

the **Bridge**

June 2026

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A community magazine for Bridport supported by churches in the town

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The Revd Ann Ayling (until 7 June)
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The Revd Margaret Preuss-Higham
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Advertising: Chris Senior (Mrs) 427451 advertising@thebridgemagazine.orgAdvertising rates appear at www.thebridgemagazine.org/advertising. If you have an idea for an article, please contact the editor. Otherwise send copy to parish editors (details in Parish Pages) at least three days before the deadline, or a week for handwritten/typed copy. We cannot guarantee to include unsolicited contributions.*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.*

Great grub for all at Bridport Food Festival

This year's Bridport Food Festival takes place on Saturday 13 June at Asker Meadows.

This is the 22nd festival and as in previous years brings together a host of traders – nearly 100 this time – from in and around Bridport selling the best local food and drink for taking home or enjoying on the spot (with plenty of free samples too).

The festival also promises a range of activities and experiences, from demonstrations in the Cookery Theatre to hands-on sessions for children with Creative Young Cooks. All are free and there's no need to book in advance.

Local food network Bridport Food Matters is providing a welcoming space in and around their marquee to eat, chat, learn and connect. There are panel discussions, displays and short films, all exploring the links between healthy soil, a healthy planet and healthy people.

On the evenings of Friday 12 June and Saturday 13 June there's the accompanying Beer Festival, organised by Bridport Round Table and offering 120 different ales and ciders plus Pimm's and wine bars and the pop-up Dark Bear cocktail bar. Live music comes from Mydep, Ironhide, Shelby's Elbows and The Leggomen.

For the first time, the fundraising Festival Feast is taking place on both Friday and Saturday evening at 7pm. Hosted by Soulshine's Andy Tyrrell and a group of top local chefs including Connor Reed from Half Penny



Farm, with food from Sea Sisters, Dorshi, Brassica and others, this event offers a delicious four-course meal for £48, plus a bar provided by Selected Grapes.

*Bridport Food Festival, Sat 13 June, 9.30am to 5pm
Adult tickets £3.50 in advance from
bridportandwestbay.co.uk or in person from the
Tourist Information Centre in Bucky Doo Square.
£5 on the gate. Under-18s free.*

*Beer Festival Friday 12 June and Sat 13 June from
6pm. Admission free.*

*Festival Feast tickets £48 from bridportandwestbay.co.uk
(additional booking fee applies).*

The Revd Ann Ayling retires from the parish

The Revd Ann Ayling retires from her role in the Parish of Bridport on Sunday 7 June.

Ann had a long career as a teacher and headmistress in London. When she retired in the late 1990s, she moved to Walditch, where she already owned a house. She got involved with the church in the village, becoming a churchwarden, and also joined a drama group at Bridport Arts Centre.

She was ordained 15 years ago and in recent years has had 'permission to officiate', allowing her to lead services and conduct ministry.

"Ann was a gift to us," says her friend the Revd Janis Moore. "She's a very eloquent, elegant person



with great presence – when she speaks, you really hear what she's got to say! She's very creative in her ministry and can always find the right poem or piece of writing to use. She really makes things resonate and she's organised and calm – wonderful to work with."

Ann has two daughters, Sara and Georgia, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. And she has recently taken on a new puppy, who is

guaranteed to keep her on her toes!

The 10am parish service at St Mary's Walditch on Sunday 7 June will be Ann's last as officiant, and will be followed by a gathering at the village hall to mark her retirement.

JUNE 2026 – see below for an explanation of the abbreviations						
Date	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay
Mon 1						10am MPR
Tues 2				2.30pm HC		
Wed 3	2.30pm HC					
Thurs 4		10am Eucharist				
Sun 7 Trinity 1	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)			10am Parish HC service	
Mon 8						10am MPR
Wed 10		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
Thur 11		10am Eucharist 3.30pm Wild & Messy Church				
Sun 14 Trinity 2	8am BCP HC 11am Celtic Worship [†]	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am MP	11am MPR	11am HC
Mon 15						10am MPR
Sun 21 Trinity 3	8am BCP HC 11am All-age HC	9.30am MP		9.30am HC		
Mon 22						10am MPR
Wed 24		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
Thurs 25		10am Eucharist				
Sat 27						4pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sun 28 Trinity 4	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am MP	11am HC	11am MP
Mon 29						10am MPR
JULY 2026						
Wed 1	2.30pm HC					
Thurs 2		10am Eucharist				
Sun 5 Trinity 5	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)				10am Parish HC service
Mon 6						10am MPR

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church / MP = Morning Praise / MPR = Morning Prayer
*Centering Prayer takes place on the second and fourth Wednesdays. For details email carolinepuntismoore@gmail.com

Coffee morning: At St Swithun's, Allington, there is a community coffee morning in the hall on the first Thursday of each month from 9.30 to 11.15am. Free coffee, cakes and snacks plus a raffle in aid of a local charity. All welcome!

† Celtic Worship: Using words from the Iona Community, this service focuses on creation, justice and peace.



Love on four furry legs

Do dogs go to heaven? I certainly hope so.

The consensus among theologians, however, seems to be no. Humans are made in the image of God, and our rational soul sets us apart from other creatures. Animals cannot be present in the afterlife.



Olivia Daly, Editor

St Thomas Aquinas divided the living world hierarchically into three categories: plants have a 'vegetative soul', can grow, nourish themselves and reproduce; animals have a 'sensitive soul' with the powers of plants plus sensory perception, memory and voluntary movement; humans have a 'rational soul' with all the above plus the capacity for abstract thought and moral agency.

Although Aquinas wrote that we should behave with compassion towards all creatures, sadly his point that mankind has dominion over the animal kingdom gave some people the idea they could treat animals however they liked. This persisted among many until frighteningly recently.

We'll have to wait to find out whether or not we'll see our dogs in the afterlife, but we can make a heaven here on earth for our pets by recognising their needs properly. Anyone who has ever owned a dog knows they feel pain and fear; they also benefit from structure, training and careful socialisation so they can feel confident and behave appropriately. One local organisation that can help us to achieve this is the Bridport Dog Training Society, and for this issue I had the enormous pleasure of sitting in on the puppy class at their weekly session (*see page 13*).

Misunderstood and poorly controlled dogs are capable of enormous damage, but the vast majority of dogs never hurt anyone and give us years of selfless love, companionship and joy. Sounds heavenly, right?
Olivia Daly, Editor



Do I really need an excuse to include a photo of my beautiful dog, Lola, in this issue? Thought not...

All good gifts around us

It is just over five years since my wife Anne and I bought our home in Bridport as we prepared for retirement from our Wiltshire Rectory in 2023.



The Revd John Rees

Before we moved here permanently, we visited for days off and for holidays – and we shared our new home with family and friends. As we began to get to know this wonderful town, I delighted in the beauty of the sea, with its different moods ranging from sun shining on golden cliffs to the spray from angry waves. I also loved the rolling hills as I explored them on my e-bike. Having lived here for nearly three years, I still do.

However, for much of the last few months I have been pre-occupied with the joys and demands of parish ministry (which I love), and this, combined with family illness and our elder son needing support as he prepared to move house, has led me to lose something of my wonder of living in such a special place – and to take for granted what has become familiar.

Recognising this has led me to a new appreciation of what a gift it is to be here. As a Christian, I believe that the earth and every good thing in it (including all human, animal and plant life) is a gift from God; a gift that we should treasure and use responsibly. Although I still enjoy the physical beauty of our town and the wonderful Jurassic Coast, what I appreciate even more are the people who make up this vibrant community. There is so much going on – more arts events than anywhere I have lived before, people working to care for the environment, and many residents giving freely of their time to support others. It is a privilege to play a small part in this as part of the Anglican parish ministry team here as I work with others in our schools and elsewhere.

Jesus taught his followers that it is as we use our gifts and talents in serving each other that we become the people God created us to be. For me this is good advice, whether we are people of faith or not – and I give thanks for the care I see in action in so many ways.

The Revd John Rees
Associate Priest

Bridport Chamber Orchestra

FREE
CONCERT
Celebrating 50 Years

St Swithun's Church, Bridport
Sunday 21st June, 3pm

Conductor: David Hedges
Leader: Alexandra Chivers

Symphony in D op18 no1 - J C Bach
Water Music Suite no 2 - G F Handel
Concerto for Flute in G major - J J Quantz
(soloist Jonty Hedges)

Overture to Orfeo ed Euridice - C W Gluck
Dance of the Blessed Spirits - C W Gluck
'Surprise' Symphony (no 94) - J Haydn



TICKETS | FREE

Refreshments will be served after the concert.
A collection will be made after the concert, donations would be much appreciated.

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Bijou Opera *Le Nozze di Figaro*



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Bridport Chamber Orchestra celebrates its half century



The Bridport Chamber Orchestra is proud to announce its 50th anniversary concert, marking half a century of music making, collaboration and cultural contribution to the local community. In celebration of this milestone, the concert will be free to attend.

The orchestra was founded in 1976 by Bruce Critchinson as The Elizabethan Players, created to accompany the New Elizabethan Singers (now known as the West Dorset Singers). What began as a supporting ensemble soon developed its own identity, evolving over time into the Bridport Chamber Orchestra as it expanded its repertoire and established itself as an independent group.

Over the decades, the orchestra has grown in both size and ambition. It has brought together generations of musicians and has provided opportunities for talented, professional soloists to perform. Its repertoire has broadened to include a wide range of orchestral works, from Baroque and Classical masterworks to Romantic favourites and more contemporary pieces.

“The orchestra remains committed to making classical music accessible to the community,” says Chairperson Ruth Briggs. “We perform three times a year in local venues, and our concerts have become a much-loved fixture in the town’s musical calendar.”

Remarkably, one of the orchestra’s founding members, Robin Carpenter, remains a core player and will be taking part in the anniversary concert. His continued involvement over 50 years is a remarkable testament to the enduring spirit, friendship and dedication that defines the orchestra.

“This concert is not only a celebration of our past, but also of the people who have shaped the orchestra over five decades,” says Ruth. “To have one of our founding members still playing with us today makes this anniversary especially meaningful.”

The concert is at St Swithun’s Church at 3pm on Sunday 21 June. See the advert on the opposite page for programme information.

Pictured clockwise from far left: Founder member and cellist Robin Carpenter today and in 1976; Bridport Chamber Orchestra today and as The Elizabethan Players 50 years ago



A new social club aimed at the over-50s started at Bridport Youth & Community Centre in May. The Not So Youth Club meets on the third Wednesday every month (next one 17 June) 11am–2pm, with sports, crafts, book club, puzzles, cooking and more. It’s £3 per session and a shared lunch is available for £5. “Come along and connect!” says a spokesperson. “Create, laugh, move, learn and shape something special together.”



News in brief

Enjoy a clean dip at West Bay

East Beach at West Bay is one of 13 newly designated 'bathing spots' in England. The additions bring the total number of designated locations across the country to more than 460. Water at these places undergoes regular quality testing by the Environment Agency during the high season, mid-May to September, and the results are published online at environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles.

Netherbury Open Gardens

This is a chance to visit a selection of wonderful gardens in a beautiful village setting just a few miles from Bridport. There will be delicious homemade lunches, tea and cakes, plus a plant stall and tombola. Entry tickets are £7.50 (under-13s free) and are valid for both days. All proceeds go to local charities. Gardens open from 1 to 5pm on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June and lunches served from 12 to 2pm.

The Electric Palace's future: have your say

Bridport Town Council has formed a working group to look at ways to safeguard the future of the Electric Palace, following the venue owner's decision to put it on the open market. The council invites community input; email your views and comments to enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk.

Could you use your car to be a good neighbour?

Bridport & District Good Neighbours Scheme provides a voluntary car service for people needing to get to hospital and medical appointments in the area.



With buses not always running at the right times, and the expense of taxis to and from Dorset County Hospital – let alone Bournemouth or Poole – there is an increasing demand for this service. Unfortunately, with an ageing local population of drivers, there is also a greater need for volunteers.

Drivers do not have to commit to a certain number of hours, their expenses and mileage are covered, and usually there is no additional premium to pay on car insurance. Please phone 07778 211140 to find out more about being a volunteer driver: your service will be appreciated by those needing help with transport to hospitals, health centres and dentists.

If one is mobile and can travel by bus or train, even if these services are not running, there is no other hospital transport. A local resident recalls her experience: "As someone who had to use this marvellous service, I was very grateful to a retired policeman who drove me to Poole Hospital in the winter when it was still dark and snow lay all around. No bus was available so early and the trains had been cancelled; without the wonderful Good Neighbours service, my surgery would have had to be cancelled."

Churches Together in Bridport & District: what's on in June

The annual general meeting for Churches Together in Bridport & District is at 7pm on Tuesday 2 June in the hall at Bridport United Church, East Street.



Refreshments will be available from 6.45pm. All are welcome to attend this meeting. Any nominations for the positions of chair, secretary and treasurer are welcome before the meeting. Please contact Sue Herman (bucoffice1@gmail.com) if you are interested in any of these roles.

The next Pray Bridport is at 6pm on Tuesday 9 June at St John's West Bay. There's no Tea and Chat this month. *Heather Purse, Secretary, CTiBD*

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Bridport is Dorset's eventful town



Bridport Town Council plays a vital role in supporting the town's lively events scene, both as an organiser of its own activities and as a key supporter of events run by local groups and organisations. This dual role helps maintain Bridport's reputation as one of Dorset's most vibrant and eventful towns.

We directly organise a number of important civic and community events throughout the year, including traditional occasions such as the Community Charter Fair and Remembrance Sunday, alongside civic ceremonies such as Mayor Making. These events help bring the community together, celebrate local identity, and maintain long-standing traditions. In this role, we take full responsibility for planning, funding and delivering the events, ensuring they are accessible and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

However, much of Bridport's well-known festival culture comes from independent groups and creative organisations, and this is where our second role becomes essential. Rather than running these events ourselves, we provide practical support that helps them happen. This includes working with the Christmas Cheer committee on logistics and the grotto, where every child receives a free gift. We also help organisers secure road closures and licences – arranging the closure of the A35 for the torchlight procession is no small task – alongside providing access to public spaces and infrastructure such as signage, gazebos, chairs, staging and festive decorations. In May we supported the volunteer organisers of Allington Hill Country Fair with event planning and field preparation, and we are currently supporting the Food Festival team ahead of their event on Saturday 13 June.

We also manage and hire out key venues in the town, such as the Town Hall, WI Hall, The Salt House, Asker Meadows and Millennium Green, giving local groups affordable and suitable places to host events.

In addition, our Tourist Information Centre (TIC) team play an important role in promotion, helping to advertise events through local channels and offering box office services to Bridport Arts Centre, the Electric Palace, Clocktower Records, the Lyric and others. The TIC is also selling advance Food Festival tickets, which are cheaper than on the gate.

Financially, the council contributes through grants and funding support, helping community groups cover their costs and develop their amazing ideas.

If you'd like to find out what's happening in town, the



Tim Russ



Pictured: Crowds enjoy Bridport Food Festival (above) – many will have bought their tickets from the Tourist Information Centre; Bridport Town Council staff (right) provided support to the volunteers organising the Allington Hillbillies' Country Fair in May



TIC produces an annual Bridport Diary of key events and a monthly What's On guide, available from their office in Bucky Doo Square. You can also see info about local events, market listings and live music online at bridportandwestbay.co.uk/visit/events. Tickets are available from this website, by phone on 01308 424901, or in person at the TIC.

Caroline Pearce, Project Manager, BTC

From Walditch to Wembley: wrestler JJ Gale

Most of us have a childhood dream, but few of us realise it.

In early May I caught up with Bridport boy JJ Gale, who will appear at Wembley Arena this August as a professional wrestler for the British promotion Revolution Pro (RevPro) where he will deploy his signature finishing move, the Gale Force.

I was curious how a boy who grew up in Walditch became a professional wrestler. JJ talked fondly of growing up in the close-knit village with his family. He always loved wrestling after discovering it on TV when he was 11; the first wrestler he saw was a character named The Boogeyman, a WWE professional from Arizona.

“The thing I love about wrestling is that it combines three elements I really enjoy: athleticism, physicality, and performance,” JJ told me. “From a young age I had a natural inclination toward performing, dressing up and putting on shows in our back garden for family friends in the village. It’s important to me now that I become a complete performer in wrestling.”

JJ shared his recent experiences in Japan and America, where he



wrestled for a short tour. “Wrestling is a big deal in Japan; it’s really respected and has a big following. It was great to experience that enthusiasm.”

JJ emphasised the need for physical training, creative risk-taking and connecting with audiences. The pictures on this page really show the hard work he puts in and the incredible physical condition he has achieved.

JJ wanted to thank his amazing parents, Des and Tammy, who have been so supportive of his career choice despite its niche nature and financial uncertainties. He is a delightful young man and is



certainly a credit to his parents.

I am sure we all wish JJ the best as he continues to realise that boyhood dream. Maybe we should have all been a little more adventurous!

David Brazier

Support from Dorset Council for people caught out by scams

Anyone can be caught out by a scam, but support is available.

Criminal tactics can affect people of any age or background, and these crimes are becoming more sophisticated all the time. Incidents range from doorstep callers to fake online offers and misleading phone calls.

Dorset Council’s Trading Standards team works with Citizens Advice, Dorset Police, Victim Support Dorset and Age UK. Reports through the Citizens Advice consumer helpline help the council understand

the latest scams and who might need support.

The council has also signed the national Fraud and Scams Victim Charter, which sets clear standards for how organisations should support anyone affected, recognising the emotional, financial and practical impact these crimes can have.

If you have made a payment in response to a scam, contact your bank as soon as possible. Get advice from the Citizens Advice consumer helpline – call 0808 223 1133 or find out more on their website at [citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer).

Flick through The Essential Bookshelf

In the second of our features to mark the National Year of Reading, Annette Shaw looks at a few of the books we'd all like to have in our collection...

In 1950, Eileen Barton recorded the song *If I Knew You Were Comin' I'd've Baked a Cake*.

Of course, Googling a recipe was decades away back then, but fast forward to 2026 and the convenience of having the world in our pocket has brought a new problem: too much choice. The National Trust website offers 76 options and *olivemagazine.com* has 182 – and that's before AI cuts in... sometimes overload is overkill when all you want to do is use up two eggs. There are times when only a book will do, although sadly as a nation we appear to have cut back on reading.

As regular readers of *The Bridge* will know, we're highlighting the National Year of Reading and keeping tabs on some of the news items on this very subject. For example, on 29 April *The Times* carried a report from publishers HarperCollins, the gist of which was "Relentless emphasis on literacy targets at school is harming reading for pleasure." The notion of reading becoming "a joyful family tradition"

is on the skids. It added: "Children who read for pleasure develop richer vocabulary, build empathy and have better wellbeing – benefits that apply across all social backgrounds."

Is the family bookcase a goner? Surprisingly, an AI search reveals that the average UK household holds around 158 books (although a quick whizz around Rightmove interiors makes you wonder where they're stored). Whatever the statistics, anyone can lovingly curate *The Essential Bookshelf* – a selection that endures, transcends all ages, evolves with time, and like a best friend will always be there.

The Bridge Bookshelf

On Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*, castaways are allowed, as standard issue, the Bible (or a comparable religious text) and the Complete Works of Shakespeare. We'll follow their lead, and add the following...

Retro Classics

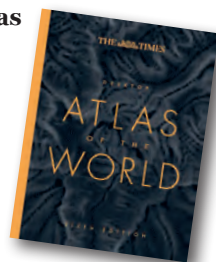
Forget trying to recreate an iced Sistine Chapel on a school night. This is a treasure trove of nostalgic recipes for today's cook. Good, honest food



like lemon meringue pie, school favourites and tray bakes. The book's USP is that it limits faffing, without compromising on taste or enthusiasm. Sometimes, in a busy day, accessible, clear, concise and yummy are exactly what's needed.

The Times Atlas of the World

A trip down memory lane here that's family inclusive and sparks all sorts of conversations. It's interesting to hear how many older people remember this huge book on the kitchen table with everyone looking at holiday destinations or just seeing the world in perspective, as opposed to screen size. Also useful for flagging up key waterways. See resources overleaf for secondhand copies.



Small Stories of Great Artists by Laurence Anholt

One to cherish at bedtime. Illustrator and author Laurence Anholt constructs standalone short stories around →



Words and bookshelf photo by Annette Shaw

Flick through The Essential Bookshelf... continued

artistic styles such as a first foray into Impressionism and the pioneering work of Picasso. Perfect for triggering creativity, gently building an appreciation of the cultural world and planting the seeds of future aspirations, including travel. Giverny lies just over an hour's drive north of Paris and a visit to Monet's water lily garden is a memorable, magical day at any age. Or as sleepytime beckons, talk about Leonardo da Vinci's dreams. "One day... people will sail through the clouds and look down at the world below. Anything is possible."

Dancing by the Light of the Moon by Gyles Brandreth

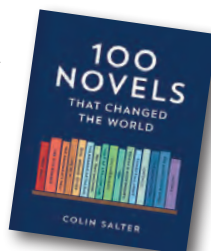
The title comes from Edward Lear's The Owl and the Pussy-cat, who set sail in a pea-green boat, and Gyles tells us it's the first verse he committed to memory. Flagged on the cover as "250 of our favourite poems to love and learn," panic not. We're not recreating an evening with the Bennet sisters from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. However, reading poetry out loud is a skill that can be honed from a young



age. Think of a masterclass in fine communication. Witty. Stimulating. Emotional. There's a poem for every reason and season. Sets you up for life, job interviews, romance. From WH Auden to Byron, the language is beautiful.

100 Novels That Changed The World by Colin Slater

Charles Dickens. Margaret Atwood. Lewis Carroll. Daphne du Maurier. What a wonderful addition to the essential list, all in one place. Colin Slater traces the evolution of the novel and selects 100 of the greatest writers, choosing their most significant work. Very useful for book groups; fondly remembering Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* on the O-level syllabus or learning about the Queen of Detective Fiction aka Agatha Christie. Wolf Hall is featured along with *The Handmaid's Tale* and *1984*.

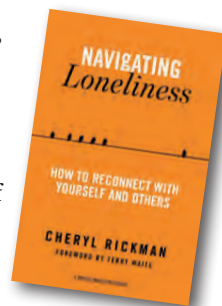


Navigating Loneliness by Cheryl Rickman

Sleepless at 2am when all you want is comfort, answers and hope, reaching for the bookshelf can be a life saver. There's something more personal and focused about

a physical copy, rather than scrolling with blue backlight. This book is a gem in terms of explaining how to reframe loneliness.

Acceptance and harmony are emotional building blocks and as Sir Terry Waite writes in the foreword, "It is my hope that this handbook will guide you towards that pathway."



The Black Earth by Philip Kazan

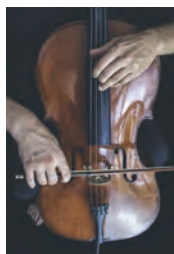
Avid readers often struggle with what to recycle but there comes a time when a cull is needed, if only for space. Some books are for keeping, though, as they bring added value, and *The Black Earth* is one to re-read. On publication it was named by *The Times* as historical fiction book of the month. A story of wartime trauma and the resilience of love, from Smyrna in 1922 to the occupation of Greece in WWII, it's complex, satisfying and magnificently researched.



Great music coming up at Colfox

The next public concert at the Sir John Colfox Academy is 'From Vienna to Buenos Aires' at 7pm on Thursday 9 July.

Cellist Arturo Serna and pianist Ana Laura Manero present a lovely programme of music by Piazzolla, Beethoven, Elgar and Saint-Saens as well as a piece composed by Arturo. Tickets are £8 (under-18s free) at www.ticketsource.com/the-sir-john-colfox-academy.



For more information about national literacy initiatives – including *Her Majesty The Queen's project* – visit literacytrust.org.uk and thequeensreadingroom.co.uk.

If getting out and about is difficult, you can order books online at uk.bookshop.org. And there are thousands of secondhand books at worldofbooks.com and onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk (plus that other, gargantuan retailer).

Bridport Dog Training Society

Because a trained dog is a happy dog!

Friday 26 June is Bring Your Dog to Work Day in the UK.

This annual event celebrates the companionship and love that our canine friends give us, and recognises that dogs in the workplace can reduce stress, improve morale and even increase productivity.

Of course, not everyone can take their dog to work; there's no place for furries in an operating theatre, courtroom, commercial kitchen or factory floor. But if you work in an office, shop or a practical trade, for instance, bringing your pet with you from time to time could be a wonderful idea – as long as it knows how to behave.

This is where dog training classes come in. Even if you never take your pooch to work, it needs to listen to you, follow certain instructions and behave appropriately around people. A chaotic, untrained dog is a menace, unpleasant to be around, and potentially a danger to itself and everyone else. Training also makes dogs happy – they thrive

amid calm routine, need to know that their human is in charge, and like having a job to do, even if it's searching for treats on a snuffle mat rather than rounding up sheep.

At Bridport Dog Training Society (BDTS), they know that good behaviour starts early. Their eight-week puppy course is for dogs under six months old, but most 'students' start at twelve weeks when they've had all their vaccinations. The course of 45-minute sessions covers the basics of 'train and reward' and teaches food manners, recall and other basic commands as well as building the pups' confidence through socialisation and exposure to new people and dogs.

"We primarily follow the Kennel Club's Good Citizen training scheme," says Jane Warren, BDTS's vice chairman. "It's about responsible dog ownership: we're teaching owners as well as their dogs, equipping them both to deal with situations they'll come across together in everyday life."

Once puppies have completed the first eight-week course, they can move on to Level 1 (Bronze). This is also suitable for older dogs such as rescues who are new to training classes. Level 2 (Silver) and Level 3 (Gold) follow in turn, all courses of eight 45-minute sessions leading to an assessment, certificate and rosette. There's a Platinum class for

those who, in Jane's words, "don't want to leave!" and a social class for dogs who have passed at least the Silver test or have a good level of obedience.

BDTS has nine trainers and two assistant trainers, who are all volunteers and have qualified through the Pet Dog Training Instructors (PDTI) scheme. This involves a week's intensive residential course at Harper Adams University in Shropshire, leading to either an Assistant, Level 1 or Level 2 qualification. "Before taking that course, everyone spends a year with us, helping at classes and gaining experience," says Jane. "This also means that new volunteers can get a good idea of what it's all about before committing to the qualification. We all have regular refresher training, too, with Lyn Wilson, our chairman – she's a canine behaviour specialist and trainer who's qualified to the PDTI Advanced level."

As well as the team of trainers and assistants, the society has a →



Bridport Dog Training Society *continued*

treasurer and a shop coordinator, who sells dog equipment, toys and treats at the back of the hall. St Swithun's Church stalwart June Goodburn is the honorary president, and can usually be found at training evenings, watching the sessions with her (beautifully behaved) terrier, Pippa.

BDTS is an asset to Bridport – it's not every small town that has such an active dog training club with so many qualified instructors. The eight-week courses are excellent value, at £60 for the puppy classes and £50 for all the other levels (plus £10 annual membership). As a responsible dog owner, can you really afford not to go?

Bridport Dog Training Society meets on Monday evenings at St Mary's Church House Hall in South



Street. The puppy class runs from 6.30 to 7.15pm, with other levels following. The next puppy course starts on 22 June.

On Sunday 2 August the society will be running the 'temptation alley' dog challenge (part of the Dog Village!) at Buckham Fair. And BDTS will be at the Melplash Show on Thursday 27 August offering advice on training and behaviour, a dog tombola for charity and a display in the arena.

For more details, visit bridportdogtrainingsociety.co.uk or the society's Facebook page, or come along to the open day at the hall on Saturday 6 June between 10am and 4pm.

'Because of the dog's joyfulness, our own is increased. It is no small gift' Mary Oliver

If you enjoy The Bridge, and would like to make a donation towards our expenses, please visit www.thebridgemagazine.org/donate-to-our-work for a link to our Charities Aid Foundation page.

Grateful thanks to those of our readers who have already done so.

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ST MARY'S Bridport

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Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick

07977 989263

Give thanks with a grateful heart

The word 'stewardship' has earned itself a bad press. In the church context, stewardship has often been seen as an excuse for appealing for yet more money to keep the show on the road. This year, the Parish of Bridport is seeking to redeem the meaning of stewardship by using the strapline:

- Time
- Talents
- Treasures

The members of each church will be reflecting on what this means for their particular community. At St Mary's, in our 11am Morning Worship service on Sunday 14 June, we will have the theme 'Thank you'. Two very simple words that we often say without necessarily thinking properly about what we are saying. We like to think that we are a welcoming community – that all, irrespective of gender, nationality or faith are welcome to our services and our events. However, for this to happen, for a welcome to be real and meaningful, people from our community need to commit their time (often many hours), their talents (many and varied) and their treasures (money, not just through collections but also through generous donations of things such as cake, coffee and milk). Without this commitment, our services and events just would not happen and the welcome would not be there. So, we have decided that the service on 14 June will be an opportunity to say thank you to everyone who helps to make church life operate at St Mary's.

How often do we feel gratitude? There are occasions in our lives when we feel profound gratitude for an event or someone's kindness or generosity. We usually try to say thank you, maybe with a bunch of flowers or a small gift, but sometime this gets forgotten. When I was little and I went to a party with my big sister, she was always the one to say "thank you" at the end and I would just say "yes" – I was very shy! We want to say thank you to all those who give generously of their time, their talents and their treasures, without which we could not be the open and welcoming church we strive to be. It is not enough just to say "yes" when others say "thank you".



Pictured: members of the St Mary's gardening group with the newly planted swift garden in the churchyard

There are sometimes occasions for special thanks, so today we give thanks for the St Mary's gardening group (*pictured above*) for all their weeding, digging, rotavating and insect rich planting of the swift garden in the churchyard – ready to welcome the swifts to Bridport again this year.

Often a 'thank you' involves carrying out a task in return for something we're grateful for, so our stewardship campaign will be about thanking all those who give of their time, talents and treasures. We'll be posing a question: would you be able to give any of these – perhaps in thanks for everything your faith means to you or all that your church community has given you?

One of the hymns we will be singing at St Mary's on 14 June is Give Thanks: "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One." If we all consider what our "thank you" might be – however small – together we can continue to give people reason to be grateful.

Peter Wright

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

StreetLink provides help for rough sleepers

The causes of homelessness are as varied as the people who experience it. It can profoundly impact every aspect of a person's life, leading to a huge range of severe issues. But there are ways you can help.

StreetLink is a non-profit organisation that connects people rough sleeping in England and Wales with support provided by local authorities and charities. This includes anyone who is sleeping outside, preparing to bed down, or sleeping somewhere not designed for habitation, such as a car. To make these connections, the platform relies on alerts submitted by members of the public and people sleeping rough.

If you encounter someone sleeping rough, please notify StreetLink. You can submit an alert through the website www.streetlink.org.uk or the StreetLink app. When doing this you can pinpoint on a map the exact location where you have seen the person sleeping rough, as well as giving a written description. Then you can enter the time the person was sleeping rough and information about their appearance that can help to identify them.

Once submitted, the alert will be directed to the appropriate local outreach teams so they can locate the individual and connect them with support services. The person making the referral will receive feedback. You can also use this link yourself if you are sleeping rough and need help.

Concerned about someone sleeping rough?

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Download the StreetLink app or visit the website at www.streetlink.org.uk to make an alert and help connect them to local services for support

StreetLink
www.streetlink.org.uk

Last year, 13,000 people were connected to support through StreetLink, which is acknowledged nationwide by relevant agencies, councils and the government.

You'll also find a wealth of information on our website about further sources of help: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/emergency-help-and-support. This includes food and clothing, warm welcome winter spaces, helpful organisations, groups and charities.

In other news, Dorset Council has announced that all of Bridport's 20mph application schemes (including the one for this ward) will be going out to public consultation, hopefully in June/July. We will update you via our Facebook page and on noticeboards where possible. Dorset Council will also advertise this through public notices and local media. All residents will be encouraged to give their views.

Amy Stephenson

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

From the parish editor

June is a lovely month for garden flowers and shrubs, and on Saturday 27 June there will be an Open Gardens afternoon in Bothenhampton (*see advert overleaf*). This is a chance to enjoy gardens we don't normally see

and perhaps discover some new plants, too. And what better way to complete the afternoon than with a cream tea in the village hall. A programme of gardens to visit will be available in the hall.

Holy Trinity's garden has a variety of wild flowers and grasses, following on from the daffodils and providing a colourful pathway to the church, as can be seen in the photograph overleaf, taken when they were beginning to bloom.

The next coffee morning at Holy Trinity is on Saturday 6 June, and is a time for relaxing with friends over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or two. The delicious homemade cakes for sale are very popular, and there is always a raffle and a bookstall. The money raised at these events is a significant help towards

meeting the expenses of the church.

The Old Churchyard is now looking tidy and well cared for, thanks to the band of volunteers who came in April, and whom we thank very much for their hard work. Families who visit the graves of loved ones often comment on the good condition and tranquillity of the churchyard.

Barbara Ffooks



Pictured: the garden at Holy Trinity has been looking colourful lately

FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 27 June

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5 • Refreshments available

For film details and to be added to the mailing list, please email Nick Child: lcnc2413@outlook.com

Bothenhampton Village Hall

Bothenhampton Open Gardens

Saturday 27 June, 2.30 to 4.30pm

We are looking for more villagers who would be happy to show their garden to visitors. Please phone Margaret on 422414 to offer your garden. She will be able to answer any questions, too.

There will be programmes in the village hall showing which gardens are open.

Cream teas served from 3 to 5.30pm. Proceeds to the village hall.



ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor –

James Craddock 458725

walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

Tea & Chat with Churches Together

There was a full house for the Tea & Chat session organised by Churches Together in Bridport & District on Sunday 3 May at Walditch Village Hall.

The event drew people from the Anglican Parish of Bridport as well as other Christian denominations in the town. It was opened by the recently formed Walditch Singers, who filled the hall with joyful music.



The tables were covered with pretty tablecloths and laid out with delicious homemade cakes and fruit

dishes to accompany the tea and cordials available.

Organisers had come up with a quiz and some puzzles to entertain everyone. There were some intriguing questions, such as “How many bones do sharks have?”, “In which decade was the first snowmobile manufactured?” and “What country has had the most snowfall to date in the 21st century?”

A big thank you to all who helped on the day, especially Michele Craddock, one of the Parish of Bridport churchwardens. The monetary donations collected will be put towards the Churches Together Christmas Lunch 2026 Appeal.

If you are interested in joining the Walditch Singers, you can contact me and I will pass your details on to their organiser.

James Craddock

Why is the Jellyfields Nature Reserve so called?

I would welcome an answer to this question, as well as memories that both Walditch residents and others in the Bridport area have of the village in the past, such the reason for the names and location of certain residences in Walditch. Please get in touch!

James Craddock (contact details in the panel above)





Dierama pulcherrimum

David Clode

ST MARY’S Walditch continued...

Walditch Gardening Club

The group meets on the last Thursday of each month (except December) at 10am in Walditch Village Hall. Everyone is warmly welcomed with a cuppa and biscuits before sharing knowledge and ideas to encourage interest in all aspects of growing.

For a splash of beautiful colour and graceful elegance in midsummer, choose the dierama plant. Also known as angel’s fishing rods or wandflowers, they are native to southern Africa. In our coastal climate they are quite hardy provided they have full sun and well-drained soil. *Dierama pulcherrimum* is the most easily available and ranges in colour from the deepest purple of ‘Blackbird’ through shades of pink to the white of ‘Snowbells’.

The multiple bell-shaped flowers are borne on long arching stems that move with every breeze. When flowers are over, seed heads form that will last well into the winter providing interest when shining with raindrops or clothed in frost. The seeds germinate easily the following spring or plants can be divided in March/April once established.

Jan Cross

Walditch’s forgotten second church

Christchurch was discovered by the late John Lodder in the 1970s while doing unrelated historical research. Since then it has again been forgotten, although two books of minutes surfaced in 2025, giving an opportunity to have a deeper second look.



Bridport Museum Trust

Around 1849, St Mary’s Walditch was in a poor condition and too small for the congregation. Repairs were begun and an application made and granted to build a north aisle. However, the capacity still did not allow seating for 66 “poor”, 40 children and 60 “others” (“others” were probably those who paid pew rent, while the “poor” did not). The capacity today is around 80.

The Revd Templar (incumbent 1849–83) proposed a second church. Reaction to the proposal is not known; surely it must be controversial, if only on grounds of cost. Whatever, around 30 years elapsed before the new church opened. An appeal for funds was launched on 1 January 1880 for an iron church to be erected near East Bridge, Bridport. The parish boundary at that time extended in a thin band to the vicinity of the East Villas.

Land was donated by William Chick, who had a wine business in town, and contributions included £300 from Mr and Mrs Gundry. Typical of the time, a metal church was proposed; these ‘tin tabernacles’ came in kit form in a range of sizes and styles.

Christchurch had a ‘basic plus’ specification and a capacity for 400 seated. Unfortunately there are no good pictures but a detailed description appeared in the Somerset & Wiltshire Advertiser. Construction took 10 weeks at a fully funded cost of £700 (£73,732 today). The licensing service was on 3 August 1880. An early record gives an attendance of 250 at morning service and 350 at Evensong; it is thought numbers were boosted by those dissatisfied with services at St Mary’s Bridport.

Later the committee sought to build a mission hall on land adjacent to the church, and this opened in 1911.

In 1917 the bishop suggested closing Christchurch, supported by Major Gundry, the patron. The committee wanted to continue, so the bishop set up an independent commission to review the matter. The church was allowed to continue, subject to conditions.

After a shaky start, the finances were satisfactory, though rarely without concerns. Nevertheless, by the 1920s they had gone into deficit, severe in 1923. At this time there was clearly an atmosphere between the vicar (the Revd Roberts) and the committee. The committee sought guidance from the bishop, who declined to intervene. Only one of the committee members was willing to continue serving, and the vicar was advised to call a meeting of the congregation in June 1924 to elect new committee and officers. Only the vicar turned up – and that was the end of Christchurch, which was dismantled sometime before 1928.

Robin Stapleton

Pictured: sadly no clear images of Christchurch exist, but this gives an idea of its appearance

Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

Our latest public engagement drop-in meeting was held at Bothenhampton Village Hall in late April. These sessions give residents an opportunity to raise issues with their ward councillors and ward clerk and hear updates on local projects. Attendance was lower than usual, so we'll publicise future dates more widely via the Bothenhampton residents' WhatsApp group as well as the usual ward noticeboards, ward Facebook page and the ward page on the town council website.

Residents reported that while the new 30mph limit is now in force on Sea Road South, some in-car speed displays haven't updated, which may be causing unintentional speeding. Concerns were also raised about the lack of 30mph reminder signs along this stretch of road. Both issues have been raised with National Highways. Residents also asked about the proposed pedestrian crossing on Sea Road South. Councillors confirmed it is approved in principle, but National Highways do not expect delivery this financial year because of organisational changes including the move to the new Eype Depot. Councillors said that the town council will continue to press for the crossing.

Some good news: the 20mph application for Bothenhampton & Walditch has moved to formal public consultation alongside those for other Bridport wards. Proposals will be advertised in the press and online, followed by a 21-day period for comments, support or objections. A start date for the consultation



Pictured: demand is high for the town council's allotments, such as these in Gundry Road, Walditch

hasn't been confirmed yet, but we've been advised that Bridport wards should be in the first tranche expected this summer. We'll keep residents updated via the channels mentioned above.

We also discussed the town council's waiting list for allotments and the time it can take to get a plot. Residents raised concerns about uncultivated plots and whether more spaces could be created by subdividing larger plots or finding new land. Officers have confirmed that letters have been sent to tenants who are not actively cultivating, and the council is working with Allotment Society representatives at each site to improve oversight. Where feasible, plots will continue to be subdivided to create additional spaces, and the council remains open to discussions if suitable land becomes available for new sites.

Our next public engagement session will be at Walditch Village Hall on Monday 6 July, 6–7pm. Please do come along – your questions and local knowledge help us raise issues with the right people and keep momentum on the improvements that matter to our communities.

To get in touch about anything in the ward, please email me at bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk.
Jo Hughes

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

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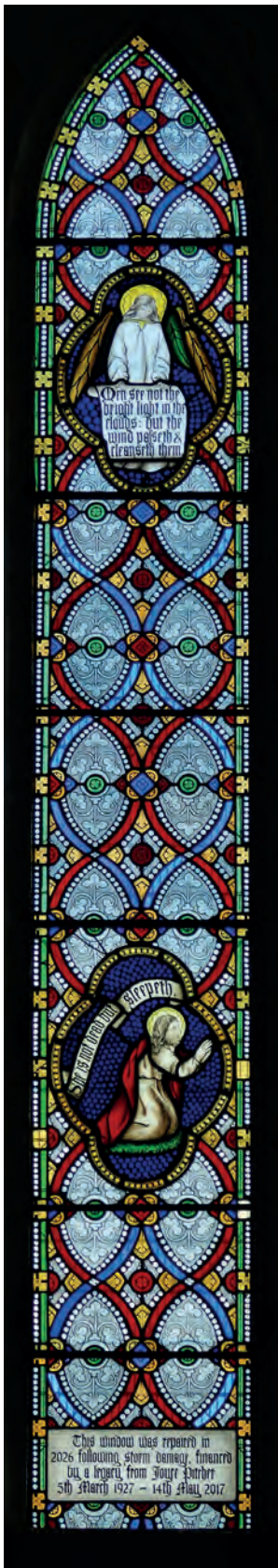
For pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644 (Wednesday is her day off)

Christian Aid coffee morning

On Thursday 7 May, visitors at our coffee morning were entertained by our parish duo of Sue Smith on piano and Dan Shackell on sax, followed by Wendy Carnell on piano. The event raised £441 and the Christian Aid envelopes contributed a further £125, making an astonishing total of £566.

There will now be many more families in the informal settlement of Dagoretti in west Nairobi, Kenya, who will be able to sustain themselves via their 'urban farming' with the help





Pictured: This photo of the repaired stained glass window at the back of the church was taken by Dan Humphries, the glazier who did the work. See last month's issue for more information about the window

Coffee morning

Thurs 25 June, 10am–12 noon
Bradpole Church

Coffee, tea & cake
Bring-and-buy
Raffle
All welcome



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

of Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope. You can find out more about this year's project online at caw.christianaid.org.uk.
Jill Henderson, local Christian Aid organiser, Bridport & District

Church midsummer coffee morning

Holy Trinity invites you to a midsummer coffee morning in the church on Thursday 25 June from 10am until 12 noon. See the advert above for details.

The proceeds will help with the church's general running costs such as gas and electricity. All welcome.

The Friends of Holy Trinity

The AGM will be held in the church at 6pm on Thursday 18 June. After the usual appointment of office bearers and committee, there will be refreshments and a time for socialising.

The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in the upkeep of the church building and churchyard, which The Friends, being a separate charity, support through their fundraising activities.

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. There are toys to play with and lots of space. Refreshments are served. There is no charge. The summer term will run from 3 June to 22 July.

Village lunch club

The next lunch at the Haddon House Hotel will be on Tuesday 9 June at 12.30pm. If you haven't already booked, please give Jean Hutchings a ring on 427697. There is plenty of parking space in the hotel grounds.

Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesday 16 June. The Knitting Group will meet on Thursdays 4 and 18 June. Contact Daphne King (427552) for info.

Bradpole Buzz Group

The team will be meeting on Saturdays 6 and 13 June and Wednesday 24 June.

They would welcome anyone who'd like to join them to offer practical help with planting as well as donations of wild plants and seeds from your garden, suggestions and general support.

For more information, email bradpolebuzz@gmail.com or phone Rose Van den Akker on 425756.

Bradpole Forster Village Hall

The main hall (pictured) 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, where you'll also find more information and photos of the facilities.



Bridport Town Council BRADPOLE WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

Our April community engagement meeting in Bradpole Village Hall was chaired by Cllr Anna Killick.

One resident raised a concern at the meeting about the lack of action by Dorset Council (DC) over the repair and replacement of the road barrier along St Andrew's Road. The clerk said she had heard from DC's road safety technical officer that the council had considered the collision history and associated risk and was intending to attach reflective material to the fence to increase its visibility. In addition, the 'slow' road marking would be repainted on the approach to this section. The Highways Improvements Team was still looking into replacing the wooden fence with a more substantial barrier.

The ward councillors welcome DC's actions but believe the only thing that will give residents peace of mind will be a more robust barrier, so they will continue to support residents with their request.

The clerk gave an update on the 20mph applications for Bradpole village and Jessopp Avenue. Since the meeting, we have heard from DC that our applications are in Tranche 1 of Phase 4, which means the next stage is a public consultation in June/July.



Pictured: crimson hawthorn blossom along the cycle path off Jessopp Avenue; the River Asker from Jessopp Ave bridge

On 8 May the long-awaited 20mph speed limit came into force along the entire length of Pymore Road from its junction with Coneygar Road to Watford Lane. The 20mph limit also applies to Pymore village.

Cllr Killick asked if any of the residents present had any suggestions for improvements in the ward. One of the main issues was the cutting back of hedges next to pavements and footpaths.

Residents are encouraged to bring any other ideas to the next community engagement meeting, which will be held on Saturday 20 June from 10am to 12 noon in the foyer of Bridport Co-op.

You can keep up to date with all the latest ward news on our Facebook page, Bradpole Ward Matters. Please email me at bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk if you want to get in touch about anything in the ward.
Sandy Goldsmith

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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It's all go in Allington!

On Saturday 9 May, St Swithun's was full of activity. In the church grounds the St Swithun's car boot and plant sale was in full swing, with lots of happy conversation

and conviviality. It was an effective fundraiser, too, contributing over £1,300 to church funds. There was a queue at the gate and many bargain hunters had turned up early. The garden plant stall did a roaring trade, and clothes, bric-a-brac and tombola – together with the ever-popular refreshment service in the hall – kept everyone happily busy. Pitch holders were able to empty their boots and enjoy the welcome sunshine.

Inside there was a jazz cafe featuring retired priest Fr Dan Shackell on the sax and Sue Smith on the grand piano. Listeners settled down with a coffee and a piece of cake to enjoy the music.

The exterior of the church, repaired and redecorated in 2024–5 at considerable expense, looks very smart. Atop the Georgian cupola is a regilded weathervane that glints proudly when the sun is out, and the cupola itself is lit at night, reminding residents in this part of →



Pictured: the St Swithun's car boot sale and plant fair drew a crowd and featured a jazz cafe with Fr Dan Shackell on sax and Sue Smith on piano; the St Swithun's Band (right) gave a concert on 11 May under the baton of Harry Bassett (centre in photo)



ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

Bridport that the church is always there to serve them and be a faithful witness. Fundraising is starting for similar work on the interior for the church's 200th anniversary in 2027.

Monday 11 May saw the St Swithun's Band concert. The band had its origins in a musical connection with the church but it is now independent although the church is its home for rehearsals and the occasional concert. The concert on 11 May, under the direction of the inspiring Harry Bassett, was the first of the Band's 75th year. The music ranged through traditional marches, jazz, Elvis Presley and Oliver! The band will return for the St Swithun's Great Cream Tea on 18 July. These concerts are free to attend although donations are always welcome.

The church celebrated Ascension Day on Thursday 14 May. Thursdays are always busy days at St Swithun's: it is the day of our regular midweek Eucharist at 10am;

the Glut Food stalls help to provide welcome provisions for those in need; and, once a month, on the first Thursday of the month, the hall doors are open in the morning for a free community coffee morning complete with bacon butties!

Pentecost (also known as Whitsunday) this year fell on 24 May. This is the day when the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit – it's the 'birthday' of the church. At the Ascension the angel said to the apostles: "Why are you standing looking up to heaven? Get back to the work of proclaiming the gospel!" and at Pentecost Jesus' promise to send an assisting divine power was fulfilled.

Come and join us on Sundays at 9.30am or Thursdays at 10am. Everyone is welcome!
Philip Sturrock

Bridport Town Council
WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

The Allington Hillbillies held their amazing Country Fair at the beginning of May. After music and dancing

on the Friday night, the main event on Saturday drew a huge crowd of over 3,000 people. Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard cut the ribbon to declare the event open. There were over 40 stalls as well as entertainment, food and a bar. The dog show attracted 91 entries. Many groups showcased their country crafts and held 'have a go' sessions, while various local organisations had stalls to raise money for their own activities.

Many people helped to make the event successful, notably: Chris Deacon of Bridport Folk Festival; 1st Bridport Scouts, who provided equipment, food and



Pictured: Ropey the elephant on display at the Allington Hillbillies' country fair (right); Bridport Mayor Cllr Anne Rickard, pictured here with her husband and consort, Dave, opened the event (left)



help; Bridport Town Council, logistics and equipment; Bridport Ladies Circle, children's entertainment; and Brit Valley Rotary Club, light refreshments. A pair of willow tusks, which helped to showcase Ropey the elephant, were made especially for the fair by Jo Sadler. A big thank you to everyone who helped and to all those who came along to enjoy the day.

In April we held a productive ward meeting in St Swithun's Church Hall, where various issues including pot holes and the road surface were discussed and later reported to Dorset Council. Cllr Sarah Carney gave an update on Foundry Lea, which is now set to have more provision for affordable housing (including social housing) than initially announced. However, anyone wishing to be considered for this housing must ensure

that they are on the Housing Register. For further information about the Housing Register, please contact Dorset Council.

In other news, Dorset Council has announced that all of Bridport's 20mph application schemes (including the one for this ward) will be going out to public consultation, hopefully in June/July. We will update you via our Facebook page and on noticeboards where possible. Dorset Council will also advertise this through public notices and local media. All residents will be encouraged to give their views.

The next ward meeting is in July and the date will be advertised on our Facebook page, noticeboards and on the town council website.

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 11am at St John's (see services, page 4) as well as Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am and a monthly Service of Wholeness and Healing on the fourth Saturday of every month, which currently starts at 4pm.

West Bay WI

The regular Knit & Natter session is on Wednesday 3 June, 10am–12 noon. At the meeting on Wednesday 10 June, 2.30–4.30pm, Michael Forte will present 'My life in broadcasting'.

If you are interested in joining this small, friendly group, please contact Alison Ridge on 01308 897293 or Maggie Hooper on 07720 056310. New members are always welcome.

Round and about the Bay

Well done to the teams from Bridport Gig Club who competed in the World Gig Championships in the Isles of Scilly. They competed in 10 events and the ladies did very well in different categories. Considering there are only 123 members, I think they are to be congratulated – obviously the training in all weathers paid off.

I managed to get to the last talk hosted by the Discovery Centre given by Sam Scriven on 'Changing Landscapes'. While driving around Dorset I had never really given much thought to how the different colours of stone used for buildings were the result of various geological events. With the better weather, talks are now replaced by walks every Thursday morning. Check the website or Facebook for details.

It was sad to see Ropey the elephant leave the centre. ➔

ST JOHN’S West Bay continued...

Everyone loves seeing him but I know that he is now on his travels around the area.

Volunteers from the Discovery Centre were at the Charter Fair in Bridport on 16 May and also served up cream teas in the Salt House on 24 May.

There was an election at the end of May for a West Bay ward councillor following the death of Cllr Dave Bolwell. The result was not known when this issue of The Bridge went to print, but we look forward to meeting the new councillor, who will join Cllr Ann Langridge at the next ward meeting on 12 June (*see the ward report below for details*).

An unexpected result of the recent dredging of the harbour has been to reveal the steps down to the West beach (*pictured left*). I haven’t seen these for many years and had in fact forgotten they were there. It’s hard to believe how low the beach once was and sad that they have been covered up again.

So good to see the horse water trough outside the Cornish Bakery is once again filled with flowers (*pictured*). This trough was installed in 1890 for horses



Pictured: recent dredging in the harbour has revealed the steps to West Beach; the horse trough by the Cornish Bakery has been planted with flowers

transporting shingle and timber or goods from ships berthed at the North and South Quays.

Sue Pollock

Forthcoming events

West Dorset Vintage Rally

13–14 June

Bridport Town Council
WEST BAY WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

We are lucky to have so many wonderful people in our ward, one of whom is Paul Wyatt. He may not wear a cape but he is a community hero and one we fondly refer to as our Beach Angel. Forget the Titanic... it is Paul that is the heart of the ocean. Forget Aquaman... it is Paul that is the protector of land and sea. Paul is a man in a million and we can’t thank him enough for the amazing voluntary work he has done by regularly clearing up the mess left and washed up on our beaches.

Paul has spearheaded a regular gathering of other amazing volunteers who have helped to keep the places we all love looking their best. The biggest turnout was a huge 42 volunteers who took part in the Great Dorset Beach Clean on 2 April. They collected a vast amount of rubbish, from fishing net debris and disposable barbecues to microplastics. Every piece removed makes a difference! Paul has helped motivate people to join in with this worthy cause. However, it is now down to

Pictured: some of the litter collected in West Bay at the Great Dorset Beach Clean in April



everyone to continue this amazing work as Paul has left Bridport to go travelling for a couple of years.

Keep an eye on West Bay Discovery

Centre or Clean Jurassic Coast CIC for news on regular cleanups. If you can’t make these but have time spare at any point, you can fill a bag or bucket with rubbish. The Discovery Centre has litter picking tools to lend. Please make sure you stay away from cliffs and the waterline. Avoid anything sharp and leave pallets or pieces of wood as they quite often have nails hanging out. Make sure you have sturdy shoes!

The West Bay summer market will be starting next month on Fisherman’s Green and inside The Salt House. It will run on Wednesday afternoons and into the evening from 22 July until 2 September. If

you fancy having a stall, please contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01308 424901.

West Bay Car Boot started up again in April and will be continuing on through the summer and on until 25 October. So don't forget to take a trip down there on a Sunday morning to grab a bargain. You could use our amazing shuttle bus service!

In other news, Dorset Council has announced that all of Bridport's 20mph application schemes (including the one for this ward) will be going out to public

consultation, hopefully in June/July. We will update you via our Facebook page and on noticeboards where possible. Dorset Council will also advertise this through public notices and local media. All residents will be encouraged to give their views.

Our next ward meeting is on Friday 12 June at 6.30pm in The Salt House. We are hoping a member of Dorset Police will be in attendance. Meanwhile, you can email us at enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk.

Amy Stephenson

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159

Church secretary – Jane Clinton
bucchurchsec@gmail.com

Church bookings – Sue Herman
422598 / bucoffice1@gmail.com



June: a time of outside adventures!

I can't believe how this year is rushing along. The summer solstice on 21 June sees the beginning of astrological summer, hopefully bringing more sunshine, warmth and of course lighter evenings. Although the British summer weather can't always be relied on, we have more opportunities to get out and take long walks or cycle rides, join in some summer sports, or work (or just sit) in the garden. For me, with what I hope is a temporary issue with mobility, my limit is two 10-minute walks each day with my little dog, but all these activities are infinitely more enjoyable in warmer weather. How fortunate we are to have the freedom and the option to enjoy the beauty of God's creation, no matter the season.

Our seasons don't seem quite so defined now as they did when I was a child. Winter seemed colder, with frost on the windows, and summers were long and hot. Maybe I'm just remembering my childhood as halcyon days when we played in the sunshine free of cares and worries.

Each year when I return to Bridport in early spring, I take real delight in the pots of tête-à-tête daffodils, then in April beautiful bluebells on the bank at the back of my lodge. Spring brings new life and – like magic! – flora and fauna is awakened and trees and flowers come to life, reminding us to thank our creator God for the gift of nature, and hopefully encouraging us to care for the earth that He created. “And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very

good.” (Genesis 1:31) Christian stewardship of the earth, often called ‘Creation Care’, reminds us that we have a responsibility to do what we can, however small, to protect His creation.

As the season changes from spring to summer, thoughts maybe turn to sun, sea and sand as we embark on planned holidays. William Shakespeare famously wrote “Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,” and last month we certainly experienced some chilling blasts, albeit with some warm sunshine, too. My sister and I headed to Devon, not too far away, for an early summer holiday: a chance to rest, relax and catch up with family. It was great to spend time together (plus some retail therapy) and to enjoy the delights of Devon, another beautiful reminder of God's handiwork.

Ros Hilliard

June services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 7	10.30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	4pm	The Revd Jane Wilson Soul Space
Sunday 14	10.30am	DSW Circuit service at Weymouth Bay Methodist Church
Sunday 21	10.30am	Explore Together
Sunday 28	10.30am	The Revd Jane Wilson Morning Worship R Lownsbrough



Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

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
	12.30pm	Lunch Club (4th only)
		Please book on 422598
Thursdays	2.30–4pm	Friendship Club (3rd only)

Thursdays	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 or our Facebook page.

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

**St MARY & St CATHERINE
Roman Catholic Church**

Parish priest – Fr Colin Groombridge
colin.groombridge@predtr.org.uk
Secretary – Faith Leborgne
bridport@predtr.org.uk
Phone 07544 595633

Sunday Mass is at 10am at the Roman Catholic church in Victoria Grove and is streamed online at www.bridportcatholics.org.uk and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page.

For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see the weekly newsletter on the website or look for updates on Facebook.

Walking with a purpose

I have always been fascinated by the account of the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus as they learn more about him and finally recognise him in the Eucharist. My own experience as a keen walker is that the process of walking together allows you to get to know your fellow travellers in a special way, as well as giving time and space for prayer.

This has been especially true over recent months as I have taken on a series of extended walks in preparation for walking part of the Camino de Santiago (Way of St James) later this year. This is the pilgrims' route leading to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela where, according to tradition, the remains of St James are buried.

My fellow walkers all have reason to be thankful to the amazing staff at Weldmar Hospice in Dorchester. Like me, each of them has lost a member of their family (many to cancer) and we are all grateful for the care and love the hospice provided.

Weldmar hospice is a charity and relies entirely on



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Pictured: the west facade of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. The cathedral is the end point of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route

donations. Each of us will therefore be aiming to raise £4,000 to help the hospice continue to support those in need of its services. We are all very aware that one day we too may require its help.

Please pray for us as we prepare to go on our pilgrimage and, if you can, may I invite you to sponsor my walk by visiting my Just Giving page:

www.tinyurl.com/ps2t2e8e (links to Just Giving)

God bless you.

Deacon Mark Brown

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

King's Lane (in East St car park)

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



BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

We meet every Sunday at 10.30am for worship and Bible teaching, and at other times during the week.

We seek to bless the community of Bridport with the Good News of Jesus; you would be most welcome to join us on Sundays or at any of our other meetings during the week.

Our normal weekly meetings are as follows but can change during festivals such as Christmas and Easter. Please see our website for more information.

Mondays: Meals outreach project for those who find themselves in difficult times. Weekly discipleship group meets at 5.30pm.

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 at 7–8pm.

Saturdays: From 10.30am to 12 noon we have our 'Pray: Chat' coffee bar with free refreshments.

Sundays: 10.30am–12 noon is our weekly service. Once a month we have a meal after the service.

Bridport QUAKER MEETING

The Meeting House

97 South Street

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

The Religious Society of Friends

Over the May bank holiday, Quakers got together to look at their future. Like many other organisations and groups, Quakers are looking ahead, and much of the weekend discussion was working out how to adapt to being an international organisation in the 21st century.

There were more than 400 Quakers gathered in London and well over 300 joining online from everywhere else – all for an organisation that doesn't have elected officers but sees all its members as equal.

Yes, we were guided by the 'clerks', as well as a traditional way of working, and after days of discussion about the way ahead, all was gathered into an 'epistle', a short document that everyone there could comment on and suggest changes to. (This document is available online at www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents – it's the first item on the page.)

An exhausting and fascinating weekend. Change is never easy, the future is uncertain, but Quakers have begun a new era that we hope will offer a positive and



creative way to adapt peacefully, simply and truthfully to the future.

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

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

Jeni Edwards



BEACON CHURCH
Priory Lane, Bridport

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



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Join us for Messy Church!

My name is James. I'm part of the leadership team at Beacon Church, where I have the privilege of leading our children's ministry. As a teacher, I've seen how easy it is for children and families to feel lonely or overlooked: feeling unseen, misunderstood or isolated. In response, last April we started a simple weekly after-school drop-in: a place for families to come straight from school, enjoy games and crafts, share refreshments, and most importantly, be listened to and known.

Nearly a year on, we're excited to be taking a new step. Inspired by the wonderful work already happening through Messy Church at St Swithun's and Bridport United Church, we are developing this into something more structured for families.

From now on, Beacon Church will be running Messy Church on the first Wednesday of each month, from 3.30 to 5.30pm. These sessions will continue to include the same warmth and welcome alongside creative activities, storytelling and food, all in a relaxed, family-friendly environment where everyone can join in.

Our hope is to complement the fantastic provision already taking place across the town. Messy Church at St Swithun's and Bridport United Church continues on the second and fourth weeks of the month.

If you are a parent, carer or family member looking for a space where your children can have fun, make friends and feel at home, we would love you to join us.

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. We're in Priory Lane, behind Rockburn.

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Looking for our Get Involved listings for local non-profit groups?

We're no longer including them in the printed magazine, although you can find the list on our website: thebridgemagazine.org/get-involved.

In each issue we will feature one or two organisations in more detail, so please contact the editor (email editor@thebridgemagazine.org) if you would like to appear.

Next month we will have a feature on the Bridport Youth & Community Centre.

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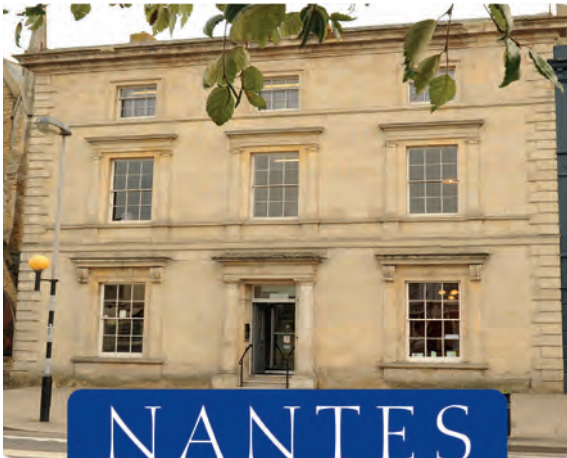
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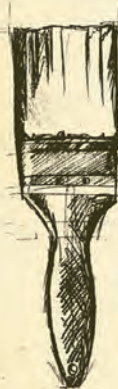
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