

#### THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT

Interim Team Rector The Revd Cally Burch cally@parishofbridport.org
07746 561144 Day off Friday

#### **Associate Priests**

The Revd Lorna Johnson Day off Saturday lorna@parishofbridport.org / 341520 / 07501 408221 The Revd John Rees Day off Monday john@parishofbridport.org / 07340 589375

#### Permission to officiate

The Revd Janis Moore Day off Wednesday janis@parishofbridport.org / 425644
The Revd Ann Ayling annayling7@gmail.com / 424896
The Revd Dan Shackell dan@parishofbridport.org / 426514
The Revd Philip Ringer (Hospital Chaplain) philipringer@aol.com / 425774

#### 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 Caroline or Diana

Lay worship leaders

Martin Whiting, James Craddock and Anne Rees

**Team Administrator** Dianne Sinclair admin@parishofbridport.org / 424747
Postal address: The Administrator, c/o The Rectory, 84 South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW

**Secretary to the PCC** Bridget Trump *pcc@parishofbridport.orq* / 459875

**Safeguarding** Wendy Thorogood *PSO@parishofbridport.org* / 07469 249014 (office hrs)

#### Churchwardens

Michele Craddock 458725 John Adams 425766 cwteam@parishofbridport.org

#### HALL BOOKINGS

**St Swithun's Church Hall** Anne Ansell ssubookings@parishofbridport.org

Bothenhampton Village Hall Heather Purse heatherpurse@uahoo.co.uk 423220

Bradpole Forster Village Hall Sarah Kilcoyne bookingsbradpolevillagehall@gmail.com

Bookings at www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole
St Mary's Church House Hall Mish Bartlett

St Mary's Church House Hall stmaryschhbookings@gmail.com

Walditch Village Hall Jane Weyman janeweyman@btinternet.com 424299

Christian Fellowship, King St Jackie Edwards

United Church Sue Herman

bucoffice1@gmail.com

**Bridport Food Bank** Sonia Maynard info@bridportfoodbank.org 07443 596096

#### OTHER CHURCHES IN BRIDPORT

Beacon Church, Priory Lane 456031 office

The Christian Fellowship 458227

#### St Mary & St Catherine (Roman Catholic)

Father Colin Groombridge 424754 presbytery bridport@prcdtr.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

jane.wilson@methodist.org.uk

Jane Clinton, secretary bucchurchsec@qmail.com

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

The advertising & copy deadline for the October issue is 5pm on Monday 8 September

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

Advertising rates appear at www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise send copy to parish editors (details in Parish Pages) at least three days before the deadline, or a week for handwritten/typed copy. We cannot guarantee to include unsolicited contributions.

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## Get down to Earth at the Parish Green Day

The Parish Green Day – Saturday 27 September, 9.30am to 4pm at St Mary's South Street – is a festival of talks, walks and workshops with local green organisations.

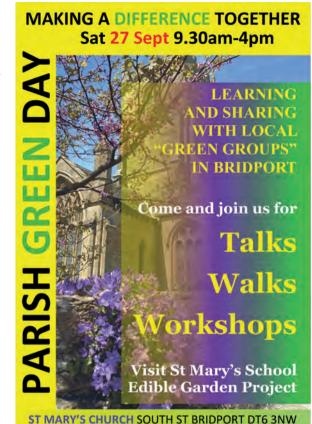
It's a chance to enjoy learning about how the churches and environmental groups are working collaboratively to make Bridport a more sustainable and resilient town. Alongside presentations from green specialists, and interactive workshops, young people will also be speaking about their hopes for a greener future.

The Revd Lorna Johnson and the Wild & Messy Church team will open the event, then representatives from local green groups will speak briefly about their work. A talk by Dana Assinder from West Dorset Wilding will bring the morning to a close.

During lunch there will be a chance to mingle and network. The afternoon will include workshops on regenerative textiles, sustainable flowers, poetry, and working with wood. There will be guided walks in the churchyard, community orchard, Society of Friends garden and St Mary's School Edible Garden Project.

"We all have so much to share and learn about the natural world," says Janet Webster from the St Mary's Eco Church group. "It is a privilege to live in such a special, friendly town as Bridport. We want to enjoy working together to make its future more sustainable."

Email ecochurch@parishofbridport.org for more info.



## A record-breaking haul for Christian Aid Week

Local supporters of this year's Christian Aid Week (CAW) in May raised £6,376,15 – a record for the Bridport & Loders 'patch'.

"There were so many CAW events this year that we only got the final total in July," says Jill Henderson, CAW organiser, Churches Together in Bridport & District. "It was certainly worth waiting for!"

The money will support leaders like Aurelia, a farming grandmother in Guatemala, Central America, to push back against the climate crisis and protect their communities from hunger and poverty.

CAW got off to a great start on the first Sunday with the United Church's well-supported Big Breakfast. That church's parishioners also got behind their energetic retired minister, the Revd Peter Clark, who enthusiastically took up the '70k in May' challenge, as did two more ministers, the Revd Lorna Johnson at St Swithun's and the Revd Chris Grasske at Loders.

Walditch people filled their hall with an array of tasty offerings at their soup lunch. Bradpole was another generous supporter, with a successful Jazzy Cafe coffee morning, plus strong support

for their 70k in May participants and collections in the church and in the town centre one market day.

Local historian Bruce Upton amused and surprised his appreciative audience with his Brilliant Bridport talk, and there were many satisfied customers at the St Mary's Coffee & Cake event. An inspiring CAW-centered parish service, led by the Revd Cally Burch, concluded the week and focused thoughts and prayers on Guatemala, where the climate crisis is ravaging the farms of indigenous communities.

"Thank you so much to all you 'Brilliant Bridport' people for your kind support," says Jill. "It really does make a difference."

SEPTEMBER 2025 – see below for an explanation of the abbreviations								
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 MPR		
Tues 2				2.30pm HC				
Wed 3	2.30pm HC							
Thurs 4		10am Eucharist						
Sun 7 12th after Trinity	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)		10am Parish service of HC				
Mon 8						10am MPR		
Wed 10		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)						
Thurs 11		10am Eucharist 3.30pm Wild & Messy Church						
<b>Sun 14</b> 13th after Trinity	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am MPR	11am MP	9.30am MP	11am MPR	11am HC 3pm Battle of Britain service		
Mon 15						10am MPR		
Thurs 18		10am Eucharist						
<b>Sun 21</b> 14th after Trinity	8am BCP HC 11am MP	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am HC	11am MPR	11am MPR		
Mon 22						10am MPR		
Wed 24		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)						
Thurs 25		10am Eucharist						
Sat 27						6pm Service of Wholeness & Healing		
<b>Sun 28</b> 6th after Trinity	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	6pm Harvest Songs of Praise (tea from 5pm)	11am HC	11am MPR		
Mon 29						10am MPR		

 $HC = Holy\ Communion\ /\ BCP = Book\ of\ Common\ Prayer\ /\ CC = Contemplative\ Church\ /\ MP = Morning\ Praise\ /\ MPR = Morning\ Prayer\ *\ Centering\ Prayer\ and\ Lectio\ Divina\ take\ place\ on\ alternate\ Wednesdays.$  For more details email carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com\ or\ yvonne.welch1943@gmail.com



Bridport & Lyme Regis Royal Air Forces Assn Group will host the annual **Battle of Britain** service at St John's Church, West Bay, on Sunday 14 September at 3pm. All welcome.

#### Churches Together in Bridport & District (CTiBD)

We had a lovely tea and chat on 26 July, with lots of singing (thank you Teresa), good food and company – and even a spot of dancing! The next tea and chat is on Sunday 13 September at 2.30pm at St Swithun's.

'Pray Bridport' is at 6pm on Tues 9 Sept at the Beacon Church and Tues 14 October at Bridport United Church. 'Stand for Peace at Midday' is on the first Sunday of the month outside the Chapel in the Garden and on the third Sunday outside Bridport United Church.

Some Christmas services for your diary, all at 4pm: Sun 30 Nov, Advent carol service at the United Church; Sun 14 Dec, Taizé service at Bothenhampton Church; Sun 4 Jan 2026, Epiphany carol service at St Mary & St Catherine's Roman Catholic Church, Victoria Grove. Sue Herman, Chair, CTiBD

## Times of change can affect our mental health

September is a time of new beginnings. Some of you will have children moving to new schools or have empty places where you delivered children to universities or new jobs. Such new beginnings disrupt our routines; they are often exciting and challenging at the same time.

Two years ago I had just moved to Bradpole from the parishes near Trowbridge in Wiltshire where I was rector. My wife Anne and I were warmly welcomed by neighbours and the parish community – and we were very grateful. I was pleased to be living in such a wonderful town, surrounded by fabulous countryside and the Jurassic Coast – I had wanted to live by the sea ever since my

I was so fortunate, but I was also stressed.

I had loved my rector role and being fully involved in community life, especially in our village primary schools. After a 40-year career (I had led defence communication projects before becoming a full-time minister in 2010) I had time on my hands. But rather than enjoying my free time, I became grumpy and disorientated. It took time before I became at peace with my new circumstances – and then new ministry roles became clear.

childhood years in a Midlands village.

I write this because we all have times when we are living with stressful situations. Very sadly, for some the cumulative effect of difficult times and mental ill health means going on becomes just too difficult. Last month I took the funeral and thanksgiving services for a muchloved niece as tragically she had taken her own life.

A new event in Bridport this month is the Allington Arts Weekend. Included in the wide-ranging programme is a play that explores the alltoo-often taboo subjects of mental ill health and suicide.

Every Brilliant Thing is about a child dealing with a parent's depression. The play explores themes of mental

health, love, and



The Revd John Rees

New beginnings disrupt our routines; they are often exciting and challenging at the same time the lengths people go to for those they care about. It centres around a list of things that make life worth living, created by the child to cope with their mother's depression following a suicide attempt. Expert support is being arranged for anyone who is affected by the themes of the Bridport performance and feels they need some help.

The core of Jesus' teaching is to "love God with all your heart, mind soul and strength

and to love your neighbour as yourself." Many people exploring Christian faith have found that, as they learn about Jesus and his teachings and worship him, they develop a loving relationship with God. They discover that Christian faith is not about rigid obedience to rules – but knowing the depth of God's love for us all. This can transform our lives and enable us to be more loving of others and ourselves. It can also sustain us in times of change, even when these are difficult.

The Revd John Rees, Associate Vicar

## Finding hope and help in the very worst of times

It's a tragedy that so many of us have lost a family member, friend or colleague to suicide.

When it happens, we think: if only. If only they'd reached out, sought help, taken some time to find a way to heal and find hope. Many people who take their own lives are surrounded by love – from a partner, family, friends or all of these – but sadly it seems that sometimes this isn't enough. Ultimately I believe it's impossible for others to imagine things from the point of view of a suicidal person.

Society and the Church have a pretty lamentable past as far as suicide is concerned, once condemning it as a sin or crime and even refusing to bury its victims in consecrated ground. Thankfully times

have changed, and the Church is now part of a supportive network of social and medical services and charities. The clergy are here as a listening ear and for pastoral support and prayer.

Inside this magazine you can read about the Allington Arts Weekend and the play Every Brilliant Thing, which covers themes of depression



Olivia Daly Editor

and mental ill health. The Parish of Bridport will be offering support at the play to anyone who needs it, as well as pointing the way to other professionals and organisations. Please reach out for help if you need it.

### **BRIDGE LESSONS**

Are you interested in learning bridge? (or just need a refresher?)

Bridport Bridge Club is starting a new course for beginners and returners















Classes will be held at Bradpole Village Hall Mondays 2-5pm starting 13 October

With a free introductory lesson on 29 Sept

To find out more, contact Martin on 01308 861120 or email bridportbridgeclub@gmail.com



### **Bridport Food** Matters is seeking a financial steward



Bridport Food Matters (BFM) is seeking someone to help steward our

finances, in a voluntary capacity as an ex-officio director.

Based in West Dorset, we have recently become a Charitable Community Benefit Society, owned by our members and governed by directors. We operate with few resources, and rely mostly on the fabulous involvement of dedicated volunteers with expertise in education and all aspects of the food system.

BFM is a community hub promoting access to nutritious food for all, forever. We are the lead for Bridport's membership of the Sustainable Food Places network, have engaged wide sectors of the local community in food security, and are in the process of opening a community food hub (Nourish) to improve health and wellbeing, strengthen community connection and develop a sustainable local food system. We run skills-sharing workshops, awareness-raising events, and use engaging ways of involving a wide range of individuals and groups, celebrating our community through food.

We hope there will be someone within striking distance of Bridport with the expertise and willingness to get involved in this dynamic community initiative, increasingly important cause and very rewarding endeavour.

To discuss this or find out more, please contact Candida Dunford Wood on bridportfoodmatters@gmail.com and visit www.bridportfoodmatters.net.

### Whist Drive St Swithun's Church Hall, Allington Second Friday of each month

Beginners and improvers 7-7.15pm Experienced players from 7pm Whist drive starts promptly at 7.30pm



You don't need to bring a partner. Prizes for high-card points and great raffle prizes!

All proceeds go towards the running of the whist drive. Any surplus money will be donated to the Living Tree cancer support charity based in Bridport (charity number 1188213).

Other card games (e.g. canasta, bridge, cribbage) by prior arrangement.

Entry £5 on the door including raffle tickets Ring 0752 818 9815 for more information Also on Facebook ('Bridport Whist Drive')



# Allotment life in Bridport

If there's one question we hear time and again, it's this: "How do I get an allotment?"

Across town, we have 10 allotment sites, offering 209 plots in total – a mix of full-sized and half-sized options. Our main sites include Flaxhayes, Priory Gardens, Skilling, Community Orchard, West Allington, St Cecilia's, Walditch and Bradpole. Each site has its own character, but all are brimming with life, from the traditional tomatoes and onions to raised beds with aubergines, purple mangetout and microgreens.

One of the most active sites is Skilling, home to the Bridport Allotment Society, which organises annual events, supports members, and even negotiates discounts from local suppliers. Their website www. bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk has handy month-bymonth tips and recipes for allotment produce.

You'll find many plot-holders are seasoned growers who spend hours nurturing their patches, some producing enough to feed their family, share with neighbours and even trade seeds or seedlings with fellow gardeners. It's not just about growing, either — it's a place to slow down, get your hands in the soil and enjoy the outdoors.

We carry out a yearly check to make sure plots are being tended and to flag up any site issues. Unsurprisingly, demand is high, and we do have a waiting list – but plots do occasionally become available when people move away or step back. If you're interested, head to our website and fill in the allotment request form, or contact our office directly.

#### Growing together: allotments for the community

Bridport's allotments aren't just for individuals – several community groups have their own spaces too. Groups like Bridport Cohousing, Dorset County Hospital NHS Trust START group, Harmony, the Living Tree, the Home Project and the Cowshed are all cultivating more than just crops – they're growing connections, wellbeing and shared purpose.

A standout example is the Bridport Community Orchard group's allotment, tucked right in the heart of town by the orchard. This space is open to anyone, whether you're waiting for your own plot, curious about growing your own, or simply fancy an hour or two outdoors. No experience needed, and no pressure





From top:
A productive
Bridport allotment;
the aubergines
are doing well; a
bumper harvest from
Bridport Community
Orchard's allotment



to commit – just 50p for a cuppa and you're in! The site is wheelchair accessible, with raised beds, and the growers gather every Thursday at 2pm, from mid-February through to November.

What's more, they offer a free weekly session, How to Grow Your Own, every Thursday at 1pm – perfect for beginners growing at home or those new to allotments. These hands-on sessions take you step by step from seed to harvest, and everything is provided (though you might want to bring your own gloves). They meet come rain or shine – there's a shelter in case the weather turns. To find out more or to get involved, drop a line to Steve Meek, the coordinator, at <code>bridportcommunityallotment@gmail.com</code>, or check out their Facebook page.

Caroline Pearce, Project Manager, BTC

**Help with Apple devices:** Do you sometimes have a problem getting your iPhone, iPad or iMac to do exactly what you want? Apple Users Group (AUG) Wessex can help. The group meets once a month to share information and provide one-to-one help. Typical questions include: Where do I store my photos? How do I use WhatsApp? Can I make a flyer for the local fete on my iPad? Free open meeting on Tuesday 7 October at 7.30pm in the Skyrm Room, Public Hall, 8 Fleet Street, Beaminster DT8 3EF. www.augwessex.org.uk

## Carer required

Hello,

My name is Mary and I am looking for a lovely lady to join my other carers who support me to live independently in my own flat in Bridport.

I have a learning disability so I need support with personal care, meal preparation, social activities, keeping my flat nice and clean, etc.

I want someone who is kind, caring, patient and trustworthy and I like it when my carers make me laugh.

Sometimes my carers are ill or they go away on holiday so I need some help during those times. Can you help me?

#### **Excellent rates of pay**

Contact Frances West: franwest5556@gmail.com or 07400 506761





St Swithun's Church Allington

#### Join the Bridport & District U3A Singers

Singing for enjoyment. All welcome.

First visit free – no audition, no commitment.

1st & 3rd Thursdays (some exceptions) from 4 Sept
WI Hall, North Street, Bridport, 10.30am–12 noon
Termly charge £20

Heather 01308 425219 / www.bridport.u3asite.uk

✓ Do you need a smoke detector?
 ✓ Have a long term health condition?
 ✓ Live with poor hearing or sight loss?
 ✓ Would have difficulties escaping in the event of a fire?
 If you can answer yes to one of these questions, then please visit dwfire.org.uk or call us on 0800 038 2323 to request a FREE Safe & Well visit

# The Allington Arts Weekend is a feast of theatre, music and visual art

The Allington Arts Weekend this month promises a wonderful line-up of local events and performers from theatre, music and the visual arts. It's happening at St Swithun's Church, North Allington, from Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 September.

This very special church has recently undergone a restoration programme, and the festival reflects organisers' commitment to using the building for a greater range of cultural and community events. "The church exists to serve the local people, and we are determined to make greater use of its unique advantage as a venue," says Mandi Sturrock. "It is such a versatile and wonderful open space and now has the benefit of a concert grand piano, which local people regularly play and listen to."

The programme is as follows. Most events are in the church (C) although some are in the hall (H).

#### Thursday 25 September

#### 4pm

**Grand opening** with Bridport Primary School Choir (C, free)

#### 7.30pm

Rough Assembly and Friends

A celebration of folk and roots music (C, £12)



Above: Actor Romla Walker in rehearsal for Every Brilliant Thing

#### Friday 26 September

#### 5pm

The History of Allington

A talk by Chris Stevens from Bridport Museum outreach (H,  $\pounds$ 5)

#### 7.30pm Every Brilliant Thing

A play by Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe. Directed by Margie Barbour (see page 15 for more). This is an amateur production (C, £15)

#### Saturday 27 September

#### 10am to 1pm

**Print workshop** with local artists Brian Smith and Anna Sullock. 'A fresh look at Creation.' Take home your own piece of art (H, £45)

#### 10.15am

Dan Shackell & Sue Smith

Sax and piano duo (C, free)

#### 11.30am

Elizabeth Hornby, piano

Lizzie plays her own compositions (C, free)

#### 1pm

**Come & Sing with Matt Kingston** 

Learn choral classics in an afternoon (C, £15). Followed by a performance at 5pm (C, free)

#### 7.30pm

**Upton, McIntosh & Wilson** 

A great night of classic songs from this acoustic trio (C, £20)

#### Sunday 28 September

#### 3pm

Ragtime meets Boogie

Julian Phillips and Mike Denham on piano (C, £15)

#### 6pm

#### **Grand finale**

A piano recital by Duncan Honeybourne (C, £10). Programme: Rhapsody in G minor by Brahms Tides by William Baines Three pieces by Reginald Redman i. Mist on the Moors ii. A Cornish Legend iii. On the Cornish Coast Fantasy in C, op.17 by Schumann

Full details and tickets (including for the free events) are available online at www. bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets/allington-arts-weekend/. A souvenir programme will be available soon, price £2.



## Remembering former editor Valerie Payne

Valerie Payne, formerly the editor of this magazine, died on 30 May aged 91. Her funeral was on 16 June at St Mary's Bridport, where she worshipped and was a lay minister for many years.

Valerie worked tirelessly in the community of Bridport and in the parish of St Mary's. She was extremely family oriented and worked hard to support families, children and young people in the town wherever she thought there was a need. By nature, she was very generous – quick to offer a hot meal and hospitality to everyone of all ages and any walk of life, including the homeless and those suffering hardship.

Everything she did was practical, caring and delivered with her trademark sense of fun. As well as The Bridge, she was involved in many other projects, including the Churches Together in Bridport & District youth worker project, Good Books Christian bookshop, PALS and Rock Solid children's/youth groups and holiday clubs, the Mothers' Union, Bridport Food Bank and Christian Aid

An enthusiastic Girl Guide in her youth, Valerie was a senior Guide leader for many years. She was particularly good at organising groups of volunteers

and residential trips.

She was a proud mother to four children, grandmother to seven grandchildren and greatgrandmother to five. Her youngest daughter, Rachel, owns the Pack Horse cafe in Bridport and is continuing her mother's legacy of baking excellent cakes. Valerie was also a skilled gardener



Above: Valerie Payne (fourth from left) with her four children. Below left: Valerie as a young woman

with a flourishing vegetable patch and orchard.

After a series of strokes, she spent her final years in Fairfield House, Chickerell, where the staff cared for her with great kindness and she was visited regularly by family and friends.

Valerie will be remembered with love and gratitude by her family, friends, and church family. She was a teacher, encourager, activist and cheerful giver. Many people have benefited from her commitment, friendship and kindness. Valerie would be glad to know that the Churches Together in Bridport & District youth worker project has restarted, and that the St Mary's Sunday School, St Mary's Primary School Flourish Project and Wild & Messy Church are encouraging new generations of children and young people to have fun and learn about themselves and how much God loves them. Valerie's inspirational leadership and huge impact on the local church goes on and will be a guiding light for the future.

Alicen Dines and the Revd Lorna Johnson

## A new multiple sclerosis support group for Bridport

A new support group for people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) has started up in Bridport.

"MS can present in many different ways, affecting vision, bladder, bowels, balance and the ability to walk," says group organiser Sarah Adams. "An MS diagnosis comes with uncertainty and fear and can be devastating."

The group meets monthly and offers an opportunity for those living with MS, plus their carers and partners, to talk through the diagnosis and share their

concerns and questions. There's also a chance to take part in gentle exercise and Tai Chi with an experienced leader.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month. See their entry in our community listings (p35) for venue and details.

# Ring in the new: Bishop's visit kicks off the next century for Bridport bells

The Bishop of Sherborne, the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, visited St Mary's Bridport on 17 July to lead a special service and bless the church's bells following their restoration.

Before the service, Bishop Karen and the Revd Cally Burch, Interim Team Rector, joined the ringers in the ringing chamber to see where the action happens.

"The bells were fully recast in 1924, and still ring today as a well-rounded octave, but now with upgraded bearings, wheels and clappers after restoration work this year," says tower captain Bob Hardwick. "Now the bells are good for the next 100 years and it's up to the bellringers to use them in the very best way."

The ringers would like to express their great thanks to the community of Bridport and all the helpers and donors who made the recent work possible. Most notably: the women of Bridport, led by Sue Palfrey and Anne Rathbone; Bridport bellringers Bob Hardwick, Tony Wakeling, Simon Hurdley, Philip Brake, Chris Insley, Jane Trower, Karen Buckingham, Alastair Forbes, Bob Jones, Mark Lane, Paul Groom, Janet Robinson, and Ken and Adrian Lessey; church duty wardens, led by Lesley Hill and Bridget Trump; parish

administrator Di Sinclair; the Balson family; the

Colfox family; West sisters Penny, Janny, Susie and Judy, in memory of their mother Lilian

May Cruft West; the Palmers Brewery Community Fund; the Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers; the



Knowing the ropes: The Bishop of Sherborne (left, with rope) and the Revd Cally Burch joined Bridport bellringers in the St Mary's ringing chamber before a special service in July

Llewelyn Edwards Bell Restoration Fund; the War Memorial Trust; and the Benefact Trust.

#### Want to find out more?

There will be a tower open day on Saturday 6 September (the day of Bridport Hat Festival) from 10am to 1pm. Visitors and ringers will be welcome, and refreshments will be served in the church. Come along and find out more – it might be enough to kick off a new passion!



## Annual appeal for donations

In the past few years The Bridge has made an annual request for donations so we can continue our work and maintain our high standards.

Readers have been really generous, for which we're very grateful. If you'd like to donate, there are two ways to do so:

 It's quick and easy to donate online through the Charities Aid Foundation, and the site will automatically process your Gift Aid if you tick the relevant box. You'll find our donations page here: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14198

2. You can send a cheque, payable to 'St Swithun's DCC', to The Bridge, Wharncliffe, Wych Hill, Bridport DT6 4JJ.

If you're a UK taxpayer you can help us increase the value of your donation by completing the Gift Aid

## **Bridge**

declaration overleaf. Please cut out and enclose this panel showing your original signature (photocopied signatures are not acceptable). St Swithun's Church is registered with the Inland Revenue and will undertake claims for repayment of income tax on donations eligible for Gift Aid relief.

With grateful thanks and very warm wishes, Olivia Daly, Editor

## Pick up a book from the Walditch library

Walditch resident and local librarian David Brazier takes us on a tour of the village's bookfilled, repurposed phone box...

A few weeks after I moved to Walditch, my lovely neighbour asked me to look after the book exchange, which is housed in a red telephone box on the main road of this chocolate-box-pretty village.

I love books – they have been my life as an English teacher, and my hobby – so of course I said yes. I immediately became curious about these ubiquitous red boxes that are dotted throughout the land.

The red phone box is an iconic symbol of British culture. The model we have in Walditch, as well as outside Bridport Post Office and elsewhere in the town, is a K6, introduced in 1936 to celebrate King George V's silver jubilee. It was smaller and cheaper to produce than the earlier K2 and became the standard across the UK, with more than 60,000 K6 boxes being installed.

It was the rise of the mobile phone that did for public phone boxes and allowed people to reimagine them. Now recognised as heritage pieces, thousands of boxes (especially K2s and K6s) were listed for protection. Many have been repurposed as libraries, defibrillator stations, or art installations.

I love looking after the mini library in Walditch, keeping it tidy, sorting the books out and posting news online about new additions. It's fascinating to witness the flow of books and seeing some that turn up, shock and surprise. Who donated three copies of Eddie Large's biography? And who donated that copy of the Kama Sutra?



This year we have had visits from George Clooney, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, a lion (*pictured*) and the actual writer Tom Cox, who donated several copies of his novels, an act of great generosity. At Christmas I installed some fairy lights and there have even been some ghostly goings-on.

So why not pop in and take a book if you are in the village, or donate some of those tomes that are sitting at home gathering dust?

David Brazier

#### >6

#### Gift Aid declaration

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## Real-life green ideas in the home

For the fifth year, Dorset's Greener Homes across the county will open their doors during the last two weekends of September.

More than 50 homes across Dorset take part in the annual event to showcase the greener and sustainable energy that residents have installed. Many feature solar panels, battery storage, and air and ground source heat pumps; others show low-cost solutions using natural materials that can be recycled at the end of the building's life, or have wildlife-friendly gardens.

There are listed buildings with insulation to the walls and roof, and whose owners have successfully wrestled with planning regulations to create warm homes that are fit for the future. And you can visit some high-end projects such as Athelhampton House, a Tudor manor that has achieved zero carbon status.

About 20 of the featured homes are in Bridport, Charmouth, Lyme Regis and the surrounding area.

Past years' events have proven very helpful to those interested in making their homes more sustainable, saving money on fuel bills and ramping up the 'cosy factor'. The homeowners give impartial advice, sharing their experience and knowledge. How noisy is a heat pump? How can I improve the insulation of my listed building? Are solar panels really worth it? How do I find a reputable installer? Visitors have found practical answers to these and many other questions.

Dorset's Greener Homes takes place on 20–21 and 27–28 September; most homes are open for one or two of these days and may require prior booking. More information including booking details and opening times is online at www.dorsetgreenerhomes.org.



This event is one of Dorset Climate Action Network's (*www.dorsetcan.org*) main projects as it offers the county's residents an opportunity to learn more about greener energy solutions.

### West Bay water: have your say

The West Bay Swimmers Action Group is applying for East Beach at West Bay to be given 'designated bathing water' status.

The bathing water staus would mean the Environment Agency had to monitor the quality of the water regularly, putting pressure on the water companies to invest in improvements. Of the 600 beaches in the UK that have bathing water status, 98% meet the minimum water quality standards.

The application process includes consultation with local people and there is a survey online at *https://tinyurl.com/msaxte2y*. Closing date is mid-September.



The Revd Cally Burch's husband, Rob, and their daughter Emily completed a marathon fundraising cycle ride in August in aid of two UK mental health charities, Shout and The Mix.

The ride was in memory of Emily's friend Will Paterson, who took his own life last year at the age of 24.

Emily writes: "Will had no history of depression or any other mental health conditions, nor was anyone aware that he was struggling. His sudden death left a deep impact on everyone who knew him and is still taking time to come to terms with and share."

Rob and Emily cycled the length of the UK on their recumbent tandem (which Rob had rebuilt) covering more than 1,200 miles from Land's End to John o' Groats.

Shout is the UK's only 24/7 text support service for anyone struggling to cope. The Mix is the UK's leading digital support service for under-25s. Donations are still welcome at www.justgiving.com/page/lejogforwill.



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# Every Brilliant Thing: Margie Barbour's life in theatre and TV



It's a thing. An interactive one. And it's coming to Bridport.

Currently showing in London's West End, the play Every Brilliant Thing, written by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, stars a rotating cast of actors including Lenny Henry and Sue Perkins. As part of the Allington Arts Weekend, the Bridport production is directed by local resident Margie Barbour and features actor Romla Walker.

This is a one-person show about a child who starts making a list of brilliant things to help their mother cope with depression. As in life, emotions in the play are wide-ranging, from humour to healing, and it explores themes of depression, suicide and resilience. The show has also become known for including audience participation.

We met Margie to hear about her life, her previous work in the theatre and television, and her personal interest in mental health.

*The Bridge:* How would you define your life's work?

Margie Barbour: I've been lucky to follow my dream, working with actors, helping to turn scripts into meaningful performances.

*TB*: What seeded a lifetime's passion?

MB: My father was a lecturer in geography at the University of Khartoum. I remember sleeping under the African sky and being in awe at the brilliance of the stars. At



age 14, attending an international school, I played Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream, which ended with the cast surrounding the audience with candles. And that's where my love of the magic of theatre started, along with the realisation that the job and career as a director existed! Studies in drama and French followed along with acceptance on Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's postgraduate directors' course.

*TB:* Your career path has been extraordinary! Please tell us more.

MB: It's certainly been varied. I've worked in many locations and genres and did 22 years with the BBC. At first it was calling performers to the studio and over time progressed to stagemanaging dramas, such as the first series of Angels.

In 1984 I directed A Common Woman, written by novelist and playwright Mary Rensten. Based on the true story about the peace camp established in Greenham, Berkshire, where the women protested about the deployment of cruise missiles. In 2024 a reimagined version was performed and I'm immensely proud of that.

TB: And BAFTA nominations?

MB: When I worked at the BBC on children's television, I gained nominations for Jackanory and Thinking About Science. In terms of my most cherished achievement, that would be for Burglar Bill by Allan and Janet Ahlberg, and a poetry-based story, A Bear Behind. I must also say that when my three-year old granddaughter watches reruns of Playschool and gets immersed in songs and rhythms, my heart melts!

*TB*: How do you feel about children's TV in 2025 and how it could shape the cultural future?

MB: There is huge pressure on programme makers to sell internationally. We're in a new era of financial interest linked to global and merchandise markets.

*TB:* Turning to Every Brilliant Thing, the play deals with some of life's most emotionally charged and distressing mental health problems, specifically depression. Is this something you have experienced?

MB: Yes. In 1970, I was 21, my brother, David, was taking A-levels at Charterhouse School in Surrey when his best friend died by suicide. Our parents were away, my brother and I at home when yet another shattering and tragic event happened: David took his own life. The impact has undoubtedly stayed with me.

Here in Dorset, my husband lives

## Margie Barbour's life in theatre and TV continued

with depression and I'm deeply aware of the complexities of the condition. If there's ever a chance to educate, inform and reach out, I do it. To anyone in such crisis, I'd say emphatically: stay alive, tell someone.

*TB:* How do you as a director seek to convey the message in this play?

*MB*: By focusing on hope. We're fortunate to have Romla taking the lead role, and we use her acting skills to highlight moments of humour and poignant words that could be lifelines.

TB: Each actor brings a personal memory or moment into the dialogue. Sir Lenny Henry was interviewed by Nick Robinson on Radio 4 in early August and he chose his late mum's special Jamaican soup. Many of us have a 'thing' that reaches deep into long-held memories. Can you share yours?

*MB*: My mum's cakes! She used to make a vanilla sponge with chocolate buttercream filling –



just for me. The aroma of home baking...

The 'thing' comes in many guises and always endures.

#### Quick-fire questions

TB: Your happy place in Dorset?

MB: My garden, because of the view, seclusion and the joy it brings. Holidays in the county, over some 30 years, gave me a huge affection for the area and living here had always been a long-held dream.

TB: Favourite book?

*MB:* Howards End. E M Forster was famous for his great quote "Only connect", and I believe we should always strive to connect our inner 'truth' with our actions.

TB: And play?

MB: I'm going for a musical, A Chorus Line. A song-and-dance extravaganza, it's a snapshot of individual lives as each cast member is followed through the audition process. Bring on teamwork, finding your tribe and the knowledge that with the right support, people can fulfil their potential. For one sensational spirit-booster, this is where to look.

TB: And finally, if you could add one incredible element to a mythical, magical pill for depression, what would it be?

MB: Oh, that's a tough one. To be able to travel back in time, to know someone needed to feel safe and cared for. To reach out to a stranger, a neighbour, a family member. The message is: Help. Hope. A Future.

## Or maybe it's love. For everyone and everything.

Interview by Annette Shaw Photos by Robin Mills An acknowledgement is due to Casarotto Ramsay & Associates for granting amateur rights for the Bridport production of Every Brilliant Thing.

Turn to page 9 for details of the Allington Arts Weekend (25–28 September), which includes the Bridport production of Every Brilliant Thing on 26 September.

## Arts Centre celebrates reggae

Bridport Arts Centre's exhibition of photos celebrating the world of reggae runs until Saturday 13 September.

The exhibition, in the Allsop Gallery, showcases the work of internationally acclaimed music photographer Adrian Boot, who lives in West Dorset. It is divided into six sections: Bob Marley; Roots Rock Reggae; Lovers and Dancehall; Lee Scratch Perry; Reggae in Jamaica; and UK Reggae.

The show features Boot's famous portrait of Bob Marley (*pictured*), used on the front of 1984 compilation Legend, which became the best-selling reggae album of all time.

Open 10am-4pm, Tues-Sat, free entry.





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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

#### Picnics in the parish!

The University of Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre produces the annual World Happiness Report using data from more than 150,000 people from 142 countries. As well as giving detailed information about global wellbeing, the report also examines ways to improve it.

The 2025 report covers the benefits of eating with others – "Sharing meals is the one of the best things we can do for our wellbeing; this is true across ages, genders, countries, cultures, and regions. Meal sharing appears to be closely related to measures of social connectedness." With this in mind, a reflection on the life of the parish over the summer months certainly provides food for thought!

Supermarkets extol the value of picnic food and there have been many occasions when the St Mary's congregation has come together to eat an ad-hoc picnic lunch. Our Bridport Bright & Beautiful flower and quilt festival at the end of June was very well received, with more than 800 people coming along to see the exhibits.



Pictured: Bridget Trump (below left) and Diana Wright provided supper for a group of young pilgrims, who piled up their phones during the meal (left) so they could connect with each other!



Pictured: there were fish-shaped shortbread biscuits at the picnic at our summer outreach event

The volunteers and stewards on that occasion were seen to be hastily picnicking together as they took their lunch break in the vestry!



At the end of July, we held a special service to mark the retirement of our team rector, Canon Deb Smith. The service was followed by prosecco, cake and a picnic lunch in the rectory garden. The whole occasion was one of mixed emotions: sadness that Deb will no longer be our rector, entwined with thanksgiving for her many years of wonderful ministry. A heavy rain shower greeted us just as we processed from the church to the garden to begin our picnic – the shared sandwiches were definitely soggy!

We had fish-shaped shortbread biscuits at the picnic at our summer outreach event at West Bay, while there were strawberries and cream for our more elderly congregation who regularly gather on the first Wednesday of each month.

Our link with the World Happiness Report was made most evident, however, when the parish hosted a group of students from All Saints School who were making a pilgrimage from Weymouth to Whitchurch Canonicorum, with stays in churches and church halls along the way. Members of the St Mary's catering team were asked to provide stews and baked potatoes, which we then took to Holy Trinity Bothenhampton. The pilgrims gathered around a linen-clad table for their evening meal; their mobile phones, all switched off, stacked, inaccessible and strangely beautiful, were like a modern-day candelabra. Throughout the meal the students enjoyed each other's company – the connection was with one another, in real time!

You may be a little sceptical about the findings of those tasked by the UN General Assembly to investigate factors that support happiness and wellbeing, given that coming together to 'break bread' has been central to our cultural and spiritual lives for centuries. Every week in our church we gather to celebrate Holy Communion. In this act of remembering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we are drawn closer to Him and to one another.

Autumn days give us an opportunity for picnics of golden hue – join with us, eat with us, and find happiness in your ongoing journey of faith.

Lesley Hill

## Bridport Town Council CENTRAL WARD

Contact 01308 456722 enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

Bridport Town Council is delighted to welcome Sally Freemantle as our new town clerk, joining us from Yeovil Town Council.

Sally brings a wealth of experience from her background in events management. At Yeovil, alongside her clerking and committee responsibilities, she successfully delivered a range of festival and ceremonial events. One of her proudest achievements was Super Saturday, an annual music and community celebration.

Passionate about theatre and the performing arts, Sally is especially drawn to projects that create opportunities for people to share their skills and talents. Outside of her council work, she continues to teach yoga.



Sally spent August getting to know councillors, committees and staff, as well as the varied work of the council. She takes up her role full time this month and is looking forward to meeting members of Bridport's community and supporting our shared aspirations for the town.

Caroline Pearce, BTC

### HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

#### From the parish editor

The dry, sunny and sometimes very hot weather over the recent few months has given us a very pleasant summer. During this season, events at Holy Trinity have included a choral evensong service at the end of June, which was well attended and much appreciated by those who came. The augmented choir sang Lead Me Lord as an introit, followed by a psalm, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis canticles, and Schubert's Sanctus for an anthem. The choir was directed by Paul Cheater, who was director of music at Holy Trinity some years ago, and Tim Linsley played the organ. The Revd Cally Burch officiated at the service.

One member of the congregation made the following comment: "Evensong has been my church service of choice for 75 years, since I first heard it in a modest church in what was then a small village outside Cardiff. Since then I have heard evensong in many parish churches, also abbeys and cathedrals – and whatever

Holy Trinity Bothenhampton invites you to come and enjoy a

## Cream tea or savoury scone



Saturday 13 September, 3-5pm

In aid of Ride + Stride, with proceeds to Dorset Historic Churches Trust



the setting I found the service deeply moving.

"I believe this is mainly because of its timing in the day. By early evening the main part of the day is over; some days have been satisfying – for which one is grateful. But other events and issues may have been demanding, and there are actions which are regretted. The words of the service, whether spoken or sung, say so much about life in expressing thanksgiving for all done well, but also repentance for anything harmful committed. It gives time to put right those regrets and find peace before the day's end.

"... [the] service of choral evensong at Holy Trinity Bothenhampton proved to be a joyful hour for the

#### **HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...**

congregation. Every aspect of the service was marked by quiet sincere worship – this was an expression of faith not a performance. From conversations with others there, I sense hope that it will be possible for this service to be a regular on the calendar. So thanks to the ministers, choir, organist, readers and intercessors."

The PCC has asked Holy Trinity to continue evensong services on the last Sunday of the months that have five Sundays (about four times a year). There will be one on 31 August, then on Advent Sunday, 30 November.

The pet service in July was very informal, and we were joined by several extremely well-behaved dogs who all got on well together. The owners spoke about the companionship their animals gave them.

September starts with the coffee morning in Holy Trinity on Saturday 6 September, 10am until 12 noon, with cakes, books and jigsaws. Come for some relaxation and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

The following weekend is the Ride + Stride event organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT). Participants are sponsored to cycle or walk to as many churches as possible on Saturday 13 September, and their sponsorship proceeds are divided between the DHCT and their own church. A cream tea will be held on that day in Holy Trinity church, 3–5pm, to support the DHCT, which allocates grants to help maintain our beautiful Dorset churches.

In an earlier issue of The Bridge there was advance notice of an art exhibition in the village hall. This will be on Sunday 19 October and artists are invited to enter an image of Bothenhampton in any medium they wish. You're not restricted to painting and drawing, though – you may enjoy stitching, modelling, creative writing or some other way to depict our village. People love to see what our talented friends and neighbours can do. See the advert below and enter an exhibit if you can.

Advance notice of another village hall event is for a murder mystery evening with cheese and wine on Saturday 11 October at 7pm. Proceeds to hall funds.



6 and 7 Sunnyside by Grey Innes



The Nature Reserve by Trevor Powell

## All Things Bright & Bothenhampton

Sunday 19 October, 2–5pm Bothenhampton Village Hall

Your contributions are requested for a celebration of our beautiful village.

Your neighbours are writing, painting, drawing, photographing and filming. They are working with a variety of media, including fabric and stained glass. We have even received a poem from a holidaymaker called 'An Ode to Bothenhampton'.

The event is open to all ages and abilities. It will be non-competitive and non-judgemental.

Please message Sue on 07761 974076 if you have any questions.

Rachael, Sue and Trevor

The new film season starts on 27 September. We are very fortunate to have a good team who put on up-to-date films and provide refreshments, making an inexpensive and entertaining evening. Thank you to Nick, Linda, Pennie, Meriel and Trevor. *Barbara Ffooks* 

#### FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 27 September – title to be announced Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.3opm Admission £5 • Refreshments available Please book by emailing lcnc2413@outlook.com

#### ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725 walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421 If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Ann Ayling on 424896

#### Walditch's forgotten Olympic gold medallist

Occasionally when one is doing historical research, something totally unexpected turns up. This happened to me while writing a history of The Hyde garden and estate. Who would have anticipated that it would throw up an Olympic gold medallist working on a family farm in Walditch?

During the late 19th and early 20th century, dairy farmer John Zealley was the tenant of the farm on The Hyde estate. The 1911 census has him living in The Hyde's farmhouse with his wife and two sons, Walter (known as Jack) and Arthur. It became apparent that Jack was a talented footballer and Arthur an accomplished cricketer.

Jack played football 226 times for Bridport FC between 1892 and 1908, scoring 73 goals. An Essex side, Upton Park FC, regularly toured the West Country, including playing against Bridport, and while doing so discovered Jack's footballing ability. They invited him to play for them as a guest player, and he went on at least six tours, playing around Britain and the Channel Islands and on the continent. He also played 44 times with the Dorset County side. Throughout his sporting career he played as an amateur in the position of inside left.

The 1900 Olympic Games in Paris were the first to include football. Jack played in the Upton Park team, which represented Great Britain and beat France 4–0 in the final, winning a gold medal for each player including Jack, who had scored one of the goals. He was rated one of the outstanding players in the team.

While all this was going on, Jack continued to work on the family farm in Walditch. The farm was described as covering 215 acres and employing 8 people. In 1908 he joined the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry, a volunteer cavalry force restricted to home service, although he later volunteered for an overseas placement and served in Egypt during World War 1. He survived the war and returned to Walditch, eventually dying in 1956 at the age of 81.

The family sports talent extended to Jack's younger brother, too. Arthur played cricket 14 times for Dorset

in the Minor Counties Championship and twice against Marylebone CC.

Jack reached the top of the game, and it is tempting to speculate how far he might have gone if playing today. *Robin Stapleton* 





Pictured: colourful nerines make a pretty display

#### Walditch Garden Group

Walditch Garden Group meets on the last Thursday of the month (except December) at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. I can honestly report as a relatively new member that you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Recently, we've been thinking about autumn colour in the garden. Of course foliage is the main source but it's worth planting nerines – also known as the Guernsey or Jersey lily – as they provide a bit of unexpected glamour through late September and October (pictured above). The most common form is Nerine bowdenii, and there are a number of named forms giving flowers from white through pink to red. They grow from a bulb and are happy both in the ground and in containers provided they have plenty of sunshine in a free-draining compost. Leaves are produced in late spring and often die back leaving the flowers to rise from bare soil to around 30cm in height.

There are also some more unusual forms such as *Nerine undulata*, and *Amaryllis belladonna* is another bulb that's hardy in this region, giving rise to much larger flowers at 60-90 cms. There's also a range of hybrids with nerine known as amerines, flowering at 40-60 cms. Bulbs can be planted in summer or bought as pot grown in the autumn.







Chris and Angela Addis opened their lovely garden at Stoneleigh in Walditch to the public this summer under the National Open Garden Scheme. The garden is approached via a rockery and opens to terracing, busy borders, undulating lawns and groups of trees, with an amphitheatre as the dramatic backdrop. There are two ponds linked by a stream and a raised area has a fishpond with a fountain. A bed of ornamental grasses leads the eye to a stone barn, and there's also a vegetable area, greenhouse and fruit cage.

We hope we'll be able to visit again next year!

### Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

Ward clerk – Jo Hughes bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

#### The ward clerk writes...

Late summer is perfect for a leisurely walk through Bothenhampton Nature Reserve, which provides an easy-to-moderate walk on rural paths and a gentle hill climb that rewards with stunning views of the coastline. The reserve is close to Bothenhampton village and is a designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) covering 4.31 hectares of old quarries; with access from three public rights of way, it is a popular destination for walkers.

The nature reserve includes a disused limestone quarry, lime kiln and the ridge of a hill that overlooks West Bay. As well as scrub and grassland, the reserve is a mix of woodland, primarily ash, field maple and sycamore, which makes it an interesting habitat for birds, mammals, invertebrates and plants.

A thin layer of soil covers the site's underlying geology, which is hard limestone. The limestone beds were worked for centuries to provide the durable building stone known as Forest Marble. Impervious to water, Forest Marble was used extensively locally in foundations for domestic and commercial buildings.



Visitors to the reserve can enjoy an abundance of wildflowers such as pyramid orchids, vetches and trefoils that thrive here, as do many insects including spotted wood, meadow brown and comma butterflies. Large numbers of birds live in the woodland – starlings, rooks and nightingales, buzzards and kestrels – while mammals including stoats and bats can also be spotted, and dormice have been recorded on the site.

The reserve is currently owned and managed by Dorset Council (DC) although Bridport Town Council is in discussion with DC about its transfer.

To get in touch about anything in the ward, email me at bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk or come to our next ward meeting on Thursday 18 September, 6–7pm at Walditch Village Hall.

Jo Hughes

#### **HOLY TRINITY Bradpole**

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232 douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com Bell enquiries – Wendy Carnell 420716 htbrabells@parishofbridport.org For pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (Wednesday is her day off)

#### Table-top sale

Unfortunately, the table-top sale in the village hall scheduled for 12 July had to be cancelled owing to unforeseen circumstances. The hall trustees apologise to anyone who had booked a table and to the many people who were going to spend their money! They hope to arrange another sale later in the year as a fundraiser for the hall.

#### Ride + Stride

Ride + Stride for Dorset churches will take place on



Saturday 13 September. This year, people are being encouraged to widen the range of activities beyond riding or walking to include anything physical for which they can secure sponsorship – maybe lap swimming, spinning on an exercise bike, or rowing on a rowing machine. Sponsorship forms and other details are available in the church.

Half the money raised by Holy Trinity participants is earmarked for Holy Trinity, while the other half will go to Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

The church will be open that day to receive people from other churches and give them refreshments. Contact Peter Carnell on 07817 242477 if you can help or would like more details. General information is online at www.dhct.org.uk/m/ride\_and\_stride.php.

#### The Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole present

An evening of live music from the 60s & beyond with

### The Red Kyte Band

Friday 3 October at 7pm in Bradpole Church

£12 per person to include a cheese platter

Drinks by donation

Booking essential: tel 07503 167717

The Friends of Holy Trinity

You are invited to afternoon tea on Thursday 18 September from 2.30–4pm in the church. All welcome.

Following their successful gig in the church in May last year, there will be a welcome return of The Red Kyte Band on Friday 3rd October at 7pm. The band will play an eclectic mix of music from the 6os and beyond. Booking is essential – see details in the advert above.

#### Village lunch club

The club will be having lunch at the Bridport and West Dorset Golf Club, which is on the coast road between Marsh Barn Farm and Freshwater Beach Holiday Park, on Tuesday 9 September at 12 noon. Numbers are

restricted so please contact Thelma Pulman (458533) for more details if you have not already booked. Everyone is welcome to join the club.





#### Songs of Praise

All are welcome at a Harvest Songs of Praise in the church on Sunday 28 September. The church will be set up in a cafe style with tea served from 5pm followed by the service at 6pm. If you have a favourite hymn or song you'd like to be included, please tell the Revd Janis Moore.

#### Bell tower captaincy

Janet Robinson has retired from the tower captaincy. Thanks are due to Janet for the dedication she brought to this role. After some months of caretaker administration, Wendy Carnell has been elected the new tower captain and Chris Kingdon ringing master. Wendy will continue as correspondent for tower matters including bookings for training on the simulator. If you are interested in learning the art of bellringing, please contact Wendy.

#### Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesday 16 September and the Craft Group will meet on Thursdays 4 and 18 September. Contact Daphne King (427552) for more details.

#### Tots@Ten

Pre-school children are welcome to join others, with parents and carers, normally every Wednesday during term time at 10am in the church where there are toys to play with and lots of space. Refreshments are served. There is no charge. The first meeting of the new term is on Wednesday 10 September.



#### **Bradpole Forster Village Hall**

The main hall is available for hire by local community groups and for private events and is fully accessible with facilities for disabled people. Hall bookings can be made online at www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole.

#### **Bradpole Buzz Group**

The group will meet on Saturdays 6 and 27 and Wednesday 17 September. We'd love some practical help with planting as well as offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden, suggestions and general support. For more information phone Rose Van den Akker (425756) or email <code>bradpolebuzz@gmail.com</code>.

## BRADPOLF WARD

Ward clerk – Sandy Goldsmith 07944 523084 bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

#### The ward clerk writes...

We held a community engagement event in the foyer of the Co-op on Saturday 12 July, giving residents an opportunity to discuss various issues with their ward councillors. One of the main topics was an update on the idea of having a 20mph speed limit on all roads in Bradpole village. Most of the people who spoke to councillors were in favour of the proposal, but a few were totally against.

#### BTC Bradpole Ward continued...

We will be sending a survey to all householders in the roads that could be included in the proposal. This will be delivered as a flyer inside the October issue of The Bridge magazine. The closing date for responses will be Friday 24 October.

Residents from King Charles Estate asked councillors to consider installing a speed indication board or a 20mph speed limit along Jessopp Avenue.

Also discussed was concern over the increased reports from parents and dog owners of some people failing to clear up their dogs' poo on Gore Cross Green recreation ground. If this does not improve, the council has three options to consider:

- 1. Dogs to be kept on leads at all times;
- 2. An area to be fenced off to allow owners to exercise their dogs; or
- 3. A ban on dogs being allowed into the recreation ground. Option 3 is not one the council would like to see happen but the health and welfare of people using the area must be put first.

So please, if you are a dog owner and use the area to exercise your dogs, please pick up their poo and either put it in one of the bins or take it home with you.

With the autumn approaching, can you please keep an eye on the road drains near where you live and if they are blocked please report this to Dorset Council online



(www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or via the FixMyStreet website (www.fixmystreet.com).

If you are unable to use the online services, you can call Dorset Council Customer Services on 01305 221000 to report any relevant issues.

To get in touch about anything in the ward, please email me at *bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk*. *Sandy Goldsmith* 

#### 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

## Farewell, Cunha In early July the St Swithun's family said

Swithun's family said goodbye to their dear friend Cunha Warne (pictured), who died on 7 May at the remarkable age of 100.

She is survived by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many other family members and friends, who came together for her funeral.



Cunha first got involved at St Swithun's 75 years ago when she and her late husband Edgar moved to Fulbrooks Lane in Bridport. At that time they had one daughter, Teresa, but they went on to have two more children - Terry and Chris - over the next few years.

Terry Warne delivered the eulogy at his mother's funeral, and included some memories of her church activities, which we reproduce here with thanks:

"Cunha kept her links with St Swithun's and her three children were all involved in the choir and the boys were servers also, with Chris eventually taking over thurifer duties.

"Easter week was a particularly busy time for all of us, with services almost every day. Another major highlight was the annual church fete – we all got involved – and Cunha always enjoyed running the bookstall.

"There were a number of resident vicars at St Swithun's over the years — she was particularly close to Father Roger Shambrook who appreciated all she was doing for the parish in the 1980s and 1990s. And earlier in the 50s and 60s we all remember Father Luker striding around Bridport in his cassock and biretta."

Terry finished his eulogy with these lovely words: "I know 100 years on this earth is a long time, but all the more reason to mourn her passing. Her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all her family and friends will miss her hugely."

#### St Swithun's Church Hall: a community asset

About 35 years ago, the St Swithun's churchwardens had the foresight to break through a side wall of the church and build an adjoining church hall. Today

that hall is one of our most valuable assets. The congregation meets for coffee there after every service and it is used regularly for parish-wide events including Wild & Messy Church, Centering Prayer, Contemplative Church and many large meetings throughout the year.

We are also pleased to be able to offer space to free community initiatives such as the weekly Glut Stall (an open-to-all food bank) and Bridport Clothes Bank. Associated with these, a community coffee morning is held on the first Thursday of every month and is well attended by local people as well as our congregation.

However, the hall is most widely used – every day: morning, afternoon and evening – by groups who hire it from us, contributing a valuable source of income to the church. An enormous range of activities take place: exercise classes, educational activities and local charity events as well as local organisations' one-off meetings. The hall is crucial to the church's own fundraising events, too, from quiz evenings and cream teas to a summer car boot fair and a Christmas fair, to name just a few. It can also be hired at weekends for parties!

The hall is also vital as a hub for refreshments when the church is used for concerts, organ recitals and piano mornings, which happen regularly now we have our wonderful grand piano.

The hall can accommodate 80 people seated and up to 100 standing. It has car parking and a well-equipped and well-used kitchen. There is a pretty outside courtyard accessed through french doors in the hall.

We feel that this hall, bequeathed to us by an earlier









A few photos showing our versatile church hall in use at this summer's cream tea



generation, plays a large part in our mission to make Jesus known in our local community, where people appreciate the welcome it offers throughout the year.

For information please email Anne Ansell: ssvbookings@parishofbridport.org.

## Bridport Town Council WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

Ward clerk – Amy Stephenson bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

#### The ward clerk writes...

The topics discussed at our July public engagement session included dogs in play areas. Because of the policies that Bridport Town Council and Dorset Council have in place, no dogs are allowed in enclosed children's play areas or on marked sports pitches. Additionally, all public spaces in the administrative area covered by Dorset Council are subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order.

Allington Hill has always welcomed dog owners, and it is one of few sites where there are currently no restrictions. However, recently an out-of-control dog attacked a fawn, potentially breaking its leg. We would



politely remind everyone to please protect the wildlife by making sure you are in control of your dogs – or preferably use a lead in this area. Allington Hill

#### BTC West & Allington Ward continued...

is a community space for all to enjoy and isn't just a dog-walking field. We would hate to have to look at restrictions in this area.

Our application for 20mph limits on various roads in the ward is still with Dorset Council for consideration. This is a very long process that will eventually go to public consultation, which could take many months. In the meantime, we decided to put together a survey to quantify residents' views further. There were over 200 responses, approximately three quarters of which were in favour of the suggested roads having a 20mph limit. This does not mean it's a 'done deal' – the survey was just to further gauge public opinion outside meetings

and general talk. Dorset Council is responsible for the final decision.

We are receiving reports of so many different scams doing the rounds presently. These include such things as winter fuel payment scams, mobile phone contract scams and even council tax scams. If you are in any doubt, please make sure that you contact the provider directly, and not via any link, email or text you may have been sent.

The next public engagement session will be held in October, when we are hoping to have a representative from Bovis Homes (the Foundry Lea/Vearse Farm developers) in attendance. Further details of this session will be announced.

Amy Stephenson

#### ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

#### News from St John's

Regular Sunday services are held at St John's as well as Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am, with a monthly Service of Wholeness and Healing on the fourth Saturday of every month at 6pm.

St John's hosted the parish service on Sunday 6 July and it was a real joy to see such a full church, with members of all the Parish of Bridport churches plus visitors from Bridport's twinned town, Saint-Vaastla-Hougue. It was also a real treat to hear the recently tuned organ being played and some lovely and well-known hymns being sung. Father Roger, the priest from France, also took part in the service, which was a nice touch. A service of dedication was held in the afternoon by the commemorative plaque (pictured below) that names the slipway after the French town.

A Come & Sea event called Ocean Treasures took place over the weekend of 9–10 August – and what



Left: a commemorative plaque marks the naming of the West Bay slipway after Bridport's twin town in France



Above: A group of Sunday visitors to West Bay recently arrived in these splendid cars!

a great weekend it was! We saw lots of visitors to the transformed St John's Church, as well as enjoying the events on Fisherman's Green.

#### West Bay WI

The regular Knit & Natter session will take place on Wednesday 3 September from 10am to 12 noon. At the meeting on Wednesday 10 September (2.30–4.30pm) the speaker will be from the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance (always a good speaker!).

If you are interested in joining the WI, please contact either Alison Ridge on 01308 897293 or Maggie Hooper on 07720 056310.

#### Round and about the Bay

Despite major attractions at larger resorts, visitors from towns and cities are still attracted to West Bay. It was nice to meet a group of men waiting for the Cornish Bakery to open one lovely sunny Sunday morning at 7am. They had just enjoyed a lovely run from Bournemouth along the coast in their very splendid cars (pictured above) which were parked in the Bridport Arms car park and were stopping for coffee and pastries.

July saw the official opening of the building that now houses the beach wheelchairs. It is near the slipway and blends in so well with the surrounding area. Many of those who donated towards the building were at the ceremony, as was Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard. Gabriel from the Mountjoy School cut the ribbon.

The town council has now supplied some very nice planters outside the toilets in the main car park, maybe



not attracting quite as much attention as the lovely elephant that we had there, but nevertheless a nice touch. There is also now a large bin that's the same as those around the harbour, which hopefully people will use! There is a new postbox topper (pictured) featuring ice

cream cones outside the gift shop – I hope they don't get attacked by the seagulls.

The annual dredging of the harbour is now delayed until later this year. Dorset Council could not reach agreement in time on the planned trial of water injection dredging, so it will now take place after the busy summer season.

Despite late rain it was good to see the annual raft race starting in the dry, although how many of the participants actually stayed dry is another matter. A good selection of rafts competed in the race, and some of the outfits were very impressive. The winners were a team from Solarport Systems who were dressed as Bananas in Pyjamas! There were many wacky outfits, which all adds to the fun of the event.

In August the Discovery Centre had a number of events designed to keep the younger visitors occupied

during the holidays.
Darrell Wakelam ran a
workshop making 'bathing
beauties' at the Salt House
and Jo Burlington led
a session on building a
house with mud, clay and
fish scales.

My favourite piece in the centre's current exhibition is a dolls' house replica of Pier Terrace showing how it looked in the Victorian/



Edwardian period (*pictured*) and the 1950/60s. This was created by volunteers and its attention to detail is brilliant – definitely not to be missed.

Sue Pollock

#### **Upcoming events in West Bay**

20 September DocBike fundraising ride-out

## Bridport Town Council WEST BAY WARD

enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

#### The acting ward clerk writes...

In July we held a drop-in session for residents, which was well attended as always. Jane Powell from West Bay Swimmers Action Group gave an update on the water testing at East Beach. About seven tests have been made so far, and all have been good.

One item discussed at length was anti-social behaviour from drivers and riders. Various ideas are being looked at as well as the opinion of residents who were not at the meeting. Nothing has been decided – this is still very much a discussion – although all were reminded that if they witness anything illegal they should tell the police.

We are putting together a 20mph application for West Bay. This is a lengthy process and will take many months to come to fruition, if it does at all! Dorset Council makes the final decision on this application but will be putting it out for full public consultation much further down the road.

West Bay is fortunate to have its own market, which has been taking place on Wednesdays throughout the summer on Fisherman's Green and inside The Salt House, with various goodies and decorative items for sale.

The new weekend shuttle bus between Bridport and West Bay has proved incredibly valuable





Above: Pretty things for sale at West Bay market

and popular through July and August. For just £1 you can hop on this great little bus and take advantage of such cheap and cheery transport.

The next ward meeting is on Wednesday 10 September at 6.30pm at The Salt House. *Amy Stephenson* 

### **Bridport UNITED CHURCH**

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson 01308 341159 Church secretary – Jane Clinton bucchurchsec@gmail.com Church bookings – Sue Herman 422598 bucoffice1@gmail.com

#### What's on at Bridport United Church?

It's a new term and Little Lambs is back! Sessions start again on Monday 8 September and run from 9.30 to 11am, in term time only, in the hall behind the church. It's for 0- to 4-year-olds and their parents, grandparents and carers.

The morning includes free play with a variety of toys, a baby area, craft activities, play dough, snack time (chopped fruit and bread sticks), a hot drink for the adults, story time and finally singing time with musical instruments for everyone. There's definitely no charge, but there's a pot for donations if you want to contribute. So if you're free on a Monday morning why not come and try it out? We'd love to see you.

And if you have primary school age children and you're free on the 4th Thursday of the month, there's Messy Church from 3.30 to 5.30pm. There are craft activities, a Bible story, songs and prayers, and a hot meal for everyone, with pudding too. All children need to be accompanied by an adult, but there's no cost.

If you don't have charge of any young children, but you do enjoy a board game, knitting, crochet or just sitting having a chat, why not come to the Friendship Club on the third Thursday of each month, 2 to 4pm in the hall. There are sandwiches, cakes and a cuppa for everyone.

If a midday meal is more your thing, there's Lunch Club on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 12 to 2pm. You do need to book ahead for this – just ring 01308 422598 to secure your seat at the table for a delicious two-course meal (prepared and cooked here) for a suggested donation of a fiver.

And if it's a full English breakfast you're after, come along on the first Saturday of every month to our Big Breakfast, also in the hall, from 9 to 11.30am. It's  $\pounds7$  – or go bigger still for £8.50.

Do you come into town on a Wednesday or Saturday morning? Come and have a cuppa at our coffee mornings, 10am to 12 noon. There's always someone to chat to, and on the tables you'll find prayer boxes where you can write on a slip of paper whatever you'd like us



Above: the United Church Hall set up for Little Lambs

to pray for, for you. We meet to pray on Wednesday mornings at 9.30, and always pray for the prayer box requests. If you like to chat but also like to knit, bring your knitting and come and sit with the Knit & Natter group at the large table at the far end of the hall.

And of course there are our church services every Sunday at 10.30am. They are led by a variety of people in a variety of styles, but there will always be singing, a reading from the Bible, a talk, prayer, and time to share good news, sad news, where you see God at work, and anything you'd like to thank God for. Do stay for a cuppa afterwards.

If you're looking for something a bit different, with some ideas to get you thinking, a chance to discuss, times of silence for your own thoughts, the opportunity to do something with your hands, as well as songs and prayer, try Soul Space on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm. It's very informal and there are hot drinks and plenty of cake.

And about four times a year we have both Cafe Church, where we sit at tables, again with hot drinks and cake, and chat over some questions based on a Bible passage, and Healing Services where we share Communion and have the opportunity to be prayed for.

Whatever you choose, you can be assured of a warm welcome. And if you have any queries or just want to know more, then contact our church secretary, Jane Clinton, at *bucchurchsec@gmail.com*, keep an eye on our website *www.buc.cool*, or find us on Facebook for dates of special events and services.

One final thought: have you noticed a theme running through all of this? It occurred to me that everything involves food and/or drink... sounds good to me!

Melanie Buckland

September services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 7 10.30am The Revd John Yarrien
Morning Worship &
Holy Communion
4pm Soul Space
Sunday 14 10.30am Explore Together

Sunday 21	10.30am	Tim Wells	Wednesdays	12.30pm	Lunch Club (4th only)
		<b>Morning Worship</b>			Please book on 422598
	4pm	<b>Healing Service with</b>	Thursdays	2.30-4pm	Friendship Club (3rd only)
		<b>Holy Communion</b>		3.30-5.30pm	n Messy Church (4th only)
Sunday 28	10.30am	The Revd Jane Wilson	Saturdays	10am-noon	Coffee morning in the hall
		<b>Holy Communion</b>		9-11.30am	Big Breakfast in the hall
					(1st only)
Regular events			For more details of our services and other events, please		

For more details of our services and other events, please visit our website *www.buc.cool* or our Facebook page.

We have a number of rooms available for hire. For more information and to make a booking, please contact Sue Herman: bucoffice1@gmail.com.

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

9.30-11am Little Lambs toddlers

9.30-10am Prayer meeting in church

10am-noon Coffee morning in the hall

group (term time only)

Parish priest – Fr Colin Groombridge colin.groombridge@prcdtr.org.uk Presbytery 424754 Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594 bridport@prcdtr.org.uk

#### A call for non-violence and justice

Mondays

Wednesdays

Feeling hopeless in today's world of extreme violence and hate-filled speech? The prophetic call is to stand in solidarity with those at the margins whose lives are deemed to be of less worth in the international arena. The Centre for Action and Contemplation (www.cac.org) focused prayer in the first week of July on Liberation and Justice, calling to mind the life and work of Dom Hélder Câmara (1909–99), the Brazilian archbishop whose call to prioritise the poor and champion non-violence and justice was a transformative life event. Câmara's witness to the poor demands that we examine the systemic causes of poverty and violence, of which we are all a part. In his book Dom Hélder Câmara: Essential Writings (Orbis Books, 2009), Francis McDonagh quotes some of the



Left: Dom Hélder Câmara in the 1980s

convictions Câmara lived by:

- Where humanity is, the church must be there also.
- Today's world is threatened by the atom bomb of squalid poverty.
- Without a deep personal conversion, no-one can become an instrument for the conversion of the world.
- Dire poverty is degrading and taints the image of God in every human.

For his outspoken solidarity with the oppressed, Dom Hélder was accused of being a Communist. His answer was plain: the egoism of the rich presents a more serious problem than Communism. The Gospel calls us to reject the former, and instead to respond to the invitation of Jesus to adopt the characteristics of genuine humanity: to be pure in heart; to be merciful; to be humble in spirit. He calls us to identify with the poor, with those who mourn. He asks us to hunger and thirst for righteousness; to become peacemakers who not only sow the seeds of peace but are willing to call to account – in the name of peace – those who perpetuate war.

Are we willing to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness? Some of our young people currently in prison or on remand have shown us that they are.

Jesus outlined his mission for the world in Luke's first public teaching: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Herein lies the pathway to an authentic theology of liberation.

Lynne Caddick

**Sunday Mass is at 10am** at the Roman Catholic church in Victoria Grove and is streamed online at *www.bridportcatholics.org.uk* and on the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see the weekly newsletter on the website or look for updates on Facebook.





### BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

#### Looking for something to do with the kids?

Welcome back from the holidays! We pray you are all settling back into school and work again. At Beacon Church we have our After School Club running every Wednesday for primary-aged children. There is a selection of games to play, food and craft for the children. The club is free to attend. Our heart is for families to have a safe, warm space to just come have fun and be themselves.

On a Sunday we have our children's group called Sparklers. This is a time for the children to explore their faith in fun and engaging ways. Each week there's a story, craft, games and even biscuits! The

children always come back full of enthusiasm about what they have done and learnt in that time. All children aged 0–11 are welcome.

Twice a month we have a youth group (12–18) on a Sunday which allows them time and space to ask questions and go deeper with their thinking and their own personal journeys. We know how much young people appreciate being around others to learn and grow from one another.

Wherever you are at with your own faith, you are always welcome to come and join us. We pray you can find a home from home with us at Beacon.

Seb Gawen

## HOME / GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Jon 07341 554340 Gardening – Fencing – Painting Carpet cleaning service

# Bridport QUAKER MEETING The Meeting House 97 South Street

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

Advice and Query 17 (part 1): "Do you respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? Each of us has a particular experience of God and each must find a way to be true to it."

Being part of a congregation or of a community has its challenges. People come from different backgrounds, from different places, with different upbringings, so where is the point of agreement, the thing which holds us together? How do I reconcile the 'me-ness' of me with the 'you-ness' of you? Communication is the key if we are to find the common ground.

In the introduction to our little booklet of challenges about being a Quaker it says "... it is for the comfort



Above: This photo was taken at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales

and discomfort of Friends that these advices and queries are offered," so it is obviously going to take time and effort!

Meeting is held at the Meeting House on South Street 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 information you need to book a room for an event or to find out more about us.

Jeni Edwards

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



### BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FFI LOWSHIP

**Wednesdays:** House groups meet at 10.30am–12 noon and another 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:** 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 share a meal or BBQ after the service.



## 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).

**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

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. **Bridport Bridge Club** meets at St Swithun's Hall on Tuesday afternoons (beginners/rusty players; not fourth Tuesday), Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons (relaxed; not third Friday), plus online on Thursday evenings. Beginners' lessons started in mid-October. See <a href="https://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport">www.bridgewebs.com/bridport</a> or phone Martin Angold 01308 861120.

**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.

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

**Bridport Stage Company** theatre group is preparing for its next production, 'Oliver – with a Twist', which will be performed at The Bull Hotel on 22 and 23 November, with proceeds going to Samaritans. To get involved, either on stage or behind the scenes, email Valerie: <code>tasterella@hotmail.co.uk</code>. No experience is needed, and all ages are welcome.

**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

#### Citizens Advice is here to help

Wed & Fri 10am-1pm).

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,

**Bridport Choral Society** rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Fiona Kenward *fekenward@amail.com* 

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 info contact the membership secretary, Jill Edwards: membership@westdorsetsingers.org

**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.

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet at the WI Hall, North St, on Thursday 18 Sept at 7 for 7.30pm, when Martin Young will present The Garden Legacy of Gertrude Jekyll. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

**Voices of Hope Singing Group** is open to all ages and abilities. Easy, uplifting, joyful songs from around the world, some rounds and some in parts. Borough Gardens (off South Street) or The Chapel in the Garden if it's raining, Fridays at 11am. Suggested donation £5. *janesilvercorren@gmail.com* / 07887 675161 for more details or to join the mailing list.

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 September Irene Hickson will demonstrate 'Autumn Splendour'. Phone 456339.

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 2026? Contact <code>joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk</code> or visit <code>www.bridportcarnival.co.uk</code>

**Playful Singing** – open circle singing and structured improvisation with fun exercises. Create raised vibes together. Tuesdays 1pm at BYCC, Gundry Lane. Led by Pen 07713 008290. All notes are right notes. All abilities can join in. Donations welcome.

**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* or visit *www.ascapegroup.org* 

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 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 *elainestephenson2019@gmail.com* 

Bridport Community Shed, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, has drop-in sessions Mon,Weds & Thurs 10am–12 noon and stitching on the first Tuesday of each month 7–9pm. The Shed also runs a weekly Arts for Wellbeing group and a monthly creative session for 11–18 year olds, and hosts a weekly peer group session for 18–25yr olds. bridportcommunityshed@gmail.com The Harmony Centre provides friendly, informal support for local adults of all ages (18+) who want to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Call in during opening hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am–1pm) to find out how we can help you. Now at Unit 1, The Tower Building, St Michael's Estate (entrance via courtyard off Foundry Lane DT6 3RR).

**Bridport Community Front Room** offers face-to-face and phone support with mental health practitioners and peer specialists for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Thursday to Sunday 2.15–9.45pm. Based at The Harmony Centre, address as in previous entry. Phone: 07385 290804.

Phone 01308 801154.

**Bridport Access Wellbeing** is a new drop-in service for advice on mental health and emotional wellbeing, or practical help on topics such as finances, work, housing or support for carers. No appointment or referral needed. Wednesdays, 10am—3pm at The Harmony Centre, address as earlier entry.

Bridport & District u3a is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings 2pm on the fourth Tuesday each month (except December) in the United Church Hall, East St. The talk lasts about an hour, followed by Q&A and refreshments. On 23 September, wildlife photographer David Bailey will present Wildlife Wanderings. Members free, visitors £3. More than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Alastair Forbes 07962 099530 / chair@bridportu3a.org.uk / www.bridport.u3asite.uk

The **u3a Singers Group** meets on the first and third Thursdays each month at the WI Hall in North Street, 10am for a 10.30am start. All welcome (no audition). Contact Heather 425219 / www.bridport.u3asite.uk. **Friends at Greenfields** is a social get-together for those on their own or simply needing a bit of company. Every Thursday 10am—3pm at Greenfields, Bridport Community Hospital. Contact Lyn Goward 488272.

**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.

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 £12 individual / £18 couple. For more info visit www.bridporthistorysociety.org.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 / bridportyouthdanceo1@amail.com /

**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.westdorsetfriendsof theearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please

www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk.

**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.

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

The Rotary Club of Bridport meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 for 6.30pm at the Bridport & District Golf Club, Burton Road DT6 4QT. We also hold fundraising and social activities on other dates and elsewhere. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Contact Mike Green 07909 990693 / mikegreen@greenmail.net

**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 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

**Bridport Food Bank** provides support for anyone in the Bridport area in need of food, household supplies, advice and support, or just a cuppa and chat. St Mary's Church, South Street on Monday evenings 5-7pm and Wednesdays 11am-1pm. www.bridportfoodbank.org /info@bridportfoodbank.org / 07443 596096 Bridport Clothes Bank collects good quality, clean clothing and redistributes it free of charge. St Swithun's Church Hall Thursdays 9-10.30am; BYCC Hall Gundry Lane, first Saturday each month 11.45am-12.30pm; Prout Bridge Community Centre, Beaminster, second & fourth Mondays each month 10am-noon. We also have clothing permanently available in the entrance to St Swithun's Hall, so the public can help themselves if the building is open. Contact BridportCB@outlook.com / 07596 077385 / Bridport ClothesBank on Facebook. **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 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 RBL Hall is available for private and organisational hire. Contact Linda 425664 (hall bookings) or Mike Thompson 07974 534945 / mickey\_thompson56@ hotmail.com (membership).

**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. For more info 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 *htbrabells@parishofbridport.org* 

**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 <code>j.perfect@bridportleisure.com</code>. More information at <code>www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk</code>

**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

Golden Cap Association (West Dorset) in support of the National Trust, organises illustrated talks in the United Church Hall, East Street. On Monday 29 September, Dr Philip Mansell will speak about Versailles and the English. Non-members £5. Contact Sarah Nicks 459855. www.goldencapnt.org.uk

Bridport Stroke Club meets weekly Sept-Christmas and Feb-July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact Chris Farmer: agricols@icloud.com

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: <code>judy.clarke@nci.org.uk</code> **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. <code>www.thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org/volunteering</code>

**The New Arts Group** meets at Bridport Town Hall for fascinating talks on a wide range of topics. £10 per person to cover costs (no membership fee). Tea/coffee from 1.30pm (£1), talk starts at 2pm. For details of the next meeting contact <code>jenifer.morley@btinternet.com</code>

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

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 & Lyme Regis Royal Air Forces Assn 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 if you just want to do your bit to help, you are always welcome to join us. Bill Davies: 281200 / buccbill@hotmail.com

**Bridport Art Society** is a friendly, non-profit group of artists at all levels of experience which aims to encourage interest in and practice of the visual arts. It holds an annual summer exhibition to celebrate its members' creativity. Find us at *www.bridportart.com* and on Facebook and Instagram.

Bridport & District Good Neighbour Scheme provides help for people in the community needing transport to medical appointments who cannot use public transport, do not qualify for the hospital car scheme, have no friends or family to help and cannot afford taxi fares. Donation to cover cost of the journey if possible. Contact 07778 211140.

Somerset & Dorset Family History Society (West Dorset Group) meets at Loders Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Email Jane: *jferentzi@aol.com*West Bay Harriers are a Bridport-based off-road running group. One-hour trail on country footpaths, etc., every Monday 7pm from in front of The Woodman.

running group. One-hour trail on country footpaths, etc., every Monday 7pm from in front of The Woodman, South Street. With headtorches in winter. No charge. Contact Pete Brown 07762 257212.

Bridport Scottish Dancers meet on Wednesdays mid-Sept to May at 7.15pm in St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. All welcome, no partner required. £3 per session incl. refreshments. Basic tuition in first hour. Please wear soft shoes. Caroline 538141 / Tony 01297 560335 / www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk
Bridport Embroiderers meet in St Swithun's Hall on

the third Friday, 10am–3.30pm. Programme includes visiting tutors and caters for beginners and those more experienced in machine and hand embroidery. Many other techniques covered. Monthly fee plus materials.

**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 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.

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! Bridport Lions Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Haddon House Hotel, West Bay. A social evening often also takes place on the fourth Tuesday, plus fundraising events throughout the year in aid of individuals and groups in our community. Contact Sheila Greenaway 07930 636804 / bridportlionsclub@outlook.com. Website www.bridportlionsclub.org

The Living Tree Cancer Support Group is for anyone affected by cancer: patients, their families, carers and friends. We can help through counselling, complementary therapies, creative activities and simple friendship, all free of charge. Drop-in session every Friday 2.15–4pm at the Friends Meeting House, South St, to relax, talk and meet people. Everyone welcome. 07341 916976 mail@thelivingtree.org.uk / www.thelivingtree.org.uk Age UK's Forget-Me-Not dementia support group

offers support and information to people living with dementia and their caregivers. Entertainment, speakers and refreshments. Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane, on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 1.30–3pm. £2.5opp. Phone 01305 269444.

Bridport Community Orchard & Allotment group is open to all for sociable monthly working parties in the two orchards in Bridport. The allotment group meets weekly on Thursdays at 2pm to grow and harvest fruit and vegetables together. For dates and details visit www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk

Contact Bridget 07952 517764 / bmtrump@icloud.com Walditch Garden Group All welcome to our regular monthly garden group meeting on the last Thursday each month (except December) at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Seasonal topics, featured plant of the month and garden discussion throughout the year with tea and coffee. Contact Jane Mowatt 07810 110461.

**Bridport Camera Club** meets most Wednesdays from September to May, 7–10pm at Bridport Town Hall. Friendly hub whose members follow all kinds of photographic interests on smartphone, digital camera or film. Non-members £5. Come along to a meeting or visit *www.bridportcameraclub.co.uk*.

**Bridport Youth Club** runs sessions in three age groups (7–11, 11–13 and 13–17) on Wednesday and Friday evenings during term time. Activities range from art sessions, bicycle maintenance, crafts and various sports to a music room, recording studio, pool room and tuck shop. £2 a session. Held at BYCC, Gundry Lane, DT6 3RL. Contact <code>bridport.youth@gmail.com/www.bridportycc.com/</code>

Jurassic Amateur Boxing Club trains at BYCC, Gundry Lane, on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5.45pm-7.30pm and Sundays 9.45am-11.30am. Under-18s £3 per session; over-18s £4. Minimum age 9/10. All coaches are England Boxing qualified and first aid trained with enhanced DBS checks. This friendly, inclusive club is open to children and adults of both sexes. On TikTok @jurassic.abcon / email jurassicamateurboxingclub@gmail.com

**Beaminster & Bridport Probus Club** meets on the second Monday each month at the Red Lion Hotel, Beaminster, 10.30am for 11am for a coffee morning and a talk by a club member on a subject of their choice. Also on the fourth Monday each month at the Haddon House Hotel, West Bay, 12 for 12.30pm, for lunch followed by a talk by a guest speaker.

probus.meakins@btinternet.com

New! Multiple sclerosis (MS) support group for those living with MS, their carers and partners. A chance to talk through your diagnosis and your concerns and support, and to take part in gentle exercise and Tai Chi with Françoise from Chi Zone Dorchester. Second Wednesday of each month, 11am—1.30pm, Viking Village, Seals Cove, Shoe Lane, Bridport DT6 3EX. Contact dorset@mssociety.org.uk

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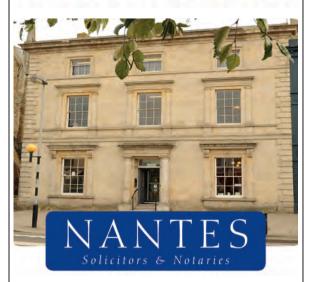
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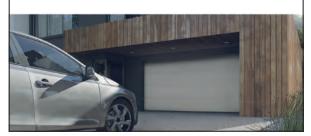
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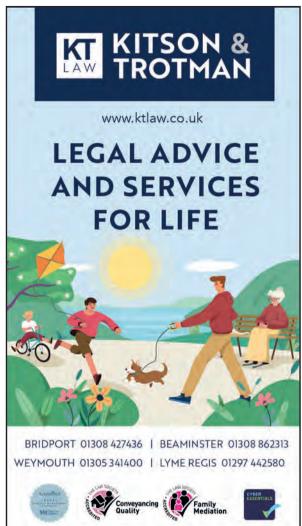
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