

November 2023

# *the* **Bridge**



THIS ISSUE IS

**CAPSTONE**

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

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## Hall bookings

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

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

**The advertising and copy deadline for the December/January issue is 5pm on Monday 6 November**

# Plenty to look forward to in November

**November can feel like a dour month, as the mornings and evenings get darker, the leaves on the trees fall, flowers and plants begin to die back and we get a hint of the wintry weather ahead.**

But there's plenty to celebrate in November – not just the beauty of a misty sunrise, or a cobweb sparkling with frosty dew, or a welcome hot drink after a cold walk, but also in the 'special' days of November that offer opportunities for remembrance, thanksgiving and inspiration:

All Saints' Day, 1 November, was designated a holiday in the ninth century and was formerly known as All Hallows Day, from 'hallowed', an ancient word meaning 'holy' (as in 'Hallowed be Thy Name' in the Lord's Prayer). Traditionally people of goodwill from all ages and walks of life are remembered and celebrated on this day.

All Souls' Day falls on 2 November and is a day for giving thanks for the lives of those who have died, not just the great and the good but ordinary people we've loved and lost. There are memorial thanksgiving services in many places at this time of year.

Bonfire Night – 5 November – marks the saving of Parliament from the Gunpowder Plot to blow it up in 1605, and bonfire and firework displays are held across the UK with spectacular displays of colour and light.

Remembrance Day is 11 November, when we pause and remember with gratitude the end of World War I and the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in wars across the globe in the search for peace and the greater good.

This date is also the feast of St Martin, a fourth-century Roman pagan soldier who became a Christian and dedicated his life to caring for others, famously cutting his cloak in half to give to a beggar he saw shivering in the winter cold. Tradition has it that if the wind is in the south-west on St Martin's Day it will be a mild winter, but if it's in the north-west, a severe winter will follow.

Three more saints are celebrated in November. St Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians, has her feast day on 22 November. According to legend, she dedicated her life to Jesus at an early age; when forced to marry against her will, she told her husband of her vow, and he too became a

Christian and was baptised. Later both were martyred for their faith. Cecilia's story is told in the Second Nun's Tale in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

On 25 November we celebrate St Catherine,

after whom the Catherine Wheel firework is named. She was another devout young Christian

woman, noted for her care for the sick, especially those who were outcast from society. When she refused to renounce her faith as a teenager, the Roman emperor of the

time ordered her execution. Joan of Arc cited Catherine as her source of counsel and inspiration.

St Andrew's Day falls on 30 November, celebrating the apostle and friend of Jesus, a fisherman who became, as Jesus promised, a fisher of men, and was also martyred on a saltire cross for his faith in Jesus Christ.

And the last Sunday before Advent, at the end of the month, is known as 'Stir Up Sunday' after the prayer for the day in the Book of Common Prayer, which begins with the words: 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people.' This was traditionally the day when everyone in the family would take a turn at stirring the Christmas pudding, in preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

However you choose to celebrate November, may you and yours be blessed by the remembrance of God's gift of love in Jesus for all people!

*The Revd Jane Wilson, Bridport United Church*



**The Revd Jane Wilson**

*The feast days and festivals of November offer opportunities for remembrance, thanksgiving and inspiration*

## Bishop of Salisbury to visit

**The Parish of Bridport will welcome the Bishop of Salisbury on Advent Sunday, 3 December.**

The Rt Revd Stephen Lake (pictured), who was consecrated as the 79th Bishop of Salisbury last year, will be leading the whole parish, drawing in the congregations of our six churches, in a service at St Mary's Bridport.

Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector, says: "We are delighted to welcome our bishop to Bridport on Advent Sunday, the first day of the Christian year. Bishop Stephen will lead our parish Eucharist and preach at the 10am service and we are keen to give him a very warm Bridport welcome!"

Bishop Stephen was born and grew up in Poole. After working in Poole General Hospital and as a community service volunteer in London, he trained and was ordained deacon in 1988 in Salisbury Cathedral, returning 34 years later as bishop.

He says: "It is such a privilege and a joy to be called back to the Diocese of Salisbury as bishop. To be able to serve in the places that formed me will be something rare and special."



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

**FUN QUIZ**

**Friday 17 November at 7pm**

**Doors open at 6.30pm**

Teams of six (max)

£5 per head in cash on the door  
for church funds

**Bring your own nibbles and drinks**  
**During the break there will be standing**  
**bingo, a raffle and refreshments**

**ALL WELCOME • Extra parking at Amsafe**

**Please book in advance: 07741 457505**

<b>November 2023</b>	<b>St Mary's Bridport</b>	<b>St Swithun's Allington</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Bothenhampton</b>	<b>Holy Trinity Bradpole</b>	<b>St Mary's Walditch</b>	<b>St John's West Bay</b>
<i>Wednesday 1</i>	2.30pm Holy Communion					
<i>Thursday 2</i> <i>All Souls</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 3</i>						
<i>Saturday 4</i>						
<b>Sunday 5</b> <i>All Saints</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion 3pm All Souls service	3pm All Souls service 4pm Contemplative Church	10am PARISH SERVICE Holy Communion	3pm All Souls service		
<i>Monday 6</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 7</i>				2.30pm Holy Communion		
<i>Wednesday 8</i>						
<i>Thursday 9</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 10</i>						
<i>Saturday 11</i>						
<b>Sunday 12</b> <i>Remembrance</i>	8am BCP Holy Communion 10.50am Remembrance service	9.30am Eucharist	10.50am Remembrance service	9.30am Remembrance/ Morning Praise	4pm Remembrance service	10.50am Remembrance/ Holy Communion
<i>Monday 13</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 14</i>						
<i>Wednesday 15</i>						
<i>Thursday 16</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Friday 17</i>						
<i>Saturday 18</i>						
<b>Sunday 19</b>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion 11.30am Bradpole Brunch (village hall)		11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 20</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 21</i>						
<i>Wednesday 22</i>						
<i>Thursday 23</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Friday 24</i>						
<i>Saturday 25</i>						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
<b>Sunday 26</b>	8am BCP Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Praise
<i>Monday 27</i>		4.30pm Evening Prayer (hall)				10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tuesday 28</i>						
<i>Wednesday 29</i>						
<i>Thursday 30</i>		10am Eucharist				

# 'Stick with Love' is our message this Advent

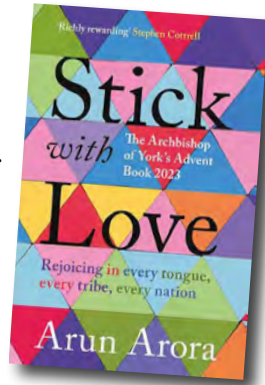
## Stick with Love this Advent!

That's the invitation from the Parish of Bridport, as we delve into the stories of the lives of an intriguing range of people, from St John of the Cross to Leah Sharibu, George Floyd and Stormzy.

The Archbishop of York's Advent study book by Arun Arora is an invitation to meet these fascinating people – some familiar, others not so much – in our journey towards Christmas.

Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector of Bridport, says: "It's the custom of many in the church to use the weeks in the run up to Christmas to reflect and study together as we prepare for the wonder and joy of Christmas. This year we want to invite those who've never joined a group before to give it a go, too.

"I hope this book will spark our thinking about big questions: how we cope with the challenges life brings; where we find a sense of belonging; the importance of



relationships; and how the stories of those who are different from us can help us to understand the world and ourselves better."

The book has a range of short reflections on the lives of women and men for each day of Advent. Read about these fascinating people and then come along and discuss your thoughts with others. Whether you are a person of faith or not, there's a lot to talk about.

Deb adds: "The title of the book comes from the words of Dr Martin Luther King, who said: 'I have decided to stick with love... hate is too great

a burden to bear.' Surely that's a great conversation starter!"

Each Saturday in December there will be a chance to drop in from 10am at St Mary's Bridport to chat over coffee – or why not join a group, including one meeting on Wednesday evenings at The Woodman? Look out for times and dates on the parish website, [www.bridport-team-ministry.org](http://www.bridport-team-ministry.org).

## Parish 'Big Quiz Night' raises £463 for Tearfund

Last month, for the first time, the Parish of Bridport took part in the Big Quiz Night organised by Tearfund, a Christian charity that works to address poverty in 50 countries. The event was open to the whole community and raised an impressive total of £463.

Ten teams competed and the winners were Hells Bells, representing the St Mary's bellringers. In second place were the Shipton Gorgeous, representing the Shipton Gorge bellringers, and the Banana Bunch came third.

Organisers would like to thank all those who donated raffle prizes, including Palmers Brewery, Groves, Waitrose and Washingpool Farm. The event was made even more special by all those who baked cakes for the interval and served them to the hungry quizzers: thanks go to Angie, Liz, Debbie and Sue.

"Having the donated prizes means that every pound raised goes to Tearfund," says Janet Robinson. "Huge thanks to the generous donors and to our quizzers for coming along and making it such an enjoyable evening."

See page 3 for a further quizzing opportunity on 17 November. There's also the Christmas Hampers & Stockings charity quiz at St Mary's Church House Hall on 18 November, and the Mayor's Quiz on 19 November.



Question master  
Ian Bark with  
scorekeeper  
Paul Groom

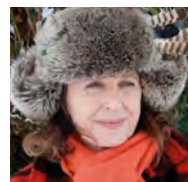


Winning team  
Hells Bells

## Last call for BridLit!

**Many Bridport Literary Festival events are sold out, but tickets are still available for a few fascinating speakers if you fancy a last-minute ticket purchase. The festival runs from 5 to 11 November.**

In a love letter to goodness and wisdom, farmer's wife Helen Rebanks shares the joys, wonder and the grind of daily life in *The Farmer's Wife: My Life in Days*. Electric Palace, Sunday 5 November at 4pm.



On Tuesday 7 November at 2pm, nature writer Keggie Carew (pictured) will be at the Bull Hotel talking about her book, *Beastly: A New History of Animals and Us*, the 40,000-year story of our changing kinship with the animal world from the smallest microbe to the largest creature that ever lived.

And zoologist Megan McCubbin (who is Chris Packham's stepdaughter) issues a call to arms for us all to join the battle against extinction in *An Atlas of Endangered Species*. Electric Palace, Saturday 11 November at 4pm.

Tickets from Bridport TIC (424901) or [www.bridlit.com](http://www.bridlit.com).

## Bursary winners announced

**The winners of Bridport Literary Festival's first bursary award scheme are Jessica St Barbe Baker from Mosterton and Medwin Stephen from Bridport.**

Jessica, a student at the Beaminster and Sir John Colfox Joint Sixth Form, will go to Yeovil University Centre for a foundation course in childhood studies followed by a BA degree and postgraduate certificate in education. Medwin, currently at Colyton Grammar School, is going to Selwyn College, Cambridge, to read chemical engineering and biotechnology. They will each receive £3,000 a year for three years to help with their studies.

Festival director Tanya Bruce-Lockhart says: "The BridLit trustees and I are delighted to be able to contribute to the next stage of the education of two brilliant young students."

# Organ recitals at St Swithun's Church

There are three remaining recitals in this season's series. Admission is free with a retiring collection. St Swithun's Church, Allington, Bridport DT6 5DU

Saturday 4 November at 3pm **Peter Shepherd, organist at Chesterfield Parish Church**, will play works by Byrd, Duruflé & Rachmaninov

Sunday 12 November at 3pm Students taught by Richard Godfrey under the **Salisbury Diocese PipeUp** scheme, from beginners to Grade 8+. A programme of mostly short pieces, but including substantial works by JS Bach

Sunday 19 November at 3pm **Alex Davies, musical director at Lyme Regis Parish Church**, will play music by Bach, Bairstow & Mendelssohn



Tim Russ

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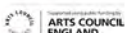
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SAT 25 NOV - WED 20 DEC

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Bridport Chamber Orchestra

## AUTUMN CONCERT

St Swithun's Church, Bridport  
Sunday 26 November, 3pm

Conductor: David Hedges

Leader: Alexandra Ennis

Chacony in G minor - Purcell

Concerto VIII - Corelli (*The Christmas Concerto*)

Concerto for Violin in E major - Bach

Soloist - Alexandra Ennis

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Eine Kleine Nachtmusik - Mozart

String Symphony No. 7 - Mendelssohn

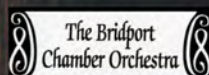
TICKETS | £12 (under 16 free)

from The Book Shop, Bridport,

Orchestra members or at the door.

Tea and cakes will be served after the concert.

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# Caring for the graves of the fallen

**Robin Stapleton takes a look at the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission...**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was originally called the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC), which received its royal charter on 21 May 1917. Its name was changed in 1960 to reflect the changed times, and the organisation is now supported by Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa as well as the UK.

The CWGC cares for the graves of 1.7 million men and women who died in the two world wars, and looks after cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations in over 150 countries. War graves for subsequent conflicts, such as the Falklands, are outside its mandate but it does help with design, construction and management. The largest cemetery, Tyne Cot in the Ypres Salient, has 12,000 burials, more than 8,000 of which sadly bear the inscription: "A soldier of the Great War – known unto God". Tyne Cot also has a memorial wall naming nearly 35,000 missing with no known graves.

Other sites range in size down to just a single burial in a churchyard or communal cemetery. Here in Bridport, there are CWGC burials in the churchyards at Old Bothenhampton (2), Bradpole (1) and Walditch (2) plus 11 WW1 and 13 WW2 in the cemetery in Lower Walditch Lane.

Among the 200 memorials in the CWGC's care, perhaps the best known is the Menin Gate in Ypres, bearing the names and regiments of over 54,000 Empire servicemen with no known grave. It is one thing just to quote a number; it is truly harrowing and overwhelmingly sad to see all those names filling the walls. Sailors lost at sea are recorded on the Royal Navy memorials at Southsea (Portsmouth), Plymouth and Chatham.

The IWGC arose out of the vision and single minded determination of Fabian Ware (later Sir). At the start of WW1, Ware was in charge of a Red Cross mobile medical unit, largely operating on his own initiative with the aim of searching for the wounded and missing



**Above: the Menin Gate memorial, Ypres  
Right: CWGC graves at Bridport Cemetery (top) and St Mary's Walditch**



to bring them back to British lines. Later Ware added a light hospital and a fleet of ambulances. With soaring casualties, the unit became increasingly involved in identifying and registering the dead and where they had been buried. Crosses with information written on them were left for later identification. It was dangerous and demanding work.

This work became formalised in the Graves Registration Commission (GRC), which dealt with political complications, negotiations and not least controversy. Out of all this arose the IWGC, with Ware continuing as the driving force throughout. The French and Belgian governments donated land for cemeteries in perpetuity and Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker were among the architects engaged.

It was an early decision that repatriation would not be allowed and all the fallen would be treated equally with no distinction on account of military or civil rank. A grave of a private could be next to that of a general, but account should be taken of religious and national sensitivities.

The GRC, after consultations, decided headstones should be uniform and normally of Portland stone with standard dimensions. Each headstone bears a national or regimental badge, rank, name, unit, date of death and an appropriate religious symbol. Relatives were allowed to choose a small personal dedication approved by IWGC. Recipients of the VC or GC would have that emblem included.

The GRC proposals were controversial

and did not go unchallenged. In particular, some families wanted to bring their relative home to be buried in, say, a local churchyard or to choose a headstone and wording. This culminated in a petition to the Prince of Wales resulting in an emotional and to some extent bitter debate in parliament on 4 May 1920. At the end of the debate, members were urged not to force a division: "A division would harass every one of us. Our officers and men alike, on every stricken field have fallen together. In their death they were not divided. Let us, their fathers, not be divided here." There was no vote.

The headstones are mostly laid out in straight lines with grass paths and a small flower border in front of each grave beautifully maintained by CWGC gardeners. The larger cemeteries have a shelter, large Cross of Sacrifice and a Stone of Remembrance commemorating those of all faiths or none.

The CWGC holds extensive records and archives including the location and plot number of every burial or where named on a memorial. You can search for a grave online here: [www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead](http://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead).



# The Burma Star Association in Bridport

**The Bridport branch of the Burma Star Association (BSA) was founded by Les Rose in the 1980s, when he and his wife, Phyllis, moved here.**

Les had previously worked at the headquarters of the BSA in London, and soon set about setting up a branch in Bridport. He put a notice in the local papers asking holders of the Burma Star to contact him if they were interested in forming a local branch.

On 17 February 1988 the first committee met at Les's house in North Allington, where he and Phyllis were joined by Peter Freeman, Ken Smith, Roy Hawker, Bob Collins, Charles Everidge and his wife, and a Mr Eland.

Their aims were to represent Burma Star veterans in local remembrance parades and church services and provide support and welfare to deserving Burma Star veterans and widows. The branch had to raise funds to buy a standard, which was blessed by the Revd Roger Shambrook, Vicar of St Swithun's, on 6 November 1988. Brigadier Baly, Commander of the Blandford army camp, dedicated the Bridport standard at the camp on 1 October 1989. Many branch members joined in the celebrations at Blandford, including then-Mayor of Bridport Daphne Stebbings (Mundy).

The standard now rests in St Mary's Bridport and is regularly taken out for VJ day commemorations and Armistice parades by the Friends of Bridport Burma Star Association (BBSA).

In 1994, branch committee member Roy Loring commissioned and installed the Burma Star stone plaque in the hall porch at St Swithun's. It was dedicated in August 1995 by the Revd Roger Shambrook and unveiled by Mrs



Slowcock, the great-grandniece of Field Marshal William Slim. Mrs Slowcock lived near Bridport at the time.

The branch soon expanded to include Dorchester and Weymouth and they continued to support each other until the branch closed on 13 August 2015.

The surviving branch members – Charles Everidge, Stuart Hawkins and Bill Amor of Bridport and Reg Carter and Doug Montague of Weymouth – all helped to close the branch and to create the Friends of BBSA in January 2015. The group is made up of three widows, four daughters, one son and ten friends of the Burma Star members, and they carry on the branch's good work, marching in the Armistice parade, laying wreaths and cleaning and maintaining the memorials. They also meet socially for lunch. New members are always welcome: contact Ann Ayling (424896).

For 37 years the Bridport clergy have been actively involved with the BSA, giving their time, support and blessing to the Bridport branch and more recently to the Friends of the BBSA.

The branch chaplains have included: the Revd Roger Shambrook; Canon Trevor Stubbs; the Revd Gordon Sealy, whose wife Marilyn still worships at St Swithun's; the Revd Tug Wilson; and the Revd Ann Ayling.

*Liz Jones*

**“British and Indian troops fought hand to hand with the Japanese through mud and jungle, in monsoon and dense tropical heat, the air around them swirling with bullets and disease. At one point they faced each other across a British diplomatic tennis court.”**  
**The Times, Saturday 22 June 2019.**

On Garrison Hill, above Kohima on the Indian frontier with Burma, 1,500 Allied troops clung on against 15,000 Japanese. In 2013 the Battle of Kohima was named by the National Army Museum as “Britain's greatest battle”. The Japanese invasion of India was reversed. And this by what is often known as The Forgotten Army.

When I was six years old, my mum walked into my bedroom late one night with a strange man. “Ann, this is your daddy,” she said. Percy Frederick Storr – “Pip”, my dad – had spent the war in Burma in the Royal Signals Regiment. Like most veterans he never spoke of his experience, and died, six years later, of lung cancer brought about by incessant smoking – a legacy of war.

In 2012 I was asked to be the chaplain of the Bridport Burma Star Association. There were then still surviving veterans, but in 2015 we became the Friends of BBSA. We continue to commemorate VJ Day in August, with services at St Swithun's and the memorial in St Mary's Churchyard; we gather at the memorial on the 11th hour of the 11th day in November and take part in the parade and service on Remembrance Sunday. We meet socially once or twice a year.

Recent donations to the Friends have included a ceramic poppy from the Tower of London display (now in St Mary's Church), two Burma Star badges, a banner, a carved wooden plaque, memorabilia and a shield, which is displayed in St Swithun's.

In August 2020 the national Burma Star Association closed, owing to falling membership, although it still continues its charitable work. Many members of the Friends are relatives of veterans and we continue – so that their contribution to the Burma campaign is not forgotten.  
*The Revd Ann Ayling*

## St Mary's Church House Hall seeks a new treasurer for 2024



Institutions such as ours provide a valuable service to local residents and depend on those willing to donate their time – are you one? If you are numerate, can handle Excel spreadsheets and would like to volunteer to help the committee of this valuable, charity-run community asset in South Street, please contact the current treasurer for more information: 01308 423442 or churchhousehalltreasurer@gmail.com.



## ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

### Living stones adorned by ivy

Bunches of light yellow-green flowers can be seen on the ivy that sprawls across the walls of St Mary's churchyard. In October the ivy flowers provide a rich nectar source for bumble bees and butterflies, and this makes us happy. But what does ivy do to walls? A spot of research shows that opinion is split on this question, and so it seemed when a section of the dry stone wall in St Mary's churchyard recently collapsed. Some thought that the ivy might, in part, be holding the wall together, while others believed it was the size and spread of the ivy roots that had caused the wall to collapse. Both opinions were evidence-based and both were probably true. Whatever the exact cause of the problem, however, the stones were now scattered on the ground!

A Saturday morning in August saw a group of us standing around the stones, hands on hips, wondering if our experience solving jigsaw puzzles would allow us to make good the damage. It didn't take long for us to realise that the task was well beyond our skills! We contacted Peter Mason, a member of the Dry Stone Walling Association who spent 30 years in the Derbyshire Dales perfecting his craft as a professional waller. Peter agreed that the ivy question was not without its complexities but, this aside, he was confident he could repair and restore our wall.



**Pictured: a collapsed area of dry stone wall in St Mary's churchyard (left); after mending by expert Peter Mason**

The two external faces of a dry stone wall are built of large, solid stones with little space between them; by contrast, the centre is filled with smaller stones with relatively large spaces in between. Consequently, a typical wall is heavier on the outside than in the middle, and in this lies its strength.

We were all delighted to see the restoration work reach its completion and the picture of many stones of different sizes and shapes fitting so well together to give strength and protection seemed an apt metaphor for our faith. In the New Testament, Peter the Apostle writes to encourage believers: "Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life." (1 Peter 2:5)

The wall itself cannot really be said to be vibrant with life but its complex structure definitely makes it a thing of artistic beauty. And whatever the arguments for and against the presence of the clingy *Hedera helix*, the butterflies that feed on the ivy flowers are a wonder of creation. Time and again we find that the solutions to problems are not straightforward but complex and nuanced. Together, as stones in a wall, we seek the way forward that melds the qualities of strength and beauty.

### All Souls service

On Sunday 5 November at 3pm we will be holding a special All Souls service at St Mary's Bridport. This is an opportunity for anyone who grieves the loss of a loved one to come and join with us in an act of remembrance. Families across the town for whom we have held a funeral service in the last year have been invited by letter, but we would like to offer a much wider invitation to anyone who would like to come and share in this service and light a candle in gratitude for the life of a loved one.

*Lesley Hill*

*Covid-19 made a huge impact in so many ways and many of our regular donors have not been able to support the church as they once did. If you can make a donation, whatever you can give, you will be helping us to maintain our beautiful church and its ministry in the heart of Bridport.*



**Pictured: Young artist Hattie Noble (4) gets a helping hand from Eileen Dearden at a recent harvest-themed craft session at St Mary's Church House Hall. The results of the session were used to decorate the church for the harvest season**

## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

### From the parish editor

Holy Trinity Church was very attractively decorated for our harvest celebration on 8 October (pictured). The sound of handbells ringing welcomed the congregation to the service, and Graham Purse led the worship. Afterwards there was a delicious ploughman's lunch for all to enjoy. We owe a big thankyou to Graham and Heather and everyone who helped to make the occasion special.

Our popular coffee mornings continue, the next one being on Saturday 4 November, 10am till 12 noon. The following one on 2 December will have a Christmas theme. If anyone who makes craft items wishes to hire a table for £5 to sell Christmas goods and items for presents, please book with Heather (423220).

The monthly hot lunches in the village hall are back (details below) providing a couple of hours with others



## Luncheon Club

at Bothenhampton Village Hall

Thursday 9 November

From 12 noon; lunch served at 12.30pm

Come & enjoy a two-course hot lunch with others

- Pork & pear or mushroom & chestnut hotpot
- Plum crumble

Cost £5.50. Please book so we have numbers for catering:  
 Heather Purse 423220 /  
[heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk)



## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232  
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Distribution – Janet Robinson  
 07913 549946 / [jrb-jrb@outlook.com](mailto:jrb-jrb@outlook.com)

Tower captain – Janet Robinson

For pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (day off Wed)

## The Parish of Bridport Festival of Light Service

A celebration of the beginning of Advent through carols and lessons

Holy Trinity Church  
 Bothenhampton

Saturday 2 December  
 at 6pm  
 followed by mulled wine  
 and mince pies



enjoying a two-course lunch in a warm room. If you would like to go on Thursday 9 November, please book so Heather knows how many to cater for.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to tidy the Old Churchyard in October. We hope to lay some weed-suppressant matting and cover it with new gravel on the path to the Old Church. Over recent years the amount of weeds has been difficult to control, so hopefully this remedy will help to reduce them.

At the end of the summer holidays we were aware of a small number of items missing from the church. None had any real monetary value. However, we would like to see the return of a long, green bible marker that sits on the lectern. This piece, together with the altar frontal and the pulpit light-stand cover, was made by people in the village. It is not easy to match the material, so if anyone finds it could they please put it back in the church.

The parish service on the first Sunday in November will be at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton at 10am, followed by refreshments. The next week is Remembrance Sunday on 12 November, when the service will start at 10.50am so we can observe the two minutes' silence.

The beginning of December sees the start of the Advent season. On Saturday 2 December Holy Trinity will be holding a Festival of Light service for all the parish at 6pm (please note: this is a Saturday). It is a lovely service of hymns, anthems and readings with candlelight.

Barbara Ffooks

**FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall**  
**Saturday 25 November. Title to be announced**  
**Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm**  
**Refreshments available**

Please book by emailing [lenc2413@outlook.com](mailto:lenc2413@outlook.com)

### Eco Church

The Church of England's Environment Programme attempts to respond to the climate crisis and is an essential part of our responsibility to safeguard God's creation and achieve a just world. Climate change hits hardest in the poorest countries of the world and affects the poorest people most dramatically. Meanwhile, the widespread destruction of the natural world is a crisis for creation. The programme encourages churches to respond through A Rocha ([www.arochoa.org.uk](http://www.arochoa.org.uk)).

The scheme is designed to equip churches to care for God's creation through their activities in five categories:

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

worship and teaching; management of church buildings; management of church land; community and global engagement; and lifestyle.

Holy Trinity has been registered with A Rocha UK for about four years and has been considering applying in due course for accreditation at bronze award level, for which we must attain the required standard in all of the categories that apply to our church. We would have to complete an online survey comprising a series of questions under the five headings above.

### Bradpole Brunch

This will be held at 11.30am on Sunday 19 November in the village hall.

### The Friends of Holy Trinity

The next Bradpole coffee morning will be held on Thursday 7 December in the church from 10am until 12noon. Please put this in your diary.

### Village lunch club

The club will meet on Tuesdays 14 and 28 November at 12 noon in The Kings Head. Please let Daphne King (427552) know if you'd like to come so she has numbers for catering.

### Bradpole Parish Council

The council met on Thursday 7 September. A new councillor, Patrick Mooney, was co-opted unanimously and welcomed to the council.



The clerk said that the builder who had repaired the noticeboard wall in Jessopp Avenue had advised against refixing the noticeboard to the repaired wall because of a lack of support. The council therefore proposed to install a free-standing noticeboard in a style similar to those already in the parish.

Councillors agreed to a £250 contribution towards the cost of installing lifebelts at the River Brit at Pymore. They also agreed to contribute £1,000 towards new kitchen equipment for the village hall, and the clerk will liaise with the village hall trustees to determine what is required. The council will be working with Bridport Town Council (BTC) to refurbish the bus shelter at the A35 junction with Lee Lane. A new interpretation board (similar to those erected by BTC) will be installed to complement the newly replaced gates at Railway Crossing Gardens.

Other items discussed were: the installation of defibrillators at Pymore and King Charles Estate, which



**Pictured: Bradpole Parish Council discussed the installation of an interpretation board by the new gates at Railway Crossing Gardens**

was deferred because they are expensive and require community involvement; disabled access at Gore Cross path to the fitness trail – costs to be investigated further; and dog waste bins on Village Road and the cycle path – to be investigated.

An updated map for the Pageants Field tree planting proposal was circulated to all councillors and included the addition of the coronation bench to be located by the copse. All councillors agreed with the updated plan, which the clerk will now progress with the Buzz Group.

If there are any issues that you'd like to raise with the parish council, please email the parish clerk: [bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole@dorset-aptc.gov.uk).

### Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The annual general meeting of the trustees, which will be open to the public, will be held on Monday 13 November at 7.30pm. The date in October was provisional and had to be changed.

The main hall (pictured) is available for hire by local community groups and private hire and is fully accessible with facilities for the disabled. All enquiries for bookings to Jane Bryant:



01308 427493 / [oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com](mailto:oxeyedaisy101@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

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725  
[walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com](mailto:walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com)

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

### Harvest at St Mary's Walditch

There was a Harvest Songs of Praise service at St Mary's Walditch on Thursday 5 October, led by the Revd Ann Ayling. Our flower arrangers had decorated the church beautifully, including around the altar (pictured overleaf), and everyone appreciated the results of their labours.

Our organist, Thelma Pulman, led the congregation in their enthusiastic singing of the five hymns: For the Beauty of the Earth; O Lord My God, When I in Awesome Wonder; Come Ye Thankful People Come, Raise the Song of Harvest Home; All Creatures of Our God and King; and Great Is →

## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

Thy Faithfulness, O God My Father.

The Creed was particularly fitting, with several thought-provoking sentiments but especially this: "We are thoughtless and do not care enough for the world you have made."

The Old Testament reading was Joel 2:21–27 and the Gospel reading Luke 12:22–34. The Collect for Harvest emphasised that God gave us the fruits of the earth.

*James Craddock*

*Licensed lay worship leader*

### Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our regular monthly garden group meeting on Thursday 30 November at 10am in Walditch Village Hall.

Seasonal topics and garden discussion. Tea/coffee and biscuits.

Everyone is welcome so do come along and try us. Please note that we do not meet in December.



### Garden tips for November:

Clean out bird nesting boxes; deep clean the greenhouse; plant bare-root trees, shrubs, roses, fruit trees and bushes; tie in climbers and wall shrubs to protect during bad weather; check tree ties and stakes; lift and divide rhubarb crowns; plant garlic cloves; plant early varieties of veg in the greenhouse; where necessary begin winter pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs; continue to gather up fallen leaves; gather and bin any rose leaves affected by leafspot; insulate pots that are too large to take indoors.

*Jane Mowatt*



**Pictured: The altar in St Mary's Walditch decorated for the harvest service**

To mark the season of remembrance, regular Walditch contributor Robin Stapleton has written an article about the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which looks after the graves of 1.7 million men and women who died in the two world wars, including 29 graves here in Bridport. You can find Robin's feature on page 7.

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock

07903 558568

Chapel warden –

Rosemary Russell 423013

### News from St John's

There are no extra services in November, although there is a concert, to which everyone is invited. The Christmas concert in St John's Church is on Wednesday 29 November at 7.30pm. The performers will be West Dorset Community Orchestra with their guest conductor and Local Vocals led by Lesley Whatley. Refreshments will be available during the interval and there will be a raffle. Admission is free but donations to the retiring collection will be appreciated.

As you may be aware, the St John's clock has not worked for a while. The mechanism is currently being checked, and then the clock's hands, which are difficult to get to, will have to be checked as well. So I am afraid it will be a while before this landmark is back working again.

### West Bay WI

This month's first meeting will be on Wednesday 1 November

for Knit & Natter (10am–12 noon) and then the following week, on Wednesday 8 November at 2.30pm, Debs Urch will come along to speak about the sport of gig rowing.

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

The weekend of 23/24 September was a really busy one for West Bay, with relatively good weather during the day but heavy rain at night. We had the ride by DocBike on 24 September. West Bay was one of the three starting points, with 600 bikes taking part and raising more than £10,000. DocBike ([www.docbike.org](http://www.docbike.org)) is a charity that works to eradicate motorcycle deaths through engagement, injury prevention, education and roadside critical care. It was quite a sight seeing them head off from West Bay in an orderly procession!

The second powerboat racing event of the year took place over the same weekend. The sea was calm and a large array of speedboats and jet skis were put through their paces.

The weekend also saw 90 Scouts from across the Dorchester & West Dorset District descending on the Britt Valley Campground for their annual activity camp. They were able to have a go at nine different activities across the two days, including kayaking, rafting and paddle boarding on the river, axe throwing, air rifle shooting and archery.



**Pictured: Activities on offer at the Scouts' activity camp in September included rafting on the River Brit**

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

Saturday was a great success with all nine activities running smoothly. However, such was the wind in the evening and overnight that one of the shelter domes ended up in the river and had to be rescued. The wind persisted during the morning meaning that all three of the water-based activities had to be cancelled and alternatives offered. Every Scout left with a smart paracord bracelet that they had made, and those who were meant to be on the river on Sunday left the site with a handmade, two-colour Turk's head woggle on their scarf.

Numbers are still holding up at the Discovery Centre and the daily opening will be extended to include the first weekend in November to allow visits from those whose children have different half-term dates. After that the centre reverts to weekend-only opening. A new exhibition called Wartime in West Bay, which will run through to June 2024, includes local people's recollections of the war as well as those of American GIs temporarily stationed here, a look at the impact of food rationing, and information about coastal defences in place to prevent invasion. On Wednesday 15 November at 7.30pm at the Salt House, Nigel Clarke will give a talk titled Hitler's British Holiday Snaps. Tickets are £5 from Bridport Tourist Information Centre.

The West Bay Community Forum held its open meeting in the Salt House on Thursday 5 October, when local photographer Neil Barnes gave us a fascinating insight into his career, showed many of his photos and explained the techniques he used to take them. There are only two open meetings a year and I was disappointed that so few people turned up. Please email me if you're interested in becoming

**Pictured below: West Bay has a smart new bus shelter to protect passengers from the weather while they wait**



a member of the forum: [rognsuewbay@btinternet.com](mailto:rognsuewbay@btinternet.com).

We also had a visit from some of the town councillors who have been going round Bridport to encourage people to put their names forward to stand as councillors next year. It would be great if West Bay could have two representatives who actually live in West Bay. For more details, visit [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/make-a-change](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/make-a-change).



You may recall that specialised wheelchairs are now available to allow disabled people to go on to the beach. I went to see the trial of yet another type of carrier for those who need to stay in their own wheelchair. Neil Barnes took his daughter on this new ramped wheelchair carrier and was able to transport her along the beach (pictured left).

Funding is still being sought to provide a building where these wheelchairs can be stored.

Finally, I am sure there will be many bus passengers who were delighted and relieved to see that once more we have a bus shelter, and a rather splendid one at that (pictured below left).

*Sue Pollock*

**Forthcoming events**

Work is due to begin by the Hub and kiosks in the harbour during the week beginning Monday 30 October. This work is to upgrade the area and make it safer for pedestrians. Residents of West Cliff have already been advised that the bridge over the river will be closed between 8pm and 6am from 29 November to 1 December.

**ST SWITHUN'S Allington**

Acting parish editor – James Craddock  
[allingtonbridgeswc@outlook.com](mailto:allingtonbridgeswc@outlook.com)  
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[graham\\_williams11@sky.com](mailto:graham_williams11@sky.com)

**Harvest festival at St Swithun's**

More than 100 people came to the Parish of Bridport's harvest festival service at St Swithun's Church, which had been beautifully decorated with flowers and produce. The Mass-style service, led by the Revd Dan Shackell, followed a parish breakfast in the hall.

The four harvest hymns – sung quite enthusiastically – were All Creatures of Our God and King; All Things Bright and Beautiful; Come Ye Thankful People, Come; and We Plough the Fields and Scatter.

Graham Williamson, the sacristan, read Psalm 126, →

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

A Harvest of Joy, and licensed lay minister Graham Purse read 2 Corinthians 9:6–11, a passage on sowing and reaping. The Revd Ann Ayling's intercession prayers were elegantly worded and thought-provoking.

The parish was delighted to welcome to the service the Revd Neil Robinson, Chaplain to the Deaf Community in the Salisbury Diocese. Neil used British Sign Language to communicate the well-known Gospel passage John 6:5–14 – about the miracle of five barley loaves and two fishes – while interpreter Trudy spoke the words. Neil was accompanied by his wife, Helen, who helps him in his valuable ministry. The Deaf Chaplaincy's motto is: "The presence of a Deaf chaplain inspires each individual's heart, soul and mind."

The Revd Lorna Johnson gave the address on the theme of Creation Tide. She was accompanied by teenager Miriam in a prepared dialogue with feedback from the younger members of the congregation.

A 'Creation Care Creed' replaced the standard wording of the Creed and was led by Peter Wright, a licensed lay minister, with lines recited by members of the congregation.

There were refreshments in the hall after the service.

*We will have an interview with the Revd Neil Robinson, Chaplain to the Deaf Community, in the next issue.*



**Pictured: Preparations for the parish harvest service at St Swithun's, and a lively gathering in the hall afterwards**

### Community coffee morning PLUS

### Sale of Christmas goods & raffle

Thursdays 2 November & 7 December

9.30–11.45am

St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington

Refreshments at no charge • Free parking • All welcome!

### Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson  
01308 341159

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

incorporating

**UPLUDERS CHAPEL**

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

#### Are you a xylophile?

How does November make you feel? Pleasure at the sight of the trees changing colour and the feel of damp autumn

air; excitement about Bonfire Night (unless you have a pet); happy anticipation at the prospect of Strictly on Saturday evenings; joy or trepidation at the approach of Christmas; gloom as days shorten and it gets dark so early; dread at the thought of long, cold months, trying to keep warm but needing to keep fuel bills down; anxiety about having to sit in the dark or eat cold food; sadness as we remember those who have died in wars, or have been physically or mentally affected by them...?

In November, at this time of remembering, both on All Souls' Day and Remembrance Day, the words "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" come to mind, reminding us that although our spiritual beings return to God, our physical bodies will return to the earth that sustains and gives life to living things. And as all living things die – plants and creatures alike – they return to the earth, enrich it and allow it to produce more life. It's all part of God's wonderful creation and re-creation.

## Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

At Soul Space in September we were considering earth (not the planet, but the muddy kind) and we discovered the many good things about soil, which is one of God's amazing gifts. Not only does handling it trigger the release of serotonin in our brains, but harvesting produce and even watching plants grow can release dopamine. Serotonin is a natural antidepressant, helping to control our moods, regulating our sleeping and waking, and strengthening our immune systems. Dopamine is a feel-good chemical responsible for feelings of pleasure, satisfaction and motivation. "Getting down and dirty is the best upper," I read on a soil website!

So, can you repot a houseplant, get outside in the garden, go for a walk in the woods, or even just buy muddy vegetables? If you choose a day for a walk when the ground is damp, there will be that wonderful earthy scent. It has a name, petrichor, and is made up in part by a chemical called geosmin, which gets released into the air when it rains. It's that smell you notice just before the first drops arrive, and it lingers afterwards. Good things from God to enjoy and lift our mood even in the sometimes bleak month of November.

Perhaps you feel that what you need is not a walk in the woods but some warmth and company. If that's you, then why not come to one of our sociable activities and events: Big Breakfast 9-11.30am on Saturday 11 November; Friendship Club (games, craft, chat and tea) 2pm on Thursday 16 November; Lunch Club 12.30pm on Wed 22 November (ring 01308 422598 to book your place); coffee mornings 10am-12 noon every Wednesday.

If there's something you'd like a prayer for, you can write it on a slip of paper and put it in one of the boxes on the tables at the coffee morning. Then wait and see what happens. Psalm 34:8 invites us to find out for ourselves how

good God is: "Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him."

Why not come to one or more of our services – they're all different. There's the 10.30 every Sunday morning, with Remembrance Sunday on 12 November; Soul Space ('Fire') at 4pm on Sunday 5 November; Café Church, 4pm on Sunday 19 November; and Messy Church (for children up to 11 and their carers, including a meal) 3.30pm on Thursday 23 November. Do look at our website [www.buc.cool](http://www.buc.cool) or find us on Facebook for more information, or just come along and give us a try. You can always be assured of a friendly welcome plus tea and coffee and more often than not cake! We hope you will also sense God's love for you, and discover more of who he is.

Whatever November holds, I pray that you will indeed sense God's love and presence, and be able to enjoy the good gifts he gives to all of us.

PS: A xylophile is someone who loves forests and all things wood!

*Melanie Buckland, part of the Bridport United Church family*

### November services at Bridport United Church:

<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Jane Wilson (HC)</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Soul Space</b>
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Brenda Stevenson</b>
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Ruth Lownsborough</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Cafe Church</b>
		<b>with Jane Wilson</b>
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Advent Sunday</b>
		<b>Jane Wilson</b>

### Regular events at BUC

Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday 10am to 12 noon except 4 November. Light bites Wednesdays 11.30am to 1pm. Lunch Club fourth Wednesday.

Mondays	10am-noon	Art group (inner hall)
	1.30pm	Archaeology (inner hall)
	2pm	Art history
	2.30pm	National Trust (fourth only)
	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society
Tuesdays	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third)
	2pm	Bridport u3a (fourth only)
	4.30pm	Rainbows
	5.30pm	Brownies
	7.30pm	West Dorset Singers
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 4 November 10am	Vinyl Saturday
Sat 11 November 10am	RNLI Big Breakfast

# Bridport United Church Christmas Tree Festival

6th - 17th  
Dec

Mon to Sat 11am - 4pm  
Sunday 2pm - 4pm

Tues 5th : Opening Service 7pm

Fri 8th : Folk Carols 7pm

Sun 10th : Toy Service 10.30am

Sun 17th : Carol Service 4pm

## UPLODERS Chapel...

### From Uploders Chapel

Well, here we are again. Another month has galloped by. Having read what I wrote this time last year, I find that very little has changed in some ways. At the moment the weather is warmer than usual at this time of year, which is



lovely. At least we don't get bored with the weather as it is always giving us a surprise.

What wasn't a surprise, however, was how once again our good friend Joseph Pullan did a fantastic job of cycling for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust's Ride + Stride event on behalf of the

chapel. He visited 20 churches and raised a final total of £280 in sponsorship

money. We were also pleased to raise £107 from donations for the refreshments and bric-a-brac in the chapel on the day. So a BIG thankyou to all of you who supported us in one way or another.

Also, as usual we have enjoyed some lovely services at the chapel including our harvest service, which was certainly different. Our brains were tested with a quiz about the best

time to harvest different fruit and vegetables throughout the year. We also decided to give our collection at this service to the Farming Community Network, a voluntary organisation that supports UK farmers in times of need, whether that's personal or business-related.

The Pop Up Post Office has been going well, but we have been told that to maintain it the way it is at the moment the day needs to change from every Tuesday to every Wednesday, starting sometime in November. We will keep you posted (no pun intended!) with new notices around and about, or if you prefer give me a ring or email me.

On Saturday 25 November from 2 to 4.30pm we will be open at the chapel for cuppas and cake as well as some super items that would make good Christmas presents. Something for all ages. All donations will be gratefully received.

So I hope you had lots of Outstanding Opportunities in October but don't be tempted to be too Naughty in November!

*Carol Hall*

### November services at Uploders Chapel:

<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Tony Boyden</b>
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Joint service at Loders Church with the Revd Chris Grasske and the Revd Jane Wilson</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*

### A new way of being Church

You may have heard during October about a synod of Catholic bishops, priests and lay women and men gathering in Rome. For many Christians a 'synod' like this is nothing remarkable, but for the Roman Catholic Church it is.

Although there have been synods before, they have almost exclusively comprised bishops and have been criticised for being overly controlled by Rome. The word synod comes from two Greek words, 'syn' (meaning 'together') and 'hodos' meaning the 'road' or 'way'. So a synod is about travelling on the way together: lay women and men, clergy, bishops and Pope. This time 54 out of the 365 voting delegates are women, which might seem a small proportion but for Roman Catholics it is a big step that would never have been contemplated 10 years ago. There may be a long way to go but it is a beginning!

In this process, initiated by Pope Francis, the world's 1.3 billion Catholics have been invited to contribute, culminating in the recent synod and another in 2024. Every parish and diocese was invited to headline matters of concern in the mission of the Church. Among those most frequently raised in Europe were the climate crisis, people in second marriages and their access to the sacraments, our attitudes to the LBGTQ+ community, the ministry of women in the church, and inter-communion (when a person of one



faith receives communion during a service held by another faith). As the Pope requested, nothing was barred from the discussions.

The Pope is seeking to make the synod a place of open debate and honest discernment about our mission. Mission and evangelisation have been the hallmarks of the present pontificate, plus the big question of how we make the Gospel relevant in today's world.

At the time of writing, the synod is still continuing, so we don't yet know what might be coming out of it. While the constant teaching of the Church is not up for grabs, its ways of expression and development are. What we do know is that although the wheels of change grind slowly in the Church, we shall be shaped by this synodal process and slowly learn a new way of being Church. Not least, this should help us to walk together in our relationships with our fellow Christians both local, national and global.

*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  
www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk

**At Beacon Church 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 (11am 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 Thursdays we also open the door at 5pm to provide a place for anyone to come and sit and rest from the busyness of life as we pray for the community of Bridport. Our Sunday mornings are very relaxed and Spirit-led. We follow a pattern of prayer and worship, teaching and fellowship.

At the moment we are working on a fundraising project that involves knitting squares for a scarf to reach from the church to the Town Hall. Visit Bridport Community Kitchen on Facebook for details of how you can get involved.



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

Office 424437 • David Collins 458227  
info@bridportchristianfellowship.org  
www.bridportchristianfellowship.org

**We are a member church of the UK Evangelical Alliance and an Ichthus Link Church. We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30am and 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 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

## Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

*Please contact the editor (details on page 2) 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)

**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 Purse 423220. →

# Get involved: local clubs, groups and societies

**Bridport & District Allotment Society** (BADAS) is open to all. Membership is £5/year and gives discount at several gardening suppliers. Contact 250260 / email [BADASHUB@outlook.com](mailto:BADASHUB@outlook.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.

**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 9 October Rosemary Legrand will give a talk, 'Spring in Japan'. Phone 456339.

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet on Thursday 16 November at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St, when Mike Burks will present 'Gardening for Climate Change', including ideas for plants to grow as our weather changes and tips on looking after your garden amid future challenges. 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 (see p4). 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)

**West Dorset Singers** (formerly 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

**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)

**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.

**Bridport Stage Company** (formerly Bridport Shakespeare Company) theatre group meets on Mondays 7–9pm at the British Legion. They are preparing to perform *The Importance of Being Earnest* around Easter 2024. All ages are welcome; no experience needed. For more details 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)

**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** (BHS) presents '80 Years Ago: US 16th Infantry Regiment Arrives in West Dorset', a talk by Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard, Cheryl Ludgate, Nick Pitt, Robin Stapleton and West Bay Discovery Centre. BHS meets on the second Thursday each month (except July & 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, or visit [www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.bridporthistorysociety.org.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



**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 & 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 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)

**AScape** offers social opportunities and support for autistic young people and those with social anxiety aged 4–25 and their families. Contact [info@ascapegroup.org](mailto:info@ascapegroup.org) or visit [www.ascapegroup.org](http://www.ascapegroup.org)

**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 u3a** is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings are at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday each month in the United Church Hall, East Street. The talk lasts about an hour, followed by Q&A and refreshments. On 28 November Lisa Lumsden of Co-op Legal Services will present 'Protecting the Family Nest Egg', with practical advice on protecting our wealth for future needs and future generations. Members free, visitors £3. 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!

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

**Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport:** We always welcome new ringers and are happy to train you on our bells. 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.

**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).

**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.steppingoutbridport.co.uk](http://www.steppingoutbridport.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.

**Salway Ash Acoustic Sessions** take place on the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm at the Anchor Inn. Sing, play, join in, listen, enjoy. Contact Harry Britton 421225.

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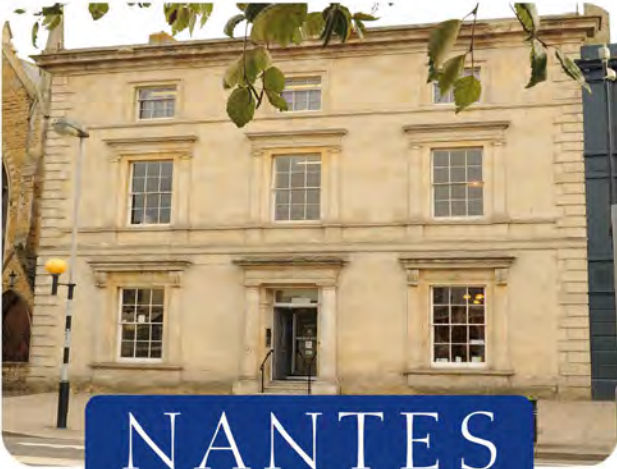
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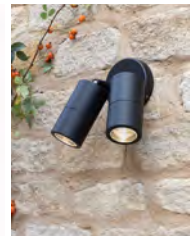
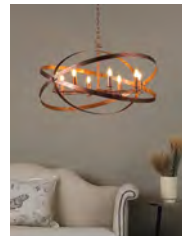
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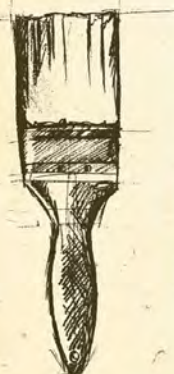
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