

December 2025/January 2026

# *the* Bridge

THIS ISSUE IS

A J Wakely & Sons

Private Family Funeral Directors

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A community magazine  
for Bridport supported by  
churches in the town



## THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT

**Team Rector** vacant

**Interim Team Rector**

The Revd Cally Burch Day off Friday  
cally@parishofbridport.org / 07746 561144

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

**Licensed lay ministers**

Graham Purse 423220 Peter Wright 456967

**Lay pastoral assistants**

Diana Wright, Caroline Cooke, Anne Rees, Jane Trower,  
Kathrine O'Brien, Virginia Bowley, Helen Thomas.  
*If you cannot get to church and would like home  
communion or a visit, please contact Diana (456967).*

**Lay worship leaders**

Martin Whiting, Anne Rees, James Craddock,  
Kathrine O'Brien

**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.org / 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  
ssubbookings@parishofbridport.org  
**Bothenhampton Village Hall** Heather Purse  
heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk 423220  
**Bradpole Forster Village Hall** Sarah Kilcoyne  
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Bookings at [www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole](http://www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole)  
**St Mary's Church House Hall** Mish Bartlett  
stmaryschhbookings@gmail.com  
**Walditch Village Hall** Jane Weyman  
janeweyman@btinternet.com 424299  
**Christian Fellowship, King St** Jackie Edwards  
538028  
Sue Herman

**United Church**  
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 / Faith Leborgne (secretary)  
bridport@predtr.org.uk 07544 595633

**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@gmail.com

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

**The advertising and copy deadline  
for the February 2026 issue is  
5pm on Monday 12 January**

**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](http://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.

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

# Have your say on the future of Bridport and Symondsburry

**Back in 2019, Bridport Town Council and neighbouring parishes worked together to create the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (BANP) — a shared vision for how our area should grow and develop.**

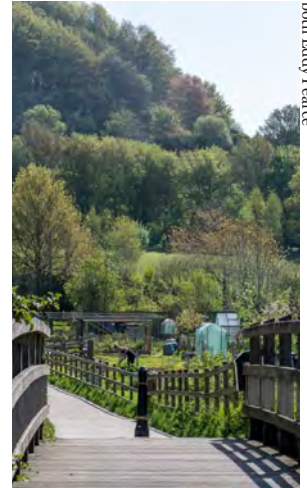
The BANP helps decide where new homes and businesses should go, what they should look like, and how we protect our much-loved green spaces. If you have a look at planning application decision notices, you can see the plan referenced.

Five years on, it's time to take another look and make sure the BANP still reflects what local people want for the future. Sally Freemantle, Town Clerk, explains what this means: "The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan has always been an important document. When the town council responds to planning applications, it's essential to have policies that are truly local and relevant to our area. A dedicated team of volunteers has reviewed the BANP, and now it's your turn to comment. Your views will help make sure we can make strong, well-informed representations to the planning authority."

You might wonder why another consultation is needed if you've already had your say on the Dorset Draft Local Plan. The BANP is different: it focuses specifically on Bridport and Symondsburry, setting out locally shaped policies that reflect our community's priorities. It's also the most up-to-date planning document that councils will use when deciding on future development.

So, have we got it right for the future of our area? Do you agree with the direction the updated plan is taking? Your feedback really matters — the strength of the Neighbourhood Plan comes from local support.

You can find all the background documents and details here: [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/projects/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/projects/neighbourhood-plan). And you can complete a short



both Eddy Pearce

survey (open until the end of December) online here: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/83Q87S](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/83Q87S)

You'll find displays at Bridport Library, our offices at Mountfield on Rax Lane, and the Tourist Information Centre in Bucky Doo Square. You can also email us with questions at [enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk).

Let's make sure the BANP continues to reflect the values and character of Bridport and Symondsburry — together, we can help shape a bright and balanced future for our community.

*Caroline Pearce,  
Project Manager,  
BTC*



Eddy Pearce



Neil Barnes

***On the cover: Readers might well recognise our cover image of Mountfield as the work of Bridport illustrator Terry Whitworth, who has created sketches of many scenes across the town. Turn to page 15 for our interview with Terry to read about his career and inspirations.***

## Be part of a Bridport tradition at the town's annual nativity play

**If you've always wanted to be an angel, a shepherd or a wise man, now's your chance!**

The Bridport Nativity will be held on Saturday 20 December at 11am in St Mary's Church, South Street. If you'd like to take part, or for more information, please contact the organiser, the Revd Philip Ringer, at [philipringer@aol.com](mailto:philipringer@aol.com) – or just turn up on the day in an appropriate costume!



## On your own this Christmas? Come and enjoy a sociable lunch

**Churches Together in Bridport & District is again inviting those who would otherwise be on their own at Christmas to join together for a Christmas Day lunch.**

The event is held from midday in Bridport United Church Hall, with lunch served at 12.30pm. Donations towards costs are welcome, although anyone on a tight budget who does not have the means to pay is welcome to come along anyway.

Volunteers are needed to help with preparing vegetables on Christmas Eve afternoon, and also to help with transport, laying tables, serving the lunch and clearing away. These volunteers are welcome to eat.

To book a lunch or to offer your help, please contact Sue Herman on 01308 422598.



## Advent courses in the Parish of Bridport

**Advent courses are an opportunity to explore faith during the weeks before Christmas.**

This year the Parish of Bridport has a range of dates and times available, as well as a choice of a book and a hymn to explore and discuss. There's no obligation to attend every week.

### Monday mornings

*1, 8, 15 and 22 December from 10.30am to 12 noon at the Cornish Bakery, West Bay (opposite St John's Church).*

This group will explore reflections from the hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel.



The groups below will explore extracts from the book *Donkey Roads and Camel Treks: A Pilgrim's Guide for Advent*. Copies are available from James Craddock on 01308 458725 or [jscraddock2022@outlook.com](mailto:jscraddock2022@outlook.com) although you can still come if you don't have one.

### Wednesday evenings

*3, 10 and 17 December from 7 to 8.30pm at St Mary's Church, South Street.*



### Thursday mornings

*4, 11 and 18 December at St Swithun's Church, North Allington, after low mass (around 10.45am).*



### Thursday afternoons

*27 November and 11 and 18 December from 2 to 3.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Bradpole.*



## Taizé Prayer in Advent

**Holy Trinity Church, Bothenhampton**

Sunday 14 December at 4pm  
Organised by Churches Together in Bridport & District  
[www.ctibd.org.uk](http://www.ctibd.org.uk)





## Open your heart to the small joys

**The highlight of this year for me was visiting my American cousin Lisa at her home in Connecticut.**



**Olivia Daly**  
Editor

During a chat about US/UK cultural differences, I mentioned that British people can't stand anything too earnest or wholesome. It makes us feel uncomfortable and we have to break the awkwardness with a joke. As an example, I told her about the time a US-born, longtime-Dorset-resident friend of mine chose a book about indigenous wisdom and "the teachings of plants" for our book group to read. None of us Brits could get through it... it was just too unironically wholesome for our slightly chippy sensibilities. How we laughed!

Imagine my reaction, then, when another friend began posting weekly #AttitudeOfGratitude reflections on Facebook (she lives in the Cayman Islands, so she has plenty to be grateful for). But once I read what she was writing, I felt a chink in my cynical armour. She wasn't smug about her happy marriage, beautiful children and perfect health – her gratitude was relatable. She'd mentioned little things: an encounter with a friendly dog; successfully growing herbs on the kitchen windowsill; meeting an interesting person in the supermarket queue. Things that can brighten anyone's day, if only we let them.

Inside this bumper, festive issue of The Bridge, we have a round-up of #AttitudeOfGratitude musings from people in our community – and one rather well-known person from further afield – plus interviews with two particularly creative locals and loads of news and info about Advent and Christmas happenings in and around our fabulous town.

If you're making new year's resolutions, perhaps include finding a moment of gratitude each day for something, no matter how small. Even the most cynical of us have to admit there's beauty in that.

*Olivia Daly, Editor*

## Noticing God's blessings

**This issue of The Bridge bursts with invitations to Advent and Christmas events across our vibrant town. I hope they fill you with joy and excitement.**



**The Revd**  
**Cally Burch**

For Christians, Christmas celebrates God's astonishing gift: Emmanuel, God-with-us, a vulnerable baby born among us to share in the complexity of our human lives and offer his life for us.

Yet December is laden with expectation, and the gap between the promise and reality of Christmas can weigh heavily. As the baby grew inside her, Mary must have struggled with the enormity of it all. Many of us feel overwhelmed this season – perhaps by unnecessary burdens we place on ourselves or others, or by the contrast between the peace we long for and the chaos we experience.

This tension reflects what Christians call "the now and the not yet" of God's Kingdom – living in the middle of the story, not at its conclusion. We inhabit a world still marked by suffering and brokenness, yet God is among us. Through Christ, everything needed for the world's redemption and renewal has been accomplished. The Kingdom has broken in, but it isn't yet fully realised.

How can we proclaim the Good News of Jesus, when our daily newsfeed brings us anything but good news? How do we hold celebration alongside sorrow, hope alongside hardship?

One answer may lie in the spiritual practice of gratitude, a theme explored elsewhere in this magazine. Gratitude doesn't deny pain or gloss over difficulty with false cheerfulness. Instead, it actively trains us to notice God's presence and blessings around us, even amid struggle. It teaches us to see where the Kingdom is breaking through – in acts of kindness, moments of beauty, unexpected grace.

A daily gratitude diary can help us notice infinite small blessings, however difficult life is. Try noting three things each day: maybe a warm conversation, someone's kindness, a glimpse of beautiful winter sunlight. As we focus on God's gifts, we're released from the weight of our own expectations. We rediscover awe and wonder – awakening to God, who continually meets us in surprising ways.

*The Revd Cally Burch, Interim Rector*

**Oh carol:** Churches Together's Advent carol service is at 4pm on Sunday 30 November at Bridport United Church. And there will be community carols in West Bay at 12.30pm (after the swim) on Boxing Day around the Christmas tree on Harbour Green. All welcome!

| DECEMBER 2025 – see below for an explanation of the abbreviations |  |  |  |                                  |   |                                |
|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Date  | St Mary's<br>Bridport                              | St Swithun's<br>Allington                                | Holy Trinity<br>Bothenhampton                | Holy Trinity<br>Bradpole         | St Mary's<br>Walditch                       | St John's<br>West Bay          |
| <i>Mon 1</i>  |  |  |  |                                  |   | 10am MPR                       |
| <i>Tues 2</i>   |  |  |  | 2.30pm HC                        |   |                                |
| <i>Wed 3</i>  | 2.30pm HC  | 2pm Centering<br>Prayer* (hall)                          |  |                                  |   |                                |
| <i>Thurs 4</i>  |  | 10am Eucharist   |  |                                  |   |                                |
| <b>Sun 7</b><br><i>Advent 2</i>                                   | 8am BCP HC<br><b>10am<br/>Parish<br/>Eucharist</b> | 4pm CC (hall)  |  |                                  |   |                                |
| <i>Mon 8</i>  |  |  |  |                                  |   | 10am MPR                       |
| <i>Thurs 11</i>   |  | 10am Eucharist<br>3.30pm Wild &<br>Messy Church          |  |                                  |   |                                |
| <b>Sun 14</b><br><i>Advent 3</i>                                  | 8am BCP HC<br>11am All-age<br>HC                   | 9.30am<br>Eucharist                                      | 11am HC<br>4pm Taizé service<br>(see page 4) | 9.30am<br>Christingle<br>service | 10am MPR                                    | 11am MPR                       |
| <i>Mon 15</i>   |  |  |  |                                  |   | 10am MPR                       |
| <i>Wed 17</i>   |  | 2pm Centering<br>Prayer* (hall)                          |  |                                  |   |                                |
| <i>Thurs 18</i>   | 7.30pm Blue<br>Light carols<br>(see below)         | 10am Eucharist   |  |                                  |   |                                |
| <i>Sat 20</i>   | 11am Bridport<br>Nativity (p4)                     |  |  |                                  |   |                                |
| <b>Sun 21</b><br><i>Advent 4</i>                                  | 8am BCP HC<br>11am MP<br>with carols               | 9.30am<br>Eucharist<br>3.30pm Carol<br>service (see p18) | 11am MPR<br>4pm Carol service                | 3pm<br>Carol service             | 3pm<br>Carol service                        | 11am HC                        |
| <i>Mon 22</i>   |  |  |  |                                  |   | 10am MPR                       |
| <b>Wed 24</b><br><i>Christmas<br/>Eve</i>                         | 4pm<br>Crib service<br>11.30pm HC                  | 6pm Christmas<br>Eucharist                               | 8pm HC                                       | 4pm<br>Crib service<br>10pm HC   | 4pm Carols at<br>The Hyde then<br>The Green |                                |
| <b>Thur 25</b><br><i>Christmas<br/>Day</i>                        | 8am HC<br>10am HC                                  |  |  | 10am<br>Christmas<br>Praise & HC | 11am HC                                     | 11am HC                        |
| <b>Fri 26</b><br><i>Boxing<br/>Day</i>                            |  |  |  |                                  |   | 12.30pm<br>Post-swim<br>carols |
| <b>Sun 28</b>   | 11am HC  |  |  |                                  |   |                                |

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](mailto:carolinewhitaker@hotmail.com) or [yvonne.welch1943@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.welch1943@gmail.com)

**Blue Light Carols:** Our annual carol service for members of our local emergency services, their families, friends and supporters, is at 7.30pm on Thursday 18 December at St Mary's Bridport. Come and join us as we remember all those who will be on duty or on call on Christmas Day. There will be seasonal refreshments and a retiring collection for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. *Philip Ringer, Divisional Chaplain, Bridport Police*



**JANUARY 2026** – see below left for an explanation of the abbreviations

| Date  | St Mary's<br>Bridport                                       | St Swithun's<br>Allington                       | Holy Trinity<br>Bothenhampton | Holy Trinity<br>Bradpole         | St Mary's<br>Walditch | St John's<br>West Bay                    |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Sun 4</b><br><i>2nd Sun of<br/>Christmas</i> | 8am BCP HC  | 4pm CC (hall)                                   |                               | <b>10am Parish<br/>Eucharist</b> |                       |  |
| <i>Mon 5</i>                                    |   |   |                               |                                  |                       | 10am MPR                                 |
| <i>Tues 6</i><br><i>Epiphany</i>                |   |   |                               | 2.30pm HC                        |                       |  |
| <i>Wed 7</i>                                    | 2.30pm HC   | 2pm Centering<br>Prayer* (hall)                 |                               |                                  |                       |  |
| <i>Thurs 8</i>                                  |   | 10am Eucharist<br>3.30pm Wild &<br>Messy Church |                               |                                  |                       |  |
| <b>Sun 11</b><br><i>1st Sun of<br/>Epiphany</i> | 8am BCP HC<br>11am Joint<br>covenant<br>service with<br>BUC | 9.30am<br>Eucharist                             | 11am MP                       | 9.30am MP                        | 10am MPR              | 11am HC                                  |
| <i>Mon 12</i>                                   |   |   |                               |                                  |                       | 10am MPR                                 |
| <b>Sun 18</b><br><i>2nd Sun of<br/>Epiphany</i> | 8am BCP HC<br>11am MP                                       | 9.30am<br>Eucharist                             | 11am HC                       | 9.30am HC                        | 11am MPR              | 11am MPR                                 |
| <i>Mon 19</i>                                   |   |   |                               |                                  |                       | 10am MPR                                 |
| <i>Wed 21</i>                                   |   | 2pm Centering<br>Prayer* (hall)                 |                               |                                  |                       |  |
| <i>Thur 22</i>                                  |   | 10am Eucharist                                  |                               |                                  |                       |  |
| <i>Sat 24</i>                                   |   |   |                               |                                  |                       | 4pm Service<br>of Wholeness<br>& Healing |
| <b>Sun 25</b><br><i>3rd Sun of<br/>Epiphany</i> | 8am BCP HC<br>11am HC                                       | 9.30am MPR                                      | 11am Matins                   | 9.30am MP                        | 11am HC               | 11am MPR                                 |
| <i>Mon 26</i>                                   |   |   |                               |                                  |                       | 10am MPR                                 |
| <i>Thurs 29</i>                                 |   | 10am Eucharist                                  |                               |                                  |                       |  |

**Epiphany service:** There is also an Epiphany service at 4pm on Sunday 4 January at the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary and St Catherine in Victoria Grove. This service is organised by Churches Together in Bridport & District.

**FEBRUARY 2026** – see left for an explanation of the abbreviations

| Date          | St Mary's<br>Bridport | St Swithun's<br>Allington                         | Holy Trinity<br>Bothenhampton | Holy Trinity<br>Bradpole | St Mary's<br>Walditch | St John's<br>West Bay |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Sun 1</b>  | 8am BCP HC            | <b>10am Parish<br/>Eucharist</b><br>4pm CC (hall) |                               |                          |                       |                       |
| <i>Mon 2</i>  |                       |   |                               |                          |                       | 10am MPR              |
| <i>Tues 3</i> |                       |   |                               | 2.30pm HC                |                       |                       |
| <i>Wed 4</i>  | 2.30pm HC             |   |                               |                          |                       |                       |

**CANTAMUS** *Directed by Peter Nardone*

# Magnificat

*Beautiful choral music for Advent*

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm  
St Mary's Church, South Street, Bridport



Tickets £12 on the door (cash or card)  
Refreshments will be available  
[www.cantamus-dorset.org](http://www.cantamus-dorset.org)

## West Dorset Beekeepers' Association

Our beginners' course for 2026 will run from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March on consecutive Tuesdays in Bridport. If you are interested please email [secwestdorsetbees@gmail.com](mailto:secwestdorsetbees@gmail.com) or ring 01308 456210 for more information.



## Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle



Reg Charity: 1125032

**St Swithun's Church Bridport**  
**7.00pm Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January**  
**Tickets £15 (under 18s free) from**  
**Bridport Music Centre**  
**or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds)**  
**Musical Director Matt Kingston**



## Bridport United Church Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December until  
Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Opening Service and switch on of lights  
Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 5 pm

Opening Times:  
Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> (Bridport Christmas Cheer)  
10 am – 1 pm + 3 pm – 7 pm

Monday – Friday 10 am – 1 pm  
+ 2 pm – 5 pm on Fridays  
Saturdays 10 am – 3 pm  
Sundays 2 – 4 pm

*Free Entry - donations welcome*



## BRIDPORT FOOD BANK

St Mary's Church  
South Street

### Christmas & New Year opening times

Monday 22 December 4–6 pm  
and Monday 29 December 4–6pm  
Both at St Mary's Church

*Please note: there is no food bank on  
Wednesday 24 or Wednesday 31 December*

Normal opening starts again on  
Monday 5 January 5–7 pm and  
Wednesday 7 January 11am–1pm

Bridport Food Bank would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year:

- Food bank volunteers, voluntary trustees and staff
- Volunteers and staff at Citizens Advice, First Point/You Trust, Bridport Clothes Bank, Social Prescribers, Harmony and Bridport Town Council
- Our wonderful contributors who donate food, other items, prizes or money to the food bank
- Local schools, nurseries, churches, organisations, small businesses, staff and customers.

Sonia Maynard, Coordinator, Bridport Food Bank  
[info@bridportfoodbank.org](mailto:info@bridportfoodbank.org) / 07443 596096

**Season's greetings to all**



# All aboard the Bridport Line as museum publishes book of railway memories

**Bridport Museum has released a book to celebrate the Bridport Branch Railway, which closed 50 years ago this year.**

An oral history project set out to gather memories from people who used the line and knew of its quirks. In the end, about 40 people were interviewed, and their stories are published at the end of November in a new book, *Railway Memories: All Aboard The Bridport Line*.

The memories were edited by Tegwyn Jones, a volunteer at the museum, who also drew on stories in local history books and museum archives. "It's been a

fascinating exercise, which would not have happened without the willing participation of a lot of people," he says. "The conversations threw up a lot of great stories that will go into museum archives for future researchers; there was a lot more material than we could get into the book.

"Last year, the museum published a book on Quirky Bridport that proved so popular we had to print two more editions. Encouraged by this, I felt a book on the human aspect of the railway might be really interesting for locals and visitors – and its sales will provide some useful income for the museum."

Museum manager Michelle Caesar says: "The museum has run several initiatives during this anniversary year to engage with local people and visitors about the Bridport Branch railway. The exhibition we are running in the museum at the moment has been popular, and this book is part of that effort. Its publication comes at an ideal time to make it a welcome Christmas gift. It's a great way to support the museum and find out more about the railway's fascinating history."

*Railway Memories* is £7.90 and for now is only available from the shop at Bridport Museum in South Street plus Toller Post Office and the Marquis of Lorne at Nettlecombe. Museum staff hope that other shops in the town will stock it in the new year.



## CHRISTMAS TOYS & TREATS

**Free or by donation  
Thursdays 11 & 18 December  
9.30–11am at St Swithun's Church**

**Once again, toys will be available alongside the regular Thursday food stall. Open to all.**

If you'd like to donate toys, treats or even wrapping paper for the stall, please bring your items to St Swithun's Church between 10am and 3pm weekdays.

Please make sure any pre-loved toys are safe, not broken, have all their parts and are clean. Thank you!

For more information contact  
Peter Wilson: 07778 159826 /  
[peterjwilson8@btinternet.com](mailto:peterjwilson8@btinternet.com)



## The Bridge needs your help!

**Our West Bay distribution coordinator is retiring at the beginning of next year and we are looking for a volunteer to replace her.**

The role involves collecting four or five boxes of magazines from St Swithun's in North Allington on publication day, taking them to St John's in West Bay and preparing them for collection by about eight delivery volunteers. There are 10 issues a year and the 2026 dates are available from the editor.

The role currently includes deliveries on West Bay Rd, although this could be done by a different person.

We also need volunteers to do deliveries in Wych Hill (collect copies from Bothenhampton Church), Orchard Avenue and West Allington (collect from St Swithun's). If you can help, please contact the editor: [editor@thebridgemagazine.org](mailto:editor@thebridgemagazine.org) / 07710 805029.

# Join us for a special Christingle Service



*Christingle is a simple, fun-filled Christmas celebration sharing the light & joy of Jesus*

Sunday December 14th

4pm - 5pm

At Bridport Christian Fellowship

Kings Square DT6 3QE

(back of East Street Car park)

Open to all ages, especially  
suitable for families & children

Followed by refreshments

[www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org) Email: [info@bridportchristianfellowship.org](mailto:info@bridportchristianfellowship.org)

*We would love to welcome you at any  
of these 2025 Christmas Services.  
All ages are welcome at all services.*

**Wednesday 3rd December**

Bridport Christian Fellowship

Coffee Bar open 4-8pm for  
hot drinks & mince pies. Drop in!

**Sunday December 7th**

Outdoor service Bucky Doo Square 11am -12pm

Followed by refreshments

*The services below will all be at Bridport Christian Fellowship  
Kings Square DT6 3QE (back of East Street Car park)*

**Sunday December 14th** Christingle service 4pm - 5pm

Everyone welcome Followed by refreshments

**Sunday December 21st** Carol Service 10.30am

Followed by refreshments

**Thursday December 25th** Christmas Day service 10am

[www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org) Email: [info@bridportchristianfellowship.org](mailto:info@bridportchristianfellowship.org)



# Step outside with a Nature Buddy!

**If you've ever wanted to spend more time outdoors but felt unsure about how to start, you're not alone, and help is available.**

The Nature Buddies Network is a Dorset-wide initiative designed to support people to get outdoors and enjoy nature in order to improve their health and wellbeing. Whether you're feeling isolated or anxious, or lacking the confidence to get outside alone, Nature Buddies can help.

Managed by Dorset National Landscape in partnership with Volunteer Centre Dorset, and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the



project matches trained volunteer Nature Buddies with people who could benefit from free, gentle, friendly support to enjoy the outdoors.

Nature Buddies can accompany you on a walk,

help you visit local green spaces, support you to try an outdoor activity or even take part in nature-based activities with you at home.

It has been proven that spending time in nature – even just a couple of hours a week – can lift your mood, ease stress, boost your immune system and improve your physical wellbeing. Whether it's a stroll through a

local park or simply sitting among trees, let nature be your natural health service.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a Nature Buddy, please visit: [www.dorset-nl.org.uk/project/nature-buddies-network](http://www.dorset-nl.org.uk/project/nature-buddies-network) to find out more, or contact Kate on 01305 228246 / [kate.townsend@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kate.townsend@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

## Saturday morning PIANO at St Swithun's

Hear our amateur pianists give

RECITALS on St Swithun's **GRAND PIANO!**

**on Saturday 13 December**

**10.30am  
till 12 noon,  
tea & coffee  
available  
too!**



**All are  
welcome to this  
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## A thank you from the bellringers of St Mary's Bridport

**The bellringers of St Mary's Bridport would like to round off the 100-year restoration of the bells with a final thank you to all those who helped to make the work possible.**

There are too many to mention individually, so we give all our widespread thanks to them anyway, and to everyone at the church as well.



Jane Stevens has had her winning flight that she won in the church raffle, thanks to Eddie Colfox and Sky Safaris.

The bell ringers continue to practise to make the best of these lovely bells, and we welcome anyone who wants to learn and join us, any Thursday evening (details on page 34).

Many thanks from all the ringers.

*Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain*



**As the turning point of the year approaches, many of us will reflect and wonder what 2026 has in store for family, friends and our community – and, indeed, globally.**

The Serenity Prayer\* holds timeless wisdom and there'll always be things we cannot change. However, nurturing a positive view on life is one way to see the good that surrounds us. But what of the tough times? There is a silence on Christmas Day like no other. For some it's a chance to enjoy the solitude. For others it brings a sadness, memories of those no longer here, worries about the future or a loneliness that never ends. Gratitude is still your friend.

Aim for the smallest of steps, because these are the building blocks that underpin resilience. And heaven knows we all need that!

Many years ago, I interviewed a



**Sir Terry Waite with Annette Shaw**

psychiatrist/author. I remember her saying that whatever you do in life, do it with grace. Whether it's working as a medical consultant or gathering rice in a paddy field, be the best you can. On wobbly days it can be getting up, reading a good book and finding Classic FM on the radio, noticing the changing sky. It's truly cumulative.

Everyone has a different take, and interestingly, several people I've

spoken to about this have named Sir Terry Waite as the person best placed to talk about gratitude. I'm privileged to have known him for some years and he readily agreed to offer his perspective and wisdom. Peace and blessings.

*Annette Shaw, freelance writer*

**Recently I received a gift from a friend which was totally unexpected.** I can't begin to say what pleasure it brought me. It was not so much the gift itself but the fact that someone cared enough to express their thanks in such a way. It deepened the friendship between us, which will continue long after the gift has been forgotten. My gratitude forms another bond in what is a caring relationship.

We give not to expect gratitude but to further enhance a relationship. We receive with gratitude and thankfulness even

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# An attitude of gratitude

though at times it easier to give than to receive.

*Sir Terry Waite KCMG CBE*

**Gratitude is an attitude – a perspective we can choose to wear, even in difficulty, transforming hearts from fear and pain to peace and joy. I learnt this from my parents.**

Recently, when my father was hospitalised with heart trouble – far from home, separated from my mother, both grieving lost friends and siblings – my parents had every reason to complain. Yet their response was simply thanksgiving: for each other, for medical care, for life's remaining blessings.

There's a rich biblical tradition of this. Miriam sang by the sea, David danced, Mary magnified the Lord. Each chose gratitude amid uncertainty, refusing to let life's struggles define them. They demonstrated the transformational power of a grateful heart.

*The Revd Cally Burch,  
Interim Rector*

**Drawing on my own life – and there have been many challenges and hurdles – there have always been lessons that helped me grow in empathy and understanding.**

I'm also grateful to the key people who shaped my early years, particularly my mum and grandmother. They gave me a firm foundation, loving support, direction and the belief that I could achieve whatever I wanted.

My greatest personal joy comes from my own loving family; they



**Wendy Thorogood with her husband, Bill; Simon Wakely**

live close by and for that I am truly grateful. I am embedded in their journey, which is a privilege and a joy.

*Wendy Thorogood, Parish Safeguarding Officer and former nurse consultant*

**I am grateful for: Teachers who taught confidence as well as grammar.**

The authors who inspire and entertain. Culture, Radio 4, music and dancing. The countryside of beautiful Dorset (especially the ginger cliffs). Health professionals everywhere. Producers of good and sustainable food, coffee and wine. Whoever invented tennis, suitcases on wheels, spa hotels and sat navs. My readers. The people who make me laugh. The people who love me.

*Rosanna Ley, novelist and creative writing tutor*

**I was born into the family business, so reaching adulthood and coming to work here was a rite of passage.**

But it's also been a journey that's allowed me to be part of the



community, to connect in a unique way with everyone I support on such a personal level, and to build relationships in and around this lovely town of Bridport.

I'm so grateful for the opportunity that life has given me: not only have I had a chance to give so much, I've also had the chance to build lifelong friendships that in turn have given me so much.

*Simon Wakely, independent family and funeral director*

**I'm grateful that I can live in peace in the country where I was born. I can't imagine having to flee and start again somewhere else.**

I'm grateful that I can turn on the tap and get water that's safe to drink – something that two billion people in the world still don't have.

I'm grateful that both my parents had what I think we'd all call "a good death". My father died this year and ultimately just slipped away in the night. I feel for anyone who cares for a parent over many years of ill health and pain.

*Olivia Daly, Editor, The Bridge*

*\*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.*



# From Dorset latest book t



**Author and writing tutor Rosanna Ley lives in West Bay and writes wonderful novels full of compelling plots and relatable characters. Her most recent book, *The Italian Flame*, was published this year. We met her near her home to find out more...**

*Words by Annette Shaw*

*Photos courtesy of Rosanna Ley*

It's quite unusual to interview an author on the very spot where the story begins. Yes, that's exactly what happened when I met Rosanna Ley to talk about her latest book, *The Italian Flame*. Backtrack to 1965 and the opening sentence is: *It was a warm, sunny day in July and Marilyn was sketching on Burton Beach*. And so begins a blissful read, set in dual time, that takes the reader from Dorset to Italy.

Rosanna has lived in West Bay for over a decade. Although her roots are in Sussex, she came to

know her adopted county through family holidays, developing a fondness that has endured. "I remember house hunting, looking at the coast and villages around Bridport," she says. "With my husband, we drove up the hill, towards what we now know as The Seaside Boarding House. I had such a strong feeling; an immediate connection and a knowing that I wanted to write about this place." And she did – creating a perfect blend of fiction and factual location placement.

Her genre is best defined as emotional drama. Romantic elements intertwine, in this case, with a multi-generational story that lends to a myriad of viewpoints within the plot. Without revealing the twists and turns, Rosanna explains: "I'm fascinated by the ITV series *Long Lost Family*,

sometimes saddened by the complexities of family life, then I wonder about the consequences." As time passes, events and evidence fade in memory or go to the grave. The story shows it's worth a try, but Rosanna has barely got the reader to Italy before a caffè owner says: *You must understand this... Not every person who has been adopted wants to be found*. The inner need to know your tribe, to have that sense of belonging and

completion, underpins *The Italian Flame*. "It's about searching for a sister, allowing me, as the writer, to both look back through the years and explore feelings that could be unresolved grief, an absolute delight, or end with the possibility of rejection."

Rosanna's books are a heady mix of culture, landscapes, mystery and relationships all meticulously researched. "I visit the places, walk the paths my characters will follow, and check that it all rings true. I double-check distances and cafe menus!" This not only gives the reader a deep feeling of authenticity, it also adds to the many reasons why page turning is so beneficial. For example, Rosanna refers to the Bay of Poets – also known as the Gulf of La Spezia, located between the towns of Porto Venere and Lerici. Having kindled curiosity, one step leads to another. A quick internet search reveals that Byron, DH Lawrence, Shelley and his wife Mary all had links with the





# to Italy: local author Rosanna Ley's takes readers on an emotional journey



area, and this is deftly woven into the text. In Rosanna's book, lead character Lily, when visiting a villa on the Mediterranean waterfront, reflects: *They were so young, only in their twenties, when they arrived in 1822.* The text continues: *She read about Shelley's sense of enchantment and amazement, his desire to heal the wounds of his soul through the crystalline waters and clear skies of the bay.*

It sounds glamorous to be an author. In reality, it's tough – particularly to sustain it – and Rosanna was keen to talk about other aspects of her career. She has worked with community groups in therapeutic settings and completed an MA in creative writing for personal development in order to support this. She has also mentored and appraised the work of new writers. Rosanna has worked as a creative writing tutor for over 30 years, has led courses for colleges

and universities in England, and runs her own retreats (the 2026 dates are on her website). Based near the town of Cómpeta, writing holidays take place at the stunning location of Finca el Cerrillo, a 200-year-old farmhouse close to the traditional Andalucían village of Canillas de Albaida, high in the foothills of the Sierra de Almijara, southern Spain. The finca was a working olive mill until the mid-1960s and has been carefully restored to preserve the charm and character of old Andalucía while providing the modern comforts and excellent cuisine of a small and charming hotel.

Whether it's been a while since books were your best friend, or

you're searching for a Christmas gift or a story to cosy up with over the festive season, it's worth taking a look at the Reading Agency website. A charity registered in England and Wales, the agency has lots of ideas for past and present titles, promotes the benefits of reading and how it boosts wellbeing on many levels. Rosanna's novels tick a lot of boxes and she currently shows no sign of retiring her pen. So far, there are 12 published by Quercus and as many more under pseudonyms.

[www.rosannaley.com](http://www.rosannaley.com)

[www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

*The Italian Flame* is published by Quercus Books. Paperback £9.99  
Kindle edition £5.49



**Pictured: Rosanna Ley researching in Positano (above left) and Tellaro (right) for her latest novel, *The Italian Flame***

# I've lost my unicorn!

A poem by 12-year-old Neala Harrison



Unicorn and Mary were best friends forever.  
They did almost everything together –  
They'd been to the beach, to the woods, to the town,  
They'd been to the hills, they'd walked up and down.

They'd looked in shops, they'd splashed in puddles  
And at night they'd settle down for a cuddle,  
While Mum read them lots of storybooks  
About mermaids and fairies, witches and crooks.

Nothing could ever set them apart:  
They'd been together right from the start.  
One day Dad packed a picnic, they headed for the sea,  
On the journey there, Unicorn sat on Mary's knee.

When they got there, they set up their picnic mat  
And Unicorn and Mary feasted on sandwiches and that.  
After, they went for an ice cream – what a treat!  
And sat down to eat it on a wooden seat.

Then they decided to leave the seaside,  
But though Mary didn't realise, she'd left Unicorn  
behind!  
When they got home, they saw Unicorn had gone –  
Mary burst into tears... what had she done?!

They searched all the bags, but even though she tried  
Mary couldn't find Unicorn. "I've lost my unicorn!"  
she cried.

That night Mary had no Unicorn to cuddle,  
And dream about going to the beach and splashing  
in puddles.

Meanwhile, on the beach, Unicorn curled up  
On the bench where she'd sat before with her ice-  
cream tub,  
And she watched, a bit scared, as the sky changed colour.  
She'd always had Mary, and they'd had each other.

But as it got dark, the sky blossomed with stars,  
And the beach quietened down, and there were far  
fewer cars,  
Unicorn felt a bit happier, as the waves rolled onto  
the shore.  
Her eyelids began to droop and she began to snore.

Back at home, young Mary had a plan.  
She stood up straight and said, "I'll do whatever I can!"  
The next morning, the family got up and drove back to  
the seaside,  
Mary ran along the promenade – it had been an  
apprehensive ride.

And soon she found the bench where they had sat the  
day before.  
Of course, there was Unicorn (still having her snore)  
And Mary was overjoyed, and spun Unicorn around,  
And Unicorn woke up and knew she was safe and  
sound.

So the two of them went home, happy as can be,  
Because they are the best of friends – Unicorn and  
Mary!

## Could you be missing out on Pension Credit?

Dorset Council is urging residents over state pension age to check if they are eligible for financial support that could mean being £75 a week better off.

Pension Credit is a government benefit designed to help people aged 66+ on a low income. As well as up to £75 a week it can also unlock access to additional support such as the winter fuel payment, a reduction in council tax, housing benefit (for renters), support for mortgage interest (for



homeowners), a free TV licence (for those aged 75+) and help with NHS costs.

It is separate from the state pension, so you could still be entitled to Pension Credit even if you have

other income, savings or own your own home, if you fall within the criteria.

Check whether you are eligible at [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit) or call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234. You can also contact Citizens Advice or Age UK on the free Dorset Adviceline on 0800 144 8848.

# Capturing Bridport's gems with skill: illustrator Terry Whitworth



**This issue's stunning cover is the work of illustrator Terry Whitworth, who is well known in Bridport for his images of the town's buildings.**

We caught up with Terry to find out about his life, career and inspirations...

*The Bridge:* Terry, thank you so much for letting us use your image of a wintry Mountfield. What medium did you use to create it?

*Terry Whitworth:* I sketched this one on my iPad using the ProCreate app. I use this for some of my work these days. At the beginning of my career there were no computers; sketching was 'analogue' and design was craft-based work with magic markers, paste-up and large drawing boards. It all started to change in the 90s with computer-aided design, and now we have tablets – it's the same technique and thought process but with electronic pens.

*TB:* So you've kept up with advances in technology? It's a fast-moving field.

*TW:* I've learnt what I've needed to learn to keep up with the changes. My wife, Lenschen, is more tech-minded than I am and she has been invaluable in so many aspects of our business. I still love to paint with traditional media, of course, but the iPad is so convenient sometimes.

*TB:* You're well known for your 'Saturday Sketchbook' on Facebook, where you post images of local sights. Do you have any favourites among Bridport's many buildings?



*TW:* I love the 17th-century Beach & Company chemists opposite the Town Hall – it's now the Cancer Research shop. I also really like the Beach & Barnicott, just round the corner in South Street. There are so many fascinating buildings in the town that it's hard to choose; Bridport is full of hidden gems – many are not dramatic but are definitely worth looking at more closely and learning about.

*TB:* How long have you lived in Bridport?

*TW:* I was born and brought up in the Woking area and later moved to East Molesey, near Kingston. I trained at Twickenham Art College, where I met my first wife, and after having our two sons we decided to move somewhere more rural. I'd visited Dorset in my teens and knew it was a lovely county. We looked for the right house and found it in Bradpole.

My first marriage ended after eight years and I met Lenschen. We've been together for 30 years now. She used to be a milliner and she's very creative. We moved to North Mills nine years ago.

*TB:* Yours is a creative household! Tell us a bit about your career. How did you get started in the art world?

*TW:* I had a bit of a false start! I went to an academic boys' grammar school where the creative arts were discouraged, and I started my working life in business with Plessey Radar. But I knew deep down I had to get into art and design. In my early 20s I went to college to study art, design and illustration. It was the right course of action and it opened up all sorts of possibilities for me.

*TB:* It must have been a huge relief to be doing something you loved. Where did you go from there?

*TW:* After college I worked in two or three design studios in London, then went freelance after moving down here. I continued to get the same sort of work – a mix of graphic design and illustration – but as time went on I got more and more illustration work, which I prefer. The publisher Salmon produced lots of greetings cards and calendars of my designs, which led to lots of good illustration jobs. I got a lot of work from the building sector, for estate agents and architects, creating 'artist's impressions', bringing things to life.

*TB:* Have you had any high-profile clients?

*TW:* Well in 2008/9 I illustrated some of the design proposals for the grounds at Dumfries House for the then Prince of Wales, now the King. Before that I'd been commissioned to paint a watercolour of The Prince



# Capturing Bridport's gems with skill continued

of Wales School in Poundbury. I got to meet him at the presentation ceremony, and we had a chat. Of course he's a pretty good painter himself!

**TB:** Which other artists do you find inspiring?

**TW:** I particularly enjoy the work of other contemporary illustrators such as David Gentleman, who has a wonderful technique, and Hugh Casson, and I like David Hockney too. My own style of work might subconsciously include elements of other illustrators' techniques. Illustration has always been more interesting to me than fine art. I love the sketching process, the spontaneity of it.

**TB:** How do you feel about the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and its ability to create art?

**TW:** It worries me a bit. It's amazing what it can do, and it will obviously do good in many different fields, but in creative fields I can see that it can cause a lot of problems. We'll have to wait and see.



The act, the process of creating art – the looking, seeing and studying – is to my mind more important than always having to get a good result. I think the process of drawing is innate in everyone – we'd all like to do it, and I'd like it to be regarded like reading, something we can all do and learn from. I've taught drawing to adults in art groups and it's astonishing how many say they were told at school that they weren't good enough.

**TB:** What do you enjoy besides art?

**TW:** I love music – in fact, it's almost more important to me than art, and so inspiring. I love blues, folk, country and classical. I play piano and guitar a bit and used to play drums in a blues band up in Surrey. In fact, for a while the guitarist was Eddie Clark, who went on to play in Motörhead. He was only 16 at the time but was a great guitarist even then.

I also enjoy gardening, table tennis and natural history, particularly butterflies and moths.

I'm also fortunate to have a wonderful family. Sadly my younger son Kieran died in 2016 from cancer at the age of 33, but my other son Alex is also an illustrator and has a son of his own, Kit, who's four and loves drawing so maybe he'll follow the same path. It definitely runs in the family!

Lenschen's two children, Jack and Alice, live in Bridport with their partners and our two wonderful granddaughters. It's a joy to have them all around.

*Terry posts a new picture from his Saturday Sketchbook every week in the Bridport Banter group on Facebook.*

## St Swithun's Church North Allington

### St Swithun's Band Concert



**Monday 8 December  
7.30pm**

**Christmas music,  
carols and mince pies**

**Free entry with a collection  
All welcome!**

## St Swithun's Church North Allington

### Carol service

**With St Mary and  
St Catherine's Roman  
Catholic Church**

**Sunday 21 December  
3.30pm**

**Mince pies & tea  
Retiring collection  
Extra parking at Amsafe**

## ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick

07977 988263

### Generous gifts from our church community

The newspaper supplements are full of suggestions to help us in our choice of Christmas presents. We are familiar with the gift ideas for family members of all shapes and sizes, but this year the range of categories seems to be even broader. There are ideas for cheese lovers, bookworms, champagne drinkers – even a page of gift ideas for church organists! It suggests “practical items like warm gloves or blankets, useful accessories such as a special music lamp or book clips, and fun, personalised gifts like mugs, totes, or ornaments featuring organ designs. High-quality sheet music editions from favourite composers are also excellent choices.” (Don’t hold your breath, Tim – no organ-themed ornaments will be coming your way this month!)

Giving and receiving good gifts is a wonderful thing, however, and as we approach the Christmas season, there are many gifts that St Mary’s has received in the last year for which we would like to express gratitude.

First, our heartfelt thanks to the local community for your day-to-day support, which enables the church to keep opening its doors. To those who give financially; those who give practically; those who care for the church roof, the boiler, the bell tower, the churchyard; and those who use the church as a meeting place, a concert venue or a place to enjoy Saturday morning coffee – thank you!

Two events, perhaps, stand out as gifts that brought so much joy. In June, Becca Doe from Becca’s Fabric Larder in South Street worked with us to stage a flower and quilt exhibition called Bridport Bright and Beautiful. At its inception we had concerns about the possible costs associated with producing many large flower exhibits, the practical difficulties in hanging the quilts in a Grade 1 listed building, and the level of support from the local community that would be needed to make the event a success. We need not have worried, however, as the Bridport community



## Join us for festive coffee and cakes

**Saturday 6 December**

**10am–12.30pm**

**St Mary’s Church, South Street**

supported us wholeheartedly, financially, practically and by attending in large numbers – a gift indeed!

Second, over the summer you may have been aware that Jane Dibdin gave us her entire book collection. The many books amassed in the North Aisle did at first raise some concerns: how would we transport and store the books, and how would the sale work? Once again, the local community stepped up with enthusiasm. Suitable boxes were provided by Lidl, Spar and The Works, and Morrisons kindly loaned us 20 large plastic crates to use during the sale. Many people then spent hours thumbing through the selection of books on offer and purchases were made, often as a way of showing support for the Dibdin family but also as a way of giving to the church. We thank you all for helping us to make this happen – we raised just over £1,000 towards church heating and maintenance.

Did I say thank you to our organist, Tim, who week by week makes a gift to us of his musical talent and ability? Come along any Sunday to receive the present he offers, then make time to hear tell of the greatest and most extraordinary Christmas gift of all: Emmanuel, God with Us.

*Lesley Hill*

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



## Bridport Town Council CENTRAL WARD

Contact 01308 456722  
[enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk)

**There is currently no ward clerk for this ward.**

If you are a Central Ward resident and you want to get in touch with the council about something in the ward, please contact Sally Freemantle, Town Clerk, using the details on the left.

Meeting dates are published at [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-central-ward](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bridport-central-ward).

## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

### From the parish editor

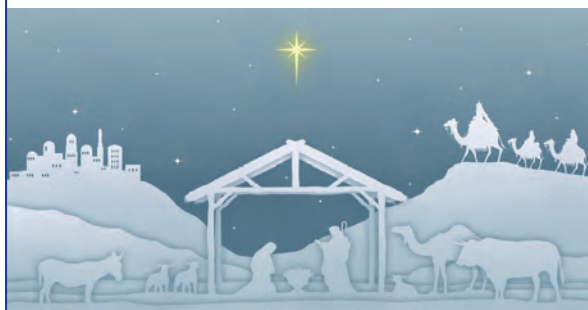
We are now in Advent, a time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas, a time to remember neighbours who may be feeling lonely when others are busy with Christmas preparations. There is always a welcome for everyone at the monthly coffee mornings at Holy Trinity, and the next one on Saturday 6 December will have a Christmas feel with festive cakes and bakes, raffle, books, puzzles and games. The handbell ringers will be playing Christmas music, adding to the joyful atmosphere. Do come and enjoy refreshments and companionship in a warm church, 10am to 12 noon. The first coffee morning in 2026 will be on Saturday 3 January.

On the evening of 6 December, the village hall committee will be sharing Christmas cheer with everyone who would like to join them. There will be mulled wine and mince pies, starting at 7.30pm.

Those of us who attended the Bothenhampton art exhibition on 19 October are likely to agree that it was

## Traditional service of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 21 December at 4pm**  
**Holy Trinity Bothenhampton**  
**All welcome!**



a truly wonderful display depicting our village. All forms of art were represented, including paintings, photography, models and pyrography, and there was a lot of fascinating historical content, too. We are much indebted to Sue Browne and her team for all the effort involved in putting the exhibition together, and to everyone who contributed their work.

We also thank the 11 volunteers who spent an afternoon in October clearing and tidying the Old Churchyard. Families who visit the graves of loved ones often say how much they appreciate the well-kept grounds in such a tranquil spot, so the working parties are doing an excellent job.

Services at Holy Trinity during December include informal carols and readings by the Brownies on Friday 12 December at 6pm. Do come and support them if you can. Taizé prayer in Advent is on Sunday 14 December at 4pm, followed by mince pies and mulled cider (see advert on page 4). On Sunday 21 December there will be a said service of Morning Prayer at 11am, then our traditional nine lessons and carols at 4pm. On Christmas Eve there will be a Holy Communion service at 8pm. No service on Christmas Day or 28 December.

Those who enjoy the productions of This is My

**Bothenhampton Village Hall Committee**  
**invite you to a**

## Christmas Cheer social evening

**Saturday 6 December at 7.30pm**

*Come and join us  
for mulled wine  
and mince pies*





Theatre will be pleased to know that they will be coming back again on Friday 13 March to perform Jane Eyre in Holy Trinity. They are a small group of highly talented young actors who are well worth seeing.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

*Barbara Ffooks*

## FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

No film in December

Saturday 31 January – title to be confirmed

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5

Refreshments available

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

## Thelma's hymn notes

### O Christmas Tree!

This carol was originally a 16th-century Silesian folk song from Germany called O Tannenbaum. In 1824, German composer and lyricist Ernst Anschütz wrote new lyrics and added two verses of his own, and the English translation of his composition has become very popular.

Few carols capture the spirit of Christmas quite like this one, which has become a universal symbol of holiday cheer. Its gentle melody and heartfelt lyrics celebrate the beauty of the evergreen tree as a timeless emblem of faith, hope, and renewal. The carol has been translated into numerous languages and embraced by cultures worldwide.

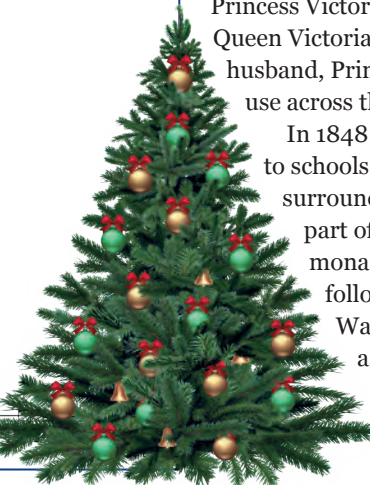
We all now associate Christmas with a beautifully decorated evergreen tree. My father would cycle to Bridport on Christmas Eve to get a Christmas tree, which he would bring home and put in the box window sill, where it would stay until 6 January creating much joy in our household.

Our village church always had a Christmas tree in its chancel, and on Christmas morning after Sunday school, the children would receive prizes. There would be bags of sweets hanging from the Christmas tree; we'd all line up and the vicar would hand them out to us.

The lyrics of the opening verse are:  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree!  
Thy leaves are so unchanging;  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree!  
Thy leaves are so unchanging.  
Not only green when summer's here,  
But also when 'tis cold and drear.  
O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree!  
Thy leaves are so unchanging!

*Thelma Pulman*

*Organist at St Mary's Walditch*



## ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725

[walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com](mailto:walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com)

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the  
Revd Ann Ayling on 424896

### Light the spire

The spire is lit during December  
in memory of baby  
Alexander John Scott  
*Marian and John Scott*



### A part of our traditional Christmas

Even though the British had used evergreen flora for interior decoration during the Christmas season for many centuries, decorating a fir tree for the festive period was actually a 19th-century innovation from Germany. It caught on and became a central part of Christmas celebrations to this day.

The decorated fir tree was first introduced to royal and court circles by Queen Victoria's German mother, Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld. It was Queen Victoria herself, however, and her German husband, Prince Albert, who popularised the tree's use across the wider population.

In 1848 Albert sent decorated Christmas trees to schools and army barracks in Windsor and the surrounding countryside. This was probably part of his ongoing attempt to restore the monarchy's reputation among the people following the Regency of George, Prince of Wales (1811–20) and his subsequent reign as George IV. George's personal conduct caused the monarchy to fall into some degree of disrepute, and Prince Albert was determined to reverse this by →

## ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

appealing to the growing middle classes and thwarting nascent republicanism.

A much-publicised engraving of 1848, featuring the

royal couple and their children decorating a tree with lighted candles and gingerbread men, established the Christmas tree as a major component of middle-class seasonal celebrations.

*James Craddock*

## Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

**Ward clerk – Jo Hughes**  
*[bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)*

### Your ward clerk writes...

Dorset Council Highways have told us that work on the Hollow Way pavement is provisionally scheduled to begin after Christmas, with completion expected in early 2026. The works will include vegetation clearance and essential repairs to the supporting wall, improving safety and accessibility. The road and footpath will need to be closed for the repairs, but disruption to the surrounding area will be kept to a minimum. Once the application has been submitted, confirmed dates will be shared with the public and stakeholders.

The footpath has been closed for over a year, but its safety has been an issue of concern for many decades. The article 'Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council – a history, of sorts' (available by following a link from [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bothenhampton-walditch-ward](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wards/bothenhampton-walditch-ward)) notes for example that in May 1895 the parish council was concerned over the state of the Hollow Way high pavement, and the parish council clerk asked Highways for some protection to be erected along the raised causeway leading from the railway bridge (then at the bottom of Hollow Way) to Bothenhampton Church. The clerk stressed that the parish council was not asking for "the protection of

**Right: Work on  
the Hollow Way  
pavement is  
scheduled to start  
after Christmas**



intoxicated persons" or "for tessellated pavement" but simply wanted something to be done to render the footpath safe.

According to the local paper, at the meeting of the wider council to discuss this request, the reference to intoxicated persons provoked laughter. The county council returned the matter to the parish council, giving its sanction to the latter to do whatever it considered necessary – at its own cost, naturally. In 1922, the local paper reported that the high pavement was the scene of "yet another accident" when Mr T Thorne fell onto the roadway, and in 1941 the pavement became dangerous owing to the slippage of earth. Clearly, the state of the Hollow Way pavement has been and continues to be an ongoing concern!

To get in touch about anything in the ward, please email me at [bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk) and keep an eye on our Facebook page for all the latest news and information.

*Jo Hughes*

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232

*[douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com](mailto:douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com)*

Bell enquiries – Wendy Carnell 420716

*[htbrabells@parishofbridport.org](mailto:htbrabells@parishofbridport.org)*

For pastoral or personal issues, please  
contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644

(Wednesday is her day off)

### Remembrance Sunday

On a blustery Sunday 9 November, the Revd John Rees conducted the Act of Remembrance in our churchyard (pictured above right) for those who have died in wars. John read out the names of the soldiers from Bradpole who died in both world wars. The ceremony included the first part of the Kohima Epitaph, written by John Maxwell Edmonds in memory of those who died at Kohima in India during World War II: "When you go home, tell them of us and say: For your tomorrow, we gave our today."



**Left: The Revd John Rees conducted the Act of Remembrance at Bradpole Church on Remembrance Sunday, 9 November**

to play with and lots of space. Refreshments are served. There is no charge. The last session of the year is on 17 December and the new term starts on 14 January.

### **Village Lunch Club**

The club will be having lunch at the Half Moon on Tuesday 9 December and at Long's Fish Restaurant in King Street on Tuesday



13 January, both at 12 noon. Numbers are restricted so please contact Thelma Pulman (458533) for details if you have not already booked. All welcome.

### **Other groups**

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesdays 16 December and 20 January. The Knitting Group will meet on Thursdays 4 and 18 December and 15 January. Contact Daphne King (427552) for more details.

### **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](http://www.hallbookingonline.com/bradpole).

### **Bradpole Buzz Group**

The group will meet on Wednesdays 10 and 31 and Saturday 21 December, and on Saturday 10 and Wednesday 21 January.



We'd love 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 [bradpolebuzz@gmail.com](mailto:bradpolebuzz@gmail.com).

### **Ekisa Ministries**

For many years Holy Trinity has sponsored Kate Tolhurst and her daughters, who live in Uganda. Kate works with a team running a school that ministers to children with disabilities and their families. Sometimes we think life can be hard in the UK, but they live amid so much poverty and suffering, and with people who think so differently from us, that the UK seems like another world.

In a recent newsletter Kate said she was recovering from her first bout of malaria, shivering in the 30° heat despite wearing thick clothes and covering herself with blankets! Fortunately she received treatment quickly. She also wrote about some of the difficult challenges she and her colleagues regularly face when helping the children and their families.

It is heartening to know that Bradpole is making a small contribution and helping them in their work in a far-off land. [www.ekisa.org.uk](http://www.ekisa.org.uk)

### **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

## **Bridport Town Council BRADPOLE WARD**

**Ward clerk – Sandy Goldsmith**

**07944 523084**

**[bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)**

### **The ward clerk writes...**

The 20mph survey for Bradpole Village closed at the end of October. Of the responses received, 76% strongly agreed with the proposed change, 11% agreed, 3% disagreed and 10% strongly disagreed.

The results have been submitted to Dorset Council and the next step in the process is for traffic data surveys to be conducted on the four main roads in the village. These will hopefully be completed in the next →



## BTC Bradpole Ward continued...

two months. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

Councillors are still working with Dorset Council to establish the best way forward regarding traffic calming along Jessopp Avenue.

Flood warden news: A resident from Lee Lane has volunteered to act as flood warden for Bradpole, and he will be looking to recruit other people in the area. If you are interested, please contact me and I will put you in touch with him.

As you may already know, the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (BANP) 2020–2036 is out for review. The BANP is a valuable resource for the local community and has been drawn on extensively in planning matters. The consultation survey is available at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/83Q87S](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/83Q87S) while hard copies are available from Bridport Town Council at Mountfield. Responses need to be in by 30 December.

Bridport Town Council's office will be closed for Christmas from 12 noon on Wednesday 24 December until Friday 2 January. If you have any council issues during this period that need urgent attention, please call Dorset Council on 01305 221000.



**Above: Autumn colours on Watton Hill**

The next Bradpole Ward community consultation meeting will be held at the village hall on Monday 12 January, starting at 7pm. Meanwhile, please email me at [bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk) to get in touch about anything in the ward.

I'd like to wish you and your families a healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.  
*Sandy Goldsmith*

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – James Craddock  
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**St Swithun's is proud to have three ladies in the congregation who are all in their 90s...**

### June Goodburn, 94 – birthday 20 June

June came to St Swithun's in 1952 when she moved here from Folkstone. She became a church warden



in 1984, with the late Richard Maddock. Under the late Father Roger Shambrook as parish priest, June was instrumental in getting our hall built, and she laid the foundation stone. June also ran the Sunday School, which later became the Saturday Club.

Away from St Swithun's, June is also president of the Bridport Dog Training Club and president of Bridport and District Girl Guide Association, an organisation June joined as a Brownie when she was seven.

It's always a pleasure to welcome June to our services and she is never without Pippa, her little yorkie, who is her devoted companion. June is never without a smile, as you can see in the photo!

### Verena Doyle, 94 – birthday 24 June

Verena and her late husband Ron visited Bridport on many occasions while still in military service. In their retirement they moved to a cottage in Victoria Grove in 1992. They quickly settled in and St Swithun's became their spiritual home.

The late Father Roger Shambrook called in for tea and explained that he was looking for a churchwarden. During an army tour, Verena ('Ve') had been an administrator to the Church of England chaplain in Belgium. Her name was put forward and she became Vicar's Warden, a position she held for 14 years.

During this time, a wonderful team of volunteers





**Above: Three nonagenarians from St Swithun's (from left) June Goodburn and her dog Pippa, Evelina Malyon and Verena Doyle**

redecorated the church, inside and out, returning the church to normality for Sunday services! Ve was responsible for flower arranging in the church for many years and had a happy band of volunteers always willing to help out. Ve has raised funds for St Swithun's over the years with her knitted hats, scarves, dolls, etc.

Retiring after her 14 years of service, she had time to travel, most notably to visit close family in Australia. Now, at 94, Verena is still a regular worshipper at St Swithun's, although she finds failing mobility stops her from taking a more active part. However, she is planning another trip to Australia this Christmas and New Year!

#### **Evelina Malyon, 90 – birthday 10 October**


Born in Iran to Armenian parents, Evelina moved with her family to British India, where she was educated in the Himalayas before coming to England at the age of 13 to finish her education. She worked as a secretary and PA in London, and moved to Winterborne Abbas when she and her late husband Basil retired. In 1993

## St Swithun's Church

### North Allington

# First Mass of Christmas

## Wednesday 24 December at 6pm



### Mince pies and mulled wine

**Retiring collection • All welcome**  
**Extra parking at Amsafe**

they moved to Chideock and later to Bridport. She joined the community of St Swithun's a decade ago and later took over the kitchen refreshment duties when Verena retired from that post. She is still an active member of the community and helps with social events and with flower arranging.



Evelina loves meeting up with everyone after services for coffee in the church hall and it is a delight to listen to her tales of Armenia, where she often returns for a visit.

*Words and photos by Jo George and Rose Harvey*

## Bridport Town Council WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

**Ward clerk – Amy Stephenson**  
**[bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)**

#### **The ward clerk writes...**

We held our latest public engagement session at the end of October. There was a presentation from volunteer group Edible Bridport, who work to produce free-to-

harvest food for local people by way of community allotments. Bridport Town Council has offered them a stretch of land next to St Cecilia's allotments (*pictured overleaf*) and they hope to transform it by creating areas for growing vegetables, herbs, and fruit and nut trees, plus seating and raised beds for those with limited mobility. They also hope to involve a local school in this project. The idea is that all the food grown would be free for anyone to harvest and use.

Community allotments are great for people who do not have the time to have their own allotment. This way of growing is sustainable and ecologically sound. ➔

## BTC West & Allington Ward continued...

For more information feel free to pop along and see Edible Bridport at Bridport Youth & Community Centre between 11am and 12 noon on the third Saturday of each month. You can also email them at [ediblebridport@gmail.com](mailto:ediblebridport@gmail.com).

Unfortunately our ward's Mass Litter Pick in October couldn't take place because of severe weather on the day. We hope there will be more opportunities in 2026 and will tell you when we know more.

Plans are moving forward for Celebrate 2026, the Allington Hillbillies event on the evening of Friday 1 May and all day on Saturday 2 May. This is in partnership with Bridport Town Council. On the Friday evening there will be live music, local food stalls and a bonfire, followed by the main country fair on the Saturday. There will be a number of speakers from organisations including Dorset Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. There will also be a wide variety of hands-on activities such as rope making, willow weaving, cyanotype photographic printing, guided walks, learning to play the steel drums, and more! Not only

**Right: the stretch of land by St Cecilia's allotments where Edible Garden plan to have their new community allotment**



does this fantastic event offer all this, but there is also a fabulous raffle, which is available now. First prize is a short break at Seymour Barn in North Allington, second prize is a tandem paraglide flight, and third prize is a hamper of local goodies worth £100. There are further prizes, too. Raffle tickets are available on the Hillbillies' online shop now and the winners will be announced on Saturday 6 December. Visit [www.allingtonhillbillies.org.uk](http://www.allingtonhillbillies.org.uk) and click on 'Donate', then 'Products'.

Our next meeting will be in January/February; more details will be advertised once known.

*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, and usually a monthly Service of Wholeness and Healing on the fourth Saturday of every month at the winter time of 4pm (not in December, however).

The lighting of the Christmas tree on the Green is on Sunday 30 November following the 3pm service in St John's. There is a service in St John's on Christmas Day at 11am and community carols on Boxing Day after the swim (usually around 12.30pm).

### West Bay WI

The regular Knit & Natter session is on Wednesday 3 December, 10am–12 noon. The meeting on Wednesday 10 December (2.30–4.30pm) is the Christmas social.

Looking ahead, the first Knit & Natter of the new year is on Wednesday 7 January, 10am–12 noon. The

speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 14 January is John West from West Bay Discovery Centre, sharing some local history.

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

Half term saw a very busy Discovery Centre with lots of families visiting and taking part in the Find the Spider competition. The prize for finding the 10 strategically placed spiders was a spooky sticker. There was also leaf rubbing, Halloween colouring and autumn crafts. At the beginning of November the centre reverted to winter hours, opening only at weekends. It hopes to be open over the Christmas period as long as there are enough volunteers. The centre will be closed in January until the February half term, although work will be going on in the background for upcoming exhibitions. There will be talks, too, so check Facebook or the website ([www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk](http://www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk)) for details.

There's no sign yet of the EV charging points working in the car park; I am sure they will be up and running soon. The car boot closed at the end of October, although it was only the truly hardy ones that kept it going after the summer. It will reopen in April. I see that some of the wooden posts are being replaced in the children's playground. The repairs to the harbour wall



are once again delayed, with a possible start date in January. I don't know if you have seen the current state of the pavement area outside the kiosks, but it looks decidedly dodgy! Work went on elsewhere throughout November, with the removal of existing chains in the East Basin to inspect, service and make repairs, plus the next phase of replacing the timber pilings.

I knew that it was busy for the West Bay Days Bonfire by the Beach, as looking out from my bedroom window I saw absolute chaos reigning. This was obviously because all the car parks were full – so where did everyone try to park? Yes, Meadowlands. The problem is that irresponsible parking upsets residents – and rightly so – and any emergency vehicles would have been held up trying to get through. Speed in an emergency is critical. The actual event, though, seemed to go off smoothly and once again the firework display was impressive.

Rise restaurant, over the bridge in the harbour, is hard to miss, but how many of you know that originally it was a cafe and post office? The Watson family took over the lease in 1960. The post office was well used and locals would stay for a cup of tea, a debate or game of dominoes. In 1964 Arthur and Jan Watson started serving basic food and sometimes local fisherman would bring their catch for sale. Flooding became an issue and after the disastrous flood in 1976 permission was granted for the building to be raised. It rapidly became a very successful fish restaurant and often on a Saturday lunchtime private helicopters would land in the field close by, bringing celebrities for lunch. In 2018 new owners transformed it into Rise, with tables inside and out, plus comfy sofas around a log burner for a cozy winter spot.

*Sue Pollock*



**Above: A photo from the early 1960s showing the former post office and cafe run by the Watson family. It is now Rise restaurant (right)**



## **Bridport Town Council WEST BAY WARD**

**Ward clerk – Amy Stephenson**  
**[enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk)**

### **The ward clerk writes...**

A new webcam for West Bay has been installed, looking over the Welcome Hub and harbour. This now makes four in total around West Bay. You can view them live at [www.westbay.co.uk/webcam/harbour](http://www.westbay.co.uk/webcam/harbour).

Unfortunately, the Mass Litter Pick didn't take place as planned in October because of the weather, but we would like to give a big shout out to Paul and Niall, two

incredible volunteers, who removed a huge amount of fishing line and nets earlier that month. Most were tangled, very heavy and wedged deep between rocks, so it took some effort on their part.

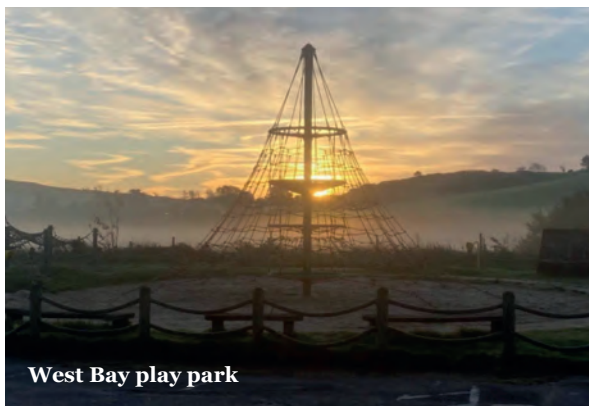
As you probably already know, following the closure of several counters, Dorset Police now have a mobile police station that sets up at various locations across the county. Originally the Bridport location was Morrisons on the second Tuesday of each month, but this has now been changed to Bucky Doo Square from 11am to 1pm on the second Tuesday of each month. There had been calls from West Bay residents for it to also visit West Bay, but following a discussion with the police this is not currently possible. Don't forget that you can still report crime in the usual way: dialling 101, reporting online or dialling 999 for an emergency. ➔

## BTC West Bay Ward continued...

The amazing West Bay/Bridport weekend shuttle bus service (WB1) will be continuing through the winter months. It costs just £1 for adults to travel on this bus and it is free for under-16s. The timetable is online at [www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/bus](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/bus).

A plea goes out to everyone who visits West Bay to please use the bins provided. Unfortunately we are receiving reports of people dropping their litter on the ground, especially in the car parks. There are a number of bins around in central positions – if you are not able to walk to the nearest one, then we ask that you please take your litter home with you.

The next ward meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 January at 6.30pm at The Salt House. All residents



West Bay play park

Caroline Pearce

from the ward are welcome to come along and raise any issues or concerns they may have.

Amy Stephenson

## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson  
01308 341159

Church secretary – Jane Clinton  
[bucchurchsec@gmail.com](mailto:bucchurchsec@gmail.com)

Church bookings – Sue Herman 422598  
[bucoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:bucoffice1@gmail.com)

### God is with us as we face uncertainty

*The angel said... "For nothing is impossible with God."*

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:37–38*

Someone once said: "We live in uncertain times and we're moving into uncertain territory," and as we approach the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 that's probably as true as it's ever been, given the combination of climate change, an ever-changing political landscape, ongoing international conflicts and the consequential refugee crises.

Sometimes we face uncertainty and change closer to home, too: becoming parents, grandparents or empty nesters; being widowed; starting a new job, school or course; retiring

from paid work;  
facing a diagnosis  
or treatment.  
Dealing with these  
situations often  
means we need  
to adjust our  
previous normal  
pattern of living.



The amazing story of the unfolding events heralding the arrival of Jesus, God's Son and promised Messiah, which we celebrate at Christmas, can offer us comfort, courage, hope and inspiration when we consider how those who were part of that story faced enormous uncertainty and changes to their usual way of life.

Gabriel's message about God's plan for Mary (and Joseph) would mean not only stepping out into the unknown territory of parenthood, but also risking social ostracisation, ridicule and rejection. They could have resisted God's unexpected call on their lives, but faith in the God who makes the impossible possible allowed them to embrace his plan for their lives and trust him to reveal what the outcome of those plans would be.

But Luke's account of Jesus' nativity makes clear that the path ahead wasn't going to be easy: birth in an animal shed, strange visitors with puzzling tales of angels and a star, an outpouring of praise from an aged Temple prophet, and escaping to a strange land as a refugee escaping from the threat of death.

I imagine Mary and Joseph must have wondered what the future held as they cradled the tiny child in their arms on that first Christmas night.

And yet they, and the many other people whose lives Jesus has touched through the centuries, have found deep comfort from the truth that God is With Us in Jesus our Emmanuel, in our world and in our lives, and has promised to be with us always to the end of time.

So however uncertain our lives and our world may feel, and whatever the future may bring, we know that God is with us, that he is in control, that in Jesus he goes ahead of us to prepare the way for us, because he loves us more than we can imagine.

My prayer this Christmas and in the year ahead, is that we can all celebrate the wonder of God’s love for us and say with Mary: “My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Saviour, for he has remembered me, and cares for me, his humble servant! From now on, all people will say God has blessed me.” (Luke 1:46–49)

May you be filled afresh  
with the love of God,  
the peace of Christ,  
and the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit  
this Christmas and always.  
*The Revd Jane Wilson*

**December services at Bridport United Church:**

|                      |                |   |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 7</b>      | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Gift service and Holy Communion</b><br><b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b>   |
|                      | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Soul Space</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 14</b>     | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b><br><b>The Revd Peter Clark</b>                   |
| <b>Sunday 21</b>     | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b><br><b>Peter Jenner</b>                           |
|                      | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Carol service</b>  |
| <b>Christmas Eve</b> |                |   |
| <b>Wed 24</b>        | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Carol service with Holy Communion</b><br><b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b> |
| <b>Christmas Day</b> |                |   |
| <b>Thurs 25</b>      | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>All-age service</b><br><b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b>                   |
| <b>Sunday 28</b>     | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Songs of Praise led by the Friendship Club</b>                       |

**January services at Bridport United Church:**

|                  |                |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Sunday 4</b>  | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b><br><b>Dr C Farrant</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday 11</b> | <b>11am</b>    | <b>Joint covenant service at St Mary’s Church (no service at BUC)</b>    |
| <b>Sunday 18</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b><br><b>The Revd R Farrant</b>                      |
|                  | <b>4pm</b>     | <b>Healing service and Holy Communion</b><br><b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b> |
| <b>Sunday 25</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>All-age service</b><br><b>The Revd Jane Wilson</b>                    |

**Regular events**

|            |             |  |
|------------|-------------|--|
| Mondays    | 9.30–11am   | Little Lambs toddlers group (term time only) |
| Wednesdays | 9.30–10am   | Prayer meeting in church                     |
|            | 10am–noon   | Coffee morning in the hall                   |
| Wednesdays | 12.30pm     | Lunch Club (4th only)                        |
|            |             | Please book on 422598                        |
| Thursdays  | 2.30–4pm    | Friendship Club (3rd only)                   |
|            | 3.30–5.30pm | Messy Church (4th only)                      |
| Saturdays  | 10am–noon   | Coffee morning in the hall                   |
|            | 9–11.30am   | Big Breakfast in the hall (1st only)         |

For more details of our services and other events, please visit our website [www.buc.cool](http://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](mailto:bucoffice1@gmail.com).

See page 8 for information about the Bridport United Church’s Christmas tree festival.

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

Parish priest – Fr Colin Groombridge  
[colin.groombridge@predtr.org.uk](mailto:colin.groombridge@predtr.org.uk)  
Secretary – Faith Leborgne  
[bridport@predtr.org.uk](mailto:bridport@predtr.org.uk)  
Phone 07544 595633

**Do you recognise Jesus when He visits you?**  
There is an old story by Leo Tolstoy about an old shoemaker called Papa Panov.  
One night the shoemaker was tidying his workshop and sat down in his chair for a rest. He quickly fell asleep and had a dream that Jesus was going to

visit him the following day. Papa Panov awoke early the next morning and made some soup to share with Jesus when He arrived. He was very excited at the thought of a visit from Jesus. He looked impatiently out of his door and down the road. There was a road sweeper, looking cold and hungry. Papa Panov invited him in and made him rest by the fire. Papa Panov gave the road sweeper his coat and a little of the soup that he had made. There was still enough left for Jesus when He came, so it was all right. The road sweeper went away very happy.





## ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

A little while later, Papa Panov looked out of his door again. He saw a tramp walking down the road. Nobody should be on their own, thought Papa Panov, so he invited the tramp in. The tramp got warm by the fire, had a little of the soup and Papa Panov gave him all the money that he had. The tramp went away very happy.

It was getting late when Papa Panov looked out of his window again. He was very worried that Jesus was not going to come after all. There was a woman with a small baby passing. They were very cold, tired and hungry. Papa Panov invited them in to rest. He gave them the rest of his soup.

Oh dear, he thought – now there won't be any for Jesus. He looked at the baby with nothing on its feet in the icy cold weather. He remembered the little shoes he was keeping for a special visitor and fetched the box down. The shoes fitted just right. Papa Panov gave the baby the shoes but was very upset at the thought of having nothing to give Jesus.

That night, Papa Panov went to bed feeling very dejected and disappointed that Jesus hadn't visited. However, as he slept he had another dream in which he asked Jesus why He didn't visit. As I'm sure you've worked out for yourself, Jesus said to him: "But I did. I came as a road sweeper and you warmed, fed and clothed me. I came as a tramp and you fed me and gave me your money. I came as a baby and you looked after me and gave me shoes."

We might all want to reflect on when Jesus has come to us this week. Did we recognise Him?

*Deacon Mark Brown*

**Sunday Mass is at 10am** at the Roman Catholic church in Victoria Grove and is streamed online at [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.bridportcatholics.org.uk) and on the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page.

For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, as well as special services during Advent and Christmas, 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](mailto:office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)  
[www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](http://www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)

**The Community Kitchen at the Beacon Church is open Wednesday and Friday every week from 10.30am to 2pm.** Please feel free to drop in for a chat and a meal.

If you would like to support the Community Kitchen by volunteering, please email [office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](mailto:office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk). Or you can help financially: a monthly donation is particularly useful as it helps us to budget and sustain the Community Kitchen into the future. If you are able to give anything, it is hugely appreciated. Our bank details are as follows:  
Sort code: 08-92-99  
Account number: 65773479  
Reference: Kitchen

**We meet on Sundays from 10am for prayer, worship and coffee.**

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.



BRIDPORT  
COMMUNITY  
KITCHEN

OPEN WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY  
10.30AM-2PM

HOT MEALS & REFRESHMENTS

SHOWER AND CLOTHES WASHING  
FACILITIES

BEACON CHURCH PRIORY LANE DT6 3RW

[BRIDPORTCOMMUNITYKITCHEN.ORG.UK/](http://BRIDPORTCOMMUNITYKITCHEN.ORG.UK/)

**Beacon**  
CHURCH BRIDPORT  
CHARITY NUMBER 1161182

FOOD HYGIENE RATING  
5

Have a look at our website (see the contacts box above) or our Facebook page for information about our activities over Christmas.

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

Office 424437 • David Collins 458227  
[info@bridportchristianfellowship.org](mailto:info@bridportchristianfellowship.org)  
[www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org)

#### We are a member church of the UK Evangelical Alliance and an Ichthus Link Church.

We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30am and at various times during the week.

We seek to 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](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org)).

**Mondays:** Meals Outreach Project for those who find themselves in difficult times.



## BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

**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.

*See page 10 for details of our special services during Advent and Christmas.*

## Bridport QUAKER MEETING

### The Meeting House

### 97 South Street

Correspondent – Jeni Edwards  
 538105 / [jeni.edwards69@gmail.com](mailto:jeni.edwards69@gmail.com)

#### Setting out

“Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak.” \*

As we move from the old year into the new, many people enjoy Christmas and then take time to look back and make New Year resolutions. It's a time of taking stock, and with the world in a seeming mess there is a temptation to hunker down and wait it out in a safe place. The dictionary defines 'adventure' as an unusual, exciting, and possibly dangerous activity, and the Advice (\*no. 27) suggests we get out there and do something worthwhile while we can.

Are you up for the challenge? Let's work together.

**Meeting is held at the Meeting House** on South Street at 10.30am for an hour on Sunday mornings and



Tony Hurley

10.30am for half an hour on Wednesday mornings. All are welcome.

The Quaker website at [www.bridportquakers.org](http://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*

#### BRIDPORT AUCTION (est. 25 years)

No. 1 St Michael's Trading Estate, Bridport

- Free valuation for auctions
- Probate & insurance valuations
- Property clearance services

Tel: 01308 459400

Email: [info@bridportauctionhouse.com](mailto:info@bridportauctionhouse.com)

# 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](mailto:BADASHUB@outlook.com). More details online at [www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk)

**Bridport Bridge Club** at St Swithun's Hall Tuesday afternoons (beginners/rusty players; not 4th Tuesday), Wednesday evenings & Friday afternoons (relaxed; not 3rd Friday), plus online Thursday evenings. Martin Angold 861120 / [www.bridgewebs.com/bridport](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport)

**Bridport & District Model Railway Club** meets Tuesdays 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 & District Gardening Club** will meet at the WI Hall, North St, on Thursday 15 January at 7 for 7.30pm, when Colin Varndell will talk about the wild flowers of West Dorset. No meeting in December. [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportgardeningclub.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.

**West Dorset Music Community Orchestra** meets on Wednesdays in term time 6.30–7.45pm at the Christian Fellowship Hall in East Street car park. Contact 456297 / [www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk](http://www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk)

**Bridport Choral Society** rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Fiona Kenward [fekenward@gmail.com](mailto:fekenward@gmail.com)

**Bridport Stage Company** theatre group performs plays (sometimes musical) at The Bull Hotel, with proceeds to Samaritans. To get involved in future productions, email Valerie: [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk). No experience is needed; all ages are welcome.

**West Dorset Singers** meet for choral rehearsals in the United Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from September to May. Contact membership secretary Jill Edwards [membership@westdorsetsingers.org](mailto: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.

**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. Fridays at 11am in Borough Gardens (off South St) or in The Chapel in the Garden if wet. Suggested donation £5. [janesilvercorren@gmail.com](mailto:janesilvercorren@gmail.com) / 07887 675161.

**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 the right notes. All abilities can join in. Donations welcome.

**West Dorset Flower Club** at the WI Hall, North St, 2.30pm on the 2nd Monday each month with speakers and demonstrations. On 8 December Denise Jones will demonstrate 'Artful Flowers'. 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 [joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.bridportcarnival.co.uk](http://www.bridportcarnival.co.uk)

**Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association** meets on the 3rd 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](mailto:elainestephenson2019@gmail.com)

**Bridport Health Walks** are free gentle walks around town: 30 minutes every Wednesday and about 60 mins on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays 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. 01305 252222 / [sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)  
**AScape** offers social opportunities and support for autistic young people and those with social anxiety aged 4–25 and their families. Contact [info@ascapegroup.org](mailto:info@ascapegroup.org) or visit [www.ascapegroup.org](http://www.ascapegroup.org)

## Citizens Advice is here to help

Need advice on benefits, debt, employment or other issues? Pick up the phone and talk to us on Freephone 0800 144 8848. You can also email us via the contact form at [www.bridportca.org.uk](http://www.bridportca.org.uk) or drop in to 45 South Street, Bridport (Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).





**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 & Friday 10am–1pm) to find out how we can help you. Unit 1, The Tower Building, St Michael's Estate (enter via courtyard off Foundry Lane DT6 3RR). 01308 801154.

**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 at The Harmony Centre, address above. Phone 07385 290804.

**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 as above.

**Bridport Youth Dance** offers classes in tap, contemporary dance, street and hip-hop for children and young people aged 5–19 (street) and 7–19 (contemporary). Also **Move & Groove** for age 40+ – find your flow with creative dance/improvisation classes every Friday 10.15–11.15am at Steps studio, Crepe Farm Business Park, Symondsburry. Limited space available. To enrol or for more details contact Nikki Northover on 07378 387806 or [nikkinorthover43@gmail.com](mailto:nikkinorthover43@gmail.com) [www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk](http://www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk).

**Bridport & District u3a** is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings 2pm on the 4th Tuesday each month (except December) in the United Church Hall, East St. The talk is about an hour, plus Q&A and refreshments. Members free, visitors £3. More than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. On 27 January, James Taylor will talk about the voyages of Charles Darwin and Robert Fitzroy. Contact Alastair Forbes 07962 099530 / [chair@bridportu3a.uk](mailto:chair@bridportu3a.uk) / [www.bridport.u3asite.uk](http://www.bridport.u3asite.uk) The **u3a Singers Group** meets on the 1st and 3rd 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](http://www.bridport.u3asite.uk).

**Bridport St Mary's Parkrun** is a weekly, free, timed run or walk organised by volunteers. Saturdays 9am, St Mary's Field. Great fun for all ages and abilities. Register online then bring your barcode on your phone or printed. [www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/stmarys) and on Facebook.

**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 Community Shed**, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, has drop-in sessions Mon, Weds & Thurs 10am–12 noon and stitching on the 1st Tuesday each month 7–9pm. Also a weekly Arts for Wellbeing group, a monthly creative session for 11–18yr olds and a weekly peer group session for 18–25yr olds.

Email [bridportcommunityshed@gmail.com](mailto:bridportcommunityshed@gmail.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](mailto:joe@thehacketts.uk) for details and to receive newsletter. [www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please](http://www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please)

**MMMM! Monday Movie, Meal & Mingling** from West Dorset Commons & Sustainable Bridport. Mondays 6–10pm in the White Room, Chapel in the Garden, East St (entry via Rax Lane). Inspiring documentaries and short films. Admission £3 to cover room hire (WDC members free). Food and drink available. [www.westdorset.coop](http://www.westdorset.coop)

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

**Bridport 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 St, on Monday evenings 5–6.30pm and Wednesdays 11am–1pm. [www.bridportfoodbank.org / info@bridportfoodbank.org / 07443 596096](http://www.bridportfoodbank.org/info@bridportfoodbank.org/)

**Bridport Clothes Bank** collects good quality, clean clothing and redistributes it free of charge. St Swithun's Church Hall Thursdays 9–10.15am; BYCC Hall, Gundry Lane, 1st Saturday each month 12–12.45pm; Prout Bridge Community Centre, Beaminster, 2nd & 4th Mondays each month 10am–noon. Clothing is also available in the St Swithun's Hall entrance so the public can help themselves if the building is open. Contact 07596 077385 / [BridportCB@outlook.com](mailto:BridportCB@outlook.com) / 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](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk)

**Bridport History Society** meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month (except July & August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £5pp. Membership £12 individual / £18 couple. [www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.bridporthistorysociety.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.

**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 Royal British Legion** meets on the 3rd Saturday each month at 10am for a coffee morning. Come along to our hall in Victoria Grove for a chat about membership and activities. The hall is also available for private/group hire. Contact Linda 425664 (hall bookings) or Mike Thompson 07974 534945 / [mickey\\_thompson56@hotmail.com](mailto:mickey_thompson56@hotmail.com) (membership).

**Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport** welcome new ringers and are happy to train you. St Mary's Bridport: 7.30pm Thursdays. Contact Bob Hardwick 07977 988263. Holy Trinity Bradpole (where there is a ground-floor ringing chamber and training simulator): 7.30pm Tuesdays. [htbrabells@parishofbridport.org](mailto:htbrabells@parishofbridport.org)

**Girlguiding West Dorset** has Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger groups in the 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 offering opportunities and awards. Contact [girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com](mailto:girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com) / [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

**The Rotary Club of Bridport** meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6 for 6.30pm at Bridport & District Golf Club, Burton Rd DT6 4QT. Plus fundraising and social activities on other dates and elsewhere. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Mike Green 07909 990693 / [mikegreen@greenmail.net](mailto:mikegreen@greenmail.net)

**Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)** in support of the National Trust, holds illustrated talks in the United Church Hall, East St. On Mon 26 January at 2.30pm, Lt Col James Porter will talk about the German occupation of the Channel Islands in WW2. Non-members £5. No meeting in December. Sarah Nicks 459855 / [www.goldencapnt.org.uk](http://www.goldencapnt.org.uk)

**The National Coastwatch Institution** works with other emergency services to keep people safe along our coastline. Volunteer watchkeepers always needed for lookouts at Burton Bradstock and Charmouth. Contact Station Manager Judy Clarke: [judy.clarke@nci.org.uk](mailto:judy.clarke@nci.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](mailto:agricols@icloud.com)

**Stepping Out Bridport** is an exercise and wellbeing programme, led by trained rehabilitation instructors, for people living with or beyond cancer. Monday & Thursday mornings at the Pavilion, Bridport Leisure Centre. All ages welcome. Contact [j.perfect@bridportleisure.com](mailto:j.perfect@bridportleisure.com) / [www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk](http://www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk)

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

**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 [jenifer.morley@btinternet.com](mailto:jenifer.morley@btinternet.com)

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

**Bridport & 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](mailto:buccbill@hotmail.com)

**Bridport Art Society** is a friendly, non-profit group of artists at all levels of experience that aims to encourage interest in and practice of the visual arts. Its annual summer exhibition celebrates members' creativity. [www.bridportart.com](http://www.bridportart.com) and on Facebook & Instagram.

**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](mailto:caroline.rendell@sja.org.uk)

**West Bay Harriers** Bridport-based off-road running group. One-hour trail on footpaths, etc., Mondays 7pm from in front of The Woodman, South St. Headtorches in winter. No charge. 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](http://www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk)

**Bridport Embroiderers** meet in St Swithun's Hall on the 3rd 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. Contact Bridget 07952 517764 / [bmtrump@icloud.com](mailto:bmtrump@icloud.com)

**Colmer WI** meets 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North St. Visitors welcome for a no-obligation evening. [sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 2nd Tuesday each month at 7pm at Haddon House Hotel, West Bay. Also social evenings on some 4th Tuesdays, plus fundraising events in aid of individuals and community groups. Sheila Greenaway 07930 636804 / [bridportlionsclub@outlook.com](mailto:bridportlionsclub@outlook.com) / [www.bridportlionsclub.org](http://www.bridportlionsclub.org)

**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 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 1.30–3pm. £2.50pp. 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 on Thursdays at 2pm to grow and harvest fruit and veg together. [www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk](http://www.bridportcommunityorchard.org.uk)

**The Living Tree** Cancer Support Group for anyone affected by cancer: patients, families, carers, friends. Counselling, complementary therapies, creative activities and friendship, all free of charge. Drop-in session every Friday 2.15–4pm at the Friends Meeting House, South St, to meet, relax and talk. All welcome. 07341 916976 / [mail@thelivingtree.org.uk](mailto:mail@thelivingtree.org.uk) / [www.thelivingtree.org.uk](http://www.thelivingtree.org.uk)

**Walditch Garden Group** All welcome to our monthly meeting on the last Thursday each month (not December) at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Seasonal topics, 'plant of the month' and garden discussion with tea and coffee. Contact Jane Mowatt 07810 110461.

**Bridport Camera Club** meets most Wednesdays September–May, 7–10pm, at Bridport Town Hall. Members follow all kinds of photographic interests on smartphone, digital camera or film. Non-members £5. Come along or visit [www.bridportcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportcameraclub.co.uk).

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



**Jurassic Amateur Boxing Club** trains at BYCC, Gundry Lane, on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5.45–7.30pm and Sundays 9.45–11.30am. 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. Friendly, inclusive club open to children and adults of both sexes. On TikTok @jurassic.abcon / email [jurassicamateurboxingclub@gmail.com](mailto:jurassicamateurboxingclub@gmail.com)

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

**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.

**Beaminster & Bridport Probus Club** meets on the 2nd Monday each month at the Red Lion Hotel, Beaminster, 10.30 for 11am for a coffee morning and a talk by a club member on a subject of their choice. Also 4th Monday each month at the Haddon House Hotel, West Bay, 12 for 12.30pm, for lunch plus a talk by a guest speaker. [probus.meakins@btinternet.com](mailto:probus.meakins@btinternet.com)

**Multiple sclerosis (MS) support group** for those living with MS, their carers and partners. A chance to talk through your diagnosis, concerns and support, plus gentle exercise and Tai Chi with Françoise from Chi Zone Dorchester. 2nd Wednesday each month, 11am–1.30pm, at The Old Pizzeria, Bull Hotel, East Street, Bridport DT6 3LF (note change of venue). Email [dorset@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:dorset@mssociety.org.uk)

**Whist Drive** at St Swithun's Hall, 2nd Friday each month. Beginners & improvers 7–7.15pm, experienced players from 7pm. Drive starts 7.30pm. Surplus proceeds will go to the Living Tree charity. Entry £5 to include raffle tickets. Phone 07528 189815 / find Bridport Whist Drive on Facebook.

**Friends of Bridport Millennium Green:** fundraising to support the open community garden, meadow and hill. Wildlife, birds and all things green foremost. Fundraising talks, other events throughout the year. Contact 423078 or visit [bridportmillenniumgreen.co.uk/friends](http://bridportmillenniumgreen.co.uk/friends)



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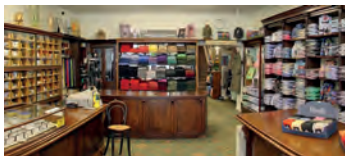


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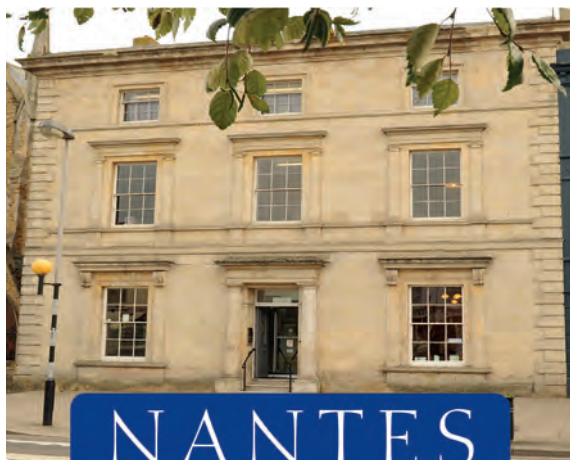
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