

# the *Bridge*

June 2023



A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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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)  
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The advertising and copy deadline for the July/August 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 12 June

# Coping with change by living life to the full

**Lord Jonathan Sacks – Chief Rabbi from 1991 until his death in 2020 – made a journey in 2017 to the Galapagos Islands, where Charles Darwin first formulated his idea of natural selection and the origin of species.**

Travelling by boat, he found inscribed on an inside wall a sentence attributed to Darwin, which read: “It is not the strongest or most intelligent who will survive, but those who can best manage change.”

Some of us welcome change; some feel annoyed or even threatened by it. Even small changes can be annoying: items stacked differently on supermarket shelves, altered bus schedules, television programmes cancelled for football matches or snooker (unless, of course, you're a sports fan). But how can we cope with the threatening changes and new situations that are facing us today?

In our own country there is hardship, prejudice, dissatisfaction and the loss of what we once took for granted. The world is going through rapid and dramatic change – conflict, shifts in economic power, the effects of global warming and climate change on countless people, the tragedy of the pandemic, the influence of technology in every aspect of life, the focus on artificial intelligence – and we don't really understand the impact all this may have on us.

Lord Sacks appeared often on BBC Radio 4's morning 'Thought for the day' slot, and on 28 June 2017 he spoke

about his recent trip to the Galapagos and seeing Darwin's words in the boat. Expanding on the subject of change, he said: “If you remember where you come from, where you are going and why, you can handle change because you have a map of values that don't change.”

Lord Sacks wrote much about coping with change.



**The Revd Ann Ayling**

*‘It is not the strongest or most intelligent who will survive, but those who can best manage change’*

*attr. Darwin*

He looked back at the history of the Jewish faith and wondered how his ancestors had kept going through centuries of uncertainty, expulsion and persecution. He suggests it was because they had never lost their identity, nor their hope that God was with them, however far away he seemed at times. And they never forgot the destination they were seeking: a world of justice, compassion and peace.

Jesus was a Jew and often referred to Hebrew scriptures in his teaching. He taught that the basis of the Christian faith is truth, the love of God and love of others.

Lord Sacks wrote: “When Love of God leads you to a love of life and a life of love, you will find happiness in hard times.” We can cope with change by living life to the full. One of the greatest speeches of the 20th century was Martin Luther King's “I have a dream,” and perhaps we should ask ourselves some questions.

- How far can we make our dreams become reality?
- How prepared are we to work hard?
- How can we make space in our lives for what really matters – family, friends, our community – and space for ourselves?
- How can we spread happiness to others?

To bring about justice, compassion and peace throughout the world seems a remote dream – but we can make a difference.

*The Revd Ann Ayling*

*You can learn more about Jonathan Sacks's life, words and legacy at [www.rabbisacks.org](http://www.rabbisacks.org)*

## St Swithun's Church Hall needs an admin volunteer

The team at St Swithun's is looking for someone to take over the job of invoicing people who use the church hall. These are mostly regular users, who need to be billed monthly, although there are also some one-off bookings. Someone else handles the job of taking bookings. If you'd like to volunteer for this important role, or you'd like more information, please email Caroline Whitaker: [carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com).

## Music is magic: the many benefits of sharing a song

**This month I had the great pleasure of meeting Jane Silver-Corren for our 'In the pod' interview (page 9).**

Jane is full of energy and love for music – in particular for singing, something I enjoy myself and spend quite a lot of time doing. I know first-hand the physical and psychological benefits of singing; whether you're a budding Adele or Bryn Terfel, or simply love belting out a tune in the shower, it just feels really good!



**Olivia Daly**  
Editor

One of my favourite 'would you rather' topics is this: if you could have either books or music for the rest of your life, which would it be? Even though I'm obsessed with words and I know the pleasure of elegant syntax and a good story, I'd choose music every time. Music is everything. Thankfully, however, we can have both!

Music and the spoken word were both on offer at Bridport United Diversity's 'Best of Bridport' fundraiser at the Lyric Theatre last month. Thanks to some super-efficient social media work by the organisers, the event sold out in advance, and it was a huge success. Turn to page 7 to find out what it was all in aid of.

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

# Bridport Food Festival Fortnight is back!

**This year's Bridport Food Festival Fortnight is running from Sunday 11 to Saturday 24 June.**

The centrepiece of the fortnight is the food festival itself, on Saturday 17 June from 9.30am to 5 pm. More than 60 local producers and food-to-go caterers will gather at Asker Meadows to celebrate the area's food and drink. Bridport Round Table Beer Festival will also be happening on the same site from the evening of Friday 16 June through to 11pm on the Saturday.

The first day of the festival fortnight (Sunday 11 June) is Open Farm Sunday, and Coppet Hill will be hosting the event from 10am to 4pm at Denhay Farm, Broadoak, in partnership with the Marshwood Vale Farmers Cluster. Attractions will include tractor-and-trailer tours around the farm; visits to Jersey cows, Portland and Dorset Horn sheep, Saddleback pigs, chickens and pygmy goats; and opportunities to learn about soil health, beekeeping and much more.

Other events during the fortnight will include a wildflower walk at Tamarisk Farm on Sunday 11 June and three regenerative farming walks with The Old Ways founder Alasdair McNab on Wednesday 14 June. Alasdair will lead groups around his land, explaining the concept of regenerative farming and the viability of small farms supplying local communities. These tours will leave



Symondsby Kitchen at 10am, 12 noon and 3pm and last an hour and a half. Clean, sturdy footwear is required; email [alasdair@theoldways.farm](mailto:alasdair@theoldways.farm) to book.

Visit [www.bridportfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.bridportfoodfestival.co.uk) for the latest information



## Earlier dates for the Great Big Green Week

**Bridport's Great Big Green Week (GBGW) takes place this year from Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 June, which is earlier than in previous years.**

The opening gathering will be on the first Saturday from 10.30am to 1.30pm at Bridport Community Orchard, off South Street behind St Mary's Church. There will be music from Squeezebow and the annual bike ride around the town.

Other events include a river clean from Palmers brewery to West Bay on Sunday 11 June; a walk to check out the Himalayan balsam on Happy Island with Nick Gray from Dorset Wildlife Trust on Thursday 15 June; and St Mary's Primary School Food Fair on Friday 16 June, when the theme will be 'Companionship & Connection'. Details of these and all GBGW events at [www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.co.uk](http://www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.co.uk)



## Melplash scholarship opens to applications

**The Melplash Agricultural Society is now accepting applications for their 2023 scholarship, which helps young local people to study for qualifications in a farming, horticulture, forestry or agriculture-related subject.**

The scholarship offers financial help with an apprenticeship, diploma or degree course, and is open to students aged 16 and over who live within a 12-mile radius of Melplash Church. The level of funding is variable, and each application is assessed on its merits.

"Since its inception in 2007, the scheme has made awards to 76 students totalling £192,000," says George Rendell, a director of the society. "Recipients have included veterinary surgeons and nurses, gamekeepers, agricultural engineers, crop geneticists, agricultural apprentices and more."

"I'd urge anyone who is looking to pursue a career in agriculture to apply for this scholarship," says beneficiary Cerne Iveson. "It's allowing me to continue my degree in veterinary medicine – I would have been struggling to fund my dream career without it."

The closing date for this year's applications is 1 July, and help with completing the application is available. Shortlisted candidates will be required to provide references and attend an interview in July.

The application form is available to download from the society's website [www.melplashshow.co.uk/scholarships](http://www.melplashshow.co.uk/scholarships) or for more information contact the society's secretary, Lucy Hart: [lucy@melplashshow.co.uk](mailto:lucy@melplashshow.co.uk) / 01308 423337.

**Bridport Food Bank AGM**

The annual general meeting to consider the work and accounts of Bridport Food Bank will take place at St Mary’s Church, South Street, at 5.30pm on Wednesday 28 June. After the formal proceedings there will be refreshments and an opportunity to hear about the food bank’s work and how it is organised. All are welcome. If you would like to be considered for the position of trustee, please contact the chair of trustees, the Revd Canon Deb Smith, on 01308 301457 or email [deb@bridport-team-ministry.org](mailto:deb@bridport-team-ministry.org).

**Millennium Green groups meet**

Bridport Millennium Green Trust’s AGM will be held at 7pm on Thursday 22 June at the WI Hall in North Street, with the Friends meeting at about 7.30pm. Come along and hear all about the green’s five-year plan and future fundraising events. Open to all, with free refreshments. Friends membership is just £5 annually, or £100 for life, and gives discount at events and with local businesses. Contact Sandra Brown on 01308 423078 for more details.

**Test your literary smarts at this quiz**

Book buffs will want to make a date in their diary for the Bridport Prize Literary Quiz at Bridport Arts Centre on Friday 16 June, 7 for 7.30pm. All welcome – come along and enjoy a fun evening with fellow lovers of all things wordy! Teams of eight maximum. Prizes for the winners, with a bonus prize for the team with the wittiest literary name. Paper and pens provided. Tickets £10 per person (to include delicious nibbles) from the Tourist Information Centre.



A couple of scenes in rehearsal and (left) a vampire puppet

# Bridport thespians are gearing up for Dracula

**Excitement is building among Bridport Stage Company (BSC) members as the dates of their next production, Dracula, draw near.**

The production involves many first-time actors as well as more seasoned participants and a keen behind-the-scenes team. Preparations have been a lot of fun and have provided a boost to the spirits of those taking part.

“I’ve been directing plays and teaching drama to people aged 5 to 75 for 40 years, and now more than ever I see for example how Covid has had a hugely debilitating effect on people’s mental health and confidence,” says director Valerie Goodwin. “This has especially affected young people, some of whom have become withdrawn and socially anxious, and there are also many bereaved or isolated folk who live far away from relatives. The camaraderie of a shared project like our play is a great way to counteract this situation.

“We’re also the first group to have booked the British Legion Hall, helping to save it from being lost.”

“I really needed this,” says one cast member. “It’s been a chance to get out of the house and have a bit of fun and a laugh in a good cause.”

“It’s looking and sounding great!” says another.

BSC is now the only drama group in town with a completely inclusive open-door, no-audition policy, welcoming all ages and performing straight plays rather than musicals. It is unfunded and relies on members’ contributions and ticket sales.

There are three performances of Dracula, on Wednesday 14, Friday 16 and Saturday 17 June at the British Legion Hall, Victoria Grove. Tickets are £10 from Bridport Tourist Information Centre. BSC will donate any profits to Samaritans.



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# ‘Together we have everything’: United Diversity Bridport sets out its targets

**United Diversity Bridport (UDB) is the new kid on the town’s block of community action groups. Formed earlier this year by Josef Davies-Coates, who had previously been involved with the United Diversity movement in London, the group aims to help people ensure a thriving, united future for themselves in the face of increasing climate change.**

UDB joins Sustainable Bridport (formerly Transition Town Bridport), Seeding our Future and other organisations in working to build resilience into various aspects of community life, minimising the environmental impact of human activity while preserving health and quality of life amid the climate emergency.

“It’s about meeting the needs of the people within the needs of the planet,” says Josef. “I’ve been inspired by the ‘doughnut economics’ theory – challenging the assumption that we should strive for economic growth and



instead aiming to support 12 basic human needs without breaching Earth’s ‘ceiling’ in any of nine ecological areas, including biodiversity loss, ocean acidification and air pollution.”

UDB’s patch is the Bridport ‘bioregion’ – from Lyme Regis to West Bexington and from the coast up to Beaminster – and the group has some very concrete goals. The first is to introduce a regular, affordable weekend bus service between the town centre and West Bay. “We need better public transport,” says Josef. “Currently the bus to West Bay runs hourly in the summer but only every two to three hours during the rest of the year, and the last bus is around 6pm. We

want to make the service better for users, reduce the number of cars making this journey, and ease pressure on parking.”

The group needs £10,000 to run a pilot bus service for six months. If they can raise £5,000, Dorset Council will match this and make up the total. Josef says UDB will partner with Dorset Community Transport, whose school minibuses sit idle outside school-run times. “At first we’ll pay them to run the weekend bus service, as they have the vehicle, the drivers and the necessary insurance. If this trial is successful, we’ll take it forward – hopefully with an electric bus. We hope we might even be able to create a new job for a driver.” The fare will be £1 each way, and free for bus-pass holders.

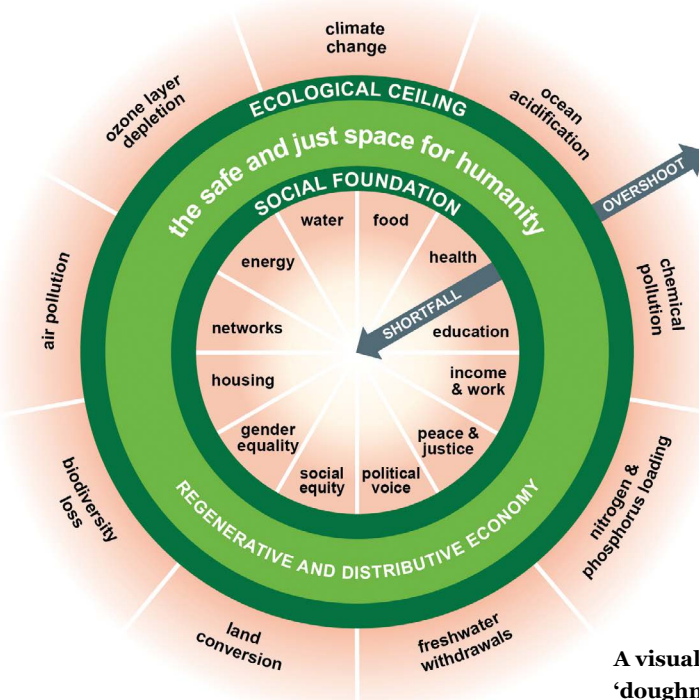
UDB’s ‘Best of Bridport’ music night at the Lyric Theatre in mid-May was the first fundraiser for the bus scheme. Tickets sold out before the event and it was a huge success, with music from The Skalatans, Eve Appleton Band, Aidan Simpson and Look Around Corners – plus DJ Beat Safari – and spoken word performances from Ged Duncan, Kevan Manwaring, Angie Porter and Dylan Ross.

Meanwhile, MMMM! – Monday Movie, Meal & Mingling has been running on Monday nights since April at the Chapel in the Garden. This joint initiative between UDB and Sustainable Bridport offers short films by local filmmakers and inspiring feature documentaries plus delicious vegetarian curries and hot and cold drinks (see p20).

“We want to draw people in with the fun stuff,” says Josef. “Start with the friendlies, then move on to enquiry, then action. We have some bold, audacious goals; if we can envisage collectively what we want to achieve, then we can do it. Together we have everything.”

UDB’s website: [www.bridport.coop](http://www.bridport.coop)  
[www.facebook.com/uniteddiversity](https://www.facebook.com/uniteddiversity)  
[www.doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics](http://www.doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics)

Words by Olivia Daly · Diagram DoughnutEconomics CC BY-SA 4.0



A visual interpretation of ‘doughnut economics’

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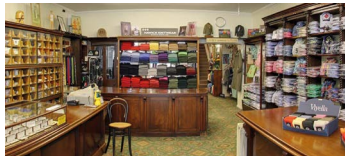


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## Bridport Chamber Orchestra

### SUMMER CONCERT

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Sunday 11 June, 3pm

Conductor: David Hedges  
Leader: Alexandra Ennis

Keyboard Concerto Eb major Opus 7 No. 5. - J C Bach  
Soloist - Duncan Honeybourne

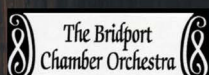
Concerto for Trumpet Eb - Joseph Haydn  
Soloist - Stuart Paul

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# Jane's musical prescription for health

**Jane Silver-Corren has music in her soul and she's on a mission to help everyone enjoy the magical benefits of singing. We caught up with her to hear about her current projects...**

*The Bridge:* You're a familiar face around Bridport, and there can't be many locals who haven't come across your unique brand of joyful musical expression. What have you been up to?

*Jane Silver-Corren:* I've been singing! I have a few things going on at the moment. My singing group, Voices of Hope, meets in Borough Gardens on Fridays to sing easy pieces from around the world [see p20]. It used to be funded by Rethink, a mental health support charity, but asking for a small donation from members has allowed us to continue independently. I also do sessions with the lovely people at the Living Tree, who are living with cancer, and I've been working with the Harmony mental health charity, Bridport Stroke Club and the Alzheimer's Society. I give individual and group lessons, too.

*TB:* Much of your work is with people facing serious physical and psychological challenges. How does singing help them?

*JSC:* It's so beneficial, physically and mentally. If you're anxious or under stress, your nervous system is in 'fight or flight' mode, but singing regulates the breath, which calms you down. I warm people up with breathing exercises – making the 'out breath' longer than the 'in breath' really helps – and start with a shake to loosen any tension.

*TB:* So it's a mood-booster?

*JSC:* Yes, and so much more! Singing releases lots of happy hormones, and it uses both sides of the brain. Through my work with people with dementia, I know that they can learn new songs, even when their memory has otherwise been seriously affected by the disease. Singing's also great for confidence –



people who think they can't sing realise they can, and they love it! Mostly I like everyone to enjoy singing, to have a good laugh – I like to bring people up, occasionally into stillness but we usually spend a lot of the sessions laughing and having fun.

*TB:* What do your groups sing?

*JSC:* We sing some well-known songs and I teach pieces from around the world, but I sometimes get my groups to write their own songs, too. Song writing is really good for people and can be a way of processing difficult emotions – through my work as an occupational therapist and mental health support worker I've learnt the benefits of holding people in that 'space' where they feel safe and confident about expressing themselves. With groups we often discuss a topic, or I ask people to think of a line each, in turn. The Living Tree group wrote a song about rope making, which worked really well.

*TB:* Tell us a bit about your background in music.

*JSC:* I've always loved singing. I come from London and I used to work as a festivals coordinator in Hounslow. I could see first-hand the connection between music and wellbeing, so I retrained as an occupational therapist specialising in the therapeutic value of

music. Then my husband and I decided we wanted to live somewhere greener, so we moved to the West Country – first to Upton in Devon, where we had our two sons. I'm Jewish, and I realised there wasn't much interfaith stuff going on at my sons' school and other schools in the area, so I started working with a multifaith team – Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh and Muslim – putting together music and dance to take into schools. I still do it occasionally, and I find it very rewarding. Then, of course, we moved to Bridport!

*TB:* What does Bridport mean to you?

*JSC:* It's such a musical town. Music is accessible to everyone here, whatever their age or ability. Bridport Voices is a thriving community choir, and Local Vocals has several choirs in Dorset, including one in Bridport. There's also a Taizé choir at the Chapel in the Garden, and the U3A runs a regular singing group, too. Something for everyone!

Being here means I can swim in the sea, which I love, and we have a nice garden with plenty of flowers. During the pandemic I also started growing veg, and now I'm really into it!

*TB:* Have your sons inherited your love of music?

*JSC:* My older son, Jonah, is a singer-songwriter and poet, so he certainly has! His day job is organising events at Exeter University, but he also performs in Exeter and Plymouth on occasion and runs events to support established poets. My other son, Toby, finished his degree in marine biology at Newcastle University last June, and he's now working as a dive instructor in Thailand. I'm hoping to go out there and travel around with him for a bit. I'm very grateful to have such a lovely family.

*janesilvercorren@gmail.com*  
07887 675161

*The Tourist Information Centre can provide details of all local music and singing groups.*

## ST MARY'S Bridport

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

### Coronation weekend at St Mary's

In line with the advice from the College of Arms, we raised the union flag at 8am on Friday 5 May and flew it at full mast to signify that our coronation celebrations had begun.

Saturday had London as its focus, but Sunday saw our town's mayor, mayoress and town clerk join the Parish of Bridport for a special service of Holy Communion to mark the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Celebratory refreshments followed the service and, with much flourish, the mayor commissioned our green bin in the Bin Twinning enterprise initiated by our Eco Church group.

On Monday a group from St Mary's took part in the Bridport mass litter pick and, wanting to 'Help Out' a little more, we moved on to cleaning the brasses in church! Activity done, we raised our glasses and gave three cheers for our newly crowned King. A weekend to remember.

*Lesley Hill*

### The bells are still ringing out...

Even through lockdown, the eight church bells at St Mary's kept ringing, thanks to one ringer using the Ellacombe apparatus, with one supporting ringer for safety. When the lockdown ended, the ringing team came back to full ringing.

Then three new ringers, who had been waiting patiently all through lockdown, came to learn. Then two more came... then another. We have 12 ringers now, with three in training. We all get to ring.

We rang for the coronation of King Charles III, when every one of our ringers, however new to ringing, was recorded for posterity as having taken part in this special event.

We have eight bells, all recast after the Great War in a major initiative that showed the very strong spirit of the people of Bridport after that dreadful time. The heaviest bell is over one tonne, the lightest is just over 5cwt (226kg).

When the war started in Ukraine, cathedrals in the UK were asked to toll their tenor bells in support and sadness for the Ukrainian people. We rang, too, and have kept on some tolling every time we get the bells ringing. We will continue until the war ends.



The St Mary's bellringers



**From top: The mayor of Bridport, Cllr Ian Bark, commissioned the St Mary's green bin as part of the Eco Church 'Bin Twinning' initiative; taking part in the mass litter pick during the long coronation weekend; cleaning brass in the church**



Safety is key with these heavy bells, and our training focuses on that. We are working to improve the belfry ventilation to protect both the building and the bells, and we are also still working on a system to muffle the bells during practice (when we can be a little erratic and enthusiastic) and open the belfry louvres for ventilation at other times.

You can imagine that bell ringing is great exercise, needing great precision, control and teamwork; with eight bells ringing, the gap between each ringer's stroke is less than half a second. We work hard to make the best sound we can with these valuable, historic bells. We ring as a team to keep the spirit of these lovely Bridport church bells going. We shall keep practising, keep improving and keep ringing.  
*Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain, St Mary's*

*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 damp, drizzly weather on coronation day improved in the evening and 150 people enjoyed a party in the John Holt Play Area. Two marquees had been erected, and salads and cakes were provided, along with burgers, sausages and a bar, all adding up to a very successful and happy event.

On the following day and bank holiday Monday, the history group put on an exhibition in the Old Church focusing on the lives of women in Bothenhampton over the past 200 years. This showed how bad living conditions were then and how desperate many women became through poverty, some going into the poorhouse or being admitted to the lunatic asylum owing to mental health issues. Our thanks to Sue Browne, Jane Read and all who helped to put on a really interesting display.

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 3 June from 10am to 12 noon. These popular occasions are a great way to keep in touch with friends and to meet new members of the village. There will be books, cards, cakes and a raffle.

The coffee morning on 1 July will be combined with the summer fete, starting at 11am (see panel, right). There will be a barbecue at lunchtime, and some stalls, but we do need assistance with running them. Please contact Heather (423220) if you can help.

A big thankyou to the 15 volunteers who tidied up the Old Churchyard after the winter. There is a newly erected noticeboard, and a new compost area that will allow the previous one to fully rot down so the soil can be used.

Graham Purse (pictured below) is marking 40 years' service as a licensed lay minister. Graham often takes services at Holy Trinity, and on 4 June – Trinity Sunday and the date of his anniversary – he and the team rector, Canon Deb Smith, will take the Parish of Bridport communion service in Bothenhampton at 10am. Afterwards we shall join Graham to celebrate with cake and sparkling wine.

*Barbara Ffooks*

### FILM NIGHT: Saturday 24 June in the village hall

- The film is likely to be *The Fabelmans* •
- Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm
- Refreshments available

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



### My 40 Years as a licensed lay minister (LLM) – formerly known as a 'reader'...

I've worn my blue stole now for 40 years, writes Graham Purse, but what does it mean and how did it start?

At the age of five I heard the church bells of St Dunstan's, Cranford, ring on a Sunday morning, and I wanted to know why. I asked my parents and

**Bothenhampton  
Church Fete**

**Saturday 1 July • 11am to 2pm**

*Refreshments · Cakes · Games · Books  
Raffle · Bric-à-brac · Handbell ringers  
BBQ from 12 noon*

**We need contributions of books (newer than 10 yrs old, please), games and puzzles, cakes, and good quality bric-à-brac.**

**We'd also love some volunteers!**

**You can sell your own goods – £10 a table.**

**To book, volunteer or offer items, please phone Heather on 01308 423220**

they said that once we had moved to our new home they'd take me to Sunday School. They kept their word, and my sister and I went off to St John the Evangelist Church in Woodley, near our new home. From where we sat I could see the choir stalls – and again I wanted to be part of it.

I joined the choir aged eight and rose to head chorister, then sub-deacon. I enjoyed the challenges that singing brought, the friendships I made, and playing billiards in the vicarage after evensong, but still I felt called. I wanted more.

'Normal' life went on, of course, outside of church, and I eventually went to Lanchester Polytechnic (Coventry University) and Heather and I got married. Soon afterwards we moved to Charminster, near Dorchester, and started our family, but the call of wanting to do more for the church persisted. After many interviews and selection committees, I was told I could train as a licensed lay minister (LLM). This took two years of study with essays and what seemed like endless meetings with my tutor and other trainees. On 4 June 1983 I was given my stole by the Bishop of Salisbury so on Trinity Sunday this year I celebrate 40 years of service.

So what is an LLM? With the bishop's permission I am licensed to take non-sacramental services. I can preach and try and make myself useful (or otherwise) to the incumbent – in our case the rector of the parish.

The work really is what you want it to be. It is engaging with and loving the congregation and leading them in worship; it is being part of the community, but within that being ready to help where you can, particularly with life events. In the end it's trying to be the best you can be for those around you. If you read the stories of Jesus, you'll see that is what he did and it is his example we follow.

In my time I have helped at many baptisms and thousands of communion services. I have taken many funerals and still lead Morning Praise, Morning Prayer (Matins) and occasionally Evening Prayer. I have been blessed with a powerful, clear speaking voice and a reasonable singing voice, and I still feel moved when I preach. Something inside still inspires me.

I have also been blessed with supportive clergy – thank you – an understanding family and most of all by a loving wife, Heather, without whom I would not be half the →

**HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...**

person I am. She has been my number one critic, support and encourager for 50 years.

I suppose that for the last 40 years I have been trying to open people’s hearts to the love our Lord Jesus gave us. To

put it simply: we have been given a present, the Love of God, and it’s up to us whether we open that present in our hearts and try to live by its message.

I was also a Scout for many years and the Scouting Promise was to “do your best and to do a good deed every day.” I still hold to that promise.

**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)

other parishes and Bridport Town Council on the subject of overseeing the transition to the new Bridport Council.



Other subjects that were reported on and discussed include various planning applications; concern about dangerous parking outside St Catherine’s Primary School in Pymore Road; blocked drain gullies in Lee Lane; ease of access at Pageants Play Area; a van that parks at the end of the Gore Wildlife Corridor right of way, making it difficult for people to use the footpath; maintenance work to the gravel path at Gore Cross Green; and repair work to a gate post at Pageants Field.

**Coronation ‘Songs of Praise’**

We held a celebratory ‘Songs of Praise’ on the afternoon of 7 May, led by the Revd Janis Moore and Coral Hatton with favourite hymns and worship songs. The church was decorated with bunting and, after the events of the previous day, there was a buzz among the 66 people who attended. The congregation sang the national anthem at the end of the service. Refreshments were served afterwards, including a cake (pictured below) that was sponsored by Bradpole Parish Council.

**Bradpole Brunch**

The fourth in the current series of Bradpole Brunch meetings in the village hall takes place on Sunday 18 June at 11.30am. The morning is designed for toddlers through to Year 6, although all are welcome with their families. Come and join us for a cheese toastie or bacon bap, a chat and to find out a bit more about some of the things that Jesus said and did.

**Bradpole Parish Council**

The council has made a generous donation of £350 to the village fete, and this was confirmed at the April meeting. Councillors Baker, Everall and Morgan were appointed to represent Bradpole Parish Council in discussions with

**Collection of used stamps**

Lyn Roe has been organising the collection of used stamps at Holy Trinity for many years, sending them to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, but she has now decided to retire. More than 42,000 stamps have been collected since 2013 and Lyn deserves a big thankyou for looking after this initiative for so long.

Lyn has relied on volunteers to trim the paper that the stamps are stuck on, since the air ambulance will not otherwise accept them. This has been quite onerous given the volume of stamps received, so in future the stamps will be donated to Weldmar Hospice, which does not operate the restriction.



Anyone who saves their used stamps is welcome to put them in the box at the back of the church.

**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. The event will offer fun for the whole family, with face painting, jolly jars, Punch & Judy, music, games, cakes and a bar, plus local stalls and more!

**Pictured: The Revd Janis Moore cuts the special coronation cake after Bradpole’s well-attended ‘Songs of Praise’ service**



## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

### Bellringing

Coronation day – Saturday 6 May – was the culmination of a lot of hard work for the bellringers who have recently been training at Bradpole so they can ring their own bells at St Martin’s, Shipton Gorge. Training sessions eventually moved to St Martin’s itself and everything was in place for the newly formed band to ‘Ring for the King’.

The Bradpole ringers also lent a hand to their counterparts at Askerswell so the bells of St Michael’s could ring out for the coronation, too. Our bells here at Holy Trinity were rung as a prelude to the coronation itself, and we mustered a band of seven for some delightful call changes. The bells were also rung before the ‘Songs of Praise’ service on Sunday 7 May.

Since we have eight bells it is clear that we have room for more ringers at Bradpole and we hope anyone who is interested in exploring the possibility of taking up this traditional art will manage to visit our tower at some time during the afternoon of Saturday 3 June when the tower will be open on the occasion of the Bradpole fete.



**Pictured: Holy Trinity Bradpole’s team of bellringers, who took part in ‘Ring for the King’ in May**

## ST MARY’S Walditch

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 Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Ann Ayling 424896 (Wednesday is her day off)



**Pictured clockwise from above right: Everyone enjoyed the egg-and-spoon race and tug of war; Mr Magic was among the entertainers; the marquee on the village green was decorated in red, white and blue; delicious cakes were in demand**

### Walditch’s coronation tea party

On Sunday 7 May, the Walditch Village Hall Trust organised a coronation tea party, paid for by the Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council. In contrast to the preceding day, when King Charles III was crowned in London, the weather for our celebration was warm but a bit breezy.

The event, which started at 2.30pm, was sold out and attracted a good number of Walditch residents and their families and friends. Besides the tea, there were various games for children and adults including an egg-and-spoon race and a tug of war. Everyone who took part had an enjoyable time.



Photos by Penny Hall and Lorna Robbins





**Left: Local artists and craftspeople were selling their work**

### ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

The excellent refreshments included delicious finger sandwiches, a Cornish cream tea with scones and jam, and scrumptious chocolate brownies. There was a marquee on the village green and the tables inside had been carefully decorated in red, white and blue.

A variety of wonderful cakes were for sale, as well as some decorative works by a talented local artist. A mini auction was held, too, raising funds for the village hall – and the highly original forms of bidding caused some amusement. The raffle offered a range of prizes, including some with a coronation theme, and Mr Magic, a magician, entertained children and adults alike with tricks of illusion and sleight of hand.

Robin Stapleton had put on a display in the village hall with memorabilia, photos and cuttings from the village celebration of the 1953 coronation, which some of those present at our 2023 event remembered fondly.

On behalf of the whole village, I'd like to thank the parish council and the trustees of the Walditch Village Hall Trust, plus many other helpers, for making this event such a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

*James Craddock*

### 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 (29 June) at 10am with tea/coffee and biscuits.

#### *Garden tips for June:*

Support tall-growing summer perennials with a sturdy cane; cut back spring-flowering perennials, such as pulmonaria, to encourage a second flush of foliage; pinch out fuschia tops to encourage bushier growth; liquid feed container displays and baskets every few weeks to encourage flowering; tie new stems of climbing and rambling roses horizontally to supports to encourage more flowers; prune late-spring or early-summer shrubs after flowering, thinning out the older stems; cover developing and ripening fruits with netting to protect them from birds; tie in new shoots of blackberries, raspberries, loganberries and other cane fruits; plant out tender veg raised indoors; spread mulch around thirsty crops such as beans and courgettes to hold in moisture around their roots; sow herbs such as coriander, parsley and basil in pots to grow indoors or in a greenhouse; take softwood cuttings of herbs such as sage and marjoram, plant in gritty compost and place on sunny windowsill.

*Jane Mowatt*

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

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07903 558568  
Chapel warden –  
Rosemary Russell 423013

### West Bay WI

The usual knit and natter will take place on Wednesday 7 June from 10am to 12 noon. On Wednesday 14 June at 2.30pm, Teresa Grinter will come along to the meeting to give a talk on the history of ballet.

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

While out walking early on a Saturday morning in late April, I saw the first of the racing-pigeon lorries in the West Bay car park. I chatted to the driver, who said they had come from Brighton with a load of 1,000 pigeons, which they would be releasing shortly. It would take about two hours for the birds to fly home – there are no speed restrictions, speed cameras or roundabouts, although birds do usually try and follow roads as a guide along the way.

As always, the Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge attracted many riders of all ages. The race follows a 55-mile route from Watchet on the north coast of Somerset to West Bay. Although there is also a shorter route – 11 miles from Drimpton to West Bay – so far I have not taken part! This shorter race was won by a 10-year-old girl from Bridport. The event, on Sunday 23 April, raised over £45,000 for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

Very calm seas over the last April weekend were a real bonus for Round 1 of the Aqua Adrenaline powerboat racing competition. I wonder how many of you went down to view the boats and jet skis. These were accompanied by over 30 mobile homes parked all along the Esplanade.

The Discovery Centre was as busy as ever over the bank holiday weekends – sometimes people just go in to escape the weather and are then amazed at what the centre has to offer! The shop area has increased in size and there is a great choice of gifts, including some lovely new jewellery containing West Bay sand.

Somehow I managed to be voted in as chairperson of the West Bay Community Forum (WBCF), having been acting chair since John West resigned last year. It was good to see that temporary toilets have now been installed near the Salt House. The harbour wall by the kiosks on the Mound is still cordoned off but you can now walk to the toilets. These are the sort of things that WBCF chases up, working to improve things around the Bay. If you are interested in joining the forum, please contact me at [rognsuewbay@btinternet.com](mailto:rognsuewbay@btinternet.com).



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

The Bridport Gig Club sent two gigs, Bryan and Dagger, to the 31st World Pilot Gig Championships in the Isles of Scilly. The women's 'A' crew won Group C; as well as being good at rowing, they are also very enthusiastic hula dancers, performing in Hawaiian skirts on stage when collecting their trophy.

The Royal Pirates Day on the Sunday of the coronation weekend was sunny and dry so West Bay was packed. As I couldn't go, my granddaughter stepped up and took some photos to give you a feel of the event. I did watch the fireworks from my window, however. I always love fireworks but I wonder how much longer we'll be allowed to have



**Pictured: people flocked to West Bay for the Royal Pirates Day on Sunday 7 May**

them. It seems that drones are being used more and more at big events as they're much more eco-friendly.  
*Sue Pollock*

**Forthcoming events**

This month sees the return of the annual West Bay Vintage Rally, to be held on 10 and 11 June at the Melplash Showground. There will be an array of vintage vehicles, tractors and steam engines, many of which will trundle their way down the West Bay road on the Saturday evening, tooting away merrily. On the Saturday morning there will be a vintage auction at 10am.

**ST SWITHUN'S Allington**

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**Two coronations, 70 years apart**

Whatever your feelings about the idea of monarchy and this particular royal family, I must say I found the coronation service moving. The range of music was engaging, with the Byzantine Chant Ensemble singing a psalm in Greek, a Gospel choir, and Bryn Terfel singing in Welsh. The



spiritual aspect of the anointing of the derobed King was powerful in its humility. The coronation was watched worldwide and is of huge cultural significance. People abroad will associate the ceremony with a Christian King, who in all forgiveness has inherited some moral backbone, reference and framework.

I was talking to one of our congregation, Marilyn Sealy, who recalls the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. Later that month, she – and possibly most of Bridport – took part in the Royal Charter Pageant. Marilyn's role was as a townswoman in one of the eight sections of the pageant, which told the history of Bridport during a procession through the town. Princess Margaret had been invited and she did attend. As Marilyn said, the event was very exciting for the town in an age when most people didn't have a television.

Marilyn also showed me some artwork and associated words that were inspired by a retreat organised by two nurses, Edith Jones and Joan Gillespie, in the early days of Churches Together. It took place in Edith's son's house →



**Above: 'All is bathed in God's light'**

**Left: Marilyn Sealy (right in photo) taking part in Bridport's Royal Charter Pageant in June 1953**

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

in Melplash and about 15 people attended. Weekly meetings were held to share experiences, including a silent retreat at Glastonbury.

This is what Marilyn had written on the reverse side of one of the images (pictured on previous page):  
*John 1:39 'Come and See'. The door was open – so leaving my heavy load at the foot of the cross – I passed through that doorway to respond to the invitation of Jesus, to come and see. The retreat offered a symbolic open door. The title of the picture is 'All is bathed in God's light'. On the right the vine entwines the cross, which also shares the good shepherd's crook. The 'Living Water' streams either side and flows into the chalice, which overflows into the Eternal sea. The figure in the boat is Jesus – there is one fish in His*

*net: me! The pathway initially was rough and covered with stones, it was narrow and winding. It will always be hard, but constant prayer will help me.*

There aren't many people around who remember three coronations, going back to George VI, but my Aunt Meg does. She was 11 years old at the funeral of George V in January 1936 and wasn't able to attend the occasion. Her uncle Roy – husband to our Aunt May, one of the first manageresses at Woolworths – had a cine camera, which my cousin describes as a clockwork wind-up camera. The trouble was, it made an awful racket while being wound up during the silent, solemn parade. Apparently you could hear a pin drop, apart from this camera going clickety clack continuously until the clockwork mechanism wound down. Oh how technology has changed!  
*Anna Sullock*

### Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson  
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Church secretary – Sue Herman  
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incorporating  
**UPLODERS CHAPEL**

Correspondent – Carol Hall  
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#### A hospitable town

Hospitality in Bridport is varied and plentiful, giving visitors to our town a wonderful choice of food and venues. Similarly it plays a very important part in the life of Bridport churches, and at Bridport United Church we greatly enjoy putting on a variety of events involving food and drink.

Hospitality at BUC aims to give everyone the chance to meet with old friends and to make new friendships, whether over coffee and biscuits or a full cooked meal. No doubt many of us enjoyed putting together a range of menus and activities for the coronation celebrations in May, events that gave us an excuse to enjoy the company of family, friends and neighbours. The barbecues, tea parties, bring- and-share lunches and many other gatherings of that special time created many happy memories.

Every month at BUC our hospitality teams work to provide opportunities for people to meet and enjoy fellowship. For those who live alone, or are unable to travel far, our Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings are a



welcome chance to sit and enjoy a tea or coffee with friends. As well as our regular customers, we love welcoming people who are visitors to the town, and many holidaymakers have become regulars at our coffee mornings. Our chaplains, Lois and Estelle, and church members running the coffee mornings are on hand to talk to people (confidentially should that be needed). Every Wednesday at 12 noon we serve homemade soup and toasted sandwiches – this is free of charge, but many people like to make a donation.

Lunch Club (the fourth Wednesday each month) provides a similar opportunity for fellowship but with a two-course meal, too. We have now been running this for a year, and numbers grow each month. Our April lunch – beef casserole with potatoes and vegetables, followed by jam sponge and custard – was our busiest and we served 61 meals.

We recently began a 'friendship' Thursday Club, when those who really love to meet for a natter can do so in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. This happens on the third Thursday each month at 2pm. Some people play board games, others bring along crafts to do, and everyone enjoys tea, cakes, sandwiches and conversation.

We also love to encourage the younger members of our community and a dedicated team welcome local children and their families to Messy Church.



Everyone is guaranteed a fun time learning about the love of God and the stories of Jesus followed by a meal where parents can sit down to eat with the children.

All our hospitality events allow us to reach out to our community, and we hope to show the love of Jesus through everything we do. Thankfully we have a wonderful team of volunteers who prepare veg, set up tables, serve coffee and biscuits, lay tables and wait on all those who come to enjoy what's on offer.

As our new King Charles III said, "We are here to serve" – and we love doing so!  
*Ros Hilliard*

#### June services at Bridport United Church:

|                    |                |                         |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 4</b>    | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Revd Jane Wilson</b> |
|                    | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Soul Space</b>       |
| <b>Sunday 11</b>   | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Peter Jenner</b>     |
|                    | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Healing service</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 18</b>   | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Chris Smith</b>      |
| <b>Thursday 22</b> | <b>3.30pm</b>  | <b>Messy Church</b>     |
| <b>Sunday 25</b>   | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Revd Jane Wilson</b> |



## Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

### Regular events in June

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 10 June, 10am to noon. Our circuit meeting is on Thursday 22 June.

|            |              |                                                                                                      |
|------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mondays    | 10am–noon    | Art group (inner hall)                                                                               |
|            | 2–3pm        | Art history (first & second)                                                                         |
| Tuesdays   | 2pm          | Bridport Blind Club (first & third)                                                                  |
|            | 2pm          | Bridport u3a (fourth Tuesday only)                                                                   |
|            | 4.30pm       | Rainbows                                                                                             |
|            | 5.30pm       | Brownies                                                                                             |
|            | 7.30pm       | New Elizabethan Singers                                                                              |
|            | 7.30pm       | Bridport Big Band (in church)                                                                        |
| Wednesdays | 12–1.30pm    | Warm Welcome soup and toasties                                                                       |
|            | 12.30pm      | Lunch Club (fourth only). All welcome for two-course home-cooked meal. Please book by phoning 422598 |
|            | 5.30pm       | Kickboxing (inner hall)                                                                              |
|            | 6pm          | Fitsteps                                                                                             |
| Thursdays  | 2 for 2.30pm | Bridport History Society (second Thursday only)                                                      |
|            | 2pm          | Thursday Club (third only). All welcome for tea, games, crafts and chat in inner hall                |
|            | 5pm          | Slimming World                                                                                       |
| Fridays    | 6pm          | Kickboxing                                                                                           |

### From Uploders Chapel

Of course last month saw the coronation of our new King and Queen, and what a very special day it was. In 1953 I was six years old and living in London, so I remember some of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, which we watched on my uncle and aunt's TV (we didn't have one of those modern things in our house until I was 11 years old!). I have to be honest, what I remember most about the day was the horses, which I loved.

Tim Wells led our worship at Uploders on the Sunday following the coronation, and it embraced a lot of what I took from the coronation service itself, particularly relating to peace and treating everyone with kindness and love. I



**Pictured: the CAKE meeting at Uploders Chapel in May**

really believe Charles and Camilla and their other family members will be great ambassadors of the United Kingdom and will bring a much more modern outlook on their roles.

I think the qualities of kindness and love can be seen in the area where we live. The chapel has certainly felt the power of that love and support, not necessarily at the services but definitely as a community facility. The Pop Up Post Office is now working properly. Many thanks to all of you who are supporting it and also for those of you who are helping out with making cuppas, etc. As I mentioned before, everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa even if you don't need to use the Post Office. It is an opportunity for some good company.

Before the coronation we celebrated the coming event at CAKE (pictured above). However, the theme of our gathering was 'Sweet sounds in your ear – the gift of hearing'. We all agreed we loved the sounds of the countryside, the birds singing, and of course it was then a blessing to be able to hear the lovely music at the coronation.

Uploders Chapel was open for cuppas during the Scarecrow Festival over the bank holiday weekend of 27–29 May during the Scarecrow Festival, so thanks to anyone who popped in.

Looking ahead, we are having a joint service with Loders Church in July and then we will have a stall at Loders Fete in August. More details to follow. Meanwhile, I hope you have had a Marvellous and Majestic May, with a Jolly June to follow.

*Carol Hall*

### June services at Uploders Chapel:

|                  |                |                           |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 4</b>  | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Peter Jenner</b>       |
| <b>Sunday 18</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Peter Kershaw (HC)</b> |

## 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)

### You are what you eat!

Some years ago, there were posters in our school dining halls brandishing the slogan, "Wesley says, 'You are what

you eat!'" The idea was to get the kids to choose the more healthy dining options. I can't remember who Wesley was, and Googling it was no help as it referred to the founders of Methodism and I don't think it was anything to do with them! Whoever Wesley was, however, what he said was very true. If we live on a diet of pie, chips and cheesecake (as much as I'd like that), it will almost certainly not be very good for our bodies or waistlines. If we eat a varied diet with plenty of fish, veg and fruit, both our waistlines and insides will probably be a lot better for it. We are what we eat.

In June, the Catholic community celebrates Corpus Christi, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On that day, we give thanks for the gift of the Eucharist. It is our belief that Jesus is truly present, body and soul, in the bread, which is his body, and in the wine, which is his





### ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

precious blood. In other words, he gives himself totally to us in Holy Communion. He becomes part of us and we become part of him. We become One. We are – or at least we are becoming – what we eat. It is our desire to be progressively

transformed into his image, to be able to say with St Paul, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

In Bridport, we usually celebrate that day with the children making their First Holy Communion. Sunday 11 June will be a big day for the parish and it will be a joy to see the girls looking delightful in their lovely white dresses and the boys resplendent in their white shirts and red ties. More importantly, it is wonderful to see the real faith and awe the children have in the presence of the Lord. It’s an important reminder to the whole parish not to take the Eucharist for granted, and just what an amazing gift it is for us as we seek to become more Christlike. After all, we are what we eat!

*Monsignor Keith Mitchell*

**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)

**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 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)

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 Street, at 2.30pm on the second Monday each month with demonstrations and speakers. On 12 June there will be a workshop session. 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 15 June at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when Alan Eason will present 'The importance of foliage'. Alan is a partner in a gardening business and an active member of the Dorset Gardens Trust. 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)

**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.

**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.

**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 Sarah Fletcher [sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk)

**Bridport Bridge Club** meets Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons for duplicate bridge at St Swithun's Hall, plus online on Thursday evenings. The Friday sessions (not third Fri in the month) are more relaxed. Beginners' lessons will start again in November. See [www.bridgewebs.com/bridport](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport) or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298.

**The Arts Society (West Dorset)** meets at Bridport Town Hall, 2 for 2.30pm, on the third Thursday each month Sept–June. On 15 June Stephen Kershaw will present 'The cities of Vesuvius', a look at Roman life in the 1st century based on finds at Pompeii and Herculaneum. Membership £50 a year; visitors £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



**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.

**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 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)

**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)

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

**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 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. **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](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)

**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.

**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.

**Bridport Community Carnival Committee** enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August (Sat 19 and Sun 20 August this year). Want to help with this sociable event? Contact [joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.bridportcarnival.co.uk](http://www.bridportcarnival.co.uk)

**MMMM! Monday Movie, Meal & Mingling** is a weekly event from United Diversity Bridport (UDB) & Sustainable Bridport. Mondays 6–10pm in the White Room at the Chapel in the Garden, East St (entry via Rax Lane). Inspiring documentaries and short films by local filmmakers. Admission £3 to cover room hire (UDB members free). Food and drink available. Info and tickets: [www.ud.coop/mmmm](http://www.ud.coop/mmmm)

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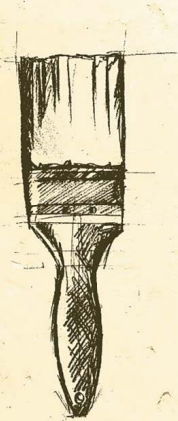
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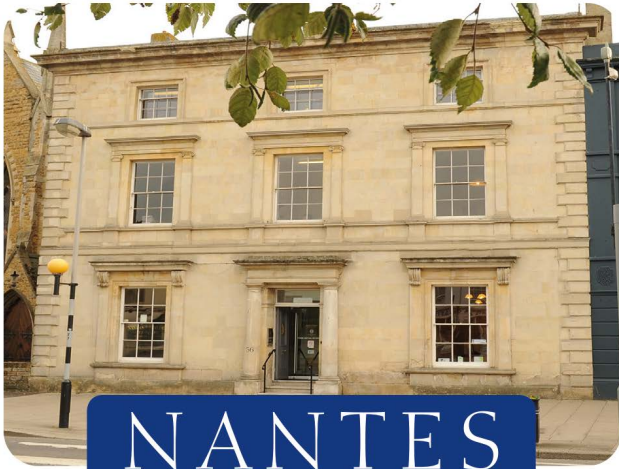
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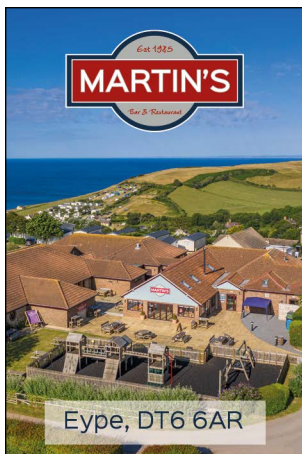
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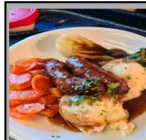
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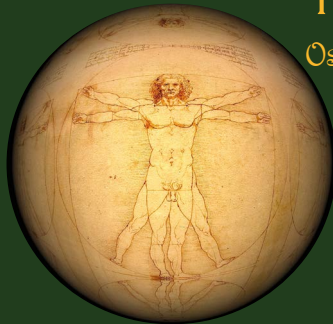
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