

April 2024

the **Bridge**

A community magazine for Bridport
supported by the Anglican Church



THIS ISSUE IS

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Team Rector The Revd Canon Deb Smith
 deb@bridport-team-ministry.org
 301457 Day off Friday

Pioneer Team Vicar The Revd Cally Burch
 vicar@bridport-team-ministry.org
 07746 561144 Day off Friday

Associate Priest The Revd Lorna Johnson
 lornajohnson@bridport-team-ministry.org
 538519 / 07501 408221 Day off Friday

Permission to officiate

The Revd Janis Moore Day off Wednesday
 janis@bridport-team-ministry.org / 425644

The Revd Ann Ayling Day off Wednesday
 annayling7@gmail.com / 424896

The Revd Dan Shackell
 danshackell@gmail.com / 426514

The Revd Philip Ringer (Hospital Chaplain)
 philipringer@aol.com / 425774

The Revd John Rees
 revjohnrees@gmail.com / 458756 / 07340 589375

Licensed lay ministers

Graham Purse 423220 Peter Wright 456967

Lay pastoral assistants

Caroline Cooke 07859 803734

Diana Wright 456967

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

Lay worship leaders

Martin Whiting and James Craddock

Team Administrator Dianne Sinclair
 di@bridport-team-ministry.org / 424747
 Postal address: The Administrator, c/o The Rectory,
 84 South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW

Secretary to the PCC Bridget Trump
 pcc@bridport-team-ministry.org / 459875

Churchwardens

Michele Craddock 458725 Lesley Hill 422417
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Bradpole Forsters Village Hall Jane Bryant
 oxeeyedaisy101@gmail.com 427493

St Mary's Church House Hall Monty Crook
 423442

Walditch Village Hall Jane Weyman
 janeweyman@btinternet.com 424299

Christian Fellowship, King St Jackie Edwards
 538028

United Church Sue Herman
 422598

Bridport Food Bank Sonia Maynard
 cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com 07443 596096

OTHER CHURCHES IN THE AREA

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St Mary & St Catherine (Roman Catholic)

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 bridport@predtr.org.uk 422594 office

Bridport Quaker Meeting

clerka@bridportquakers.org
 Room hire enquiries roomhire@bridportquakers.org

United Church (Methodist & United Reformed)

The Revd Jane Wilson 341159
 Sue Herman, administrator 422598

All phone numbers are Bridport (01308) unless otherwise stated.

**The advertising and copy deadline
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The Bridge Editor & production: Olivia Daly 07710 805029 editor@thebridgemagazine.org
 Advertising: Chris Senior (Mrs) 427451 advertising@thebridgemagazine.org

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Sing a song of spring as April brings green shoots

In his book a Song of Gladness, written during the pandemic, Michael Morpurgo invites us to join in a celebration of our amazing planet and all who live here.

It's a beautifully illustrated book and one could be forgiven for thinking it's aimed at children. It is, however, a story of hope for all of us and for our planet. Morpurgo reminds us that Earth's future depends on us, but first we must care, must feel that each one of us is part of this planet, that it is precious and fragile, and that every plant and creature matters as much as we do.

We welcome the month of April, with its longer days and lighter evenings, the early signs of spring, green shoots, blossom and birdsong.

In the Christian calendar we are in the season of Easter: the Easter bunny has visited, Easter egg hunts have taken place, we have rejoiced in the Easter story that Jesus Christ is risen. How do we share the Easter story in our communities? Jesus said: "Love your neighbour as yourself." It begins by caring, listening to one another, having patience and sharing our gifts, and at this time of year giving thanks for the joy of the countryside. Jesus also said: "I came that you might have life and have it abundantly." In Dorset we are blessed with a county of outstanding natural beauty and the freedom to enjoy and appreciate it. There are unique landmarks – Colmers Hill, the Jurassic Coast, Abbotsbury Swannery – and there are quiet places, vales and lanes, rivers and streams, patchwork fields and scattered farms.

Sharing food & friendship

For this issue I returned to Bridport Food Bank to find out how it has evolved over the last few years.

The charity fulfils some very basic needs among local residents – not only food, clothes and maybe some advice from experts, but also a friendly welcome. The smiling volunteers greet and serve all comers without judgement, and for many people who use the food bank, that is one of the most important gifts of all. Read all about it on pages 8 and 9.



Olivia Daly
Editor

*In the busyness
of our lives,
the arrival of
spring can bring
a welcome
tranquillity*

Spring has always been a season of renewal and rejuvenation, a time when the world awakens from its winter slumbers and bursts forth with new life. It is a time of hope and promise, of growth and change, of beauty and wonder.



The Revd Janis Moore

In his poem *Over the Land Is April*, Robert Louis Stevenson captures the sense of energy and excitement that comes with the arrival of the season. Spring is a time of renewal but

it is also a reminder that life is constantly changing. The poem suggests that even as the world moves forward some things remain constant.

God's love for us and for all creation remains constant; in the midst of global chaos, the difficult times and the busyness of our own lives, the arrival of spring can bring a welcome sense of peace and tranquillity.

I hope you will embrace the month of April, the delights of spring and the new life that emerges. May you observe and enjoy God's bountiful creation.

The Revd Janis Moore

Over the Land Is April

Over the land is April,
Over my heart a rose;
Over the high, brown mountain
The sound of singing goes.
Say, love, do you hear me,
Hear my sonnets ring?
Over the high, brown mountain,
Love, do you hear me sing?

By highway, love, and byway
The snows succeed the rose.
Over the high, brown mountain
The wind of winter blows.
Say, love, do you hear me,
Hear my sonnets ring?
Over the high, brown mountain
I sound the song of spring,
I throw the flowers of spring.
Do you hear the song of spring?
Hear you the songs of spring?

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–94)



Come and play the new St Swithun's piano

Do you play the piano? If the answer's yes, the newly arrived concert grand piano at St Swithun's needs you!

Remember the TV programme with Claudia Winkleman at St Pancras station in London when members of the public turned up to play a piano on the concourse? The Estonia grand piano at the North Allington church is giving you that same opportunity.

The piano was recently donated by Richard Godfrey of Uplyme and the church wants it to be used by the community as much as possible. From 10.30am to 12 noon on Saturday 20 April and Saturday 4 May, pianists will be able to come along and play the piano in short slots of up to 15 minutes.

"It doesn't matter whether you're a complete beginner or an international concert pianist, whether

you're young or old or whether your taste is classical, jazz or easy listening," says organiser Mandi Sturrock. "And performers like an audience, so anyone is welcome to come along and listen, too."

To take part, send Mandi an email at msturrock@pancathay.com – although pianists who just turn up on the day will also be welcome and will get a slot as soon as possible.

"St Swithun's and all our churches are open for visitors and it will be good to hear the beautiful sounds of our newest musical instrument and a variety of music," says Canon Deb Smith, Rector of Bridport. "See you there!"

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the church will be
open to receive
pianists in short
slots of up to
15 minutes
each



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St Mary's ringers prepare to celebrate the centenary of their eight mighty bells

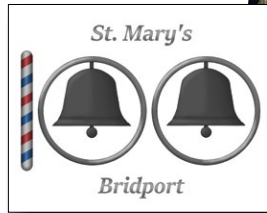
The current bells at St Mary's Bridport will be 100 years old next month, and the church's bellringing team are planning a number of ways to mark the occasion.

The celebrations will start on Saturday 25 May, the closest date to the bells' installation, with a tower open day, a quarter peal and an evening concert in the church with local handbell ringers, choirs and bands. More events will follow during the year, and details will be published soon.

"The current eight bells were fully recast in 1924, but there has been ringing in Bridport for more than 500 years," says Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain. "A 1552 inventory noted that the church had only three bells. By 1774 this had increased to five bells with a clock; a further bell was added in 1843 and the final two added in 1887.

"Each of our eight bells bears a number of very moving dedications to the Bridport families who helped to fund the recasting – raising the money was particularly impressive coming as it did just a few years after the Great War. One aim of our celebrations will be to thank the families who gave us the last 100 years of ringing, and we plan to include the current members of those families who are still such a strong part of the town in 2024."

Another initiative to mark the occasion is maintenance work to prepare the bells for the next century. "The bells have rung well in their 100 years," says Bob. "They are all very sound – sound as a bell! – and rung on their own they sound as good as new.



Above: the team of bellringers at St Mary's Bridport.
Right: one of the bells showing the dedications to local families who helped to fund the 1924 recasting.
Below left: working on the bells in the tower



But ringing them together is now more difficult, and this is a sign of wear. Some are a bit stiff, and ring a bit slower; some are a bit worn, and ring a bit quicker. Who can blame them, after 100 years!"

The work includes checking all the main bearings and the bearings on each clapper, replacing them and any other worn components where needed, and more closely aligning each bell with its clapper. This will improve the balance and timing of each bell. "The process will improve the bells' peal – and their appeal!" says Bob. "The work is needed now, and most importantly, it will also protect the bells as they ring for many years to come."

The full upgrade will cost an estimated £25,000, and once again the church and its bellringers will need help from the people of Bridport.

There will be more details about the inscriptions on the bells, and about the centenary celebrations – including an exciting project involving descendants of the 1924 donors – in our May issue.

APRIL 2024						
Date	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay*
Mon 1						10am Morning Prayer*
Tues 2				2.30pm HC		
Wed 3	2.30pm HC					
Thurs 4		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 7 <i>2nd Sun of Easter</i>	8am BCP HC	4pm CC and Eucharist	10am Parish service of HC			
Mon 8						10am Morning Prayer*
Thurs 11	7pm Licensing of the Revd Cally Burch	10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 14 <i>3rd Sun of Easter</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am HC*
Mon 15						10am Morning Prayer*
Thurs 18		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 21 <i>4th Sun of Easter</i>	8am BCP HC 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am HC 11.30am Bradpole Brunch (village hall)		11am Morning Praise*
Mon 22						10am Morning Prayer*
Thurs 25		10am Eucharist				
Sat 27						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing*
Sun 28 <i>5th Sun of Easter</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am HC	11am Morning Praise*
Mon 29						10am Morning Prayer*

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church

* We hope the arrival of spring and the better weather will allow us to hold all these services at St John's, although there will be no heating or lighting. Please keep an eye on the church noticeboard for updates.

Council drives park improvements at Court Orchard – plus new heritage trails & podcasts

We're delighted to bring you the first in a new regular series of updates from Bridport Town Council (BTC) about some of their current and recent initiatives.

Court Orchard now has an orchard – and a new, improved park and play area

A couple of years ago, residents from Court Orchard approached the town council to ask about improvements to their park, a large green field with ageing play equipment and football goals surrounded by the houses of Orchard Crescent.

Initial discussions led to the formation of the Court Orchard Community Park group to make sure any improvements were what the community wanted. The group has consulted with residents about what they'd like to see and worked with BTC to develop the plans.

The inclusion of an orchard was important to 99% of users, not only to provide shade but also to break up the space, create interest, and add to the biodiversity of the park. In January, Bridport Tree Group gave advice and helped to source the required trees; then, with residents' help, they planted native species around the site, including fruit trees grouped into an orchard.

The area allocated for football is well used by both adults and children so everyone agreed that it should remain a key aspect of the park. When asked, however, the children said that the current goals and pitch size were too big for them to play a proper game of football. In March, the old posts were removed and new goals put in place. They are small enough to be used by

Below: Court Orchard residents with Bridport Mayor Dave Bolwell at a tree planting day



players of all ages and abilities, and still large enough to be a challenge for the best players.

In the coming months, existing play equipment will be repaired and new equipment installed. There will be formal pathways to make most of the space accessible to all, and multiple benches and picnic tables will be scattered around the space, encouraging residents to meet and socialise with family and friends.

While it is still early days for the revamped Court Orchard Community Park, it has been fantastic seeing the enthusiasm from residents and in particular the children who have helped to develop plans and plant trees. In particular, we'd like to thank Fran White and Becca Powis who have worked hard to champion the project and make sure residents are included. You can follow the progress on their Facebook page, Court Orchard Community Park.

New heritage trails and podcasts

As part of the Bridport Streetscape and Heritage Interpretation Study (and with support from the Dorset National Landscapes Sustainable Development Fund), BTC has produced two new heritage trail leaflets: the Saxon Town Loop and the Rivers Loop.

They encourage visitors and residents to explore the town and find out more about our rich heritage assets.

There are also four downloadable podcasts: Boozy Bridport; George Biles, 'King of Signwriters'; Women and ropemaking; and shipbuilding in Bridport Harbour.

You can download the trails and podcasts from www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/streetscape-heritage-interpretation-study. Printed copies of the trails, including the more established Green Route, are available from Bridport TIC in Bucky Doo Square.

*Caroline Pearce
Project Manager, Bridport Town Council*



Sharing and caring: the vital, valuable

We last featured Bridport Food Bank in October 2020, reporting on how it had helped the town's people during the early months of Covid. Here we are more than three years later – but if you think the return to 'normality' after the pandemic means food banks are less in demand now, you're sadly wrong.

In these straitened times, amid continuing austerity and economic downturn, Bridport Food Bank is being used more than ever, and is evolving all the time to serve its users even better. "When I first got involved here, I thought it was just about giving out food, but I soon realised that people have complex underlying needs," says Ian Bark, Acting Chair of Trustees. "These days I see it as more of a community 'hub' than simply a food bank. We're not just feeding people, we're aiming to help them get out of whatever situation it is that means they need to come to us: maybe back into a job, out of debt, clean from addiction or on the

road towards better mental health. There are grey areas, too – some of our users are in employment, for instance, and still need our help."

To this end, as well as a wide range of food products for people to choose from – and now a clothes bank providing much-needed clothing and other textiles – there are information points staffed by representatives from Citizens Advice and First Point Dorset (a charity that works to improve individuals' housing, health and wellbeing) giving advice on a variety of subjects. There's also a cafe serving hot drinks, biscuits and cakes so users can relax and catch up with friends during their visit.

"Lidl donate all the cakes for our cafe, as well as bread for the food bank, which is wonderful," says Sonia Maynard, Food Bank Coordinator. "We also get donated food from Waitrose through the FareShare scheme, and Morrisons raise money for us, which they give us in vouchers – their latest campaign brought in £800 through sales of their fundraising 'baubles'

before Christmas. Sam, the Morrisons Community Champion, has been amazing. And we get other donations from independent shops and individuals, too. We really appreciate everything we're given, including the items that shoppers put in our boxes in Morrisons, Waitrose and Lidl – thank you!

"More people are using the food bank now, but donations of food are reducing, so we have to buy some of the things we give out. That's why cash donations are so useful, particularly now we're a charity and can claim Gift Aid. We buy fresh fruit and veg from Washingpool Farm, who kindly give us a discount, and bread from Evershot Bakery, as well as groceries from Morrisons using cash donations and the shop's vouchers."

Alongside its Wednesday session at St Mary's Church in South Street, the food bank is now also open on Monday evenings at Bridport Youth & Community Centre in Gundry Lane. "We run this in a different, quieter way," says Sonia, "as we know some people find



Left to right: setting up the clothes bank; the cafe area, serving snacks and hot drinks; the Citizens Advice information point. Above right: the food bank's volunteers

able work of Bridport Food Bank



the Wednesday sessions hard, and it's also useful for anyone who's working during the day. On Mondays we give out pre-packed bags of food, so everyone gets the same. It's held in a small room and about 14 people come along."

Anyone can turn up to the food bank for their first time, although they do need a referral for subsequent visits. Social services, GPs and schools are among the agencies who can refer people – as well as Citizens Advice, who can do this from their station at the Wednesday sessions – and individuals can apply through the food bank's website. A referral covers six visits and is renewable.

So what does the food bank mean to its users? Charlie is unusual because she's working, but by no means does this make her unique among the Wednesday visitors. She's a qualified midwife and mental health nurse as well as a single mum of two. "I work three days a week," she says, "and my income just about matches my outgoings. If anything unexpected happens – like the flat tyre I've just had on my car – there's no money

to cover it. I'd either have to earn more, which isn't possible at the moment, or spend less. It's the food budget that takes the hit.

"I haven't been to the food bank for a while, because I usually work on a Wednesday, but it really helps. I'm a veggie, and I like to cook healthy food for my kids, so I pick up good ingredients here – lentils, chickpeas, cavolo nero, that sort of

thing. I've got a couple of cookies from the cafe to take home, too."

Of course, it's volunteers who make this all work smoothly, and the food bank always needs more people to step up and help. There are all sorts of jobs available: you could pop in to help set up a session, come later to pack away, or stay for most of the day. People are needed to pick up food from shops, and the food bank particularly needs someone to look after its social media. There are also vacancies for volunteer trustees, which you could do alongside or instead of a practical role. If you'd like to help, do get in touch.

Food bank sessions are held at St Mary's Church, South Street, 11am–1pm on Wednesdays, and at the Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane, 5–7pm on Mondays. For more information visit www.bridportfoodbank.org or email cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

Sonia Maynard's appointment as the food bank's coordinator takes effect from

1 April. She has been acting coordinator since October 2023, when her predecessor Carrie Gamble retired, and was assistant coordinator before that, from September 2022. She works 16 hours each week and is the only paid member of the food bank team.

Sonia has 18 years' experience in social work, working with people with learning disabilities and poor mental health, and has also held several voluntary positions, including with Cancer Research.

"I saw the food bank job in The Bridge and decided to apply," she says. "It seemed like the right move for me and at just the right time, too. I love working with people and the skills I learnt in my previous roles are so useful here – many people come to the food bank at the hardest time in their life, with personal and financial struggles and often with young children to look after. And our volunteers work so hard and are totally non-judgemental – they're amazing!"





Mozart Requiem

Vasks Dona Nobis Pacem, Zelenka Miserere

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St Mary's Church, Bridport

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Reg Charity: 1125032

Caretaker post for Bridport Quaker Meeting

Bridport Quaker Meeting is looking to appoint a caretaker for its Meeting House to undertake cleaning and general caretaking duties.

We are looking for someone in sympathy with Quaker values. One-bedroom accommodation is available on the Meeting House site under a service occupancy agreement.

For further information please contact clerka@bridportquakers.org. To apply, please send your CV to the same email address by Monday 22 April.

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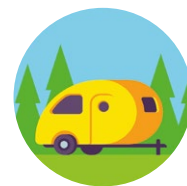
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Introducing the parish's new team member: The Revd Cally Burch



The Revd Cally Burch joins the Parish of Bridport this month as Pioneer Team Vicar. This is a new role for our parish; the job description aligns greatly with that of Team Vicar, but also involves seeking new ways to lead ministry and expand the reach of the church, primarily out in the community and with a focus on outreach to the artistic community between Weymouth and Lyme Regis.

We caught up with Cally during a pause in her busy relocation schedule...

The Bridge: Cally, welcome to our town! Where are you moving from?

Cally Burch: For the last two and a half years I've been an assistant curate in Fleet, Hampshire. That was my first stipendiary job in the church – before that I was doing my training. I'd also held a number of voluntary roles in the church.

TB: Where did you train?

CB: I studied theology at St Mellitus College in London. I was on the three-year course and I graduated in July 2021. The college operates in an inclusive spirit of 'generous orthodoxy' and the students represent a wide range of traditions within the Church of England.

During my training I had a placement at St Michael's in Sheerwater, an area of economic deprivation in Woking, and the experience taught me a lot about creative, artistic worship. The lack of money and resources meant I had to dig deep into different forms



of worship to make connections, and it's been good to use that experience in a more affluent and conventional setting in Fleet.

TB: When and why did you decide to enter the church?

CB: I suppose I came back to my faith during my years at home with my family. I was a 'cradle Anglican' but I'd gone to a Roman Catholic girls' school – at about 13, I knew I was a Christian but I had to decide between the Church of England and the Catholic Church. I chose the former, although Catholic teaching remains close to my heart. I studied modern languages at university, then law at the College of Law in Guildford, before going into banking law and working in the City. I got married and had two children, and when they were baptised as babies I started to volunteer in the church. Even though I went back into commercial law for a while, working mainly with big charities, I was still actively involved in the church.

More recently I also held a voluntary position in the chaplaincy at HMP Send, a women's prison in Surrey. The chance to form relationships with the prisoners was

wonderful. My role was supportive and I was seen totally differently from the prison officers. It was about establishing trust, as some of the women didn't want much to do with the chaplaincy; many had problems with addiction and many had been abused physically, sexually or both. It was a tremendous privilege to share time with them.

I love building relationships with people, sharing my faith and God's love for each one of us. Exploring faith together is what lights my fire!

TB: What attracted you to the Bridport job?

CB: When I saw the vacancy, my first reaction was very open; I let myself be led by the Holy Spirit. Then my husband, Rob, and I came for a visit and we fell in love with Bridport! We could see it was a vibrant, lively place. From that point I felt a very strong pull here, which was confirmed when we met people in the parish. I'm really excited and I know there will be plenty to do. Obviously there will be challenges, but it's going to be great fun living here and everyone so far has been wonderfully friendly.

TB: What is Rob going to do here?

CB: His background is in business, finance and engineering, and he was the CEO of a start-up in Camberley until a year ago, but because my curacy was coming to an end he didn't look for another permanent job before we moved. Now he'll be working in finance admin at Bridport Arts Centre and as a harbour assistant in Lyme Regis, both part-time roles.



The Revd Cally Burch, Pioneer Team Vicar continued

TB: And your children?

CB: They're at university: Emily is studying medicine in Birmingham and James is reading physics in Nottingham. They're excited about our family home being in Bridport! We'd already moved to Fleet from Guildford, where they grew up, so they're already used to being away from their childhood friends.

TB: What do you like doing when you're not working?

CB: I was born in Hythe, Kent, and the sea is in my blood – I'm

so looking forward to living near the water again. We all love sailing, and when our children were younger we took a year out and sailed across the Atlantic as a family. I'm into open water swimming, too, and all that goes with it – particularly the hot chocolate afterwards! – and I want to try paddleboarding.

We have a dog, Paddy, and two cats, Flapjack and Simba. Paddy's looking forward to exploring the lovely walks around Bridport!



It's also going to be lovely to have a proper garden again – the garden at our house here is beautiful.

We really want to put down roots, to make Bridport our home. Curacy is always temporary, but this is a permanent job in the church. I can't wait to get stuck in!

Cally's licensing service will take place on Thursday 11 April at 7pm in St Mary's Church, South Street. All welcome.

Green Day fosters greater eco-responsibility, individually and as a parish

The Parish of Bridport held its Green Day on Saturday 23 March.

The A Rocha Eco Church award scheme was on the agenda in the morning with a workshop for planning further progress. St Mary's Bridport has already achieved a bronze award, and busy teams of volunteers meet regularly to work in churchyards across the parish and encourage greater biodiversity of plants, butterflies and insects. Other elements

of the A Rocha scheme challenge participants to think about their individual lifestyle choices and community engagement.

The afternoon session included presentations by A Rocha, young people from Wild and Messy Church and representatives of Sustainable Bridport and other 'green' organisations. The mayor and lady mayoress of Bridport also came along.

There will be a fuller report with photos next month.

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ST MARY'S Bridport

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

The Living Churchyard project

Caring for churchyards with wildlife in mind

We have a small group of enthusiastic volunteers who meet weekly in the churchyard. We enjoy working together to create an environment that nurtures wildlife and benefits our community, with support from the Dorset Wildlife Trust Living Churchyards project and the A Rocha Eco Church scheme.

The Living Churchyards project exists to help people who manage churchyards across Dorset to do so with wildlife in mind. Its website reads: "From bats to beetles and barn owls to butterflies, churchyards provide an oasis for wildlife to exist and thrive."

Our jobs over recent weeks have included doing some pruning before the birds start to nest. We have also used lots of our newly made compost to feed our planted areas such as the rose memorial garden and 'bee hotel' area.

We are looking forward to being part of the Bridport Bee Trail and we plan to renew the living roof on the 'Air Bee n Bee' and plant more bee- and butterfly-loving flowers for summer and autumn to attract the insects and wildlife.



The Living Churchyard group has been using fresh compost (left) on the soil; spring flowers are flourishing in the woodland area (below)



Our wooded area in the corner of the churchyard is flourishing at the moment with hellebores, primroses, pulmonaria, ferns, daffodils and hopefully some bluebells planted a couple of years ago.

You may have seen a large earth circle where we will be planting meadow seed again in early spring to encourage wildlife and for members of the community to enjoy as they walk through.

We will soon be mowing again and will leave large areas of grass for the wildlife and also to encourage more native wildflowers. This will include the labyrinth, which has been enjoyed by many, young and old.

There is a nature trail pamphlet in the church so you can discover more about your St Mary's churchyard. It's a peaceful place for all to explore, including the wildlife!

We meet every Tuesday 1.30–3.30pm (weather permitting) to enjoy gardening, tea and chat. Everyone is welcome.

Jane Trower

Covid-19 made an impact in many ways, and many of our regular donors haven't been able to support the church as they once did. If you can make a donation, whatever you can give, you'll be helping to maintain our beautiful church and its ministry in the heart of Bridport.



HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

From the parish editor

April starts British Summer Time with light evenings and hopefully warmer days when we'll feel like being out and about and doing things.

The next coffee morning in Holy Trinity is on Saturday 6 April from 10am to 12 noon. This monthly event is always popular and has a cake stall, books and jigsaws for sale, and a raffle. However, the following coffee morning on 4 May will be slightly different. The cakes will be there as usual, but the books and puzzles will not be available as we hope to have a number of local people displaying their hobbies. Several have already booked a table to show off their pastimes, but there is still room for more. If you'd like to exhibit what you do as a hobby, and sell some items if you wish, ring Heather on 423220. The day will be extended until 4pm with soup and sandwiches available over the lunch period, and tea and biscuits in the afternoon.

On Thursday 11 April there will be another Luncheon Club open to anyone who would enjoy an excellent two-course meal in the village hall, cooked for you and served in the company of friends. Please reserve a place with Heather for catering purposes. The last Luncheon Club before the summer will be on Thursday 9 May.

Twice a year, we ask for volunteers to help with jobs that need to be done in the Old Churchyard. Over the last few years a number of regular workers have significantly improved the grounds, and this – along with the grass cutting that the church pays for – means

Hobbies in Bothenhampton

A display of crafts, models and interests
Saturday 4 May, 10am to 4pm
Holy Trinity Church

10am to 12 noon: Usual coffee morning with cakes
12 to 2pm: Soup and sandwiches
2 to 4pm: Tea and biscuits
Come and chat to the hobbyists about their pastimes and why they enjoy them

Luncheon Club

at Bothenhampton Village Hall

Thursday 11 April

From 12 noon; lunch served at 12.30pm

Come and enjoy a two-course hot lunch with others

- Liver & bacon or cauliflower & macaroni cheese
- Trifle

Price £5.50 per head

Please book so we

have numbers for catering:

Heather Purse 423220

heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk



it generally looks very well cared for and is much appreciated by those who visit the graves. There will be a working party on Saturday 13 April: meet at 2pm with garden gloves and tools if you have some.

Would you like to try a new skill? There is a beginners' ukulele session in the village hall on Tuesday 23 April, 3 to 4pm, for a charge of £1. Please take your ukulele if you have one, otherwise a few will be available for you to try. Our local group will look forward to seeing you.

It was good to see our church almost full for the March parish service. Many members of the other churches were in the congregation and our worship was led by Canon Deb. Holy Trinity is a popular choice and the next parish service will also be here (7 April at 10am).

The film in April is long so it will be starting earlier and there will be a short intermission.

Barbara Ffooks

FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 27 April showing Oppenheimer

Doors open 6.30pm, film starts at 7pm

Admission £5 • Refreshments available

Please book by emailing *lenc2413@outlook.com*

Garden working party

Saturday 13 April at 2pm

The Old Churchyard

Please help us tidy these lovely grounds. Bring your own gardening gloves & tools to clear ivy, weeds & tree saplings, tidy old graves, strim uncut places & reduce overgrown areas. Work areas will be allotted on arrival according to ability & tools brought.

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com
 Tower captain – Janet Robinson
 07913 549946 / *jrb-jrb@outlook.com*
 For pastoral or personal issues, please
 contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644
 (Wednesday is her day off)

Church lighting project

Following onsite discussions with the installer, Phoenix Electrical Services, the church architect from Crickmay Stark, and church representatives, a works programme has been agreed. The start date will be Monday 8 April and work will continue until Tuesday 23 April, when commissioning of the system by the design company Architainment will take place and the project finished.

During this period the church will be classed as a construction site, and health and safety regulations will prohibit visits and access for activities. Chairs will be moved to the centre of the church and a mobile scaffold tower erected. The chairs will be put back in their usual positions for services on Thursday 11 (an afternoon thanksgiving service), Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 April. The scaffold tower and all tools and materials will be moved to the carpeted area at the west end of the church before those services.

The bell tower will be accessible during the project from the external west end door.

Tots@Ten

Pre-school children are welcome to join others, with parents and carers, normally every Wednesday during term time in the church where there is lots of space and toys to play with. Refreshments are served. Please note that the group will not be meeting while the lighting project is taking place.

Village lunch club

Do come to The King's Head for a social and reasonably priced lunch on Tuesdays 9 and 23 April. Please let Daphne King (427552) know if you will be coming so she has the numbers for catering.

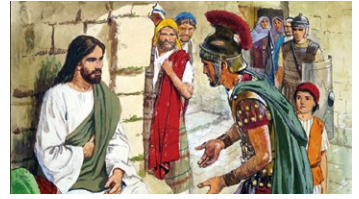
Bradpole Parish Council

The council met on 1 February and the minutes are online at www.tinyurl.com/m44ctu7f (links to council website). Among the items discussed were:



Bradpole Brunch

for children and their families



Why did Jesus heal the centurion's servant?

Come and hear the bible story, activities, songs and prayers. All starting with bacon rolls or cheese toasties

Sunday 21 April, 11.30am to 12.30pm
Bradpole Village Hall

- Dorset Council-owned land – the nature reserve at Court Close. The clerk said she had received a response from Dorset Council's senior ranger for West Dorset, who had confirmed that there was a possibility of the land being transferred to Bridport Town Council.
- Flooding issues in the parish. The clerk said that the Dorset Council flood risk officer had met with residents affected by the recent flooding and had provided flood alleviation advice. The clerk also said Bridport Town Council would look to work with Bradpole residents.
- The clerk said she had met with a contractor to discuss the work required for the refurbishment of the access path at Gore Cross and the two new access paths at Gore Cross and Pageants Field. The contractor had sent three individual quotes for the work, totalling £4,590 plus VAT. Additional quotes had also been sought but to date not received. Councillors agreed that the work was well overdue and, with a raised manhole cover on the existing access path causing health and safety concerns, agreed that the work needed to be completed as soon as possible. The council accepted the quote, which would be covered by Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

Bradpole Ward of Bridport Town Council

The new ward boundaries encompass virtually all of the old civil parish of Bradpole in addition to the settlement of Pymore, the residential area around St Katherine's Avenue, on the east side of Watton Hill, and the commercial/industrial/residential areas along St Andrew's Road.

The first election of five Bradpole Ward councillors to the expanded 20-seat Bridport Town Council will take place on Thursday 2 May in the village hall (if there are more than five candidates). Voting for Dorset Council

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

wards and the Police and Crime Commissioner will also take place on that day. Anyone wishing to vote is reminded that they will need to show acceptable photo identity at the polling station. This can be a passport or driving licence issued in the UK, a Blue Badge parking permit, or a disabled person's bus pass funded by the UK government. Photocopies are unacceptable.

Other less well-known forms of identity can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id.

If your ID is not accepted (maybe because your photo is out of date) you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id but you must do so by Wednesday 24 April.

If you want to have a postal vote, and are not already registered, you need to apply as soon as possible at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/voting-by-post or ring 01305 838299 for a paper application form.

Bradpole Buzz Group

The group would love some support with the following:

- Practical help with planting
- Offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden
- Suggestions and general support

Please phone Rose Van den Akker

on 01308 425756 or email bradpolebuzz@gmail.com.



Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The main hall is available for hire by local community groups and private hire and is fully accessible with facilities for disabled people. All enquiries for bookings to Jane Bryant: 01308 427493 or oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com. See also the parish council website:

www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall.



ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725
walditchbridgejse@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)

Mothering Sunday service

This service was conducted by the Revd Ann Ayling on the theme of 'Mothering,' which she said could apply to birth mothers, stepmothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers and anyone in a caring position. She also urged members of the congregation to get in touch with someone they might have lost contact with, for whatever reason, but who might still be in their thoughts.

The Old Testament reading was Exodus 2:1–10 in which Moses, the saviour of the Israelites, is plucked from the bullrushes on the banks of the Nile and is lovingly brought up by his mother on behalf of Pharaoh's daughter.

The New Testament reading was John 19:25–27 and described the plight of Mary, the mother of Jesus, until the dying saviour on the cross commits her to the care of his beloved disciple, John.

We sang four hymns: For the Beauty of the Earth, by

Folliott Pierpoint; Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, by Sebastian Temple; Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep, by Jane Leeson; and All Things Bright and Beautiful, by Cecil Frances Alexander. The last hymn, so beloved of generations of young children, brought back childhood memories. It was first published in Alexander's book *Hymns for Little Children* in 1848.

During the service sprays of spring flowers (pictured) were distributed among the women in the congregation. There was a prayer for God's grace, opening: "Come, Mother God: Come as an enabling strengthening force, Come as tough love to let us go." This illustrated God's maternal love for all creation, also a theme of this week's address by Canon Deb Smith, Parish Rector.

A very moving poem was read, called *You Watched Him Grow* by Ruth Burgess, who is a Christian author of a number of books.

There were refreshments after the service including a simnel cake, a rich fruitcake topped with 11 marzipan balls on a layer of marzipan. The 11 balls represent the disciples minus Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus. This cake is traditionally eaten on the fourth Sunday in Lent (known as Refreshment Sunday) when the Lenten fast is relaxed.

James Craddock



ST MARY’S Walditch continued...

Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our garden group meeting on Thursday 25 April at 10am in the village hall. We meet on the last Thursday each month for seasonal topics and garden discussion with tea/coffee and biscuits. We look forward to welcoming you. For more information phone 07810 110461.

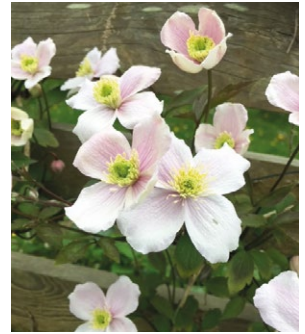
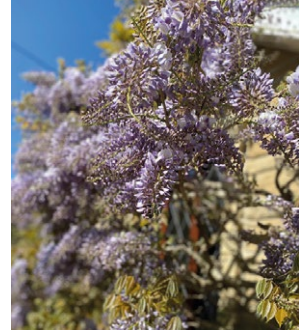
Jane Mowatt

Garden tips for April:

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

Ten flowering plants for April (not necessarily those pictured!):

Spiraea, *pieris*, *camellia*, *primula* and *aubretia*
Clematis alpina and *Clematis macropetala*
Fritillaria imperialis and *Fritillaria meleagris*
Brunnera macrophylla ‘Jack Frost’



ST JOHN’S West Bay

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

News from St John’s

Now April is here, we hope the weather will remain good enough to allow us to hold services at St John’s again, although there will be no heating or lighting. The date for the work to be carried is still unconfirmed, but you are urged to check the noticeboard outside the church for updates. Obviously there is no change to the time shown on the clock, which remains at 10.27!

West Bay WI

The WI will meet for their regular Knit ‘n’ Natter on Wednesday 3 April from 10am to midday, and then

on the following Wednesday (10 April, 2.30–4.30pm) Helen Hawke will come along to the monthly meeting to talk about local marine and bird life.

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 Hooper on 07720 056310.

Round and about the Bay

I was invited to the opening of the Changing Places toilets, when the mayor of Bridport, Cllr Dave Boswell, came along to cut the ribbon. There is a similar facility by Bridport bus station; that one is movable, but the one in West Bay’s main car park is attached to the toilet block. They are truly amazing places and we are so lucky to have one. Inside it is kitted out with the latest movable equipment to give disabled people a dedicated place to change. On one wall is a marvellous photo by Neil Barnes of West Bay harbour at night. Access is via a code supplied by the Tourist Information Centre.

After all the heavy rain we have been experiencing, a crack has appeared on the coastal path between West



Above: The mayor of Bridport, Cllr Dave Bolwell at the opening of West Bay's Changing Places facility. Inside there is a stunning aerial photo of West Bay (left) taken by Neil Barnes



ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

Bay and Freshwater, and the path has been closed. Walkers can still walk through the field on the Marsh Barn road, over the golf course and then rejoin the pathway. However, they need to be watch out for golf balls when crossing the 16th hole! Golfers will be teeing off from a long way back and may be long hitters.

It's been a very busy time in the harbour. First we had the annual dredging to remove the silt that builds up in the entrance. This usually takes around three weeks, depending on the weather. Then we had the arrival of the equipment required to shore up the harbour wall, meaning the kiosks near the harbour master's office had to close. My photo (*below near right*) shows them working during low tide. The work finished ahead of schedule and the kiosks reopened on 13 March; a new harbour wall will be built next, probably at the beginning of 2025.

How many of you were down in the Bay on 1 March to see a demonstration of the WasteShark? This remote-controlled unit (*pictured far right*) moves over the surface of the water collecting litter as it goes. It's a great idea and we hope that national sponsorship will allow the equipment to be trialed in West Bay.

The work around the kiosks and hub is still not finished so cars are still parking by the kiosks. Once the hatching is painted then no one will be able to park there and loading will only happen in the designated

area by the bridge over the river. I wonder how long it will take people to comply with this – probably after a number of fines are issued!

Walking round the Bay early on a Saturday in early March, I saw the gigs being prepared to head off to the Three Rivers Race the following day. This six-mile race takes place over the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher rivers. The Ladies A team were rowing in the newest racing gig and came 11th out of 98 gigs, the best ever result for them – well done, ladies!

We saw over 1,000 visitors in 10 days of opening at the Discovery Centre in February, 400 more than last year, and the current exhibition on WW2 is proving very popular. The centre is now back to six-day opening, so make sure you pop in. Sadly Liz Bryant, the centre's manager, has decided not to return from maternity leave so the hunt is on for a new manager.

John West was interviewed by local storyteller Martin Maudsley about the harbour and its shipbuilding past for a podcast to be linked with a town council leaflet about a loop walk from Bridport to West Bay and back.

The West Bay Community Forum (WBCF) committee met to discuss various issues. It will be good to have two town councillors dedicated to West Bay once the elections take place in April, and we look forward to them attending the WBCF meetings. The AGM will be held on Thursday 4 April at 7pm followed by some fascinating old movies of West Bay.

You may recall that in last month's Bridge I wrote about the two new picnic benches on the East Pier. It was lovely then to be contacted by Kate Ford, the daughter of Jack and Betty Pafford. She said her father used to come to West Bay from Wiltshire as a young lad to work on a farm in West Bay. They stayed in the Marsh Barn and would walk down to fish off the pier. She was sure he would be very pleased to think of fishermen eating their fish and chips at that picnic table.
Sue Pollock

Below: Workers shoring up the harbour wall in West Bay (left); the remote-controlled WasteShark collects litter from the water



ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – James Craddock
allingtonbridgeswc@outlook.com

Distribution – Kevin Payne 07976 534517
payne.kevin6@gmail.com

Verger – Graham Williams 07969 826430
graham_williams11@sky.com

Rose pink and primulas for a special Sunday

The fourth Sunday in Lent is usually known as Mothering Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, and more traditionally as Laetare Sunday. It's a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent.

The Revd Lorna Johnson reminded us that this liturgy goes back at least to the eighth century. This Sunday is the day when servants were released from service for the day to visit their mother church, the place where they received the sacrament of baptism (hence 'Mothering Sunday').

Referring to the rector's Thought for the Week, Lorna reminded us that this day is not about the sweet mother of the Hallmark greetings card, but the compassion of God who loves us all – the weak and the dispossessed as well as the strong and the beautiful.

She quoted from this year's Lent book, Tarry Awhile, where the author visits a church in Rome to shelter from the rain and is gripped by a painting of Mary holding the body of Jesus just after he was removed from the cross. As she



The Revd Lorna Johnson and verger Graham Williams at the service for the fourth Sunday in Lent. Lorna is wearing the church's rose vestments, which are appropriate to the day

was mourning the death of her own mother a year before, the author reflected: "I wanted to comfort Mary and tell her how sorry I was that this had happened. It wasn't long before I realised that my urge to comfort her was linked to my own desire to be comforted... I sat there pondering Mary's pain and my own, and the bodies of those we loved, and in that moment I no longer felt alone."

As this Sunday is considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigours, rose pink is chosen as the liturgical colour as a lighter version of the violet or purple worn during Lent. As rose is only worn on two mid-season Sundays in the year (Lent and Advent), it is expensive to have a full set of vestments in this colour but St Swithun's is lucky enough to have a set.

Thanks to a long-standing connection to one of the market stalls in Bridport, we receive trays of primulas to be given away at mass on Mothering Sunday. Jo George kindly prepares these and everyone was happy to receive their colourful pots to take home, reminding us of the lighter days to come.

Mandi Sturrock

Pictured: Jo George (left) and Evelina Malyon with the Mothering Sunday primroses



ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

Mozart lovers came and sang!

Bridport's West Dorset Singers issued an invitation to 'Come & Sing' Mozart's Requiem at St Swithun's on Saturday 2 March – and 97 enthusiasts arrived on the day. They came from Dorchester, Beaminster, Crewkerne, Lyme Regis and everywhere in between. Many were members of other local choirs or singing groups but a number came simply to experience the joy of singing wonderful music. They included some who hadn't sung seriously since leaving school and others who didn't know whether they could sing at all.

After an enthusiastic first run-through, the singers spent the afternoon polishing the work under the leadership of the West Dorset Singers' musical director, Matt Kingston. Many stayed to close the day when friends and families arrived to enjoy a performance, and the audience and performers all agreed that the afternoon had been a great success.



St Swithun's welcomed 97 singers to 'Come & Sing' with the West Dorset Singers last month

Please note that the community coffee morning on Thursday 2 May has been cancelled because the hall is being used as a polling station.

The next coffee morning is on Thursday 6 June from 9.30 to 11am. Come along for a friendly get-together and chat, with free coffee and other refreshments.

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

So what is Soul Space?

People sometimes ask: "So, what is Soul Space?" I've been asked to try and shed a little light, but Soul Space isn't easy to describe, at least not in a few words. Luckily I have a whole article, so here goes...

Soul Space happens at Bridport United Church on the first Sunday of every month at 4pm, and lasts about an hour, although people usually stay on for another cuppa and more cake and a chat. I say more because hot drinks and cake are on offer before, during and afterwards, so come early and leave late!

It's put together and led by a small team. It's informal and we sit around tables. There will usually be an introduction to the afternoon's theme, and maybe some questions to get us thinking. There will be songs led by a small music group: sometimes traditional hymns, sometimes more modern worship songs, and

sometimes folk or gospel type songs, and you might not know them all. You'll hear something read from the Bible, and one of the team will probably talk about the theme. There is usually a choice of ways for you to engage with or think about the theme a bit more, possibly involving craft, quiet reflection or another activity. Everyone is free to join in with as much or as little as they feel comfortable. You can always just sit and have a cuppa. There will be prayer, which could take a number of forms: silent meditation, prayer while doing an activity, or spoken prayers. And there is often time to talk with one another about the day's theme.

Soul Space aims to give each person some space to connect with God in whatever way works for them, and hopefully be refreshed, challenged or inspired. →



Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

But a written description can only go so far; it really does need a ‘taste and see’ approach, and maybe over a few months, as the sessions can be quite different. It can be very like a ‘normal’ church service or you might be paddling in water, potting up a plant, making something from clay, doing origami, helping to create a big piece of art, sitting quietly gazing at a candle, or finding yourself challenged with some tricky questions.

There will be an overall theme which runs for three or four sessions as we probe different aspects. Over the past year or so we’ve looked at ‘What is God like’, ‘Things Jesus carried’, ‘Questions God asks’, ‘Earth, Water and Fire’ and ‘Simplicity, Action, Activism’.

Soul Space is for adults and it’s for children. It’s for people who like words and for people who prefer pictures. It’s for people who have a strong faith and people who aren’t sure. It’s for people who are clear thinkers and those who get muddled. It’s for those who like to join in and those who prefer to sit and observe.

The hope is that everyone can engage with at least some of it and find something that hits the spot for them; something that helps them find God, get to know Him and respond to Him.

Has that intrigued you or made you think: that’s not for me? Why not just come along and give it a try? You might find it’s what you didn’t know you needed...

Melanie Buckland

Part of the Bridport United Church family

April services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 7	10.30am	Local arrangement
	4pm	Soul Space
Sunday 14	10.30am	Baptism with
		Jane Wilson
Sunday 21	10.30am	Richard Lownsbrough
	4pm	Cafe Church
Sunday 28	10.30am	Peter Clark (HC)

Regular events at BUC

Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday 10am–noon. Lunch Club fourth Wednesday.

Mondays	9.30am	Toddlers group
	10am–noon	Art group (inner hall)
	2pm	Art history from 8 April
	2.30pm	National Trust (last only)
	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society
Tuesdays	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third)
	2pm	Bridport U3A (fourth)
	4.30pm	Rainbows
	5.30pm	Brownies



Tuesdays cont.	7.30pm	West Dorset Singers
	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band (church)
Wednesdays	12.30pm	Lunch Club (fourth only)
		All welcome. Two-course home-cooked meal.
		Please book: 422598
	5.30pm	Kickboxing (inner hall)
	6pm	Fitsteps
Thursdays	7.30pm	Kickboxing (main hall)
	2pm	Thursday Club (third)
		All welcome for tea, chat, games and crafts
	2.30pm	Bridport History Society (second only)
	3.30pm	Messy Church (fourth)
Fridays	6pm	Fusion Dance
	6pm	Kickboxing (main hall)

Special events

Sat 13 April	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast
Sat 20 April	10am–noon	Bridport Choral Society coffee morning
	7.30pm	Bridport Rotary presents a concert by Bridport Big Band

From Uploders Chapel

I know I am repeating myself, but we always enjoy the services we have at the chapel – and Tony Boyden, who took our first service in March, proved this.

In recent weeks I’ve been delighted to see lambs in the field at the bottom of our garden, as well as a variety of spring flowers, all adding to the positive feeling that spring is here. And of course, then came Easter at the very end of March.

As I mentioned last month, CAKE is back to its usual day of the first Tuesday in the month from 2.30 to 4pm. All are very welcome to come along and enjoy lots of chat and cuppas – and, of course, cake!

The Pop Up Post Office (PUPO) is now on a Wednesday from 1 to 2.30pm. We realise that this may not be the best of times for some of you but this

UPLODERS Chapel continued...

is the only time slot we can have. We haven't been disappointed, however, by how many of you have kept supporting us. So, many thanks for that, and also many thanks to you kind souls who have taken on the duty of making cuppas and cake and being at the chapel during PUPO time.

Well, let's hope April is better than Average and proves to be Astonishing – in the nicest possible way, of course!

Carol Hall



April services at Uploders Chapel:

Sunday 7	10.30am	Local arrangement
Sunday 21	10.30am	Jane Wilson (HC)

St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

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

The light of Christ has come into our world

With the dark winter months behind us and the opportunity to look forward to lighter, brighter and warmer days ahead, many of us will feel a lightening of our moods and a sense of better days to come.

For more than 1 in 20 people in the UK who have been diagnosed with Seasonal Affective Disorder – a type of depression that comes and goes in a seasonal pattern – these lighter days cannot come soon enough. SAD is sometimes known as 'winter depression' because the symptoms are usually more apparent and more severe during the winter months when light levels are lower and daylight hours are shorter. Sufferers often describe how during the autumn they begin to feel less energetic and moodier, feelings that only begin to disappear when the clocks change in spring and evenings begin to grow longer and the sun shines more



frequently. They would know only too well that having light in our lives is essential to our wellbeing.

For Christians, too, the importance of light is a fundamental part of our faith. Recognising that without Christ in our lives we live in a dark world of sin is at the centre of the Easter story. Through Jesus' death for our sins and resurrection in glory, He has brought salvation to us and light into our darkened world.

One of the most beautiful parts of our Easter celebrations is the lighting of the Paschal candle from a fire. The candle is then taken into the church and all those present have the light passed to them; they, in turn, light their candles and so the building fills with light. The Paschal or Easter candle remains in a prominent place in our churches throughout the Easter season and is also used at baptisms and funerals. The Paschal candle represents Jesus, the light of the world, and is a wonderful reminder of our need for the light of Christ in our lives. At all parts of our lives He is there with us guiding us and promising us His love.

Throughout the Bible, light is associated with God's presence. In the Old Testament God reveals himself to His people with light. From creation to the burning bush, God is there for His People. In the New Testament Jesus is revealed as the Light of the World, removing our sin and showing us the way to the Father. Jesus also tells us that we must never hide our own light but let it shine in the world.

May we recognise Christ's light in our own lives and in turn spread His light to others, especially those who are experiencing darkness and difficulties in their lives.

Deacon Mark Brown

Sunday Mass is at 10am and is streamed online at www.bridportcatholics.org.uk and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see our weekly newsletter on our website.

BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

Beacon Church – meet our family

We know that 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?

I'm James. I'm from Plymouth but 'migrated' here to be nearer my wife's family. For the past 10 years I've been teaching in primary education, but I currently have the exciting challenge of supporting adults to feel more confident using maths for life and work. I work for Skills & Learning (adult community education) with lots of wonderful people in community centres, libraries, hospitals and schools across Dorset.



Tell us about your walk with Jesus

I started going to church as a teenager. At that time

it was about the community it gave me; I made some great friends and we had fun with the youth leaders. But being around older Christians was transformative: their openness and humility drew me to wanting to meet Jesus. At 17, I chose to be baptised. I imagined that this was 'it', that my walk with Jesus would follow a clear plan. What I learned (slowly!) was that following Jesus is all about relationship – sometimes I've been distant, sometimes close. He's always there, faithful and caring, but I often allow other things to be more important and get in the way of our relationship growing.

How do you see God at work in your week?

I've recently become a father, which has been an incredible blessing, full of new moments of joy, but has also come with challenges and changes! I've grown in my appreciation of the incredible God we worship. I can be impatient, scattered and selfish – but God never is. He doesn't have somewhere better to be, He wants to be with me – so much so that he allowed His son to be mocked, beaten and killed so I could be in relationship with Him. When I look at my son and consider that, it blows my mind. As the week passes, God is ever present and the more I seek Him, the more I find Him.

You are always welcome at Beacon Church. Wherever you are in your journey in faith, and whatever you believe, we'd love to meet you. Our service is at 10.30am each Sunday in the Beacon Evangelical Hall, DT6 3RW.

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 bless the community of Bridport with the Good News of Jesus, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome at our Sunday services or when joining in any of our activities.

Our usual pattern of activities is as follows (it varies during church festivals such as Christmas – see online for details: www.bridportchristianfellowship.org).

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.

Wednesdays: One House group meets at 7–9pm. Precious Ones Baby & Toddlers Group, for under-4s and their parents or carers, meets in the church at 9.30–11.30am.

Fridays: One House group meets at 12.30–2pm. You can also come along and join in our Art Group, 10am–12 noon. 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–12 noon is our weekly service. On the first Sunday in the month, we also join together for a meal or BBQ after the service.



BRIDPORT
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Bridport QUAKER MEETING

The Meeting House

97 South Street

Correspondent – Jeni Edwards
538105 / jeni.edwards69@gmail.com



A testimony to equality

Another Quaker testimony is the one to equality. This is a word that sounds simple and we all know what it means – until we start trying to define it, and once again it turns out to have many layers. The Oxford English Dictionary says ‘equal’, which can be in terms of the ‘same number, size, degree, or merit’.

There is no doubt that we are all different and that different people have different talents and abilities. We are also beginning to see that the state of the environment can have an effect not only on people but also on animals and the infinite variety of natural species. How do we find a way of expressing a respect for the equal value of all?

Putting equality into practice in everyday life then becomes quite a challenge. But thinking about it,

doesn't it all come down to love, for to love equally takes away status and leaves only the object. No one said it was going to be easy!

Meeting is held at the Meeting House at 10.30am for an hour on Sunday mornings and 10.30am for half an hour on Wednesday mornings. All are welcome.

The Quaker website at www.bridportquakers.org contains all the details you need to book a room for an event or to find out more about us.

“A cat may look at a king” – an ancient proverb from the 16th century or before and in many languages. She (*pictured*) reminds me of it every time she gets hungry...
Jeni Edwards

Get involved: local clubs, groups & 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).

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 8 April the home team will present ‘Spring my way’ and there will be a floral accessories stall. Phone 456339.

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.

Bridport Stage Company theatre group meets on Mondays 7–9pm at The Bull hotel, where they will perform *The Importance of Being Earnest* around Easter. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk

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. More details online at www.bridportallotmentsociety.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

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet on Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm at the WI Hall, North St for a behind-the-scenes look at life at garden centres in Castle, Brinsmore and Poundbury. Open to non-members at £2. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

Bridport Bridge Club meets Wednesday evenings & 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 or phone Martin Angold 861120. →

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

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

Friday Dance Group for women meets every Friday 11.30am–12.30pm at St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. Come and enjoy dancing as you like to a range of music. First session free. Details from Sue 425037.

Burton Bradstock Duplicate Bridge Group meets at the village hall on Tuesdays 1.45–4.45pm. Contact Kathy 485626.

Bridport Stroke Club meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact David Lawrence: dandhlawrence@gmail.com

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.

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

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 contact the secretary, Sarah Stamford: secretary@westdorsetsingers.org / 425312.

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 / 07887 675161 for more details or to join the mailing list.

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 Scottish Dancers meet on Wednesdays at 7.15pm (7.30pm start) in St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. All welcome, no partner required. First visit free, then £2 per session (incl. refreshments). Basic tuition given in the first hour. Please wear soft shoes if possible. Caroline 538141 / Malcolm 07790 323343 / www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk

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

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

Bridport Health Walks are free gentle walks around town. A 30-minute walk every Wednesday and a walk of about 60 minutes on the first and third Thursday each month. Meet in front of the United Church on East St at 9.45am and return for hot refreshments. No need to book, just turn up. For more details contact 01305 252222 / sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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 visit www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys

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 for details and to receive newsletter. www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please

The Cowshed Wellbeing Gardens group meets on Tuesdays 2–4pm. 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 information please text 07769 720773.

Bridport History Society meets on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £5pp. Membership is £10 individual / £15 couple. For more info visit www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk

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

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 or drop in to 45 South Street, Bridport (Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).





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. Thursday to Sunday, 3.15 to 10.45pm. Appointments 07385 290804.

ASCape offers social opportunities and support for autistic young people and those with social anxiety aged 4–25 and their families. Contact info@ascapigroup.org or visit www.ascapigroup.org

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

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

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 St. The talk lasts about an hour, followed by Q&A and refreshments. On 23 April Keith Hayman will speak about the work of medical detection dogs – the supersniffers! 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 / www.bridportu3a.org.uk

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

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

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

Bridport Community Carnival Committee enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August each year. Would you like to get involved with planning this sociable event for 2024? Contact joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.bridportcarnival.co.uk

Bridport Youth Dance offers classes in tap, contemporary, street, urban and musical theatre. To enrol or for more details contact Nikki Northover 07765 971357 / bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com / www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk.

Bridport & District RNLI holds five or six events (including Seatown BBQ) each year to raise money. Volunteers always needed. Contact Sadie 07811 470127 or Annie 07790 713156.

The Rotary Club of Bridport meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6pm at the Bull Hotel as well as for other fundraising and social activities. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Contact Mike Green 07909 990693 / mikegreen@greenmail.net

MMMM! Monday Movie, Meal & Mingling from United Diversity Bridport (UDB) & Sustainable Bridport. Mondays 6–10pm in the White Room, 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. www.ud.coop/mmmm

Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association meets on the third Thursday each month at 7 for 7.30pm in the Bridport & District Social Club, North St. Ex-matelots & all other ex-military welcome. Refreshments available. Contact Peter May glassertonm1141@outlook.com

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

Bridport Dog Training Society has been active for 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!

Stepping Out Bridport is an exercise and wellbeing programme, led by trained rehabilitation instructors, for people living with or beyond cancer. Monday and Thursday mornings at the Pavilion, Bridport Leisure Centre. All ages welcome. Contact j.perfect@bridportleisure.com. More information at www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk

Bridport St John Ambulance unit meets at TS Keppel, West Allington, on Mondays. Cadets (aged 10–18) 6–7.30pm, adults 7.30–9pm. Volunteers are always welcome to join the unit. For details contact the unit manager: caroline.rendell@sja.org.uk



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

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.

The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares creative writing charity runs free workshops for children and young adults in local schools and elsewhere. Come and join our Marvellous Mentors supporting children to find their voice. No experience necessary. www.thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org/volunteering

Bridport & Lyme Regis Royal Air Forces Association meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm in various locations. Whether currently serving in the RAF, a veteran, a family member, or someone who wants to do your bit to help, you are always welcome to join us. Contact Bill Davies: 281200 / buccbill@hotmail.com

Girlguiding West Dorset has Rainbow, Brownie, Guide & Ranger groups meeting in Bridport area. Open to girls aged 4+ and adults, we offer an inclusive space for fun and friendship and a wide range of activities within a progressive programme structure offering opportunities and awards. www.girlguiding.org.uk / girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com

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

Bridport Royal British Legion meets on the third Saturday each month at 10am for a coffee morning. Come along to our hall in Victoria Grove for a chat and to find out about membership and activities. The newly refurbished hall now has disabled access and is available for hire. Contact Linda 425664 (hall bookings) or Mike Thompson 07974 534945 / mickey_thompson56@hotmail.com (membership.) The **National Coastwatch Institution** works with other emergency services to keep people safe along our coastline. Volunteer watchkeepers always needed for lookouts at Burton Bradstock and Charmouth. Contact Station Manager Judy Clarke: judy.clarke@nci.org.uk

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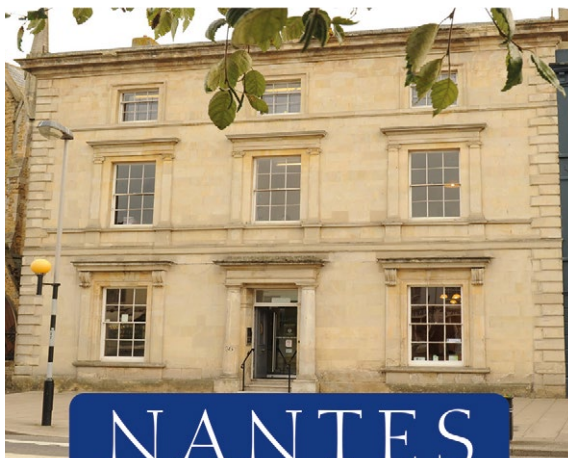
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