

September 2023

# *the* **Bridge**

THIS ISSUE IS

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Rowing boats on the River Brit at West Bay. Photo by Thomas Faull

A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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Martin Whiting

*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 October 2023 issue is 5pm on Monday 11 September**



# September is a time of new beginnings

**Many of us may have had a change in routine during the summer months – perhaps a holiday, a visit to family and friends or a visit from family and friends. Is a change in routine beneficial and restful, however?**

The old English proverb “A change is as good as a rest”, quoted by Winston Churchill, can be interpreted in many ways. It may relate to our daily labours, professional careers or studies. Alternatively, I believe that in times of change we are given an opportunity to view the world through a broader lens and in return to receive new energy and commitment.

In June I visited the National Memorial Arboretum, a place of tranquillity and peace in Staffordshire with 150 acres of beautiful gardens, trees, memorials and statues. It was a deeply moving experience. There were remembrances of all nations, all ages, all social backgrounds, all faiths. I was reminded that these people had experienced and embraced great change in their lives.

The month of September is a time of change for many of our young people: starting school; a change of school; leaving home for further education, university and college; leaving home and family for the first time; starting a job or career for the first time. I wonder if these changes and new experiences will energise them, affirm them, give them a sense of purpose in a fast-changing world. It is also a time of new beginnings, friendships and independence.

On 29 September we celebrate the feast day of Saint Michael and all Angels, Saint Michael the Archangel. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are the three named biblical angels, depicted as the beloved messengers of God. Michael – which means “who is like God” – is portrayed as protector of the chosen people of Israel and a chief prince of the heavenly host.

This season, known as Michaelmas, was originally associated with the completion of the harvest and the beginning of the new cycle of farming: the end of summer, shorter days and the approach of autumn.

We welcome the sight of that flower of simplicity, the Michaelmas daisy, growing in abundance to remind us that the season has changed.

Who are the present-day angels? They are the messengers of hope. They are the committed, unnoticed and unsung people in our community who, day by day and week by week, offer hospitality, kindness and help to all in need.

We have John Wesley’s Rule to remind us how to be present-day angels:

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

*John Wesley 1703–91*

One of the most striking features of Holy Trinity Bradpole is the arch mural above the chancel screen with the distinctive and exquisite painted mural of Christ in glory surrounded by the angels.

*The Revd Janis Moore*



**The Revd Janis Moore**

*Who are the present-day angels? They are the messengers of hope...*

## Welcome back after The Bridge’s summer break

**The Bridge had a summer break last month, and this issue’s Parish Pages are full of photos of some events that took place while we were away.**

Now, though, we’re heading into autumn, and with the slight September chill comes a distinct ‘new term’ feeling. Time for crunchy leaves underfoot, harvest festivals, and getting those woollies out of the back of the wardrobe!



**Olivia Daly**  
Editor

For this month’s ‘In the pod’ interview I met up with Bridport Mayor Dave Bolwell, who told me about his first few months in the role. Dave is relatively new to Bridport, but not to local and regional government, and he and his wife are both passionate advocates for taking an active role in the community. Read more on page 7.



**THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT**

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**St. Swithun’s Church, Allington,  
Bridport DT6 5DU**

**COME AND CELEBRATE**

**SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER**

**Breakfast served from 9am**

**Service from 10am**

**Followed by coffee and biscuits**

**Please add your name to the list  
in your home church**



### Food bank holds its AGM

The first AGM of the Bridport Food Bank, previously called Cupboard Love and now registered as a charity, took place in June. Vice-chair Ian Bark welcomed everybody and said that anyone interested in volunteering or becoming a trustee should talk to those already involved in this important work. The mayor and mayoress were also there and the mayor spoke about his interest in the food bank. After the formal report was approved, there was a presentation from one of the volunteers and a question-and-answer session. There was also a chance to look around the food bank's facilities and to talk to those involved over a cup of tea.

### Come tread the boards... or help out backstage!

The Bridport Stage Company is planning to perform Oscar Wilde's popular play *The Importance of Being Earnest* in early April 2024, and is looking for actors, backstage help and people to make or find costumes and props. The performances (plus a raffle on the nights) will raise funds for Samaritans. The first read-through of the play is on Monday 4 September, and the group meets on Mondays 7–9pm at the British Legion Hall in Victoria Grove. Email Valerie [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk) for details or to volunteer.

### Remembering the Battle of Britain

On Sunday 17 September at 3pm, the Royal Air Forces Association (Bridport and Lyme Regis Group) is holding its annual Battle of Britain service at St John's Church, West Bay. Standards will be in attendance. All welcome.

## Remembering Peter Kershaw 4 November 1940–5 July 2023



**Peter was so much a part of Bridport for the last 40-ish years that his death has been felt very widely, as shown by the number of people at his funeral.**

It is difficult to sum up a man like Peter. He was a polymath – interested in everything, learned in a lot and with many hobbies – but church and family came first. Over the last few years he hoped to go back to playing his electric organ, reading his

pile of books, fishing and more, but the needs of Bridport United Church (BUC) and its people (and of many others) took priority. Even his wife Maureen – his lodestone – and the rest of his adored family sometimes took second place.

Peter was BUC's treasurer, but he shouldered a huge workload of other tasks, coming in almost every day to check on the building, clean the church forecourt, empty all the bins and even clean the toilets. He'd check things were ready for our hirers, and was always at the end of the phone if they had problems with heating, water or IT. He also ran the annual Christmas tree festival for many years. He is a very difficult act to follow.

But it wasn't just BUC he served: he was a driver with Pathways to Care's Good Neighbours, the volunteer hospital car service. A one-time chair of Churches Together in Bridport & District, he had also been very involved in the organisation's Youth Worker project. At their AGM this year he was elected as vice-chair to Philip Ringer's chair – a formidable combination!

He was asked to take services in many places across the region. His services were gentle, from the heart, fascinating and often quietly fairly hard hitting. He didn't go in for formality and used his own simple words to convey the truths he saw.

Peter was an amazingly courageous man. Throughout his illness I never once heard him complain – he tackled "the steep and rugged pathway" courageously. He hated to ask for help, but when he realised he needed it, he accepted graciously.

He told me that if he put his own happiness above others' needs, he wasn't following his Master and would feel a hypocrite. And he was, I think, a man at peace with himself and his God.

On almost the last fishing outing before his final trip to hospital, he took along one of his homeless alcoholic friends from Bridport. He knew most of those on the streets and would talk to them, listening, praying and suggesting practical help.

Peter did so much in his life and gave so much of himself to others – and his whole self to his Master. But in human terms I think what everyone who knew him will remember is his kindness, humility and ability never to judge others. Even if he disagreed profoundly with someone, or felt they had been unkind, he never judged or looked down on them. To him all were equal and deserved respect and love. He felt these lines from the hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* expressed his views well:  
*For the love of God is broader than the measures in our mind,  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind,  
But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own  
And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.*

I was privileged to work so closely with Peter for so long and to get to know him so well. He wouldn't have agreed but I truly believe Peter Kershaw was a great man and a great example. None of us can replace him – but I hope we can try to live up to his ideals of Christian life and of what church families can be like.  
*Sue Herman*



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# Study reveals problems finding NHS dentists

**The Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) has published the findings of its project to gather information about the provision of NHS dentistry in the west of Dorset. The data reveals a serious and deteriorating situation around NHS dentistry in the area.**

The context is that any adult can receive NHS dentistry, with the cost of treatment being subsidised. This will be provided by a dentist who has signed a contract with the NHS. Furthermore, some groups are entitled to free NHS dentistry, including children, women who are pregnant or have a baby, and those in receipt of low-income benefits.

Specific findings from the project include:

- No dental practices in the area currently accept new patients under the NHS dental contract, though all receive frequent enquiries from people searching for NHS care (which offers subsidised dentistry).
- Some practices in the area still treat a portion of their existing patients under the NHS contract, though the extent of this is reducing over time.
- The picture is similar for patient groups entitled to free NHS dental care, such as children, women pregnant or with a baby and those on low-income benefits. Local dental practices provide this to existing patients, but are not taking on new patients.
- The NHS dental contract is unpopular with dental practices, not least its payment structure (three simple tiers) and associated bureaucracy.

• There is a growing shortage of dentists and associated professionals who practise in the area, which is affecting all dental provision though NHS dentistry most of all.

• Three dental practices in the area have lost a dentist fairly recently and have been unable to recruit a replacement.

• While acknowledging that this is a nationwide issue, local experience is that recruitment of dental professionals is especially hard in a rural area such as the west of Dorset.

• Specific issues were also noted with dental or oral health care for special needs groups, such as care home residents, those with dementia and the homeless.

These findings have potentially serious and long-term implications for health inequalities in the local population. They support the conclusion in a Healthwatch Dorset report that many on lower incomes struggle to afford required dental treatment or even check-ups unless they are already registered with a dentist with an NHS contract.

BLAP is sharing its findings with key stakeholders, including the Dorset Integrated Care Board, NHS Dorset, South West Local Dental Network, Dorset Council and the West Dorset MP, and is pressing the case for urgent action. BLAP will also explore the scope for some community-based action that could help improve oral health and care locally.

*For the purposes of this project, “the west of Dorset” means the area west of Dorchester and Weymouth and includes Bridport, Beaminster and Lyme Regis. The full report is available online at [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/dentistry](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/dentistry).*

## THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT

in aid of **tearfund**

All money raised will go to Tearfund, helping to empower people to lift themselves out of poverty

**Saturday 7 October**

**6.30 for 7pm start**

**St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington**

Teams of up to six people • £5 per person

Hot drinks & cake served during the interval  
Bring your own other refreshments

Booking essential: phone 07913 549946



## St Swithun's to host another series of autumn organ recitals

**St Swithun's is once again making the most of its wonderful Conacher organ with a series of recitals in October and November.**

Performers will include professional organists, experienced players and organ scholars. If you attended and enjoyed the series of recitals last year – or if you fancy coming along to hear the organ for the first time – watch out for more information in the October issue of *The Bridge*.

For advance details, please email Mandi Sturrock at [msturrock@pancathay.com](mailto:msturrock@pancathay.com) with the subject 'Organ recitals' to be included on the mailing list.

## Could you help with our deliveries?

The Bridge has a wonderful network of distribution volunteers, who between them deliver about 5,800 copies of the magazine across the town, including in Allington, Bothenhampton, Bradpole, Walditch and West Bay. Many of these stalwarts have been doing their bit for many, many years and we are incredibly grateful. However, there are still some gaps in all our delivery areas and we always need more volunteers! There are 10 issues per year and the magazine is published at the end of the month; most people then do their deliveries within a few days. If you can help us maintain our delivery network, please get in touch by emailing [editor@thebridgemagazine.org](mailto:editor@thebridgemagazine.org).



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



# Bridport Mayor Dave Bolwell: ‘You can stand and watch, or you can do’

**Dave Bolwell has been the mayor of Bridport since May and has already become a familiar face to many locals at both official functions and informal gatherings across the town. We asked him how he’s settling into the role...**

*The Bridge:* How does it feel to be mayor?

*Dave Bolwell:* I’m really enjoying myself, and there’s so much going on. One of the highlights so far was definitely the twinning celebrations, marking our warm relationship with the people of Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue. Forty-two people from the Normandy town came over – their first visit since before Covid – and I gave them an official welcome.

I also loved the carnival and torchlight procession in August – I lit the first torch and led the procession. It’s a really big event for the town and I know many people come here on holiday during carnival week because it’s so special.

I’ve also enjoyed visiting other towns in the area for some civic and fun events and I’ve already opened a shop in Bridport. It’s been very busy!

*TB:* What does the role mean to you?

*DB:* In most other towns and cities, the mayor is also the leader of the council, but not here – it’s separate, so the mayor isn’t politically aligned. It’s a ceremonial role with a one-year term, although we can be re-elected to serve further. My deputy is Ian Bark, who was mayor for the last three years, and I must say it’s been great for a newcomer like me to have his broad shoulders to lean on!

*TB:* And how does your wife like being the mayoress?

*DB:* She’s very happy about it. Of course it’s traditionally a supporting role, but Bridget has her own interests that she wants to pursue this year. The most important one is improving support for



unpaid carers, and being mayoress gives her a voice to promote that. She’s still working as a special educational needs (SEN) consultant in Bath, but she’s determined to find time to fulfill her mayoress role, too.

*TB:* How else do you spend your time when you’re not on official duties?

*DB:* Officially I’m retired (I was a sales engineer for an engineering company) but I’m very busy wearing three ‘hats’ in local government – as well as mayor, I’m also a member of Bridport Town Council and Dorset Council. I’m quite new to Bridport and it’s unusual for a councillor in their first four-year term to become mayor, but I had a shorter ‘apprenticeship’ because I’d been on West Wiltshire District Council for many years when we lived in Bradford-on-Avon. My father was a shop steward and passionate about fighting for people’s rights – he inspired me to become a councillor. You can stand and watch, or you can do!

*TB:* So you like to get involved?

*DB:* Oh yes! When we moved here I joined the Rugby Club committee, and I’d say getting involved there certainly helped me get on the town council. We’re both ‘joiners’ – Bridget volunteers at the Electric Palace and Arts Centre as well as all her other stuff. We like to get stuck in.

*TB:* What brought you both to Bridport?

*DB:* We knew we wanted to be by the sea, and we searched the South West for the perfect spot. We even used Bridport as a base for our search but it never occurred to us that we’d already found our new home, even though we’d been coming on holiday here for 30 years! In the end it was right under our noses – we’ve been here six years now. We live in Bothenhampton and absolutely love it.

*TB:* What challenges are the people of Bridport facing in 2023?

*DB:* The two main issues are a severe housing shortage and a lack of full-time work. People want to move here, and we need to attract key workers to the area, but property prices are high and the local jobs market is dominated by hospitality, which is obviously seasonal and not very secure. Community land trusts are an exciting approach to housing provision – a truly viable alternative to the established property market – and Bridport Cohousing is the biggest project of its kind in the UK. It offers homes for social rent, shared ownership (starting with a 25% share) and shared equity (from 80% share).

I think the way to tackle the employment problem is to explore and expand what we already have. We should be offering more apprenticeships, for example. There aren’t any colleges or further education centres locally, but distance learning is an option – Covid has changed the learning infrastructure right across the world, and this opens up all kinds of possibilities. For instance, Bridport Town Council is investigating ways to introduce a ‘learning hub’ to provide distance learning opportunities in the future and I think this is a very exciting way forward.

*Dave’s weekly blog is available online at [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/news/mayors-blog](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/news/mayors-blog)*

# BridLit announces its 2023 programme

**A dazzling array of writers is lined up for this year's Bridport Literary Festival, which takes place in and around Bridport from Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 November.**

Tickets are now on general sale online at [www.bridlit.com](http://www.bridlit.com) and from Bridport Tourist Information Centre in Bucky Doo Square (01308 424901 / email [bridport.tic@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bridport.tic@bridport-tc.gov.uk)).

Festival director Tanya Bruce-Lockhart says: "The varied programme will appeal to all members of our community and beyond. It's a celebration for all those who read books and love literature.

"BridLit is now firmly in the diaries of our Friends and supporters – we continue to attract audiences of all tastes and ages who enjoy the

festival. Our schedule of events increases annually with an eclectic programme, which this year includes broadcaster Clive Myrie (pictured) with his memoir, *Love Hate and Hope*, Sir Chris Bryant MP talking with Oliver Letwin about why we need to fix Parliament, International Editor of BBC News Jeremy Bowen with his reflections on *The Making of The Modern Middle East*, military historians James Holland and Ben Macintyre, naturalists Patrick Barkham and Megan McCubbin, and the highs and lows of

farmer's wife Helen Rebanks.

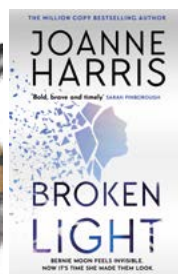
"Eminent historians Tracy Borman and Simon Heffer are joined by novelists Joanne Harris and Amanda Craig, and rewilding champions Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell. We also have Philippa Gregory, one of the world's celebrated historical novelists, who brings us a forgotten social and cultural history of ordinary women."

This year, there will also be a quiz night at Palmers pubs in the area on Wednesday 18 October, with questions geared to literature.

*We'll have more info about this year's BridLit in the October Bridge. Meanwhile, check out [www.bridlit.com](http://www.bridlit.com) and the socials. Programmes are widely available locally.*



Clive Myrie



| 50 <sup>TH</sup> BRIDPORT ARTSCENTRE |                | September WHAT'S ON |   |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| THEATRE                              | FILM           | SPOKEN WORD         | COMEDY EXHIBITIONS MUSIC DANCE                          |
| 28th Aug - 30th Sept                 | 10-4pm Tue-Sat | GALLERY             | WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL?                                      |
| Fri 1st                              | 11:30am        | MUSIC               | CLASSIC CONCERT: RICARDO PES & ALEXANDER BOYD           |
| Thur 7th                             | 7:30pm         | FILM                | FINDING VIVIAN MAIER (12A)                              |
| Sat 9th                              | 8:00pm         | COMEDY              | LAUGH OUT PROUD! (18+)                                  |
| Thur 14th                            | 7:30pm         | FILM                | QUANT (12A)   |
| Sun 17th                             | 3:30pm         | FILM                | BELONGING   BECOMING - PLUS POST SCREENING CONVERSATION |
| Tue 19th                             | 7:30pm         | FILM                | VIDAL SASSOON: THE MOVIE (PG)                           |
| Thur 21st                            | 7:30pm         | MAGIC               | THE GREATEST MAGICIAN                                   |
| Fri 22nd                             | 8pm            | MUSIC               | THE CHARLIE PARKER STORY - NEIL MAYA & PHILIP CLOUTS    |
| Sat 23rd                             | 7:30pm         | THEATRE             | THE INVISIBLE MAN                                       |
| Fri 29th                             | 7:30pm         | DANCE               | UNKNOWN REALMS - ACE DANCE & MUSIC                      |

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## Do you like singing?

**Bridport Choral Society always welcomes new members!**

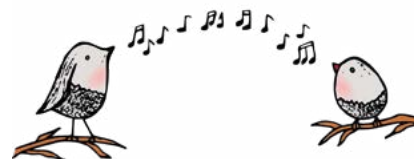
We sing an eclectic mix of musical styles from old to modern: anthems, traditional choral music, folk music, songs from musicals, contemporary tunes.

We meet on Mondays 7.30–9.30pm in the United Church Hall, East St, Bridport. Each year we put on a Christmas concert in December and a spring concert in May.

There are no auditions. Some musical knowledge and ability to read music is useful, but not essential. The cost per term is £50. The first two sessions are free so you can try us out and decide whether we're the choir for you.

To find out more, phone 01308 425987, visit our website: [www.bridportchoral.wordpress.com](http://www.bridportchoral.wordpress.com) or search 'Bridport Choral Society' on Facebook

**Or just turn up at our first rehearsal on Monday 4 September!**



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[advertising@thebridgemagazine.org](mailto:advertising@thebridgemagazine.org)



## ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

### Bring Back My Bonnie to Me!

We now look forward to golden September days, though making plans based on our expectation of the weather is probably inadvisable. The end of July and beginning of August were cloudy, wet and blustery, so summer events at St Mary's were a little curtailed. Our 'Summer Saturday Coffee & Cake' event was held on a day with a yellow weather warning in place, and those who responded to our invitation to afternoon tea on 2 August also battled wind and rain to join us. Plans for the guests to sit in the garden, sipping tea and eating cream scones, were quickly modified, but an afternoon of lively conversation and good entertainment ensued despite the weather.

We had invited the Bridport-based Ukrainian Choir to provide music for the occasion and five of the singers came along to perform a series of Ukrainian songs: music that spoke of the beauty of the countryside, of their homeland and of the people they loved. Valentina Osborne introduced the songs and David Bell provided piano accompaniment.

During the session we learnt how the choir was formed. Margie Barbour, a member of Bridport Refugee Support Campaign (BRSC), gave us a little background:

"When the refugees began arriving in Bridport following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, people reached out their arms to them," she said. "A weekly gathering at the Quaker Meeting House quickly became the centre for hosts and refugees to share information. I was concerned, however, that we were able to offer them very little emotional support. I suggested it might be helpful to form a choir to sing songs from their homeland; it would be accompanied by Andrew Dickson, a talented local musician and composer. Many of the women took up the idea, keen to gather to sing and share the music of their motherland. The BRSC bought traditional blouses for them to wear, and they rehearsed and first performed last year on the anniversary of Ukraine's Independence Day."

On this occasion, as we listened to the songs, we were very aware that these young Ukrainian women were giving us something more than just music and song: they were sharing something of their grief and sadness at all that had been lost. After their singing, Margie suggested it would be good for us to share one of our traditional songs with them,



Above: St Mary's afternoon tea event in early August included songs from Bridport's Ukrainian Choir

and choosing something familiar we found ourselves singing My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean with great gusto!

Although the song's origin is likely to be linked with Charles Edward Stuart – known as Bonnie Prince Charlie – after his defeat at the Battle of Culloden, the use of the term "Bonnie" gives it wider appeal and in more recent times it has often been sung as a love song. As we joined in the repeated refrain "Bring back my Bonnie to me", there was a sense that those gathered felt something of the emotions the refugees had expressed when singing of their mother country at war. Some were moved to tears.

A yearning for the way things used to be lies so deep within us all. As the days of autumn approach, whatever the weather brings, let us recognise and embrace the benefits of telling, singing and sharing those things we have loved and continue to hold dear.

*Lesley Hill (with thanks to Margie Barbour)*

*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.*



## Harvest craft workshop

Saturday 30 September, 10.30am–1.30pm

St Mary's Church House Hall

Adults and accompanied children welcome. Soup and rolls served from 12 noon to 1.30pm. For more details contact Diana on 01308 456967.



## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

Parish editor – Barbara Ffooks 423122  
 Children & youth worker –  
 Jean Mitchell 422127  
 Director of music – vacancy

### From the parish editor

September is the beginning of a new season, with young people returning to school and college after the summer holidays, and clubs and groups starting a new term of activities for the autumn. It is also the month for Ride + Stride, organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT). In this annual event, cyclists and walkers are sponsored for the number of churches they visit, and the money raised is divided between DHCT and the church of the participant's choice. Sponsor forms are available in churches. This year's Ride + Stride is on Saturday 9 September, and we have changed the date of our usual monthly coffee morning in Holy Trinity from the first Saturday to 9 September so we can welcome riders and striders visiting the church. Also there will be cakes and scones available to help raise funds for DHCT.

The photographs shown here are a reminder of the fete held on 1 July on a sunny and breezy day before the weather turned wet and cool for the rest of the month. Everyone enjoyed the stalls and had lunch from the barbecue or refreshments in the church while listening to music from the piano and handbells. Thank you to all who supported the fete, helping to raise £886 for church funds.



**Saturday 9 September, 10am to 12 noon**  
**Holy Trinity Bothenhampton**

Riders and striders are invited to join in our coffee morning and enjoy cake or cheese scones with your coffee. Proceeds to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

**Coffee morning**

The monthly lunches in the village hall last winter and spring grew in popularity, and after the summer break they will be returning from Thursday 12 October. These occasions provide a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in a warm venue. There will be more details in the October Bridge.

Another advance date is Saturday 14 October, when there will be the autumn tidy-up in the afternoon at the Old Churchyard. It is in a very tranquil spot, and keeping it well looked after is much appreciated by the families and friends of loved ones buried there.

We are in need of two more volunteer distributors to deliver The Bridge. One is required for Valley Road, and we still need someone for North Hill Way (both these roads lead off Chestnut Road, which turns off Burton Road). If you can help please contact me on 423122.

*Barbara Ffooks*

**Pictured: The Holy Trinity fete was a great success, with fine weather and plenty of tasty food. Sellers in the craft tent included potter Jill Pryke, and Graham Purse and his grandson did a fine job of keeping the barbecue going**

## 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)

### Church activities

Holy Trinity bellringers continue their evening practices on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. If you are interested in learning this ancient art, please contact the tower captain. The Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers will recommence training in bellringing in the tower on Thursday 7 September.

Tots @ Ten restarts, after the summer break, on Wednesday 13 September.

The church needs regular cleaning, and this is done by a dedicated group of members of the congregation on a rota



## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

basis. Once in a while, however, a special clean is arranged to make sure all the nooks and crannies are clear and no cobwebs are lurking in corners, and we need some extra people to help with this. The next special clean is scheduled for Friday 15 September, 9.30–11am, so if you'd like a tea or coffee and a biscuit or two in return for using a bit of your elbow grease (the English poet Andrew Marvell used the expression in 1672 – it's not to be confused with the brand of cleaning materials of the same name!) do come and offer your services.

Bradpole Brunch begins on Sunday 17 September at 11.30am in the village hall. The sessions always start with cheese toasties or bacon butties, coffee, tea or juice and continue with activities, bible stories and songs for children, and some questions for the adults.

Wildlife is thriving in the churchyard – a slow worm and two large toads have been spotted this summer!

### The Friends of Holy Trinity

The Friends invite you to join them for afternoon tea on Saturday 7 October from 2 to 4pm in the church.

### Village Lunch Club

The club will meet on Tuesdays 12 and 26 September at 12 noon in The Kings Head. Please contact Daphne King (01308 427552) if you would like to come so the pub knows how many to cater for.

### Bradpole Parish Council

The council met on 6 July. It was announced that the 'ease of access' works at Pageants Field Play Area and Gore Cross Recreation Ground had been undertaken and that



'Keep clear – disabled access' signs would be installed. The railway crossing gate at Caley Way would be removed and replaced and the picket fence on either side repaired. The clerk confirmed that repair works to the boundary wall of Holy Trinity graveyard adjacent to the footpath from Village Road to Court Close were the responsibility of the church\*.

The council agreed in principle to the planting of trees in Pageants Field in the autumn by the Bradpole Buzz group using trees donated by the Bridport Tree Planting Group. There would be a site meeting later in the year.

Councillors were still in the dark about how the consequences of the community governance review would affect the parish council, since no information on governance documents (including financial regulations and standing orders) had been received from Bridport Town Council.

Figures from Bridport Citizens Advice (CA) showed that the number of Bradpole residents who received advice and help from CA this year had increased on the previous year from 88 to 113 individuals and from 382 to 503 cases. In light of these figures and the current cost of living crisis, the parish council agreed to donate £400 for 2023/24.

The clerk said there was around £19,000 available in reserves for parish projects plus potentially another £9,000 in the Community Infrastructure Levy from the Broad Road Farm development. Possible project ideas include:

- Dog waste bins on Village Road and the cycle path
- Defibrillators in Pymore and King Charles Estate
- Extending fitness equipment



**Above: Following the successful village fete in early June, Bradpole's fete committee presented a cheque for £1,300 to representatives from Bridport Young Performers**

- Disabled access picnic benches for Pageants Field
- Life belts for the River Brit at Pymore
- Kitchen equipment for the village hall
- Bus shelter replacement.

Councillors were asked to come up with other suggestions to add to the list. A local builder would be repairing the damaged wall, and the noticeboard at the bottom of Jessopp Avenue would be reinstated. It was also confirmed that the criminal damage had been reported to the police.

*\* The church authorities have said that the required repairs were noted in the Quinquennial architectural inspection but that their action is subject to approval by the diocesan archdeacon and would take time because of the bureaucracy involved.*

### The village fete

There was a public meeting in the village hall on 10 July, when those gathered heard a brief outline of the results of the village fete on Saturday 3 June. About 800 people had joined in the fete fun and contributed to the takings of £4,500, with additional income of £750 from sponsors. The fete committee presented a cheque for £1,300 to Bridport Young Performers (pictured above).

### Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The main hall (pictured below) is available for hire by local community groups and private hire and is fully accessible with facilities for the disabled. All enquiries for bookings to Jane Bryant: 01308 427493 / [oxeyedaisyl01@gmail.com](mailto:oxeyedaisyl01@gmail.com). See also the parish council website: [www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall](http://www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall).





## 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)

### Walditch Garden Group

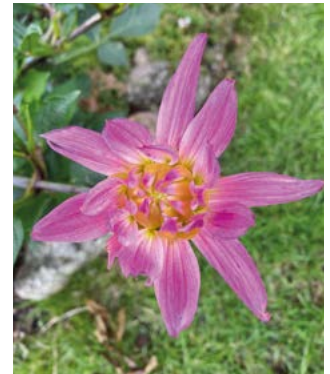
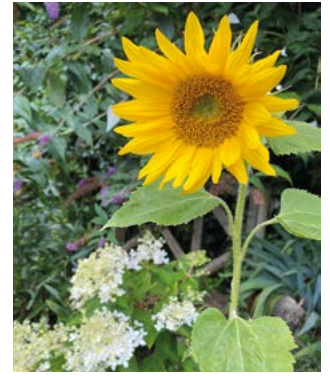
If you are interested in plants and gardens, Walditch Garden Group may be for you. Established several years ago by a small group of villagers, the group runs itself, and we meet throughout the year on the last Thursday of every month (except December) at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along to our meetings, whether from the village or further afield.

Our sessions start with refreshments and the introduction of a topic by a member of the group. Members have varying degrees of gardening experience and expertise, which makes for lively, useful discussion on a wide range of subjects, including for example pests/diseases, dealing with the weather, pruning, and plant choices, problems and successes.

A small subgroup was created four years ago to re-establish the wild area in the Walditch village churchyard. If you are interested solely in this aspect, please do get in touch with us as we are always keen to have other people interested and willing to help with managing this area.

We welcome anybody with an interest in gardening, so if you feel Walditch Garden Group might be for you, do come along at 10am on the last Thursday of the month. There is no membership or subscription fee – we just ask for a contribution of £1 per meeting towards the hall hire and refreshment costs. We hope to see you. Happy gardening!  
Jane Mowatt 07810 110461 / 01308 424581

The photos shown here were taken by various members of Walditch Garden Group



## Thelma's hymn notes

### We Plough the Fields and Scatter

A hymn of the late 18th century based on a German poem by Matthias Claudius and set to music by Johann Schulz in 1800. It was translated into English by Jane Montgomery Campbell and subsequently harmonised by Hull-born clergyman and hymn writer John Bacchus

Dykes, who was the most significant Anglo-Catholic composer of Victorian England. It is probably the best known and loved harvest hymn. The refrain at the end of each verse – "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above..." – makes it especially memorable.

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



### A request from Robin Stapleton

I am in the process of writing a 'timeline' of Walditch history, which will eventually go into the archive. It starts in 1086 and goes right up to the present time. I have a reference that on 16 December 1942 a single Dornier bomber dropped four bombs on Bridport and then machine-gunned Walditch before passing over the coast near Abbotsbury. There is no mention of any casualties.

I am asking if anybody owning a house or building that was here in the 1940s would kindly examine their property for any possible evidence of bullet holes, to hopefully add confirmation and credibility to this piece of our history. Please let me know if you find anything.

*Robin Stapleton*

4 The Green / 456421 / r.stapleton.227@gmail.com

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

### News from St John's

As well as our regular services, we have a wedding on Saturday 2 September, Brit Valley Rotary will be running a bookstall on Saturday 9 September from 10am to 4pm, and on Sunday 17 September at 3pm we have the annual Royal Air Forces Association Battle of Britain service.

I am sure anyone who has visited St John's will be saddened to hear that some of our boats have gone missing, so some of our windowsills are now bare (pictured). Obviously we would like the boats back as they give joy to people who worship here and also emphasise our relationship with the sea and seafarers.



### West Bay WI

After a break during August, the WI will hold their usual Knit & Natter on Wednesday 6 September from 10am to 12pm, then the following week John Caswell will be speaking about local geology at the meeting on Wednesday 13 September at 2.30pm.

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 volunteering at the Discovery Centre I took the opportunity to read some highlighted pieces from a book about West Bay. I couldn't believe just how many shipwrecks were recorded in and around the Bay, but one that caught my eye was the Reine Gabrielle in 1751, with a cargo of honey from Dunkirk. Apparently large numbers of "country people" came down at night in the hopes of making prey of both ship and cargo. They were thwarted in their attempt and the ship was refloated without loss of cargo or hands. I also found it hard to imagine West Bay being cut off from Bridport for days by heavy snow!

This got me thinking about different things that happen every year around here whose origins I'm not familiar with. Every August the Bridport Carnival is followed by the torchlight procession on the Sunday evening. Living on the West Bay road, we get a great view from our upstairs window of the families walking past carrying their torches. So when did this start? Apparently the carnival was started in 1911, abandoned in 1920 and resurrected in 1971 and has been going every year since then (except during the pandemic). It was originally on a Thursday, but changed to Saturday owing to bad weather on Thursdays! This in itself is amazing – how would they know that Saturday's weather was going to be any better, without the technology

that we have today? The Carnival Queen and Princesses were originally crowned by the mayor on the Thursday afternoon in West Bay at the Esplanade cafe. The original torchlight procession came down West Bay Road, turned right along George Street and headed past the bus stop to the East Beach. Nowadays, of course, the procession starts from Bucky Doo Square at 6pm – with around 1,500 torches having been sold – and goes down South Street, over the A35, along West Bay Road and on to East Beach where they are met by music and fireworks.

Much has appeared in the local papers about the big increase in parking charges that came into effect in June. Numbers are down in the Discovery Centre and at the car boot sale, and other local business are noticing a drop in visitors. The Discovery Centre celebrated its fifth anniversary with a party for volunteers and all those involved with the setting up, and Bridport Mayor Dave Bolwell (pictured right) presented certificates to the 17 original volunteers, including me.

Both the West Bay Road campsite and the funfair opened up in July but numbers have been down, mainly because of the poor weather conditions. It was sad to learn of the death in mid-July of David Wynn, who had run the funfair for over 50 years and who we got to know as their dog used to follow us home.

Fortunately the annual raft race and West Bay Days had good weather and were as busy as ever. Once again my granddaughter was down at the raft race and took some photos for me (one is shown below) although due to the crowds she couldn't get as close as she would have liked.

I was a victim of the dreaded seagull attacks the other week. I could not believe the speed with which my ice cream cone was plucked from my hand, fell to the road and was then attacked by about eight gulls. Needless to say my husband did not manage to get a photo of this incident as he was protecting his own ice cream cone!

As chairperson of the West Bay Community Forum, I was told that the road between the Station Yard car park and Green Gables will be closed from 25 September to



**The West Bay raft race**



**Pictured: Bridport Mayor Dave Bolwell (in mayoral chains) came to a party to celebrate the Discovery Centre's fifth anniversary**

20 October for sewerage connection. The next open meeting of the forum will be on Thursday 5 October at 7pm when the guest speaker will be the photographer Neil Barnes. We hope many members and prospective members will attend. Membership is only £5 a year and members are kept up to date with things in and around the Bay.  
*Sue Pollock*



## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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Verger – Graham Williams

07969 826430

[graham\\_williams11@sky.com](mailto:graham_williams11@sky.com)

### Our joyful cream tea event was a hit!

On Saturday 15 July, St Swithun's held a very successful event to mark our patronal festival (or saint's name day) with a cream tea and joyous community performances. The tables were decked with a tombola, raffles and garden produce alongside delicious homemade cakes and nourishing refreshments. The St Swithun's Band played beautifully and powerfully.

Teresa Grinter's many dance groups delighted us with a variety of dances. The little ones – a pre-school group of three and four-year-olds – began the show in their gold lamé outfits. They put on a lovely display and enjoyed using the space. The slightly older group in elfin greens were the five to seven-year-olds, as jolly as elves can be, and the eight to ten-year-olds looked marine-like, moving gracefully in turquoise. The final group were the teens dressed in tartan for a Scottish reel or two. It was a delight to see their creative expression through movement after all their hard work and commitment to dance. The church was at its best, with the dancers' families coming along to watch and afterwards relax in the church hall for a cream tea.

Anna Sullock

## Community coffee morning

First Thursday each month, 9.30–11am

St Swithun's Church, North Allington

Free coffee, cakes and snacks

Raffle in aid of a local charity

All welcome!

**\*NEW TIME\***

**From 7 Sept**

**Pictured: The St Swithun's cream tea in July was an afternoon of jollity and joy, with cakes, dancing and plenty of smiles! There were dance performances from the Lyric School of Dancing and music from the St Swithun's Band. Photos by Tim Russ and Anna Sullock**





## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson  
01308 341159

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

incorporating  
**UPLODERS CHAPEL**

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

### September means a new start for many

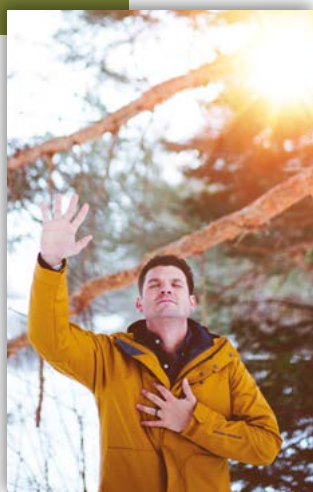
I was employed by schools and colleges for almost my entire working life, so I tend to think of September as the beginning of the new year. Perhaps we have all been conditioned this way to some extent by our own long years in education: September meant new teachers, new subjects and maybe a new school. True, this new year doesn't come with fireworks and sentimental renditions of Auld Lang Syne, but it is no less of a new beginning, when we, refreshed by the glorious freedoms of the summer holiday, would launch ourselves into the adventure of a new term.

Of course, the new Church year doesn't begin until the end of November, but we often have a sense of new beginnings in September. Last September, for example, we welcomed our new minister, Jane Wilson, to BUC. At the end of this September, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to our organist, David Illingworth, who is retiring after many years of service. Members of the choir have very much appreciated his leadership, and he certainly pulled out all the stops to serve us! We wish him every future happiness.

Many of you will know of the monthly Soul Space service (formerly Xalt at St Mary's), BUC's contemporary offering. Maggi and Jon Sutcliffe have been leading the music there for a number of years but they are now leaving Bridport for a new life in Cumbria. We will all miss their input, their in-depth knowledge of different songs, and their talent for choosing just the right ones for any given topic.

I'm sure we all feel that music and singing play a really important role in our worship. Remember how bereft we felt during the long days of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even after we eventually returned to church, we had to sit frustrated behind our masks, listening to the beautiful music from the organ but forbidden to sing the Lord's praises out loud.

Following a stem cell transplant last year, a severely suppressed immune system prevents me and my husband from returning to church just yet. However, a good friend of ours from the church we used to attend in West London has, by coincidence, also had a stem cell transplant. He happens to be a music worship leader in church and is very familiar with a wide range of traditional hymns as well as contemporary worship songs. About a year ago, while he was still self-isolating, he began to send me links to YouTube videos of the songs he felt inspired to listen to each day. My own knowledge of music is very limited, so when two or three songs pop up on my smartphone each day, I find them an invaluable aid to private prayer and worship.



This goes some way to compensate for the painful lack of communal worship in our lives at the moment.

There are a number of reasons why people can't attend church regularly or even at all, temporarily or permanently. Perhaps you are one of these people, sitting in a silent house or flat on a Sunday morning, knowing your brothers and sisters are singing and worshipping together. Perhaps, like me, you could benefit from simply listening to whatever worship music you are drawn to, not merely as background music, but as something to engage with, to inspire your prayer, to remind you that you are not isolated from God.

Perhaps you own CDs, records or tapes of such music, or perhaps (unlike me!) you have mastered the art of streaming music from the internet. CDs should be available from Good Books or from the shop at United Church Dorchester, or you can buy them online from companies such as Amazon.

Of course our prayer life and our walk with Jesus does not need to be restricted to Sunday mornings. All of us, whether or not we can attend church, can be encouraged, comforted and uplifted at any time by worship music. Whether sitting quietly at home, driving or doing housework, we can join in with praise and thanksgiving, perhaps singing along, perhaps simply absorbing what we hear, being reminded that we are not really alone, but are part of a great community of God's people on earth.

Acts 16, verse 25 tells us: "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them."

In Philippi Paul and Silas had been spreading the good news about Jesus. They were arrested, flogged and thrown into prison by the Roman authorities. But here we see that even in the most dire and seemingly hopeless situations, the early Christians sang hymns to God. There is never a bad time to praise the Lord.

The Psalms, of course, are full of song and the encouragement to sing praises. Psalm 9:1,2:

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.  
I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High."  
Whether together or alone, whether happy or despairing, let us never cease to sing the Lord's praises, for He hears every word and note.

*Jennie McGinlay, local preacher*

### September services at Bridport United Church:

|                  |                |   |
|------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 3</b>  | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Jane Wilson</b>  |
|                  | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Soul Space</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 10</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Songs of Praise</b>  |
|                  | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Healing service with Holy Communion (Jane Wilson)</b>                    |
| <b>Sunday 17</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Richard Lownsborough</b>   |
|                  | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Cafe Church: informal cafe-style worship with refreshments</b>           |
| <b>Sunday 24</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Harvest Festival (Jane Wilson) followed by a bring-and-share lunch →</b> |

## Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

### Regular events at BUC

Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 12 noon, except 9 September – all welcome.

|            |           |  |
|------------|-----------|--|
| Mondays    | 10am–noon | Art group (inner hall)   |
|            | 1.30pm    | Archaeology from 18 Sept (inner hall)                                      |
|            | 2pm       | Art history from 18 Sept   |
|            | 2.30pm    | National Trust (fourth only)   |
| Tuesdays   | 7.30pm    | Bridport Choral Society  |
|            | 2pm       | Bridport Blind Club (first & third)  |
|            | 2pm       | Bridport u3a (fourth only)   |
|            | 4.30pm    | Rainbows from 12 Sept  |
|            | 5.30pm    | Brownies from 12 Sept  |
|            | 7.30pm    | New Elizabethan Singers from 12 Sept                                       |
| Wednesdays | 7.30pm    | Bridport Big Band (in church)  |
|            | 12.30pm   | Lunch Club (fourth only). Two-course home-cooked meal. Please book: 422598 |
|            | 5.30pm    | Kickboxing (inner hall)  |
|            | 6pm       | Fitsteps   |
|            | 7.30pm    | Kickboxing (main hall)   |
| Thursdays  | 2pm       | Thursday Club (third only). Tea, games, crafts and chat                    |
|            | 2.30pm    | Bridport History Society (second only)                                     |
|            | 3.30pm    | Messy Church (fourth only)   |
| Fridays    | 5pm       | Slimming World   |
|            | 6pm       | Kickboxing (main hall)   |

### Special events

|             |          |  |
|-------------|----------|--|
| Sat 9 Sept  | all day  | Gardening Club autumn show                   |
| Sat 9 Sept  | from 9am | Ride + Stride – refreshments in church foyer |
| Sat 16 Sept | 10am     | Coffee morning for Macmillan                 |
| Sat 30 Sept | 2.30pm   | Choir celebration                            |

### From Uploders Chapel

The weather in early August was nothing like summer and resulted in some changes to what we thought we would be doing. Fortunately, however, the weather was kind to us – albeit rather breezy – for the joint service with Loders Church, which was held at Uploders Chapel and led by the Revd Jane and the Revd Chris. It was a lovely occasion and we had the added pleasure of singing the hymns to the accompaniment of live music from some great musicians. Jane's husband Graham and their son played guitars and their daughter-in-law played the flute (pictured above).



**Pictured: live music accompanied the hymns at Uploders Chapel's joint service with Loders Church; after the service there was a barbecue in the vicarage garden**

We enjoyed cuppas after the service while those on barbecue duty had to scoot off to the vicarage garden. As usual we thoroughly enjoyed a delicious meal, which had obviously taken a lot of preparation. Add to that the lovely company – what more could we want!

Unfortunately the horrid weather scuppered the Loders Fete and a Plan B had to be put into operation, which sadly resulted in us not having our stall. However, this isn't a huge problem, as we have had a think and have come up with the idea of having our bric-a-brac and books at the chapel on Saturday 9 September, when the building will be open all day for Ride + Stride. So you can ride and stride and have a rummage while enjoying cuppas and cake.

Once again I want to say thank you so much for all the support you give us at the chapel in so many different ways. We really couldn't manage without you. It is a real expression of what a good community is all about and I know we all feel proud and grateful to live here. And the Pop Up Post Office continues to thrive!

So, even though August was a bit awful – weather-wise, anyway – let's look forward to a Superb September.  
*Carol Hall*

### September services at Uploders Chapel:

|                  |                |                          |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 3</b>  | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Peter Clark</b>       |
| <b>Sunday 17</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Chris Warren (HC)</b> |

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

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

### Global boiling!

It's official – July was the hottest month since records began. The scenes of holidaymakers crouching on beaches in Rhodes and elsewhere, desperate to escape wildfires by boat, have perhaps focused our minds. Distressing as this might be, it is nothing compared with the effects climate change will have on some of poorer parts of our world. Reacting to the news, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: "Global warming has been replaced by global boiling! Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning." In the face of such potentially catastrophic

## ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

changes, we must surely finally awaken to the threat we face in our Common Home.

In 2015, Pope Francis instituted in the Catholic Church the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation at the beginning of the ecumenical Season of Creation, which takes place each year from 1 September to the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October.

The Catholic Diocese of Plymouth is currently making new plans to better care for creation, including action to reduce our carbon footprint, but this will only make a difference if we at the local level realise our duty to care for our sisters and brothers and are motivated to take practical action in the care of our Common Home.

In Bridport, the Catholic community is trying to look at what we might usefully do in our own parish. We have already given over part of our church grounds, allowing it to



grow wild, and we have planted trees. We are also actively looking into the possibility of installing solar panels on our church roof to supply our church, hall and priest's house. Luckily our church is well insulated and has efficient double glazing, but as the house is listed we are looking at how we might better insulate it with increased roof insulation and the possibility of internal secondary glazing. Small things, maybe, but they are a beginning.

The Season of Creation is a time to share messages of hope about care for our Common Home and, above all, a time to celebrate God's creation. We have spent many years reading Papal Encyclicals and hearing how we must be good stewards of the earth, but when climate 'warming' has become climate 'boiling', the time has come to stop talking – and start taking action.

*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)

### Meet our family

We know God is working in our town and we hope to encourage you by sharing a story each month of a follower of Jesus.

### Who are you?

My name is Craig and I run Lakeside Garden Antiques at Litton Lakes in Litton Cheney.

As a child I lived in Libya and would often visit many Ancient Greek and Roman sites. Since then, I've had an interest in Greek and Roman history and it still reflects in the creations you'll see at my business (see photo).



### Tell us about your walk with Jesus

I became a Christian when I was about 39 and I'm a work

in progress! Over the past five years, I've been hungry to go deeper and I've really thrown myself into following Jesus. During this time, I came to Beacon, and I've felt my faith has grown tenfold as I've found a family that I'm part of and through this have discovered my gifting: to befriend the lonely, hurting and dispossessed.

My childhood in Libya was one of happiness until June 1969 when suddenly war came and we were evacuated. Much of the joy I'd known was swept from under my feet at just seven years old. I ended up in a damp, grey England and to add to that it was the years when the clocks stayed the same – every day it was pitch black arriving at school!

This experience showed me how easily our whole lives can shift and how hard this can be. God is using me to come alongside the poor and dispossessed in our town and I find such joy in this work.

### How do you see God at work in your week?

During the week you'll find me (and my business partner, Esther the border terrier) at Litton Lakes. It's such a tranquil place here, and I feel very grounded and rooted in God's creation. I love meeting people here and the peace of the place allows me to have really special conversations.

On a Wednesday, you'll find me at the Community Kitchen at Beacon. God has taught me a lot through serving there: how to love, understand and talk to people. Alongside brothers and sisters I've been able to disciple a friend from the kitchen and it was an honour and a privilege to baptise him earlier this year.

## 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. →



## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP continued...

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

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

BRIDPORT  
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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 contact the editor 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 & 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 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 Stroke Club** meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact the secretary, David Lawrence [dandhlawrence@gmail.com](mailto:dandhlawrence@gmail.com)

**Bridport Blind Club** is a social club for the visually impaired. It meets twice a month for tea, entertainment and chat. Part of Dorset Blind Association, which provides personal and technical help. Contact Ian Ibbotson 898484.

**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 11 September the meeting will be 'The Home Team'. Phone 456339.

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet on Thursday 21 September at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when Katherine Crouch will present 'Grasses in the Garden'. Katherine is a garden designer, Chelsea gold medal winner, former Gardener of the Year, and the BBC's Gardener of the Decade in 2008. Open to non-members at £2. More information at [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk)

**Bridport Bridge Club** meets Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons for duplicate bridge at St Swithun's Hall, plus online on Thursday evenings. Friday sessions (not third Fri) are more relaxed. See [www.bridgewebs.com/bridport](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport) or phone Roy Tarsnane 425298. New course for beginners and returners in Bradpole Village Hall, Mondays 2–4.30pm from 23 October. For details or registration contact Martin Angold 861120 / [bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com).

**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.

**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)

**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)

**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 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.

# Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

**Bridport Stage Company** (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group meets Mondays 7–9pm at the British Legion. They are preparing to perform *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Easter 2024 (see p4 for more info). All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie: [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk)

**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)

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

**Bridport History Society** meets on the second Thursday each month (except July and August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £4pp. Membership £10 individual/£15 couple. For membership enquiries contact Adrienne at [af.nantes@btinternet.com](mailto:af.nantes@btinternet.com); for programme enquiries contact Jane at [jferentzi@aol.com](mailto:jferentzi@aol.com) or 425710.

**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.

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

**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 no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings are at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday each month in the Bridport United Church Hall with a guest speaker plus refreshments. On 26 September local naturalist and wildlife photographer Colin Varndell will talk about close encounters with nature. Members free, visitors £3 (incl. refreshments). Also more than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Alastair Forbes 424166 / [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!

**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 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 Group** plants & 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)

**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 each year. Want to get involved with planning this sociable event for 2024? Contact [joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.bridportcarnival.co.uk](http://www.bridportcarnival.co.uk) →

## 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

**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)

**Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association** meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7pm for a 7.30pm start in the Bridport & District Social Club, North St. Ex-matelots and all other ex-military are always welcome. Refreshments available. Contact Bob Bickers [thebickerage@aol.com](mailto:thebickerage@aol.com).

**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.

**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)

**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)

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

## Four new churchwardens for the Parish of Bridport

*The Parish of Bridport has four new churchwardens. They are Michele Craddock, Lesley Hill, Bridget Trump and John Adams.*

*The four wardens will work together to serve the Parish of Bridport and all its churches, rather than being associated with one church. They are currently worshipping at a different church in turn each month, so parishioners can get to know them.*

*"Our churchwardens are doing all they can to be accessible, to offer a listening ear, to serve this parish and to do all that in the context of prayer," says the Revd Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector.*

*The four wardens' phone numbers are on page 2. They are sharing an email address: [churchwardens@bridport-team-ministry.org](mailto:churchwardens@bridport-team-ministry.org)*



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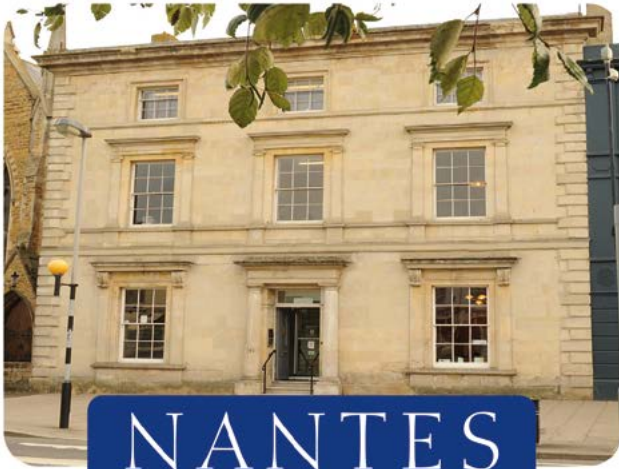


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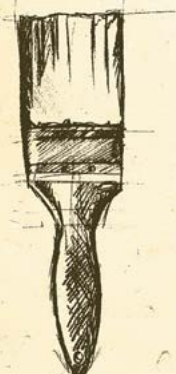
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