

# *the* **Bridge**

May 2023

A community magazine for Bridport  
supported by the Anglican Church



Chris Jackson

Our new King and Queen Consort  
are crowned at Westminster Abbey:  
Bridport marks the occasion



Francis Grew

Bridport potter Jill Pryke turns off  
her wheel for the last time...  
See page 9 for our interview

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

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## Hall bookings

St Swithun's church hall

Details online at [www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org/hall-bookings)  
or contact Anne Ansell [anne.ansell.email@gmail.com](mailto:anne.ansell.email@gmail.com)

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*Opinions expressed in The Bridge are not necessarily those of either the editorial team or the clergy. While we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the magazine's contents, we cannot accept responsibility for information given or claims made by our contributors or advertisers.*

The advertising and copy deadline for the June 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 8 May

# Honouring three queens and a king in May

**I always think May is a lovely month and very much one of lovely celebrations and traditions, like Morris dancing, singing from the top of church towers, and maypole dancing. It's also a very royal month – and especially so this year!**

One of the most ancient and popular traditions this month is the crowning of May Queens. Traditionally a local girl is chosen from the town, village or school and the role is considered a very special honour. Seated on a throne and dressed in a white gown and purple train, she is crowned Queen of the May, either with a crown of gold or a garland of blossoms. She then presides over the May Day festivities and sometimes rides through the local streets on a cart to receive the acclamations of the local people, waving at them with her white-gloved hand. (I have even heard of May Kings, although I'm not sure they exist; I guess if they do it's in the more politically correct places.) In mythology, the May Queen is apparently known as The Maiden, the goddess of spring, Queen of the Fairies and the lady of blossoms and flowers.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the Virgin Mary is sometimes called the Queen of the May and this month is particularly given over to honouring her. The crowning of the May Queen is as much to do with Jesus' mother as it is about welcoming spring. During May, statues of Mary are ceremoniously crowned at special services to honour Mary as Queen of Heaven and Mother of God. In Bridport we

crown the statue of Our Lady with a garland of blossoms and flowers in the church prayer garden on the first Sunday in May and at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School later in the month.

Then, of course, this month we will also be celebrating the crowning of King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla

with another coronation. No doubt most of us will be taking part in the various events that have been arranged locally as well as street parties and family gatherings. It's a long time since we last had that opportunity, so let's make the best of it, while wishing our King and Queen Consort many happy years of service.

It's always good to celebrate, and of course celebration is good for us. In an age when there is much to worry about, and so much anxiety, any time we can spend celebrating is good for all of us. So three cheers for the May Queen and the glories of spring; three cheers for the Blessed Virgin Mary who gave us God's son; and three cheers for the King and Queen Consort.

*Monsignor Keith Mitchell, Bridport Catholic Parish*



**Monsignor Keith Mitchell**

*In an age when there is much to worry about, so much anxiety, celebration is good for us*

## Coronation events in Bridport and West Bay

**Our early press deadline means we can't bring you an exhaustive list of everything going on across the town to mark the coronation, but here are a few of the planned events:**

**Allington Hillbilles:** Saturday 6 May from 6.30pm at Cooper's Field. Entertainment from DJ HandJam, Chris Deacon and Bridport Young Performers plus lantern making, parade and bonfire. Food available plus drinks from the Oddfellows Arms (or BYO). Free entry. Please use the main gate on Hospital Lane.

**'The alternative coronation':** Saturday 6 May 10am to 11.50pm at Grow Slow, by the recycling centre. Details to be announced so keep an eye on their website ([www.growslow.co.uk](http://www.growslow.co.uk)) or Facebook page.

**Mass Litter Pick:** Monday 8 May at 10am starting from the Co-op, Morrisons and Waitrose car parks plus the Discovery Centre and Watch House Cafe in West Bay. We're all being encouraged to honour the King's lifetime of public service by spending some time volunteering on the bank holiday, and picking up litter makes a real difference locally. For more info email [bridportlfs@icloud.com](mailto:bridportlfs@icloud.com).



***The Revd Pete Stone attended his last service in Bridport on Palm Sunday (2 April) before leaving for his new job as the rector of the parish church of St Martin le Vieux in Jersey. It was an emotional occasion and Pete received many cards, presents and good wishes from members of the church community. Pete is pictured here cutting the commemorative cake with his wife, Anne, and their daughter, Essie.***



May 2023	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
Monday 1		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				
Tuesday 2				2.30pm Holy Communion		
Wednesday 3	2.30pm Holy Communion					
Thursday 4		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Friday 5						
Saturday 6						
<b>Sunday 7</b> <i>Coronation weekend</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion 10am PARISH HC SERVICE	4pm Contemplative Church (hall)		3pm Songs of Praise		
Monday 8		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9						
Wednesday 10						
Thursday 11		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Friday 12						
Saturday 13						
<b>Sunday 14</b> <i>Rogation Sunday</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am Holy Communion
Monday 15		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 16						
Wednesday 17						
Thursday 18 <i>Ascension Day</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	7pm Holy Communion
Friday 19						
Saturday 20						
<b>Sunday 21</b>	8am BCP Holy Communion					10am PARISH HC SERVICE followed by APCM*
Monday 22		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 23						
Wednesday 24						
Thursday 25		10am Eucharist				
Friday 26						
Saturday 27						6pm Service of wholeness and healing
<b>Sunday 28</b> <i>Pentecost</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise
Monday 29		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 30						
Wednesday 31						

# Christian Aid Week 14–20 May

**Farmers in Malawi are struggling to get a fair price for their goods and have been battling climate change, with rising temperatures and regular floods making it tough to grow crops.**

Add to that the effects of recent Cyclone Freddy, which generously turned round and hit Malawi not once but twice, washing away crops during the critical growing season. More than 500,000 people have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. So Malawi, the focus of Christian Aid Week this year, needs our help and our prayers more than ever.

Farmers such as Esther Saizi (pictured) must have suffered considerable setbacks as a result. Their community was thriving, thanks to two factors: first, one small but powerful vegetable, the pigeon pea. It is a drought resistant, soil revitalising, delicious, high protein crop. Also, thanks to one of the longstanding Christian Aid partners, the Nandolo Farmers Association, Esther and farmers like her get a fair deal for the fruits of their efforts; formerly, middlemen creamed off such a lot that the growers merely survived rather than thrived. Christian Aid, with your help, will support them so they can get back on their farming feet.

If you want to know more about Esther – whose story will resonate with many of us – you can watch a short, uplifting film about this amazing woman here: [www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/esthers-story](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/esthers-story).

Here in Bridport, Christian Aid week will feature in many church services. There will also be events such as the coffee and book morning at Bradpole on Thursday 18 May (10am–12 noon) where you may even be able to try ‘pigeon bread’ rolls as well as the usual delicious Bradpole cakes.

There are more things planned, too, and you’ll find details on the Facebook groups ‘Bridport Banter’ and ‘Bridport

news and views’, the Parish of Bridport website, [www.bridport-team-ministry.org](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org), the weekly e-sheet for all six Parish of Bridport churches, and possibly other churches’ news sheets, too.

Look for an envelope arriving through your door during Christian Aid Week (14–20 May). Return it to the collection point shown on the envelope or take it to church with you if there is a Christian Aid collection being held there. You can also give directly online at [www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week).

## We are also looking for volunteers...

We need some people to act as ‘collection centres’ for CAW – you don’t need to knock on doors any more! It is this simple:

1. Decide how many envelopes you’d like to deliver, and where, and tell local organiser Jill Henderson: [jillpetrina13@gmail.com](mailto:jillpetrina13@gmail.com). She will deliver everything you need to your door.
2. Display a poster or two in your window.
3. Put your name and address (number, road and postcode) on the back of the envelopes. If you’ve decided to deliver quite a few, we should be able to pre-print labels for you.
4. Deliver the envelopes as convenient for you (though reasonably early, please) during CAW, 14–20 May.
5. Sit back as the envelopes come through your letterbox.
6. Allowing some time for late returns, contact Jill and she will collect the envelopes on 30 May.



## BridLit launches bursary for university applicants

**Bridport Literary Festival is launching a new bursary scheme to help local students planning to go to university this year.**

The BridLit Bursary will allow two successful candidates £1,000 for each year of a three-year degree course in any subject. It’s open to Year 13 students applying for an undergraduate course beginning in 2023 who are in the Beaminster-Colfox joint sixth form or who live within Dorset Council’s Bridport ward.

Chair of Trustees Deirdre Coates says: “As a registered charity, the festival has as its objective the advancement of education, so what better way to use these funds than to help local students go on to further education?”

[www.bridlit.com/bursaries](http://www.bridlit.com/bursaries)

*The Bridport Stage Company will perform Dracula on 14, 16 and 17 June at the British Legion Hall. Tickets are £10 from the TIC, with profits to the Samaritans. Meanwhile, they need some backstage helpers! Rehearsals are on Monday nights at the hall; email [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk) to get involved...*

## St Swithun’s Church Grounds

**Community CAR BOOT SALE**

Don't miss the Plant Sale! **10am-1pm**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**PLANTS, Clothes, Bric a Brac, Tombola, Jazz Cafe, Drinks, Bacon Butties, Produce and (free) Charity Stalls**

**Seller's Pitch: £12 book in advance 07887483228**  
Find us in Allington, Bridport **FREE Admission**

**Discover the Holy Land**

Two members of the Parish of Bridport are giving an illustrated talk about their recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Come and hear about their journey through Jerusalem and Galilee to the sites mentioned in the Bible, plus the historical background to their visit. Sunday 21 May at 4pm at St Swithun’s Church, North Allington. Admission free (charity collection on the door) with refreshments afterwards.

**’Twas ever thus: 800 years of poverty and aid**

A new history of the town’s poor, sick and elderly, and of the Bridport Union Workhouse, is available from the TIC, Bridport Museum, West Bay Discovery Centre and The Book Shop. Sylvia Stafford’s book, Down and Out in Bridport and the Surrounding Parishes 1200–1900, traces the development of 12th- and 13th-century monasteries and almshouses; the early poorhouses and workhouses; and finally the establishment of union workhouses by the mid-19th century. The book is £12 with 20% going to charities helping the needy of today.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

All residents of the civic parish of Bridport are invited to attend and elect parish churchwardens at the parishioners’ meeting after the 10am parish service at St John’s West Bay on Sunday 21 May. The APCM will follow immediately, when members on the electoral roll will elect Parochial Church Council members and Deanery Synod representatives for the parish. We will also look back at the last year in the parish and formally present the annual report and finances before they are submitted to the Charity Commission.



*This year the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers (West Dorset branch) has been holding Thursday training sessions on the ringing simulator at Holy Trinity Bradpole. The sessions are affectionately known as ‘Come out on Thursdays’, or COOTs for short! At a recent gathering, a group of experienced ringers (pictured) practised some ringing methods that use six bells. These are called ‘minor methods’.*



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# 100 years of bowling in Bridport

**Bridport Bowling Club celebrates its centenary this year and members are looking forward to marking the occasion with some special matches and events.**

This month both the county side (Bowls Dorset) and representatives of Bowls England – the game’s UK administrative body – will come to play matches at the club’s green in Priory Lane. Bridport members see this as a feather in the club’s cap and an acknowledgement of its achievement. Then in August there will be a special day for members to celebrate, welcome back past members, and generally have fun playing the game they love.

## A century of skill on the green

The club’s history dates back to the early 1920s. In 1921, Bridport Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club announced plans for a bowls section, and within a year a green had been laid on Brewery Field, where the Leisure Centre is now. A Mr Heath was the first bowls secretary. The section was elected to the South Dorset League in February 1923, and this is recognised as the date when the club, with 33 members, got properly under way. They lost no time in putting up a pavilion, and by the time it opened in May, membership had grown to 80.

William Saunders Edwards became the club’s first president in 1925. He was the owner of a prominent net-making business whose products were used at Wimbledon, Wembley and other venues.

By 1929, friction had developed between the three sections of the sports club, and the bowls section broke away to become Bridport Bowling Club. Unfortunately the club was homeless, the Brewery Field green having been a casualty of the split, but at the members’ annual supper in November of that year,



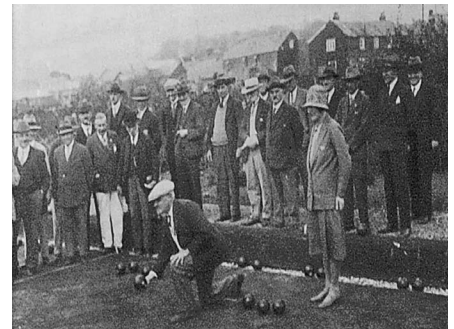
**Clockwise from above: Outside the old clubhouse, 1930s; playing bowls c1935; (bottom left) a friendly match last year**

Mr Edwards announced that he would donate to the club a parcel of land he owned by the River Brit. A new green was laid, a timber pavilion built, and the site became the club’s new home – as it remains, albeit slightly extended and with a new clubhouse, to this day.

Although the club decided at its 1934 AGM not to allow lady members, it relented slightly in allowing members’ wives to use the green on one day each season. A ladies’ section was finally introduced in 1965, initially with 16 members, although women weren’t given full voting rights in the club until 1992. The ladies’ section has often outclassed the men, however, providing regular teams competing in the national finals at Leamington Spa. Between 1985 and 1995, Bridport provided the county side with two lady presidents as well as members selected to play for England.

## The bowling bug

Bowling is a social activity and one of the most popular ways to stay active and mentally sharp, whatever your age. Although it’s often seen as a game for older people, the average age of players in England is 50–55 (*Young, then! Ed*) and most clubs have players considerably younger than this. Before Covid, about 300,000 people across the country were playing bowls regularly, but numbers have generally failed to recover from the pandemic, and the Bridport club would love to see some new members.



“It’s addictive!” says Laura Taylor, the club’s secretary and a 20-year member. “Once you get bitten by the bowls bug, you want to play more and more. I started by playing ‘short mat’ bowls in our village hall, then I had some lessons at the club and now I play in the team. We play friendlies against other clubs in the area, as well as league games.

“Bowls is a sport anyone can enjoy without being competitive, though; we even have a special wheelchair so disabled people can take part. And it’s all much less formal than it used to be. I recommend giving it a try!”

## The club is holding taster sessions this month if you’d like to have a go:

Monday 8 May	12–2pm
Saturday 13 May	10am–12pm
Saturday 20 May	10am–12pm
Saturday 27 May	10am–12pm

Please wear flat-soled shoes or trainers. For more details contact Liz Kennedy ([lizneu@hotmail.com](mailto:lizneu@hotmail.com) / 01308 480930). The club is on Priory Lane, off South Street between St Mary’s playing field and Bridport Community Orchard.

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



Words by Olivia Daly

**Bespoke Urns for Ashes** offers a unique way to celebrate your loved one's life. After a free, no-obligation consultation in a tranquil space in Bridport, I will create a bespoke urn according to your wishes. Also suitable for a beloved pet. Email zebadeco@gmail.com or find me as Zeba Arte on Instagram.



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### Art Through Difficult Times by Judith Gait MA

During lockdown, and now with the conflict in Ukraine, I have been drawing roses. Please come to the exhibition of these and other drawings at the PaperBack Gallery, 2 Gundry Lane, Bridport DT6 3RJ

15<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> May  
 Open 10am–3pm

## New Elizabethan Singers

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What's ON

## EXHIBITION EARTH | GROUND

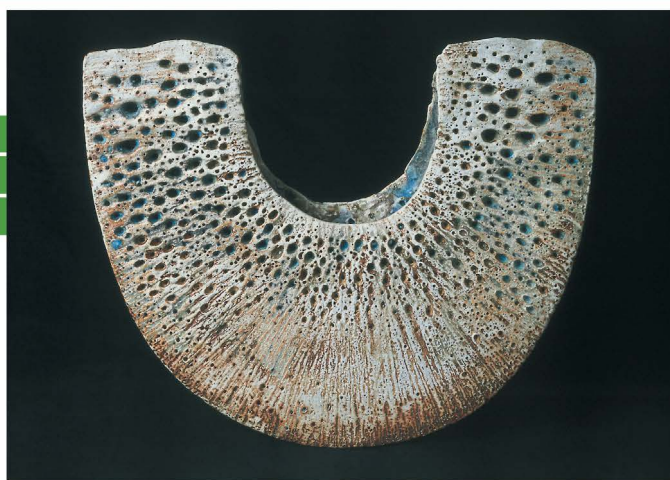
SATURDAY 13 MAY - SATURDAY 10 JUNE, 2023

GALLERY OPEN TUE - SAT | 10AM - 4PM

FREE ENTRY

Ceramics from the archives of Alan Wallwork (d.2019)  
 Paintings and other works by Amanda Wallwork

This exhibition showcases two artists whose work has been deeply influenced by the Dorset landscape, prehistory and deep time.



### EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: TOKYO STORIES

FILM | TUE 23 MAY | 7:30PM

Spanning 400 years of incredibly dynamic art ranging from delicate woodblock prints of Hokusai and Hiroshige, to pop art, contemporary photography, Manga, film and brand-new artworks that were created for the streets.



### ALFIE MOORE: FAIR COP UNLEASHED

COMEDY | SUN 14 MAY | 8PM

Join BBC 4's cop-turned-comedian for his latest stand up tour. The thrilling ups and downs of the night a mysterious clown came to town and more than one life ended up in the balance.



### ONE MAN AND HIS COW

COMEDY THEATRE | THUR 1 JUNE | 7:30PM | 10+

Farmer Trevor has a big problem. Given month to live, he's faced with the dilemma of who to bequeath his farm to. He just can't choose between his 3 sons. Then one fateful night in the cowshed, help arrives in the most unlikely way.







# The life ceramic: Jill Pryke retires

**Acclaimed local potter Jill Pryke has just thrown her last pot after decades at the wheel. Francis Grew met her in her studio to hear about her craft and her life as a church member.**

*Francis Grew:* How long have you been potting? How did it start?

*Jill Pryke:* For 50 years, plus. I was always reasonable at drawing, and at my grammar school in Wimbledon I had a very good art mistress. But with 30 people in the classroom, we couldn't do much three-dimensional work. So she persuaded the head to let me go one afternoon a week to the art school next door. "There's room in Ceramics," they said. I loved it straight away – I loved the plasticity of the clay. And when I started throwing, that felt good too. I never did sculpture or anything else, I never left Ceramics!

*FG:* Tell us about the pottery you like to make.

*JP:* I'm a throwing potter, largely because it's the quickest way of making pots. At art school I experimented with 'sgraffito' – cutting designs through a tin glaze – and soon I began adding a coloured glaze over the cutting. I liked it immediately and have been using that technique ever since. Later we did the diploma in design. That was angled towards industry, making drawings and moulds for mass production. Drawing a pot in two dimensions is anathema to me, it doesn't make sense. Nevertheless, I was good at it. My final exam piece was a coffee pot. It was beautiful, absolutely perfect, except I forgot to make holes in the spout for the coffee to come out!

*FG:* Where did you live before Bridport?

*JP:* By my late 20s I was married. Soon I had two sons, three years between them. Lovely lads. We found a place at Hassocks in Sussex, with a lovely view of the Downs. My husband, Michael, was very enthusiastic about my work,



Francis Grew

bless his heart! We opened a little shop at Ditchling, a little one-up, one-down. I had my kiln in the kitchen. I did most of my throwing there, and people liked to watch. You could even get men into the shop if they saw someone working! We sold exclusively Sussex work: weaving, cards from painters, and some paintings. Eventually I said to Michael, "Why not come and work with me full time?" So he did, and he enjoyed it. Soon we were moving to larger premises. We were in Sussex for 45 years in all.

*FG:* What brought you to Bridport?

*JP:* We moved here in late 2006. My husband had always had a soft spot for West Bay. He had been taken there just before the war, when he was eight or nine. He hoped to open a shop but couldn't find the right place. Then he got pancreatic cancer. When he was very unwell, I said to him, "You know, I could happily give up potting for the moment." "You must never do that," he replied, "you mustn't." Well, I didn't. In fact, just a few weeks after he died, I did a show at Wareham, the Dorset Arts and Crafts. The organisers couldn't have

been kinder. But it's the last show I'll do. I'm 86 and I reckon now is the time to give up.

*FG:* Has Bridport inspired your work?

*JP:* Not consciously. But I'm looking out on beautiful hills, greenery all around. So yes, I'm influenced by that and it comes out in my work. I like decorating surfaces, and the motifs I use are flowers, birds, trees, leaves... anything of that nature.

*FG:* Were you brought up in a Christian family?



*JP:* We went to St Luke's in Wimbledon Park, where my father joined the choir. He'd always been in choirs – from a little boy, and his father too. So it was in the family. I suppose that's why I'm still croaking away in the Bridport choir! When my children were old

enough, they joined a Sunday School group and I was asked to help. God must have been smiling to himself as I envisaged myself doing nice illustrations to show the children. How I'd enjoy that! But if you're taking a group, you have to know more than you teach. You have to be ready for questions. So God was kept busy teaching me too!

*FG:* Finally, tell us about your time at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton.

*JP:* I'm very much at home there. I've just done a 'quiet day' in support of the Lent course we've been doing. That was lovely. And I'm still in the choir. Years ago I joined the Mothers' Union and found myself leading it. With declining numbers we've become a prayer and fellowship group. I wouldn't say I lead it exactly, but I'm its spokesperson. After giving up pottery, I certainly shan't be twiddling my thumbs, wondering what to do.

## ST MARY'S Bridport

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

### A time of celebration

The word 'celebration' may have come originally from the Latin 'celeber', which means 'frequented, populous, well attended', although by the early 17th century its meaning also included 'make widely known, praise, glorify'.

It's fair to say, then, that events at St Mary's over Easter reflected both meanings, as lots of people gathered there with joy and gratitude. It was a time of true celebration.

On Palm Sunday we came together as a parish to remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Many of us gathered to echo the shouts of 'Hosanna' and wave palm crosses just as the crowd did almost two thousand years ago. This was the Revd Pete Stone's last service before his move to the parish church of St Martin le Vieux in Jersey, where he will be the rector, so cake, cider and words of fond farewell followed. Pete and his wife, Anne, were presented with gifts including a painting of St John's Church at West Bay. It was a very well attended occasion of celebration and



thanksgiving for the eight years that Pete, Anne and their family have spent with us and served us here in Bridport.

In the week that followed, services were smaller and more reflective. The service of Holy Communion with foot washing was celebrated

**Left: foot washing during the communion service on Maundy Thursday**

on Maundy Thursday (pictured), followed by a service of quiet reflection on Good Friday. The trunk of the tree that had been festooned with lights to celebrate Christmas was now made into the bare form of a cross and crowned with a ring of thorns. In the mid-15th century, 'celebrate' began to be used to refer to the priest's role in the communion service – a very different context, which isn't about the number of people present or the joyous nature of the gathering, but rather a focus on something to be kept solemn.

Easter Sunday morning saw St Mary's once again filled with people in celebratory mood. The Easter candle had been lit at the Easter Eve service the previous evening and was held aloft with the proclamation, 'The light of Christ'. The children of the Sunday school had made a living Easter garden (pictured) and the bare cross was garlanded with flowers – a real celebration of new life and hope.



And now as a nation we look forward to celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. This is an occasion for pageantry and festivity, but at its centre lies a solemn religious ceremony that has remained the same over thousands of years. We will celebrate in crowds that gather with joy, but also recognise the deep significance of a service in which our new sovereign takes an oath and is anointed, blessed and consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Our own coronation weekend parish service will take place at 10am on Sunday 7 May at St Mary's Bridport. Do come and celebrate with us!

*Lesley Hill*

*Covid-19 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  
 Director of music – vacancy

### From the parish editor

The first week of May sees the coronation of King Charles III, and Bothenhampton will be celebrating the occasion. On Saturday 6 May, coronation day, there will be a party in the John Holt Play Area starting at 6.30pm. Tickets are £2.50 and include a burger and roll, but you need to book in advance by ringing Pennie (458006) or Heather (423220). Come and enjoy the evening with family and friends.

On Sunday 7 and Monday 8 May the history group will be putting on an exhibition in the Old Church focusing

on the lives of some of the women who have lived in Bothenhampton over the past 200 years. A pink plaque for each of the featured women and posters giving details of the exhibition will be placed along Main Street and Old Church Road the week before. For further details, or if you have anything you would like to contribute, please ring Sue on 07761 974076.

There will be no coffee morning in the church during May as the first Saturday of the month is the coronation. The next get-together is on 3 June.

A date for your diary: Bothenhampton fete is on Saturday 1 July, starting at 11am to combine with the coffee morning. There will be tables available to hire for people who sell handmade or branded goods (details on opposite page).

The Old Churchyard wall has now been rebuilt and donations have covered the cost. We send our thanks to all who gave so generously, and to Pete Mason, who has done a wonderful job. We are also most grateful to the family of Mr and Mrs Jerrard for giving a bench in their memory (see photos opposite).



# Bothenhampton Church Fete

**Saturday 1 July from 11am to 2pm**

*Do you make things to sell?  
Are you a great crafter producing  
beautiful handmade goods?  
Do you do home sales for a well-known brand?  
Why not hire a table at  
our village fete?  
You can hire a table for £10 –  
what a great way to meet  
new customers!  
To book a table, phone  
Heather on 01308 423220*



*In loving memory of  
Fred and Rosemary Jerrard (née Sprake)  
Bothenhampton was their chosen place from 1950 to 2021.  
Pause and enjoy the countryside they held so dear.*



**Pictured: the Old Churchyard wall has now been repaired (left), and there is a new bench in memory of Fred and Rosemary Jerrard**

## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

On Mothering Sunday, 19 March, the Revd Kay presided at her last service before moving away to be nearer her family. Our team rector, Deb, spoke of Kay's dedication and thoughtfulness and all that she and her late husband, Max, had done for us in Bothenhampton (Max was treasurer and a member of Holy Trinity choir). We send Kay our very best wishes for happiness in her new home. Also during the service on Mothering Sunday a new member of the Mothers' Union was enrolled and welcomed into the Bothenhampton and Walditch group.

The first Sunday of each month is a parish service, which on 7 May will be at St Mary's Bridport. This will also be a civic event to mark the coronation. Rogation Sunday falls on 14 May, when at Holy Trinity we shall be asking for

God's blessing on the crops and praying for the work of the farmers. On Sunday 21 May the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow the parish service at St John's West Bay. Matins will be held at Holy Trinity on Sunday 28 May.

On Sunday 4 June Graham Purse will be celebrating 40 years as a licensed lay minister. There will be more details about this in the June issue.

*Barbara Ffooks*

## FILM NIGHT: Saturday 27 May in the village hall

• **Film title to be announced** •

**Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm**

**Refreshments available**

*Please book by emailing [lcnc2413@outlook.com](mailto:lcnc2413@outlook.com)*

## 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)

### Coronation 'Songs of Praise'

There will not be a morning service in the church on Sunday 7 May but a special 'Songs of Praise' service will be held at 3pm and will be followed by tea/coffee and cakes, sponsored by the parish council, to which everyone is invited.

### Bradpole Brunch

The third Bradpole Brunch will be held on Sunday 21 May in the village hall at 11.30am. Bacon butties, cheese toasties and tea, coffee or juice will be on offer along with activities: stories, songs, prayers and thinking about another one of Jesus' 'I Am' sayings.

### Bradpole Parish Council

At the March meeting, Sandy Goldsmith, the clerk, said she had heard from several people who would be interested in having an allotment if land could be acquired, but added that she felt such an acquisition should be delayed until after 31 March 2024 because of the forthcoming boundary changes and abolishment of Bradpole Parish Council. A member of the public asked if the land near the flats in Gore Cross Way could be considered for allotments, as she believed there had been allotments there in the past. The clerk said this land was owned by Dorset Council and she should make enquiries with them.



Councillor Clayton said Dorset Council had told him that the legal documentation, order and associated plans pertaining to the community governance review had been drafted and would shortly be available to councillors for review. The final order would then be submitted for signing and sealing, after which copies would be circulated.

The clerk said that she and the deputy clerk were working on the purchase of a new bench and liaising with the schools about planting trees, both to mark the King's coronation.

Following the playground inspector's report on Pageants Play Area, which highlighted concerns about access for disabled people, the council has set up an 'ease of access' →

**HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...**

working party to investigate ways to improve access.

The drop-in surgeries for members of the public will take place on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1.30 to 3pm in the village hall.

Thanks to the Rights of Way Service Level Agreement that the parish council has in place with Dorset Council Rights of Way team, footpath improvement work has been undertaken across the Asker Valley, from the Gore Wildlife Corridor to Higher Street, funded by grant money obtained by Dorset Council.

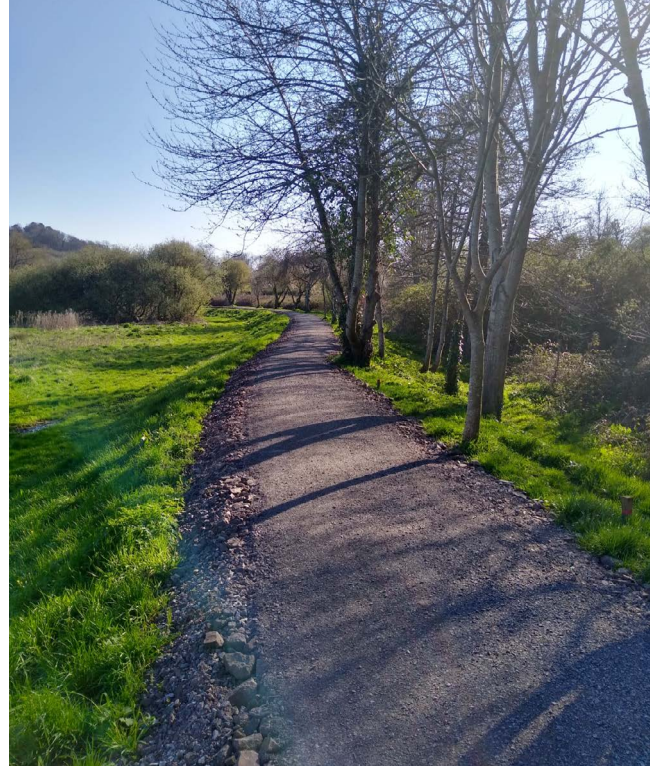
**Village fete**

The fete will take place in the orchard at the corner of Caley Way and Middle Street on Saturday 3 June, 12 noon to 5pm. Free parking will be available in the field opposite, with access from Caley Way. See advert below for details.

**The Friends of Holy Trinity**

On Saturday 1 April – a dry afternoon for a change – a group of walkers and two dogs enjoyed a pleasant circular stroll of about two miles from the church, led by the chair, Martin Whiting, along footpaths and taking in Pymore village en route. The bonus was tea and cakes, and the variety of cakes was amazing – many thanks to the bakers!

Parnham Voices will be giving a concert, ‘May Song’, in the church on Friday 12 May at 7pm. This amateur chamber choir was formed in 2002 and the singers come from a wide area centred on Beaminster. They sing sacred and secular music from medieval to modern, including masses and motets, anthems and folk songs, Victorian pieces and evergreens from the 20s and 30s. Tickets are £10 (to include a finger buffet) from the TIC or by phoning 01308 420716.



**Pictured: Bradpole Parish Council & Dorset Council have arranged improvements to local footpaths**

**Christian Aid Week**

BROWSE, BAKE and TAKE! for Christian Aid Week on Thursday 18 May in Holy Trinity Bradpole from 10am to 12 noon. Please join us for delicious cakes, tea and coffee, and to browse our bookstall. Donations of cakes, bakes and books will be welcome. [www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week) (and see p5)





The Friends of Holy Trinity Church Bradpole present:

*a concert by:*

**Parnham Voices**

Directed by Stephen Tilton





**Holy Trinity Church  
Bradpole**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7pm**

Tickets £10 to include finger buffet

Donations welcome for drinks

Tickets available from Bridport TIC and on the door or by telephone 01308 420716

The Friends of Holy Trinity Church Bradpole is a charity (No. 279543) which supports the preservation and upkeep of the church and churchyard

JOIN US AT

**Bradpole**

VILLAGE

**Fete**

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2023  
12PM TO 5PM



RAISING MONEY FOR BRIDPORT YOUNG PERFORMERS

**Face painting • Jolly Jars**

**Punch & Judy**

**Local stalls**

**Music • Bar**

**Cakes • Games**

**Entertainment**

**And much more!**

**BRADPOLE VILLAGE ORCHARD - DT6 3HS**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



## ST MARY'S Walditch

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[walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com](mailto: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 look back at the last coronation day in Walditch...

Coronation day, 2 June 1953, was quite an occasion in Walditch with a day-long programme of activities and events planned by an organising committee chaired by Joseph Gundry of The Hyde. Bearing in mind the village was much smaller then than today – there was no village green or playing field, but still an active estate farm – it was an ambitious programme, and 170 people took part.

A copy of the programme was sent to the Queen, and the Bridport News reports: “Walditch Villagers displayed with pride on Coronation Day an acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace of the programme they had sent to the Queen of their Coronation Celebrations. The programme had been beautifully inscribed by Mrs Downing.”

The day itself was unseasonably cool for June, and the rain showers may have interfered with some of the planned outdoor events, though judging from the 5 June report in the Bridport News, everything went ahead as intended.

The day kicked off at 9am with a joint religious service in the church, which was filled to capacity, followed at 10am with an opportunity for children and pensioners to watch TV and everybody else a break for TV or radio.

From 2pm onwards there was a continuous series of events right up to 10.30pm, starting with a children's fancy dress parade in Longclose, the field behind the real tennis court, judged by Mr and Mrs Gundry.

Next was a ceremony to plant a copper beech tree at the top end of Longclose. This had become something of a tradition, as a copper beech tree had been planted for the silver jubilee of George V (1935) and the coronation of George VI (1937) in the same field, which was then part of the Hyde Estate.

**Pictured below left: local children on the Coronation Seat, which was originally in front of the barn next to the school, and is now in the churchyard. Right: people in fancy dress (probably taken in Uplands)**



**Pictured above: children in fancy dress, including John Gundry dressed as a soldier**

Between 3 and 4pm there was a children's party, with sports and games at The Hyde and a presentation of coronation mugs – a gift from Mr and Mrs Gundry – to 36 children. From then until 5pm there were sports for adults. At 4.30 pm, a children's tea was provided in the school building (which had ceased to be a school in 1921) and an hour later, as described by the Bridport News, a “sumptuous tea for all in the school and barn”.

Afterwards the Coronation Seat was unveiled by Mrs Prior (Lynchetts) and blessed by the vicar, the Revd Wright. It is now in the churchyard, and was recently repaired, but was originally sited in front of the barn next to the school. Presumably it was moved to the churchyard when the barn was converted into two houses. A comic football match was much enjoyed, plus more sports for adults.

Finally, at 9.30pm, a torchlight procession began making its way to Bothenwood, where the bonfire was lit at 10.30pm and the day rounded off with fireworks provided by Mr Gundry. It is believed this was the last time the site was used for this purpose.

However, this was not all, as there were competitions as well: a ‘coronation drawing study’ for the boys and ‘best piece of needlework’ for the girls, both for ages 5 to 15. There was also a competition in three classes for the best decorated house.

If that wasn't enough, there were sideshows, too: skittles, darts, ball-in-the-bucket, table skittles and a treasure hunt.

The Bridport News report lists all the prizewinners. Among them, in the various ‘best decorated house’ categories: (i) Bunting only – No. 2 Council Houses; (ii) Bunting and flowers – the Post Office (closed around 1965); (iii) Flowers only – The School House. ‘Best piece →



## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

of needlework' went to Mary Lane (who is still remembered by some in the village) and Colin Bowditch won first prize in one of the drawing classes. Colin lived at the Dairy House and some years ago gave a talk to the WI (open to all) about his childhood in the village.

It was quite a day! It must surely have been a joyful and welcome relief from the drabness, shortages and food rationing that was still affecting day-to-day life in the aftermath of World War 2.

*Robin Stapleton*

### 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 (25 May) at 10am with tea/coffee and biscuits.

### Garden tips for May:

Watch out for late frosts and protect tender plants; remove all frost protection at end of the month; prune clematis montana (pictured) after flowering; prune spring-flowering shrubs after they've flowered; continue taking cuttings from herbaceous perennials; thin out annuals and any vegetables sown earlier; sow and plant out tender vegetables; continue successional sowing of vegetables; protect young plants from slugs and snails; plant out dahlias at the end of the month; lightly trim formal hedging.

*Jane Mowatt*



## ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock  
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Chapel warden –  
Rosemary Russell 423013

### News from St John's

The weather was fine for the sunrise service on the East Pier on Easter Sunday and there was a very good turnout. This was followed by the Easter service at St John's, led by the Revd Pete Stone and the Revd Philip Ringer. We were happy to see a number of holidaymakers in our congregation.

It was a time of joy but also sadness as we finally said goodbye to Pete, Anne and Essie before they head off to their new home in Jersey, and it was lovely to have them with us at this special service. Anne played the organ, although the instrument (rarely used these days) didn't want to see her leave and became a bit temperamental. She played on regardless!

### West Bay WI

The group will hold their usual Knit & Natter on Wednesday 3 May at 10.30am. Then on Wednesday 10 May at 2.30pm, Clare Willcock will come along to speak about homeopathic first aid, followed by some special coronation refreshments. The WI Hall in George Street will be decorated to celebrate the coronation.

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

### Round and about the Bay

Have you been into the recently renamed newsagents in the Bay? It's now called Harbour Gifts. You may recall that it had a makeover in late 2019, and it has now been repainted and new signage put up indicating the name change. Sadly at the end of last year they decided to stop selling newspapers. It was just not economically viable but I am sure there are a number of locals who, like me, miss picking up their daily paper and chatting to Sharon. The shop is currently run by Tim and Nicole Attrill, ably assisted

by Sharon, Clare and Debbie. They realised they needed to diversify to survive and they now sell a wide selection of products. It was nice to see that once again the postbox outside had a seasonal head cover in time for Easter (pictured right).

The Discovery Centre is up and running full time and visitors seem very impressed by the new exhibition, 'Beneath the Waves', which tells the story of local fishing and marine life. The exhibition is accompanied by a number of talks in the Salt House.

During the Easter holidays, artist Darrell Wakelam ran a drop-in workshop for children. The four huge mackerel that the participants made are now on display in the centre (pictured below). Liz Bryant, who has been the centre manager since 2020, is now on maternity leave, and Jeanette Snook from Mosterton is covering her job.

Volunteers play such a big part in the success of the centre so if you are interested in becoming one, please pop in or email your interest. Check out the latest information on the centre's website, [www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk](http://www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk).

The West Bay Community Forum (WBCF) held its AGM for members on Thursday 20 April in the Salt House. Elaine



**Below: Children at an art workshop made these huge mackerel, which are on display in the Discovery Centre**





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

Leader, who has led the project to bring specialised wheelchairs for disabled people to West Bay, kindly came to the AGM to update us on the initiative including the progress of purpose-built storage for the wheelchairs.

You may have seen reports in the local news and on BBC Spotlight about the rollout of these wheelchairs on East Beach. The one that goes into the water was not demonstrated, however, and I am not surprised, as it was very stormy that day and certainly too rough to go into the sea! Hopefully we have plenty of calm weather to come so the wheelchairs will get lots of use. They can be booked by calling 07342 236443 (please give 24 hours' notice).

If you are interested in joining the WBCF, please contact me (Sue Pollock) at [rognsuewbay@btinternet.com](mailto:rognsuewbay@btinternet.com).

I was very surprised to learn that occupancy in West Bay harbour is now 90% and that those on the waiting list have

not taken up the available free spaces for boats. When we arrived here back in 2003, we wanted to have a boat in the harbour, but when we approached the harbour master of the time to ask about a mooring, he said there was a waiting list of 25 years. How times have changed!

*Sue Pollock*

### Forthcoming events

The OCRDA powerboat racing will take place over the bank holiday weekend of 29 April to 1 May, so the organisers will be hoping for calm weather. It is always quite a spectacle.

West Bay Days will be holding a 'royal' Pirates Day on Sunday 7 May. There will be an outside bar and barbecue from 12pm, tea and cake in the Salt House 12-5pm, craft stalls and games on the Greens from 12pm, and live music on the Mound from 2pm. The day's finale will be a royal firework display at 10pm. So make sure you have your pirate outfit ready in time for this special Pirates Day!

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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### Noye's Fludde at St Swithun's was a triumph!

Children from Symonds Primary School put on a fantastic performance of Noye's Fludde – Benjamin Britten's one-act community opera – at St Swithun's before Easter.

The 1957 opera is a favourite with children's groups and community music societies. It tells the story of Noah's Ark, with a large children's choir representing the procession of animals boarding the ark to escape the flood.

The production was the brainchild of Symonds Primary music teacher Ruth Wakefield and professional musician Matt Kingston, who directs Bridport's New Elizabethan Singers. Matt – who has children at Symonds Primary – conducted the performances, while professional singers Andrew Thompson and Martha McLorinan took the parts of Mr and Mrs Noye, and David Alcock was God. The show also drew on the talents of a huge array of musicians, supporters and helpers from the community – as well, of course, as the pupils themselves, from older children taking solo roles to the little ones in the chorus.

The staging was imaginative and effective, with rippling fabric running the length of the church to represent the



**Above: the Noye's Fludde cast and crew, incl. Matt Kingston (front left) and Ruth Wakefield (front right), during the visit of the Bishop of Salisbury (standing centre)**

raging storm, then the rainbow afterwards (pictured below left). Bridport Mayor Cllr Ian Bark, who was among the capacity audience, says it was "an absolutely spellbinding performance that will certainly live long in my memory."

The Right Revd Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury, visited one of the last rehearsals to encourage the performers and organisers. He says: "It was a great joy to drop in on the children and to see and hear their enthusiasm for this retelling of the centuries-old mystery play. Benjamin Britten always intended performances of Noye's Fludde to be held in church halls and churches, so it was wonderful to see it being performed in St Swithun's."

The Revd Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector, says: "We couldn't have been more pleased to welcome this wonderful group of musicians and this lovely children's choir here. The sound was wonderful and everyone's enthusiasm was infectious. St Swithun's has great plans for the future and events like this are very much part of our vision."

Ruth Wakefield says: "We were due to perform the opera just before the start of the pandemic and sadly it had to be cancelled, so we were delighted to finally stage the work at St Swithun's. The story's message of hope and new life is very poignant; this really is a celebration of the children's resilience and the power of community collaboration." →



## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

### 'Just right for Lent': our Taizé service

A wonderfully peaceful and meditative Taizé service was held at St Swithun's during Lent. Taizé is a small village in France that is home to a monastic community of Christians from many countries, of different ethnicities and from many denominations. Founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schutz, Taizé has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage with a focus on youth. It welcomes tens of thousands of visitors every year.

Taizé services use a unique style of meditative singing, focusing on repetitive chants. More than 50 people took part in the St Swithun's event and came from most of the different Christian churches in Bridport.

The Revd Canon Deb Smith says: "Thanks so much to Ruth Jenkins from St Catherine's Roman Catholic Church for organising this service and getting together a wonderful



**Pictured: the St Swithun's Taizé service was well attended**

group of musicians and singers to help us in our worship. It felt just right for the season of Lent. We know that there is a need for this sort of meditation so we will be running more prayerful services of this kind."

The collection at the service raised over £100 for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

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Church secretary – Sue Herman  
422598 / [bridportsec@gmail.com](mailto:bridportsec@gmail.com)

incorporating  
**UPLODERS CHAPEL**

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

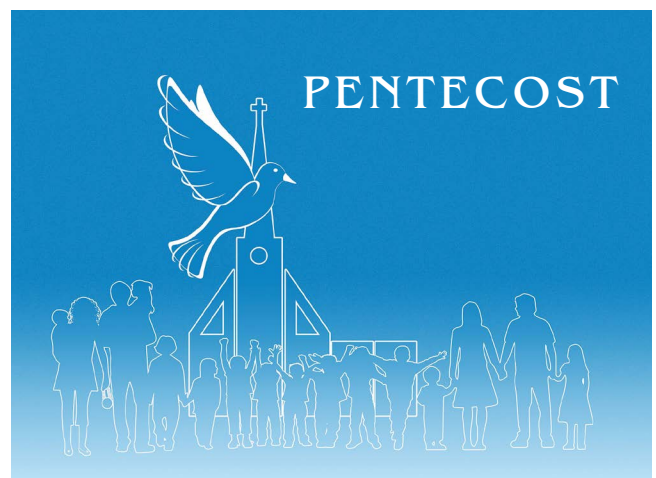
### May is a hopeful month...

There's the promise of ever-longer daylight hours, warmer weather and plants growing rapidly all around us. It's a time to look forward, and this year we look forward to the coronation of King Charles III, affirming his position as our sovereign and giving us all an opportunity to gather together and celebrate. Not everyone is blessed with a new role in their 70s, even after spending their whole life getting ready. We wish Charles well: good health, wisdom in his decision making, and gentleness in his meetings with all people.

This month at Bridport United Church we look forward to our regular events, too. On Sunday 7 May (and on the first Sunday of every month) Soul Space meets at 4pm for its own relaxed style of worship. Tea and cake is freely available all afternoon, plus music, bible readings, a short talk to get us all thinking, prayer time and conversation. Everyone is free to join in as little or as much as they like. Sometimes we need to give our souls space to rest and be refreshed in the presence of God and let activities happen around us. Sometimes our souls need the space to join with others.

We are starting a new series in Soul Space, thinking about some of the questions God asks people in a variety of bible stories. We are starting with a question first asked of Moses: "What is that in your hand?" (Exodus chapter 4) If you want to see what we make of that, you will have to come along!

We always look forward to Messy Church on the fourth Thursday of the month (25 May) at



3.30pm. It's for children (accompanied by an adult) and we have crafts, a story, singing and a hearty meal. It's always a happy celebration.

We're also looking forward to our regular Sunday morning worship (10.30am) and on Sunday 28 May we celebrate Pentecost. This feast day marks that moment when the bemused first followers of Jesus received their very own 'God moment' as the Holy Spirit transformed their lives. They changed from being self-absorbed to outward looking, from frightened to courageous, from unsure to confident – confident enough to fling open their locked doors to tell people about the undefeated, uncontainable God who loves everyone. We know about Jesus because of their transformation. We know that we too can be touched by that same Holy Spirit. It's a good reason to celebrate.

May is a hopeful month filled with celebration and transformation. Let us pray for our own 'God moments' and allow ourselves to be transformed by God into confident and joyful people.

*Gill Bumphrey*

### May services at Bridport United Church:

<b>Sunday 7</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Soul Space</b>
<b>Sunday 14</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Peter Kershaw</b>
<b>Sunday 21</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Chris Warren</b>
<b>Thursday 25</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
<b>Sunday 28</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson</b>





## Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

### Regular events in May

Stepping Stones pre-school every morning during term time. Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 12 noon – all welcome. Big Breakfast is on Saturday 13 May, 10am to noon.

Mondays	10am–noon	Art group (inner hall)
	2–3pm	Art history (first & second)
	5.45pm	Kickboxing
Tuesdays	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)
Wednesdays	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
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	6pm	Kickboxing

### From Uploders Chapel

Well, the sun is shining and the garden is full of lovely spring flowers doing their bit to help us keep positive. Something else that's helped us to stay positive over the last few weeks is the many people we have chatted to, whether folk we know or others we don't, who have all said how they find Bridport such a vibrant, friendly and happy place to be. That is so true – and being in a place like that is essential to one's wellbeing, especially when we meet with challenges.

One such challenge cropped up on the first Tuesday in April when the internet connection at the Pop Up Post Office

at the chapel went down! Everything had been going really well until then. Fortunately, those manning the kettle had also come armed with delicious goodies, so the kind folk who had turned up could at least be treated to cuppas and cake. Many thanks to Paul Brightwell for his delicious chocolate cake and to Lois for her yummy flapjacks. As you can imagine, I couldn't choose between them so I had to have one of each with my cuppa!

The Post Office is open every Tuesday from 1.45 to 3.15pm, so let's hope the internet doesn't go down again! However, I will grab this opportunity to say that should you just fancy dropping in for a cuppa and a good ol' chat, you're most welcome to do so whether you need the Post Office or not.

As I mentioned last month, the chapel will be open for part of the Scarecrow Festival. On Saturday 27, Sunday 28 and Monday 29 May, we'll be open from 10am to 4pm for cuppas and cake.

Last month we had our first CAKE session on a Wednesday (5 April) and it was well attended and enjoyed by all. If you haven't been before, why not come along and see why we all enjoy it so much. It runs from 2.30 to 4pm and Liz always comes up with a thought-provoking theme.

So there are still lots of things to look forward to, not least the long daylight hours, sunshine and our delightful countryside, and not forgetting the friendly faces all around.

Hopefully you didn't have an Appalling April, and will definitely have a Magnificent May!

*Carol Hall*

### May services at Uploders Chapel:

<b>Sunday 7</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Tim Wells</b>
<b>Sunday 21</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Revd Jane Wilson</b>



**Pictured: a striking exhibit at a past Scarecrow Festival**

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

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

### A new King

On Saturday 6 May, King Charles III will be crowned at Westminster Abbey. The last coronation of a British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, was nearly 70 years ago, and the last crowning of a king was back in 1936. While many of our more mature readers might have some memory of

Queen Elizabeth's coronation, and the excitement of huddling around a small black-and-white television screen for the first televised coronation, memories of the last coronation of a king I suspect are far rarer. For the vast majority of us, having a king is a new concept. I still have to concentrate to ensure I sing the words of the national anthem correctly!



But for Christians, kingship is nothing new. We regularly refer to Christ as 'King' and in the Our Father we both acknowledge the majesty of Jesus and pray that His kingdom will come and His will be done. However, Jesus' majesty seems quite different from our concept of any earthly king. No red carpet, police escort or royal palace for Him. Instead, His reign is based on service and humility. →

## ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

His crown is one of thorns and His seat of authority a cross. He was not born into a world of privilege or power, but instead was born in a stable and found himself quite quickly a refugee. His kingship was one of self-giving love, offering himself as one who serves, identifying himself as a servant as He washed his disciples' feet. He was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for us all by dying on the cross. In His resurrection lies the promise of reconciliation and the fullness of life.

During his coronation, King Charles will promise "to maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel." May his reign be a time when we all get a little closer to following the will of God. May he be an example



of love and service to the millions of people he reigns over. May God bless His Majesty.

*Deacon Mark Brown*

**Regular Sunday Mass is at 10am** and is streamed online at [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.bridportcatholics.org.uk) and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see our weekly newsletter on our website.

## BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

Church office 456031  
[office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](mailto:office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)  
[www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](http://www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)

### A chain of prayer and praise across the South West

We believe God is wanting to reach the 5.6 million people who live in the South West with His love, and prayer is key to this being possible. Through our work with young people and the Community Kitchen, we have seen the desperate need our community has to know that they are loved, that they are precious, and that they are pleasing to their heavenly Father.

In the last few years, more than 7,000 Christians from all traditions of churches across the South West have been standing together on one



of the 630 miles of the South West Coast Path to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

On Saturday 20 May we would love you to join us next to East Cliff in West Bay from 10.30am as we pray for the Kingdom to come for our communities here in Dorset. For broken, hurting lives to be healed and transformed. If you'd like to join us, please do come along. For more information email [james@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](mailto:james@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk).

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

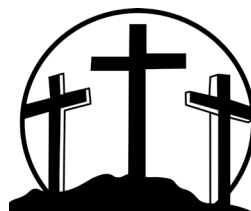
Office 424437  
David Collins 458227  
[info@bridportchristianfellowship.org](mailto:info@bridportchristianfellowship.org)  
[www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org)

**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 at various times during the week.**

We seek to reach the community of Bridport with the Good News of Jesus, and everyone is welcome to come along and join in any of our activities throughout the week:

**Mondays:** Meals Outreach Project for those who find themselves in difficult times.

**Tuesdays:** Three House groups meet at 2–3pm, 2.30–4pm and 7.30–9.30pm.



## BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Wednesdays:** One House group meets at 7–9pm. Precious Ones, our group for young mums, meets in the church at 9.30–11.30am.

**Fridays:** One House group meets at 12.30–2pm.

**Art Group:** Come along and join in, 10am–12noon. You don't have to be brilliant at art!

**Saturdays:** Pray Chat coffee bar with free tea, coffee and cake, 10am–12.30pm.

**Sundays:** 10.30am–12noon is our weekly service.

On the first Sunday in the month, we also join together for a meal or BBQ after the service.

More information can be found on our website, [www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org)



# 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](mailto: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. However, there is no meeting on 8 May because of the coronation bank holiday. 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](mailto:bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com). More details online at [www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://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 18 May at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when Amy Ralph will talk about British cut flowers. Amy is a horticulturalist who has worked for Avon Wildlife Trust and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and now runs a pick-your-own flower farm. Open to non-members at £2. More information at [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://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.

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

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

**Bridport 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](http://www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk)

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

**Bridport 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](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk)

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

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

**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](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport) for updates or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298.

**The Arts Society (West Dorset)** meets at Bridport Town Hall, 2 for 2.30pm, on the third Thursday each month Sept–June. On 18 May Professor Bill Gibson will present 'Seals, Sedition and Sacheverell', a look at the history and political importance of wax seals. Membership £50 a year; visitors welcome £7.50 per event. [www.taswestdorset.org.uk](http://www.taswestdorset.org.uk)

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

## Citizens Advice is here to help

Need advice on benefits, debt, employment or other issues? Pick up the phone and talk to us on

Freephone 0800 144 8848. You can also email us via the contact form at [www.bridportca.org.uk](http://www.bridportca.org.uk) or drop in to 45 South St, Bridport (now open Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).



# Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

**Bridport Choral Society** rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster [margefoster1956@gmail.com](mailto:margefoster1956@gmail.com)

**Harmony Drop-in** provides a safe, social space and peer support to aid the recovery journey of adults in the Bridport area who are living with mental health difficulties. Our group (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am–1pm) offers activities and support, fostering wellbeing and increased self-esteem. Contact 07597 379290.

**Bridport Community Front Room** offers face-to-face support for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Assembly Rooms, Gundry Lane. Thurs–Sun, 3.15–10.45pm. Appointments 07385 290804.

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

**Bridport 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 & 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](mailto:chair@bridportu3a.org.uk) / [www.bridportu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridportu3a.org.uk)

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

**Bridport & W D I Bowls Club** invites you to a free taster session at St Andrew's Trading Estate DT6 3EX every Saturday 10am–12 noon and every Monday 6–8pm. All equipment provided. For details contact Brian 425247.

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

**Bridport St Mary's Parkrun** is a weekly free timed run or walk organised by volunteers. Saturdays 9am at St Mary's Field. Great fun for all ages and abilities. Register online

first then bring your barcode on your phone or printed out. Find us on Facebook or at [www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys)

**Voices of Hope Singing Group** is open to all ages and abilities. Easy, uplifting, joyful songs from around the world, some rounds and some in parts. Borough Gardens off South Street or The Chapel in the Garden if it's raining, Fridays at 11am. Suggested donation £5. [janesilvercorren@gmail.com](mailto:janesilvercorren@gmail.com) / 07887 675161 for more details 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:joe@thehacketts.uk) for details and to receive newsletter. [www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please](http://www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please)

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

**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 Loders Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Contact Jane: [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:j.perfect@bridportleisure.com). More info at [www.stepsoutingbridport.co.uk](http://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 info please text 07769 720773.

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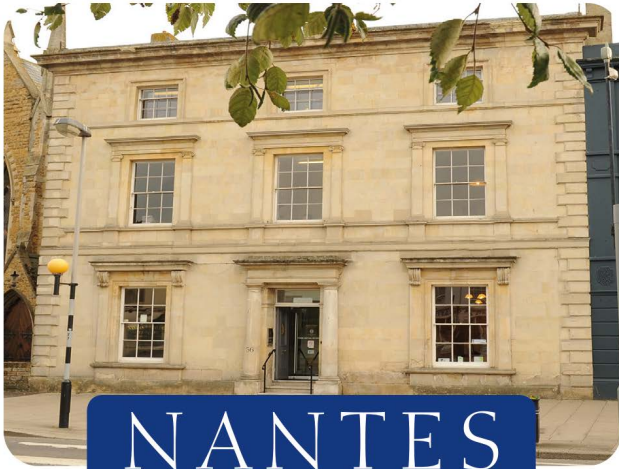
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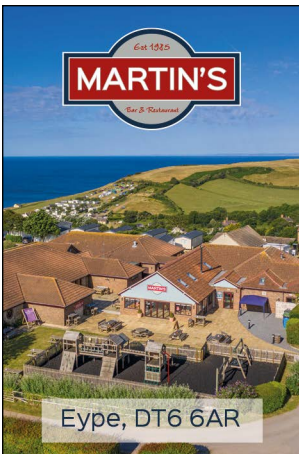
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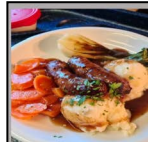
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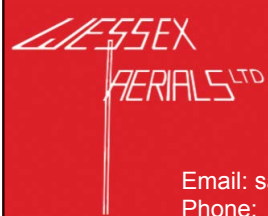
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