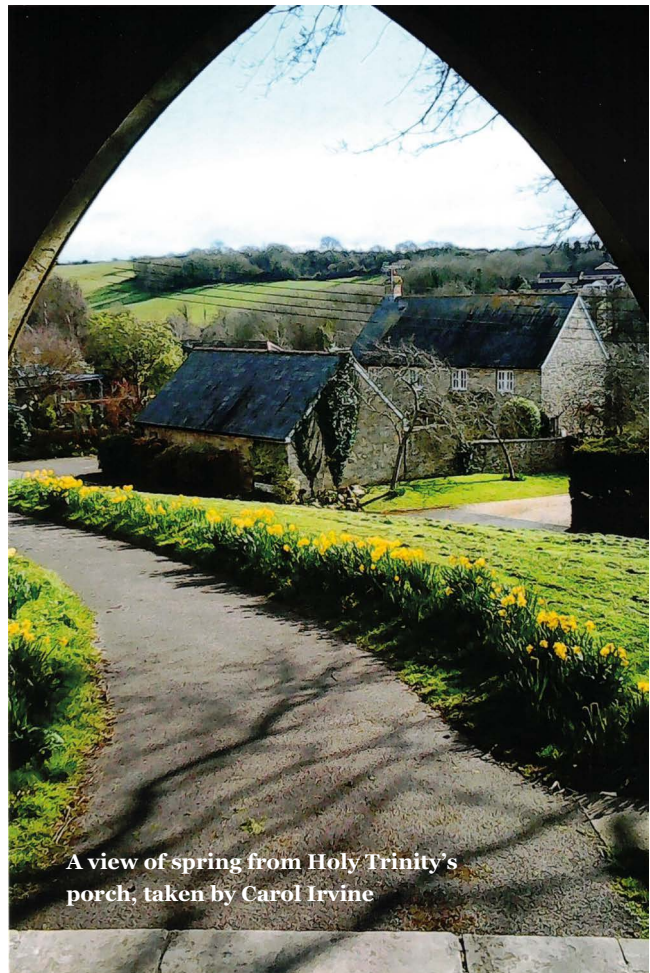


HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

Purse an enormous thank you for the huge amount of work involved in providing delicious home-cooked meals each month for 30 or more diners. Please let her know if you would like to go on the 13th. The lunches will recommence in the autumn.

Following the success of the Jubilee party in the play area last summer, the village hall committee wishes to repeat this event to celebrate the King's coronation. A marquee will be put up in the grounds, and burgers, rolls and drinks will be served. Enjoy the evening with family and friends on Saturday 6 May (see above for more details).

It is time to tidy up the Old Churchyard again after the winter. There will be a working party on Saturday 22 April at 2pm, and anyone who's able to help will be most welcome. Please bring your own gardening gloves and tools for tidying old graves, clearing ivy and reducing overgrown areas, etc.
Barbara Ffooks



A view of spring from Holy Trinity's porch, taken by Carol Irvine

**Our film night is Saturday 29 April
when we'll be showing Fisherman's Friends 2
at Bothenhampton Village Hall.
Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm
Refreshments available**

***Would you like to take part in an evening
of entertainment on Saturday 10 June?***

It will be held in the village hall.

*Sandra Hooker is looking forward to hearing
from anyone who's interested – phone her
on 01308 422205 to find out more!*

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

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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)

The Friends of Holy Trinity

The Friends held a very successful 'Desert Island Discs' evening in February with the Revd Janis Moore as the castaway and Martin Whiting, chair of The Friends, hosting

the show. The evening was enlivened with photos and videos on the screens and there was even some community singing and flag waving. Forty people enjoyed a cheese platter and plates of sweet goodies.

The event raised £450, which will be used to keep the church building in repair. Some expensive work is scheduled including clearing the blocked gutters, which have caused dampness in the walls (this involves a lot of scaffolding), repairs to the boundary walls, and the installation of a new LED lighting system.

There will be a concert in aid of The Friends' funds by Parnham Voices on Friday 12 May at 7pm in Holy Trinity.

Parish Council

During the democratic ten minutes at the February meeting, a resident raised the question of the council providing more allotment space. The clerk invited residents who were interested in having allotment space to email her →

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

at bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk. She pointed out that the community governance review, which will result in the new Bridport Council, would have an impact on such a provision.



It was announced that owing to insufficient community support for an event to mark the King's coronation, the Parish Council would support Holy Trinity with a financial contribution towards the tea, coffee and cake event following a 'Songs of Praise' service on Sunday 7 May. The council also agreed to install a commemorative bench at Pageants Field as well as supplying three trees to local schools: Bradpole Pre-school, St Catherine's Primary School and Bridport Primary School.

The council will be sponsoring the village fete on Saturday 3 June and will have its gazebo to promote Bradpole Buzz, climate issues, the community governance review, etc.

The railway crossing gates will be repaired and refurbished.

Bellringing

Ringling at Holy Trinity is certainly never dull. Since the 'Ring for the King' initiative was launched, Bradpole has been asked to support an entirely new band that is being prepared to get the bells ringing again at St Martin's Church, Shipton Gorge. Although St Martin's has an ancient tower of six bells, it currently has no ringers.

A group of Shipton Gorge villagers, under the expert organisation and encouragement of Elizabeth Ferguson, have begun their journey of learning the art of church bellringing. The Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers' ringing master, David Barrance, and training officer Sue Carter came to give an initial introduction to bellringing. Ringing teacher Julian Piper from Burton Bradstock, and our own teachers from Bridport and Bradpole towers, have since been helping with the ongoing training of 10 new ringers. Two learners from St Mary's Bridport are also taking part.

On Sunday 5 March, which was a special morning for the Bradpole ringers, we were able to ring a quarter peal on the occasion of the Bridport Parish service, which was celebrating the congregation's ongoing commitment to Eco Church. We also dedicated the quarter peal to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Dorset County Association of Ringers. For the quarter peal we rang 1,260



Above: Holy Trinity Bradpole is supporting a group of trainee bellringers at Shipton Gorge. From left: Ian Ferguson, Sheena Hall, Marina Hamilton, Carolyn Hall & Tracey Barclay from Shipton Gorge, with other learners Judy West & Mark Lane from St Mary's Bridport

changes of a method called Grandsire Doubles. An entry to record the event for posterity is published in *The Ringing World*, a weekly magazine for bellringers that has been published since 1911. This is our version of the entry: *Salisbury Diocesan Guild – Bradpole, Dorset – Holy Trinity Sunday 5 March 2023 in 41m (7–3–16): 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 David Ellery, 2 Roger Smith, 3 Christopher Kingdon, 4 Derek Gratton, 5 David Ledger (C), 6 Peter Carnell (Congratulations to Derek Gratton for his first quarter peal in this method.)*

Bradpole and Bridport towers are always keen to hear from prospective ringers of all ages. If you are interested and want to explore whether bellringing is for you, please see the 'Get Involved' section on page 20.

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.

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)

Krafty Club

Continuing our series of articles on the various groups that meet in the village hall, this month we visit the Krafty Club.

Mary George started the Krafty Club around seven years ago and the group meets in Walditch Village Hall on the third Monday of each month, usually from 10.30am to 12 noon, for crafting. Any newcomers are welcome to come and join the regular attendees around the table for friendly chat with a hot drink and biscuits.

Mary's personal craft approach is finding something with variety. She rather enjoys seeking out challenges and chatting about current trends, sharing craft ideas such as knitting patterns, and encouraging likeminded people to come along and take part.

Even just mending garments can become a fun activity as crafters get together to catch up in a friendly group rather than sitting at home and staring at four walls. Members do, however, have the freedom to pick and choose a variety of

ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

crafts. The emphasis is on manual skill, as the Krafty Club members don't use any machinery – it would drown out the conversation! The social element is central to the group's activities (see photo, right).

The monthly sub of £2 per person covers the hall hire, electricity and refreshments. At the beginning of this year the club used up their surplus funds on a lunchtime feast of baked potatoes, vegan flan, cheese and biscuits, salads and cold meats, followed by ice cream, trifle and chocolates.

If you think the Krafty Club might be for you, give Mary a call on 01308 422034.



Above: Krafty Club members catch up over crafts and a cuppa at Walditch Village Hall each month

Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our regular monthly garden group meeting in Walditch Village Hall. 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 (27 April) at 10am with tea/coffee and biscuits.

Garden tips for April:

Tie in the new shoots of climbers; divide perennials and stake tall-growing types; pot up or transplant self-sown seedlings; sow annual climbers and grasses; sow or lay turf for new lawns; feed established lawns; sow greenhouse crops and continue sowing and planting vegetables outdoors; prune early-flowering shrubs as well as those grown for large or colourful foliage; trim grey-leaved shrubs to keep them bushy; provide protection for newly planted trees and shrubs in exposed positions.

Jane Mowatt

How many dandelion species do you think there are?

Unless you are a botanist, there are probably an awful lot more than you know about!

Older floras identify the dandelion as *Taraxacum officinale*, along with perhaps two other species. I have, however, found it in a more modern flora as *Taraxacum spp*; on investigation I was surprised to find there are about 250 species (microspecies) in Britain and Ireland and 10 or more in any locality.

How can this be, as dandelions don't look that different? The answer is that the dandelion is self-fertile and does not need fertilisation (apomixis) to set seed; every seedling is an exact copy of its female parent (a clone). However, reproduction in nature is not perfect and genetic mistakes occasionally occur. If the errant seedling survives it will be a new species, and just like any other dandelion its progeny can also go on to produce their own genetic mistake(s). To complicate the matter, there are a few dandelions that do require pollination to set seed.

Along with its parachute dispersal, this helps to explain why dandelions are so prolific. Of course you don't need to identify them; this can be left to experts and apparently even they don't always agree! The differences are small, often needing a hand lens or even a microscope to spot them.

Gardeners generally regard dandelions as weeds, but in the wild they need to be welcomed; they are fabulous wildflowers, with their yellow flowers followed by 'dandelion clock' parachute seed heads. They are in the top league for attractiveness to insects, with around 114 recorded associates. Insects have long been in decline and need all the help we can give them, for our benefit and theirs.

For more information, I recommend this article: www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/2016/05/dandelions-the-most-undervalued-wild-flower. Dandelions may not be every gardener's cup of tea, but there is absolutely no reason why they shouldn't be encouraged in meadows, roadsides, churchyards and open spaces. Even in gardens it may be possible to compromise.

Robin Stapleton

Thelma's hymn notes



Thine Be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son

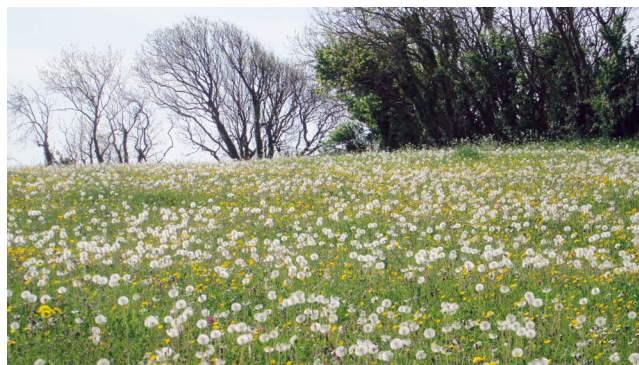
The words of this hymn were written by Edmond Louis Budry (1854–1932), a Swiss Protestant pastor. Born in Vevey, he was a church minister for over 50 years, and nine of his hymns remain popular among French Evangelical Protestants.

Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939) translated Budry's words into English in 1923. Hoyle was a Baptist minister and a gifted linguist with a command of many languages.

The music is by George Frideric Handel (1685–1759). It's the tune of the chorus 'See, the Conqu'ring Hero Comes' from the third section of his oratorio Judas Maccabeus, although he originally wrote it for another oratorio, Joshua. Handel was one of the greatest Baroque composers and was instrumental in revolutionising English church music.

This is a majestic hymn and the words in the refrain are fitting for Easter.

Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch



ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

West Bay WI

The usual Knit & Natter will take place on Wednesday 5 April at 10.30am. The following week will see the group's AGM on Wednesday 12 April at 2.30pm, followed by a quiz.

The WI is always keen to see new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact either Alison Ridge on 01308 897293 or Maggie Hopper on 07720 056310.

Round and about the Bay

Have you ever stopped to marvel at our universe? I would love to have seen the Northern Lights here in West Bay but, alas, we were not that lucky. However, we were able to see the planets Venus and Jupiter in our skies a few weeks ago. It was an incredible sight on 23 February, looking out over the West Cliff, to see the planets aligned with the moon. Then, seven days later at the same time in the evening, the planets appeared much closer to each other – actually they were 400 million miles apart – and there was no moon in sight (see photos).

We have had a period of really calm seas combined with a very low tide in the Bay. The lack of water in the harbour allowed the team there to check the moorings.

Do you remember the award-winning ITV series *Broadchurch*? I was surprised to learn that the first series was broadcast 10 years ago. BBC Radio Solent Dorset decided to run their morning programme from West Bay to mark the anniversary, and Bridport Mayor Ian Bark and I were interviewed on the Steve Hicks show about the police drama and how it affected West Bay.

Broadchurch was broadcast worldwide and was extremely popular. I was in New Zealand on a ferry and got talking to an Australian couple who had watched the programme and wanted to know so much more about West Bay. In fact, volunteering in the Discovery Centre we are still asked to point out various places from the series. Many people are disappointed that the police station is no longer there, and even more disappointed to learn that it was only ever a facade anyway.

The Discovery Centre has won yet another award, this time in the Bridport Business Awards for Green/Eco Business, something the centre is eager to promote in everything it does. The centre is now open full time from



Above: Venus, Jupiter and the moon in the night sky above West Bay in late February, and (right) a week later, when the planets were closer together

Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 4pm, and there is a new exhibition, *Beneath the Waves*, which no doubt will attract a good deal of interest. There will be events during the Easter holidays so be sure to check out the latest information online at www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk.

The West Bay Community Forum's AGM for members will be held on Thursday 20 April at 7pm in the Salt House. Elaine Leader will be giving an update on the project to bring specialised wheelchairs to West Bay. These will be used in conjunction with the special matting, which will be put back onto the west beach as soon as the weather is suitable. If you are interested in joining the forum, please email me, Sue Pollock: rognsuewbay@btinternet.com.

It's good to know work will be starting on the Changing Places toilets, which will be next to the toilets in the main car park. These facilities are designed for disabled people and those with additional mobility needs, and we all hope they will be ready before the busy season.

The work on the harbour wall in front of the kiosks makes the toilets inaccessible, so there are plans to put some temporary toilets on Fisherman's Green and to make access to the kiosks easier.

Do you know where there is a defibrillator in West Bay? Do you know why it is so important to know? I was recently asked this question and had to remind myself. To my knowledge there are four: one at the harbour master's office (pictured), two in the Parkdean holiday park (one at the entrance and the other by the washing facilities), and finally one on the west side of the Bridport Arms.
Sue Pollock



ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – Anna Sullock
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payne.kevin6@gmail.com

From the parish editor

The sap is risen. I paraphrase Natalie Haynes, a comedian who studies classics. She talks of hope via Pandora's box. In ancient Greek or Latin there is no word exactly translating as 'hope'. When we use 'hope' today, we are speaking in anticipation of something good that's about to happen, on whatever timescale. Before, however, in the ancient world, it was about something morally neutral that was going to happen. In modern Greek when you ask about the news it references that something bad is happening.

ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

In Greek mythology, hope was trashed by the idea of a beautiful woman; the Greek gods managed to steal hope away in the form of Pandora. Pandora is always blamed (this is echoed in the biblical idea of Eve). She is created, mythologically speaking, by Hephastus the blacksmith/craftsman at the request of Zeus. She is referred to as a good/bad thing, further translated as beautiful/evil. The good quality becomes visual; the bad quality becomes moral.

In Hesiod's epic poem, *Theogony*, Pandora doesn't have any form of receptacle – certainly not the box that Erasmus gives her 2,000 years after the story is first written. Jars, Natalie continues, are easily knocked over, while boxes can contain malevolent content. Thereafter Pandora is depicted naked beside a box! Before Erasmus's mistranslation, there is an image of Pandora with a jar. When Pandora is shown in the act of being created, she is a hopeful sign. In his *Elegies*, Theognis writes of Pandora's box being full of good things. The positive story doesn't surface in the retelling. Epimetheus, husband of Pandora, is the one who opens the jar and lets all the bad things out into the world. There is more than one side of a story; check the misogyny of stories.

In the ancient world, Pandora retains something in the jar: *elphus*, which in Greek translates as 'expectation'. It hides under the rim and doesn't escape. The usual story blames Pandora for hoarding the hope in the jar, but Natalie Haynes prefers to tell that although Pandora's name means 'she to whom all is given' – the girl with all the gifts – there is an error here as that word would be *Pandosis*. Pandora is an active word, not passive: she is the girl who gives us everything. In other words, she keeps hope safe for us. Who in Lent keeps hope safe for you?

On the theme of forgiveness, I recently heard a Radio 4 programme called 'No place like Nam', about how veterans going home from the Vietnam war to America did so with a difficult sense of loyalty. They would have heard about the protests against the war and later would have understood that the reasons for the war were misleading, if not based on untruths. One vet talked of settling down to marriage and two children, yet remaining unsettled. He left his American family and returned to Vietnam. Not knowing what his reception would be, he was amazed to be fully welcomed. The locals were happy to see him and said they knew he would return, asking what took him so long. In time he married a Vietnamese woman and they built a house together.

This American was not unique, and quite a few men



Above: *Il Vaso di Pandora (Pandora's Jar)* by Pietro della Vecchia (1602/3–78) in the Ca'Rezzonico, Venice

took the same route to return. Some of these Americans were so enthralled by their reception that they got involved in humanitarian work, sometimes working with the Vietnamese government to locate and diffuse landmines. Sadly, children and animals still get killed and maimed by landmines laid during that war.

Back at St Swithun's, we learnt that The Spires project – where Dan Shackell was a director for decades before coming to our church – has received an award. The charity helps homeless and disadvantaged people in London, and its Spires Streetlink project won first prize at the Andy Ludlow homelessness awards, receiving £30,000 in prize money. Spires Streelink runs a centre-based outreach service mainly for sex workers, including women dealing with homelessness, addiction, child abuse, violence, and sexual and mental health problems. These funds will secure this service. It's always heartening to hear good news. To read more about the charity, visit www.spires.org.uk.

Anna Sullock

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159

Church secretary – Sue Herman
422598 / bridportsec@gmail.com

incorporating
UPLODERS CHAPEL

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

Springtime is officially here – despite last month's Arctic blast that brought snow and ice across much of the country.

Spring is the season of new life and growth, when gardeners begin to plant seeds and nurture plants in anticipation of producing a harvest in the months to come.

Growth often requires hope and faith and sometimes a bit of risk-taking, too. When we plant a seed, we don't know whether it will germinate, grow into a strong plant and bear fruit, but we plant in faith and hope that the soil and weather conditions and our watering and weeding will eventually produce flowers, fruit or vegetables that bring us joy and enhance our wellbeing. →

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH continued...

Growth is vital to life and it requires patience and perseverance, a willingness to invest time in nurturing, feeding and tending new shoots so they can grow strong and bear fruit. The natural world is full of metaphors for our Christian life and journey, which is probably why Jesus so often used examples from creation to explain God's desire for each of us to grow into the people he created us to be.

In the words of the old adage, "change is a sign of life", and growth and new life usually involve challenge and change as we allow ourselves to be open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit to push beyond our normal comfort zone into new territory, where growth and transformation can begin to happen.

So maybe this is a good time for us to reflect on our Christian journey and ask ourselves: Where are the signs of growth in my spiritual life? Where are the signs of growth in our church and communities?

As we journey towards Holy Week remembering the passion of Jesus' journey to the cross, and move towards celebrating the joy of Easter resurrection, why not take the opportunity to try something new or do church differently?

At BUC during Holy Week (3-7 April) there are daily guided meditations at 8am and 12 noon based on Stephen Cottrell's book *The Things He Carried: A Journey to the Cross* (SPCK 2008).

On Maundy Thursday (6 April) at 7pm we'll remember Jesus' Last Supper with his friends, with foot washing for those who wish it, seated around a table by candlelight and sharing bread and wine.

On Good Friday (7 April) at 2pm there's a reflective service based on Matthew's story of the crucifixion, with hymns and prayers, as we use our senses to experience the sights, sounds, touch, smell and taste of Jesus' last hours.

And on Easter Sunday (9 April) we'll gather at 10.30am as a church family to celebrate the joyous Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

Whatever new experience of church you decide to try, be prepared to be surprised by God and to meet Jesus in unexpected places and ways – just like the women on that first Easter Day!

May spring and Easter be a special time of blessing and new growth for you.

The Revd Jane Wilson



"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new'."
Revelation 21:5

April services at Bridport United Church (see the column above for details of Holy Week activities):

Sunday 2	10.30am	Revd Jane Wilson
		Palm Sunday celebration
	4pm	Soul Space
Monday 3	8am &	Holy Week meditations
to Friday 7	12 noon	(8am only on Good Friday)
Thursday 6	7pm	Revd Jane Wilson
		Maundy Thursday HC

Friday 7	2pm	Good Friday service using the senses
Sunday 9	10.30am	Revd Jane Wilson
		Easter Day celebration
Sunday 16	10.30am	Revd Brenda Stevenson
Sunday 23	10.30am	Peter Kershaw
	4pm	Reflective prayer
Thurs 27	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday 30	10.30am	Revd Jane Wilson
	11.30am	Church AGM

Regular events

Stepping stones pre-school every morning during term time.
Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday 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	5.45pm	Kickboxing
	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society
	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third)
	2pm	Bridport u3a (fourth Tuesday only)
	4.30pm	Rainbows (not at half term)
Wednesdays	5.30pm	Brownies (not at half term)
	7.30pm	New Elizabethan Singers
	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band (in church)
	12–2pm	Warm Welcome soup and toasties
	12.30pm	Lunch Club (fourth only). All welcome for two-course home-cooked meal. Please book by phoning 422598
	6pm	Fitsteps
	2pm	Thursday Club (third only). All welcome for tea, games, crafts and chat in inner hall
Thursdays	2 for 2.30pm	Bridport History Society (second Thursday only)
	5pm	Slimming World
	6pm	Kickboxing

Special events

We are holding our Easter Big Breakfast with stalls on Saturday 8 April (9.30–11.30am). There is a Bridport Choral Society concert on Saturday 22 April at 7.30pm and a concert by the Mandeville duo (clarinet and piano) on Sunday 30 April at 3pm.

From Uploders Chapel

Spring is behaving much the same as last year. It is definitely on the way, with the snowdrops having looked good through much of March and the daffodils and primroses coming along to play their part in cheering things up.

With things getting back to normal after Covid, we Uploders Chapel folk and others who support us are taking part in more events here. At the end of February we enjoyed a musical evening by the Lost Memory Ramblers, with refreshments of course! We also enjoyed CAKE on Tuesday 7 March, although this regular event is moving permanently to Wednesdays, starting on 5 April, from 2.30 to 4pm. If you haven't been before, do come along and enjoy yourself.

UPLODERS CHAPEL continued...

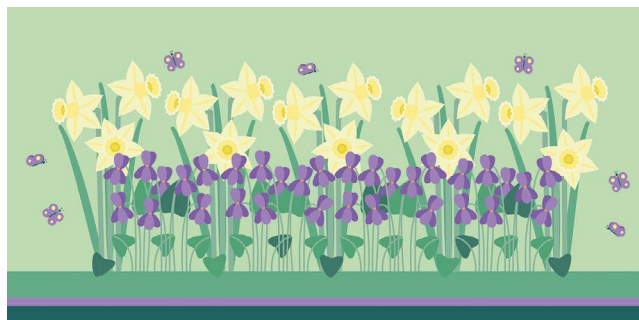
Looking quite a long way ahead, the chapel will be open and as usual providing refreshments on three days of the Scarecrow Festival over the bank holiday weekend of 27, 28 and 29 May from 10am to 4pm.

More immediate and exciting news is that the Pop Up Post Office is now up and working from 1.45 to 3.15pm. We are putting up posters giving details of the services that are being provided and hopefully a lot of you will have already experienced what it is like. Here's a list of the key services that are available:

Everyday personal and business banking: cash withdrawals, cash and cheque deposits, account balances.

Postal services: parcels and letters, stamps, Drop & Go, Parcelforce Express services, shopping returns.

Other services: bill payments, phone top-ups, vehicle tax.



And guess what – we are providing refreshments here as well. So let's all look forward to an Amazing April!

Carol Hall

April services at Uploders Chapel:

Sunday 2 10.30am Chris Warren
Sunday 16 10.30am Revd Jane Wilson

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

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

Hope isn't exactly around in spades these days, is it? Many are afraid of the cost of living, war in Europe, the refugee crisis, climate change and so many other things. Not a lot to be hopeful about, perhaps.

After the crucifixion of Jesus, things must have seemed pretty dark for the disciples, too, as they saw all their hopes collapse before their eyes. Why else would they all have sloped away? Yet soon this dispirited rabble were seen hopefully and boldly proclaiming throughout the known world the good news that it did not end in failure and hopelessness: it actually ended in triumph.

When Jesus called from the cross, "It is finished," it was not a cry of failure but a cry of hope: "It is accomplished." All that the Father had sent him to do was achieved. Everything vindicated by his Father raising him from death to life. That is what Christians celebrate at Easter. Christ has died! Christ is risen! In the apparent failure, we see the triumph of hope. That is surely true of our lives, too, as hope is often born in moments of apparent failure. If we look at life, we can always find hope. There might seem much to be afraid of but there are also many seeds of hope. Behind the shadow of the cross lies the light of a new dawn.

May our celebration of Easter be a beacon of hope for all of us. May the words of the risen Lord resound in our hearts: "Do not be afraid."

Monsignor Keith Mitchell



Easter Masses

Maundy Thursday (6 April) at 7pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper with foot washing, followed by Watch at the Altar of Repose until 10pm

Good Friday (7 April) at 3pm: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death

Holy Saturday (8 April) at 11am: Blessing of Easter food baskets (*święcenie pokarmow wielkanocnych*)

8pm: The Easter Vigil, baptism of adults and the first Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday (9 April) at 10am: Solemn Mass

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.

BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

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

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

During the week we meet on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes (11.30am to 2pm) to be a place of peace and to be family for the hungry and lonely through the community kitchen. We offer a variety of free homemade soup and/or meals, tea, coffee and cake.

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 →

The BEACON CHURCH continued...

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's 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



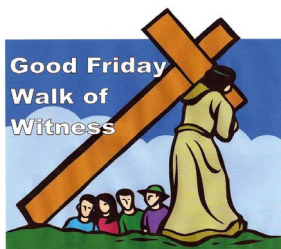
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP King's Lane (in East St car park)

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David Collins 458227
info@bridportchristianfellowship.org
www.bridportchristianfellowship.org

We are a member church of the UK Evangelical Alliance and an Ichthus Link Church. We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30am and various times during the week for House groups.

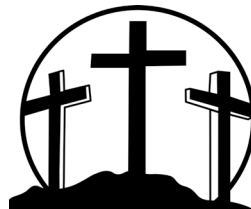
Everyone is very welcome to come along and join in our Easter activities:

Thursday 6 April: Seder (Passover) meal, 6.30–8.30pm. Please contact Harry on 421225



so we have numbers.

Good Friday, 7 April: Stations of the Cross art exhibition, 10am to 2pm. March of witness from the church to Bucky Doo Square at 10.30am followed by a service in the



BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

square, 11am to 12 noon. Hot cross buns at church, 12 noon to 1pm. Gather round the cross at church, 2 to 3pm.

Easter Saturday, 8 April: Stations of the Cross art exhibition, 10am to 12 noon. Coffee bar, 10am to 12noon. Film: The Way, 12 noon to 2pm.

Easter Sunday, 9 April: Family service, 10.30am to 12 noon. Stations of the Cross art exhibition, 12 noon to 2pm.

Easter Monday, 10 April: Stations of the Cross art exhibition, 10am to 2pm.

For more information about these events, please call Grant on 456066 or visit our website.

We also have an art group that meets every Friday from 10am to 12 noon to paint, draw and have fellowship together. The group is led by Elaine Butcher and everyone of any artistic ability is welcome. For info please call 456066.

Our 'Shed' group for men meets every Friday from 7.30 to 9.30pm for discussion, support and fellowship led by Kelvin Weaver. For more information call 281274.

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 3 April, Carrie Diamond will give a talk about WAFA India. 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 meet on Thursday 20 April at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when professional gardener Dave Usher will speak about bedding plants. Open to non-members at £2. More information at www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

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.

Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

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

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

Bridport Scottish Dancers meet 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.

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.

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.

The Arts Society (West Dorset) meets at Bridport Town Hall, 2 for 2.30pm, on the third Thursday each month Sept–June. On 20 April Matthew Denney will present 'Post-war new towns: heroic architecture or a concrete mistake?'. 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.

Bridport Folk Dance Club meets every Monday evening 7.15–9.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. All welcome, including beginners. Phone 458165 or 459001.

Bridport 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 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

Uplifting and joyful, **Voices of Hope Singing Group** is open to all ages and abilities. We sing easy songs from around the world, some rounds and some in parts. Meet in Borough Gardens off South Street or The Chapel in the Garden when it's raining at 11am on Fridays. Suggested donation £5. Contact janesilvercorren@gmail.com / 07887 675161 for more information or to join the mailing list.

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

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

Bridport Royal British Legion (RBL) meets on the third Saturday each month at 10am for a coffee morning. Come along to our hall in Victoria Grove for a chat and to find out about membership and activities. The newly refurbished hall now has disabled access and is available for hire. Contact Linda 425664 (hall bookings) or Mike Thompson 07974 534945 / mickey_thompson56@hotmail.com (membership).

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

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

Bridport 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

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.

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

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.stepsoutbridport.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 info please text 07769 720773.

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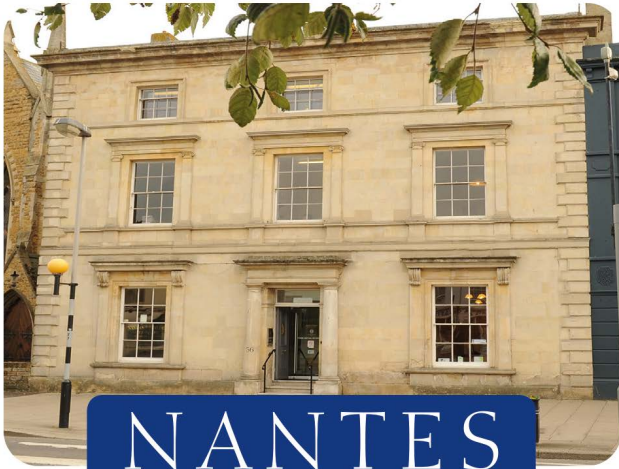
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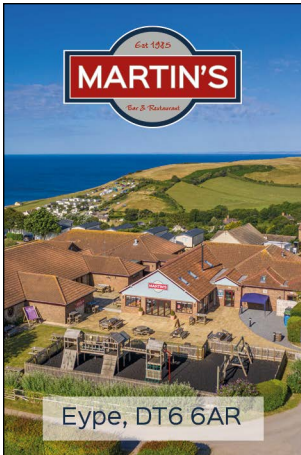
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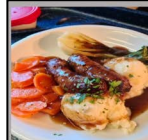
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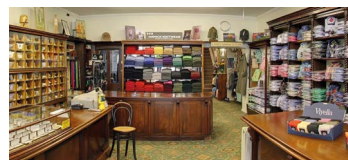
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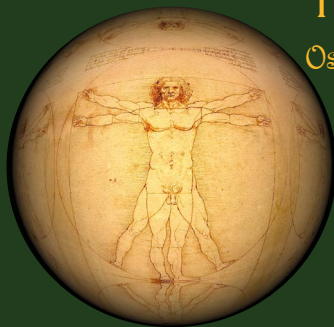
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