

the Bridge

October 2026

A community magazine for Bridport
supported by churches in the town



Celebrating



Bridport
Literary
Festival

6-14 November 2026

Inside the magazine:

- BridLit 2026 is paradise for book lovers
- Discover Bridport Market and meet Toby
- Q&A with psychologist and author Frank Tallis
- A new book pays tribute to bellringing poet Brenda

THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT

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The Revd Canon Becky Roberts

Pioneer Priest & Team Vicar

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Associate Priest

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 or email *lettingsbuc@gmail.com*

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OTHER CHURCHES IN BRIDPORT

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456031 office

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The advertising and copy deadline for the November 2026 issue is 5pm on Monday 12 October

The Bridge

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

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.

What's in a name? Come to Bridport Market and meet Toby...



Every trade has its own private language, and markets more than most. Spend a Wednesday or a Saturday in Bridport and you are surrounded by 'pitches', 'casuals', 'grafters' and 'swag', but one of the oldest words of the lot is 'toby'.

Ask a market trader what the toby is and you will get one of two answers: it is the rent you pay for your pitch and it is also the person who comes round to collect it. In plenty of market towns the market superintendent has simply been 'the toby' for generations, whatever his mother called him.

So where does a word like that come from? Most people point at the mantelpiece. Toby jugs, those jolly seated chaps in tricorne hats clutching a jug of ale, were



first made in the Staffordshire potteries in the 1760s and are generally credited to Ralph Wood of Burslem. The name is thought to come from Toby Fillpot, the thirsty old soul in a 1761 drinking song called The Brown Jug, and the clever bit of design is the hat, as the corner of the tricorne forms the spout you pour from.

Market lore has it that a trader arriving in an unfamiliar town would head for the pub first, because the Toby jug on the shelf showed him roughly the face of the man he was looking for. Whether that is history or simply a very good story, the name stuck.

Which brings us neatly to Tell Toby®, the Bridport Market app built by our own market superintendent, Ken Hussey. It is where traders sign up for the twice-weekly market and craft fairs; book and arrange their pitches; check their invoices; and leave a message for Ken without having to catch him halfway up the street with an armful of paperwork. Exactly the job the toby has always done, minus the leather bag of change.

There is rather more to us than Wednesdays and Saturdays, though. We also run craft fairs throughout the year, and we take the bookings for special events, including Christmas Cheer, the town's late-night shopping evening. This year it falls on Wednesday 9 December, and applications for pitches and craft fairs are open now.

If you have ever fancied a stall of your own, whether for the market, a craft fair or Christmas Cheer, you can also sign up at bridportmarket.co.uk or pick up a form from the Tourist Information Centre. Toby is expecting you.

Helen Goldman, Markets and Clerical Officer



Toby jug image Andreas Praefcke/CC

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CHURCH SERVICES

OCTOBER 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
<i>Thurs 1</i>		10am Eucharist				
Sun 4 <i>Harvest</i>	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)		10am Parish service of HC		
<i>Mon 5</i>						10am MPR
<i>Tues 6</i>	7pm Induction of the new rector			2.30pm HC		
<i>Wed 7</i>	2.30pm HC					
<i>Thur 8</i>		10am Eucharist 3.30pm Wild & Messy Church				
Sun 11	8am BCP HC 11am All Age HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am MPR	9.30am MPR	11am MPR	11am HC
<i>Mon 12</i>						10am MPR
<i>Wed 14</i>		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
<i>Thurs 15</i>		10am Eucharist				
Sun 18	8am BCP HC 11am MP	9.30am Eucharist		9.30am HC	11am HC	
<i>Mon 19</i>						10am MPR
<i>Thurs 22</i>		10am Eucharist				
Sun 25	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am MPR		11am MPR 3pm Trafalgar Day service
<i>Mon 26</i>						10am MPR
<i>Wed 28</i>		2pm Centering Prayer* (hall)				
<i>Thurs 29</i>		10am Eucharist				
NOVEMBER 2026						
Sun 1 <i>All Saints</i>	8am BCP HC 3pm All Souls	4pm CC (hall)	10am Parish service of HC	3pm All Souls		
<i>Mon 2</i>						10am MPR
<i>Tues 3</i>				2.30pm HC		
<i>Wed 4</i>	2.30pm HC					
<i>Thurs 5</i>		10am Eucharist				
Sun 8 <i>Remem- brance</i>	8am BCP HC 10.50am Remembrance	9.30am Eucharist	10.50am Remembrance	9.30am MP / Remembrance	4pm Remembrance	10.50am Remembrance

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 NB: services are subject to occasional change. Latest info at parishofbridport.org

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!

Wanted: Treasurer, St Swithun's Church

St Swithun's Church, Allington, is looking for a treasurer.

The role involves working with the St Swithun's Church sub-committee and also with the overall parish treasurer, as St Swithun's is one of the six churches in the Anglican Parish of Bridport.

The job would suit a person with a bit of spare time, familiarity with numbers and some computer skills. It is not necessary to be a practising Anglican, but some understanding of church life could be helpful.

The role includes a lot of interesting tasks – not only record keeping but also planning skills, as the church is in the middle of a major restoration project. But don't be put off by the challenge! The outgoing treasurer is still around and will provide as much support as you like, including a phased handover and lots of familiarisation work. Or you may prefer to jump straight in! Either way is possible.

If you'd like a chat about this, please ring Philip Sturrock on 07802 895785 for a no-commitment conversation.

Remember you're a Womble when it comes to litter picking

In partnership with Bridport Town Council, the Parish of Bridport organises 'Womble Walks' throughout the year.

Volunteers meet up for a friendly walk and pick up litter as they go. All equipment is supplied and there's the option to enjoy coffee together afterwards.

The next Womble Walk is on Tuesday 13 October, meeting outside Mountfield at 10.30am. Come along and do your bit to keep Bridport tidy!



Let us be bold with hope

Last month in The Bridge, the Revd Margaret Preuss-Higham encouraged us to embrace change rather than block it.



Peter Wright

Change has always been a feature of life, whether in politics, religion, the climate or our personal lives. If we are going to embrace change, do we do so with hope or despair? Are we hopeful, or do we think it is all hopeless? For example, do we believe our small contributions to tackling climate change can make a difference, or do we despair when countries and global institutions ignore the threat?

I recently attended the Christian arts festival Greenbelt, where alongside the music and mud I heard speakers whose hope and determination, often against unbelievable odds, shone through.

Mina Smallman, a retired Anglican priest, spoke eloquently about the murder of her daughters in 2020. Through that trauma, she has learned to forgive Danyal Hussein, their killer, who is serving life imprisonment, but cannot forgive the two policemen who posted photos of her daughters' bodies on social media. Mina now campaigns for women's safety and remains relentless in seeking improvements in police conduct.

The Revd Sue Parfitt, aged 84, is the UK's most arrested priest, having been arrested 28 times while campaigning for Palestine and the climate crisis. She spoke gently about her commitment to following Jesus, who she said was "continually in breach of the law because he was calling out the evils of his day within the civil and religious authorities."

While Mina and Sue may seem extreme examples, challenging injustice – be it racism, sexism or exploitation – is a characteristic of Christian living. Jesus brought hope to the marginalised and challenged the racism and arrogance of the religious authorities. We are called to follow Jesus, whatever the cost.

As inhabitants of Britain's first Rights Respecting Town, let us learn to be bold with hope through whatever changes we face. We have so much to thank God for and so much to look forward to, because God never stops calling us into new ways of discipleship, service and love.

Peter Wright



Bridport Literary Festival

6-14 NOVEMBER 2026



Box Office: TIC, The Town Hall, South Street, DT6 3LF
Tel: 01308 424 901 | www.bridlit.com

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Indulge your love of the written word at this year's Bridport Literary Festival

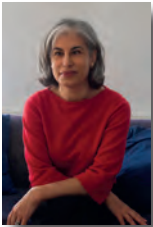
Once again the **BridLit** team are serving up a **smorgasbord of tasty literary treats for book lovers to savour at the renowned festival.**

The annual book feast has a new director, Adrian Turpin, following the death of co-founding director Tanya Bruce-Lockhart last year. Adrian was previously the director of Wigtown Book Festival, which grew notably under his leadership, and in 2017 he received an OBE for services to literature and the economy.

As usual, this year's BridLit programme includes authors who tackle the most important political and social issues of our time. **Oliver Bullough** will talk to festival chair Stuart Rock about his book *Everybody Loves Our Dollars*, discussing how Britain became the global centre for laundering illicit money (*Sat 7 Nov, 10.30am, EP, £16.50*); while



Natasha Walter (left), author of *Feminism for a World on Fire*, will examine the interconnected challenges facing women today and suggest a solution rooted in community (*Sat 7 Nov, 1.30pm, BAC, £14*).



Sir Robin Niblett's book *After America* explores the collapse of American global leadership and the rise of transactional imperial power politics driven by the US, China and Russia. He will be joined by former BBC North America editor Gavin Esler to discuss the likely impact of this shift on global stability and diplomacy (*Sat 7 Nov, 3pm, EP, £16.50*). Meanwhile, former Chancellor of the Exchequer **Jeremy Hunt** (right) has written *Can We Be Rich Again?* in which he argues that low growth is a solvable crisis if we maximise the potential of the UK's tech and financial sectors and reform stagnant state machinery. This discussion promises to be a highlight of the festival (*Mon 9 Nov, 2pm, EP, £16.50*).



Johnny Piper

In her book *Plastic Inc.*, **Beth Gardiner** exposes how the plastic industry is plotting to double production at a time when individuals are being encouraged to use less – and why plastic recycling just can't work on a large scale (*Mon 9 Nov, 12 noon, BAC, £14*). Politician

and military veteran **Tobias Ellwood** will introduce his book *Ten Steps to Prevent World War Three*; at a time when we are closer than ever to midnight on the Doomsday clock, what can the west do to prevent catastrophe? (*Wed 11 Nov, 4.30pm, EP, £16.50*).

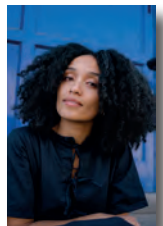
Happily, the festival offers a welcome contrast to these weighty and somewhat terrifying topics in the form of events such as *Common Threads* by storyteller **Martin Maudsley** (right). This is a specially commissioned spoken-word tapestry of living voices and traditional heritage, drawing on stories about Bridport and the surrounding landscapes (*Wed 11 Nov, 8pm, OY, £10*). And novelist **Tom Cox** will be speaking about his book *Everything Will Swallow You*, a story that brings together friendship, landscape and folklore (*Sat 14 Nov, 4.30pm, BB, £12*).



Jon Woolcott's book *The Tattooed Hills* explores the chalk figures etched into hillsides from Cerne Abbas to Uffington, and asks how these carvings reflect our relationship with the land (*Thurs 12 Nov, 10am, BB, £12*).

Perilous Enchantment by **Sarah Clegg** is "the true history of faeries", looking at how local nature spirits evolved into tricksters, demonic accomplices in witch trials and modern "romantasy" figures (*Sat 7 Nov, 12 noon, BAC, £14*).

In *Finding Albion*, **Zakia Sewell** (below) seeks out British folk songs, legends, rites and stone circles, piecing together elements of a mythical past that, she hopes, could unite a divided country (*Sat 14 Nov, 1.30pm, BAC, £12*). **Amy Jeffs**, meanwhile, presents a new history of one of England's best-loved mythical figures in *Arthur: A New Life* (*Wed 11 Nov, 12 noon, BB, £12*).



If real lives are more your thing, try **Matthew Sweet** talking about *The Great Dictator*, a fascinating, funny biography of romance novelist Barbara Cartland (*Sun 8 Nov, 2.30pm, EP, £16.50*). Or **Judith Mackrell** on *Artists, Siblings, Visionaries*, which examines the entwined lives of sibling artists Gwen and Augustus John (*Wed 11 Nov, 3pm, BAC, £14*).



This year's Bridport Literary Festival continued

Something for all ages...

KidLit is BridLit's new 'festival within a festival' and includes storytelling for tinies, drop-in puppet workshops, a high-adrenaline 'drawoff' between authors and illustrators, and appearances from Laurence Anholt, Jasbinder Bilan, Philip Ardagh and Vivian French. Saturday 7 November at the Lyric Theatre; see bridlit.com/whats-on/kidlit for details.



the Tourist Information Centre or visit bridlit.com for the full running order.

Key to venues: EP = Electric Palace, BAC = Bridport Arts Centre, BB = The Bull Ballroom, OY = Oxenbury's Yard. Tickets are available in person from the TIC, by phone on 01308 424901 or online at bridlit.com.

Obviously there's much, much more than we have room for here, so pick up a BridLit programme from

*See opposite for our interview with clinical psychologist Frank Tallis, who will be at the Electric Palace on 10 November to discuss his latest book, *Wise*.*

A tribute to bellringer Brenda Dunn, 1938–2025

Brenda Dunn was a very special bellringer and a very special person. As a ringer at St Mary's Bridport, she wrote a poem every year to celebrate that year's events and excitements.

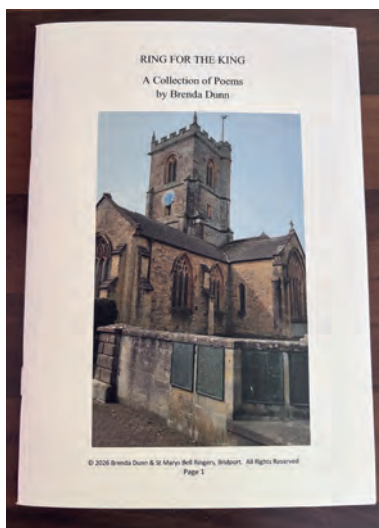
She was a ringer for over 50 years and one of the strongest supporters of ringing, the church, and the royal occasions we were asked to ring for (and these were very special occasions to Brenda). She was one of the first women bellringers to ring in St Mary's, and she lit up the tower ringing chamber with her wit and warmth.

After she died in 2025, her husband Sam – also a bellringer – gave us all the poems Brenda had written and expertly and enthusiastically read out at the annual bellringers' dinners.

(As an aside, Sam was the tower steeplekeeper in his time and took a strong interest in maintaining not only the bells but also the famous, rare Ellacombe Apparatus. This device allows one ringer to sound all eight bells from one position and was especially useful during Covid because it allowed us to ring without breaking the rules. It also allowed Sam to ring Happy Birthday to Brenda every year.)

Brenda was a strong royalist, and we invited her to come out of retirement to join us to ring for the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.

We miss both Brenda and Sam, and acknowledge their wonderful contribution to bellringing at St Mary's.



We have printed a booklet (pictured) of Brenda's wonderful poems, and copies are available to pick up from the parish office in St Mary's Church, South Street (open on weekdays from 9am to 1pm) for a suggested donation of £10.

Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain, St Mary's Bridport

Brenda's favorite poem (and ours too):

Ring for the King, 2023

*I had to give up ringing when the years caught up with me,
I missed you all 'cos in the tower is where I like to be,*

*But then last May I had a call that made me want to sing –
'Cos Bob phoned up and said to me "Will you ring for the King?"*

*The Coronation day arrived with clouds up in the sky,
That didn't really matter as our spirits were on high,
Prosecco on the table, flags draped on everything,
The Treble Bell now beckoned me to now Ring for the King.*

*I've rung bells on Sundays and on outings I have been,
And then there was full muffle that we rang for our Queen.
Christmas, New Year, Jubilee, such memories they bring...
Of all these the very best was Ringing for the King!*

A wise guiding hand through later life: psychologist Frank Tallis



As well as his academic writing, clinical psychologist Frank Tallis has published four science books for the wider market. The latest is *Wise*, which explores ways to maintain psychological wellness and a sense of purpose in midlife and beyond.

At this year's Bridport Literary Festival he will be talking to philosopher Julian Baggini about the book. We caught up with Frank in advance of the festival to learn more about the book and how best we can make peace with our mortality.

The Bridge: What can people expect from your session at the Bridport Literary Festival?

Frank Tallis: Well, that rather depends on what I'm asked. But I'm hoping we'll be discussing a range of topics included in *Wise*, which deals with achieving good psychological health in the second half of life. The book covers subjects such as mortality, the psychology of spirituality, and altered states of consciousness.

TB: Who did you write *Wise* for?

FT: People who have reached midlife or beyond and who are looking for an alternative to the standard self-help prescriptions. There's no shortage of advice: We're told to eat well, exercise, get plenty of sleep, socialise, keep intellectually stimulated, and avoid toxins. It's all excellent advice but the problem is we already know it. I think that today, when people ask how we should go about meeting



the challenges of later life, they are probably looking for something more thoughtful, philosophical or spiritual. They seem to be wanting more than 10 top tips. They seem to be wanting the answer to the question: How can I live wisely?

TB: Society tends to associate the classic 'mid-life crisis' with men, with clichéd ill-advised choices reflecting the desperate denial of mortality. Have you observed different patterns in how women face the transition into the second half of life?

FT: Although men and women face different challenges (men don't have to deal with the menopause, for example) I'm far more interested in commonalities than differences. I'm much more interested in how we, that is all of us, come to terms with difficult aspects of existence – mortality, loss, finding purpose and meaning, etc. Gender-specific psychology is

very important, but I'm not sure that it is very useful when dealing with universal questions and issues.

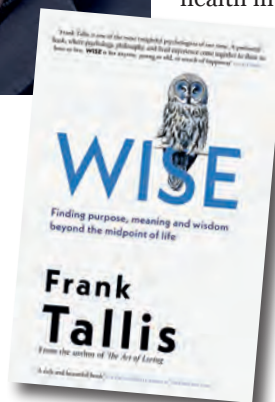
TB: Clearly a degree of introspection, of self-awareness, is necessary for durable mental health, particularly as we age. Is this a middle-class luxury? There's a proven link between economic disadvantage and poor mental health in midlife. How can your

profession help people who are just trying to keep on top of the practicalities of life?

FT: Psychologists and psychiatrists recognise that the harsh realities of the world impose severe limitations on what is achievable in psychotherapy.

That said, to describe psychotherapy as a middle-class luxury is inaccurate and it also underestimates how powerful and useful psychological insights can be.

The psychiatrist Viktor Frankl – who spent time as a prisoner in several Nazi concentration camps during WWII – observed that fellow prisoners who found life meaningful, even under such horrific conditions, tended to survive for longer. You don't have to be middle class, wealthy, or living in very favourable circumstances to make use of psychological knowledge. Frankl went on to develop a meaning-based therapy, and an incalculable number of people have been helped by just reading his extraordinary memoir, *Man's Search for Meaning*.



A wise guiding hand: Frank Tallis continued

TB: What single factor determines good mental health – ‘wholeness’ – in later life more than any other?

FT: When you look at the writings of the great psychologists, they all seem to agree that wholeness is the essential condition for mental health in later life. You can think of a human being as a set of polarities (for example, mind/body, conscious/unconscious, reason/intuition) and the more integrated these are, the more mentally healthy and resilient the person seems to be. This idea is well supported by neuroscience. Divisions within the self are associated with poor mental health, whereas integration or wholeness is associated with good mental health. Fortunately, psychologists like Carl Gustav Jung have explained in practical terms how integration and wholeness can be achieved.

TB: Is it ever too late to find one’s way out of “the dark wood” and

enjoy fulfilling last years after a lifetime of mental struggle?

FT: Interestingly, most of the great psychologists are optimistic about what can be achieved in old age. In the last chapter of my book, I summarise the work of Lars Torstam, a Swedish sociologist who studied well-adjusted older people and identified an extremely healthy subgroup he called the ‘geotranscendent’. Broadly speaking, they are contented, have made their peace with mortality, engage in productive self-reflection, and have a pro-social outlook. Torstam was inspired by Jungian psychology and believed that ‘geotranscendence’ is a state that we can all aspire to.

TB: You’ve said that music is one of your passions (the others being psychoanalysis and cake). Which composer’s music speaks most directly to your soul?

FT: I’ve always been fond of Bach. However, as I get older, Mozart becomes increasingly important to me. It’s a cliché, but there is something quite divine about his music. When I listen to Mozart, my head seems to fill with light. I adore the piano concertos – all of them – and The Magic Flute is my favourite opera. And then there’s Mahler. His orchestral song ‘Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen’ (‘I have lost track of the world’) is sublimely beautiful and speaks to my soul directly, because it is surely about the soul leaving the body.

Event 30, Tuesday 10 November at 12 noon in The Bull Ballroom. Tickets £12 from bridlit.com

Frank Tallis also writes crime fiction, including the Max Liebermann mysteries, and horror fiction under the name FR Tallis.

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Visit: www.dancingwithtaichi.co.uk



Don’t forget you can find info about a huge range of local organisations on our website at thebridgemagazine.org/get-involved

Come and meet the shedders!

Bridport Community Shed is holding an open day on Saturday 10 October, 10am to 2pm.

Come along and meet the ‘shedders’, enjoy an exhibition of arts and crafts, and browse the sale of tools, fabrics and upcycled wood and textile items, . The scrapstore will be open, too.

You can also see if any shedders can help with your repair at the woodwork and textiles surgery. Organisers ask that you email ahead to book a slot for this: bridportcommunityshed@gmail.com.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO?

Walditch churchyard, set against a beautiful backdrop of rolling hills a short walk from Bridport, needs help with grass cutting and hedge trimming.

ENTHUSIASM IS THE ONLY REQUIREMENT!

Please call Chris on 01308 281096 for more information.

THANK YOU



BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
@ BEACON CHURCH**



**SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
@ ST SWITHUNS PARISH OF BRIDPORT**

**FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
@ BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH**

3.30-5.30 PM

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Interactive Bible Stories
- Games & Activities
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- Friendship & Fun
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Sunday 25th October at 3pm

Residents and visitors are welcome to join us

BRIDGE LESSONS

Are you interested in learning bridge?
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Bridport Bridge Club is starting a new
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ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick

07977 989263

Change is the only constant

In its 800-year history St Mary's must have witnessed so many changes in society and hosted so many events, from housing cattle in the Middle Ages, through the church worship bands of the 17th and 18th centuries, to the introduction of the organ in the 19th century – and, of course, the changes continue.

Another reminder of the changes that have happened over the years came in the September fashion show 'A Walk Down the Aisle', with clothing from the 1860s to the 1970s. The 'Passion for Sustainable Fashion' show, meanwhile, reminded us how we can become more sustainable in our use of resources – an aim close to the parish's vision for Eco Church. St Mary's was also part of Becca's Quilt Walkabout, during which quilts were displayed across the town. In the church, 30 quilts were suspended from the pillars or draped over pews and mannequins.

But change is not just about things – it's about people too. How do we at St Mary's support people through change? One way is through our weekly Tots Time sessions in St Mary's Church House Hall; the children and adults who come along are experiencing great changes as the little ones grow and learn. We welcome all preschool children from newborns to active toddlers, and they learn to socialise through play and prepare for their next step – the move on to nursery or preschool. Tots Time gives parents and carers the chance to meet others and watch and learn together the joys and challenges of parenthood, a period of huge change, particularly when they have had their first child.

Some changes are more challenging and can result in people experiencing food poverty. St Mary's hosts Bridport Food Bank on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings. As well as food parcels, additional support is provided from Citizens Advice and housing charity First Point. Bridport Food Bank itself is going through a time of change with the expected appointment of a new manager and new trustees.

As we continue to support people through the changes in their lives, we aim to be a welcoming and inclusive presence. For children, Sunday School meets on two Sundays a month, while the monthly All Age Service



Pictured: Some of the beautiful quilts on display in St Mary's Church during the Quilt Walkabout in September



is aimed at the whole family. For the elderly who find getting to church on a Sunday morning a big challenge, we have a monthly afternoon Holy Communion service for which transport to church is provided.

Of course, a major change for the whole parish is the appointment of the Revd Canon Becky Roberts as our new rector. On Tuesday 6 October at 7pm, St Mary's will be hosting the service of welcome to Becky on behalf of the Parish of Bridport.

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

Appointing a new town crier and his deputy

Following a lively search for a new town crier, Bridport Town Council has appointed Jamie Lockhart Giles to take on the historic role, continuing a tradition that brings a generous helping of ceremony, character and good humour to the town's events.

"I'm honoured to be Bridport's town crier," says Jamie. "It's one of the oldest civic voices we have, and at a time when so much pulls us apart, a cry still does something no screen can: it gathers people in one place, for a moment, as a community."

The selection process was anything but dull. Eight people initially expressed an interest, eventually whittled down to three keen candidates who were invited to perform in front of a five-judge panel at Bucky Doo Square. Each had the essential equipment: a script, a bell and, naturally, a suitably impressive hat.

All three candidates performed so well that the judging panel faced a dilemma. The answer? Appoint Jamie as town crier — and create a deputy town crier role for Bill Davies.

Jamie grew up in Uploders, then Beaminster, and now lives at Marshwood, where he is churchwarden at St Mary's. His late mother, Tanya Bruce-Lockhart — who co-founded and directed the Bridport Literary Festival — always teased him about his "booming voice", so bringing people together through voice and shared passion is rather in his blood. By day he works in mental health, having spent much of his career in the charitable sector. He is a trained psychotherapist and a trustee of two national charities, and in an earlier life published books and released films. A keen runner, he is run director at the Cobb Gate Juniors parkrun



Pictured: Bridport's new town crier, Jamie Lockhart Giles (left), and deputy town crier Bill Davies

in Lyme Regis, a regular at St Mary's parkrun here in Bridport, and is supporting the foundation of a new parkrun in Beaminster.

Born in Singapore, Bill Davies considers himself a Bridport boy, having returned to the town in 1950. He attended local schools and was involved in Scouts and the Air Training Corps and even performed in a local rock band with current mayor Jonathan Bourbon.

Bill served as an RAF navigator from 1970, followed by a career with the UK Ministry of Defence in Germany. He retired and returned to Bridport in 2015. He is chairman of the Bridport & Lyme Regis Royal Air Forces Association, supports the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, and dances with Cynewulf Morris.

The new appointments mark the beginning of a new chapter following the death of Bridport's previous town crier, John Collingwood. The mayor has said that John was keen for a new crier to be appointed without delay, ensuring the continuation of this distinctive tradition.

In a town famous for markets, festivals, community events and a healthy appreciation of the unusual, all that remains is to keep your ears open. When the bell rings, there's a fair chance something interesting is about to happen.

Amy Stephenson

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

From the parish editor

October brings thoughts of harvest, which Holy Trinity plans to celebrate on Sunday 11 October at the 11am service. Following this there will be a ploughman's lunch in the church. Enjoying a meal in the company of others always makes a very pleasant occasion, and all members of the congregation are invited.

On 25 October we shall be welcoming our new parish rector, the Revd Canon Becky Roberts, at the Holy Communion service in Holy Trinity. We look forward →

HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton continued...

to her ministry in Bothenhampton. Becky's institution and induction service is on Tuesday 6 October in St Mary's Church, Bridport.

This month's coffee morning in Holy Trinity is on Saturday 3 October, 10am till 12 noon. There will be delicious homemade cakes and savouries, books, jigsaw puzzles and a raffle as well as tea, coffee and time to chat with friends and meet new people. The following coffee morning is on Saturday 7 November.

In the afternoon of Saturday 3 October, the autumn tidy-up in the Old Churchyard will take place. We are most grateful to the volunteers, many of whom come regularly, for their good work. Families who have loved ones buried there really appreciate how well the grounds are kept. Meet in the Old Churchyard at 2pm, and please bring any tools you can.

At the end of the month we shall be looking towards cosy winter evenings when we put our clocks back one hour on Sunday 25 October.

Barbara Ffooks

Garden working party

Saturday 3 October at 2pm

The Old Churchyard

Please help us tidy these lovely grounds. Bring your own gardening gloves and tools to edge memorial stones, weed and strim uncut and overgrown areas, and cut dead wood. Work areas will be allocated on arrival according to ability and tools brought.

FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 31 October

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

Thelma's hymn notes

Praise, O Praise Our God and King

This hymn is sung at harvest time and is popular with congregations. I remember singing it many times during my school days.

The words are derived from a poem by John Milton (1608–74), which was itself a rewriting of Psalm 136. Milton was a leading propagandist for the Parliamentary cause against the Royalists led by King Charles I in the English Civil Wars. He was later Oliver Cromwell's Latin Secretary (Foreign Secretary) during the Protectorate of 1653–59.

Milton's verses were adapted into a hymn by eminent Victorian hymn writer the Revd Sir Henry Williams Baker Bart (1821–77). He wrote numerous hymns, 33 of which are still in hymn books today.

The hymn tune is Monkland, arranged by John Bernard Wilkes (1785–1869), and it first appeared in the 1824 book of hymn tunes used by the United Brethren.

The hymn's refrain is its most memorable part: "For his mercies still endure Ever faithful, ever sure."

Thelma Pulman

Organist at St Mary's Walditch



ST MARY'S Walditch

Parish editor –

James Craddock 458725

walditchbridgejse@outlook.com

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

Fun and feasting at our summer fete

The summer fete in Walditch Village Hall on Saturday 29 August was a great success in spite of the rain, wind and various other minor hitches. Somehow we all squeezed into our tiny hall along with stalls, tombola, teas and cakes, and fabulous raffle prizes donated by local businesses.

Just as the tea and cakes were running low, the sun came out long enough to exercise children with races on the village green.

We were supported wonderfully by the church, which was decorated with flowers.

Thanks to everyone who donated their time, prizes and cakes. After expenses we raised £552, which will go towards the upkeep of the hall and future events.

Penny Hall



Bridport Town Council BOTHENHAMPTON & WALDITCH WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

Over the summer, residents were invited to take part in the consultation phase for a new five-year management plan (2026–31) for Slades Green and Green Lane in Bothenhampton. The area (pictured right) includes grassed verges, tree-lined banks and a public right of way owned by Dorset Council.

The consultation was designed to reach as many people as possible. Letters and surveys were delivered to nearby homes, and paper copies were made available. Information was shared at our July ward meeting, through social media and the town council website, and at events including Bridport Food Festival and the Melpash Show. Dorset Wildlife Trust, Bridport Tree Planting Group and Dorset Council Rights of Way and Highways teams were also invited to share their views.

Responses showed that residents greatly value the area's peaceful, green and open character. Trees, wildflowers, wildlife, views, quiet walking routes and a strong neighbourly feel were all highlighted as important features. There was a shared desire to see the land remain attractive and accessible, while continuing to support the qualities that make it special.

Views varied on the best future management. Some residents favoured regular mowing and tidier grass verges, while others supported a lighter-touch approach to encourage wildlife, wildflowers and biodiversity.

Overall the consultation demonstrated broad support for protecting the area's green, peaceful and wildlife-rich character, alongside differences of opinion about



how much mowing and maintenance should take place. The results support the proposal to set up a residents' group to work alongside the town council on future management decisions for each area. Several respondents expressed interest in joining this group.

The final management plan will be considered by the full council in late September. If approved, the next stage will be to put the first year of actions into practice.

Our next ward meeting is on Thurs 1 October, 11am to 12 noon at Bothenhampton Village Hall. Meanwhile, if you have any concerns or queries, feel free to contact me. For ward updates please visit our Facebook page, Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership.

Jo Hughes

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor –

Douglas Baldwin 424232

douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com

Bell enquiries – Wendy Carnell 420716

htbrabells@parishofbridport.org

For pastoral or personal issues, please

contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644

(Wednesday is her day off)

Samaritan's Purse

The Operation Christmas Child national collection week this year is 9–16 November so you could start packing your shoeboxes today! There are leaflets in the church giving advice on what to put in and what not to put in a box. Alternatively, visit the website at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child to make a donation or choose a custom shoebox gift (or both).

Holy Trinity has supported this annual project for



HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

many years. Last year the boxes were given to children in many different countries including Ukraine, Central Asia, the Middle East and Jamaica.

Jill Kelley (01308 422797) can answer any queries about this year's operation.

Tots@Ten

Pre-school children are welcome to join others, with parents and carers, normally every Wednesday at 10am in the church during term time. The seats are pushed to the side so there is a lot of space and toys to play with. Refreshments are served for the children and adults. There is no charge.

Village lunch club

Lunch at the Haddon House Hotel will be on Tuesday 13 October at 12.30pm. If you haven't already booked, please give Jean Hutchings a ring on 427697. There is plenty of parking space at the hotel.

The club is open to anyone from the village and their friends so do contact Jean if you would like to have a reasonably priced lunch and a good chat!

Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Tuesday 20 October and the Knitting Group will meet on Thursdays 1 and 15 October. Please contact Daphne King (427552) for more information about these groups and their activities.

The Friends of Holy Trinity present...

BRIDPORT BROADSIDES SHANTY CREW

Saturday 3 October at 7pm
Holy Trinity Bradpole



Tickets £15
Finger buffet included
Drinks by donation
Raffle

To book, email
thefriendshbt@gmail.com
or phone 01308 420716

Ginny Bowley getting fit for her trek



Please support Ginny's fundraiser

Ginny Bowley, a member of the Holy Trinity congregation, walked the Camino Primitivo – a gruelling 200-mile trek across the mountains of Northern Spain – from 13 to 19 September to raise much-needed funds for Weldmar Hospicecare. She hopes that as many people as possible will sponsor her and has set herself a target of £1,000.

All the details of her journey are on her Just Giving page at [tinyurl.com/r4sxbj4x](https://www.justgiving.com/r4sxbj4x) (shortened link) where you can also make a donation.

Bradpole Buzz Group

The team will be meeting from 2 to 4pm on Wednesday 21 and Saturdays 10 and 31 October. Do join them to help with planting, offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden, or just suggestions and general support.

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



Bradpole Forster Village Hall

At a meeting of the trustees on 8 September, Louis Azor was appointed and welcomed as a new trustee. Louis has been using the hall for many years as the organiser of an evening for people to play board games.

The AGM of the trustee board will be held at 7pm on Monday 2 November. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in supporting the village hall for the community.

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 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...

Autumn is now with us – the time of year when I ask you all to keep an eye on the drains and gullies in your area. If you see any that are blocked, please tell Dorset Council via their online portal or on 01305 221000.

At our August community engagement event, resident's main concerns were the lack of speed-limit signs on roads around Bridport. Some people said they weren't sure what speed they should be doing. Residents also asked for more pedestrian crossing points along St Andrews Road and for the current parking restrictions to be enforced.

Reviving a residents' association for Bradpole

Now I'm going to ask for your help. Do you care about Bradpole? Do you want to make it an even better place to live? Maybe you think something should be done about speeding, pedestrian safety, verges, play spaces or even housing and jobs in the area. Bradpole Ward has benefited from the St Andrews Road and District Residents' Association, but its main officers say they are looking for 'new blood' to take it over.

The St Andrews Road Residents' Association was set up about 20 years ago and has had notable successes by asking residents' views then contacting councillors, Highways and the police. It was largely responsible for:

- the installation of a traffic-speed-and-type counting station at the bottom of Knightstone Rise;
- persuading the Highways Authority and the county council to locate the new recycling centre at

Pictured: A splendid rowan tree in Caley Way



Broomhill; they had wanted to put it at Gore Cross. This change prevented even more heavy traffic going up St Andrews Road onto the Beaminster Road. The residents' association

fought and won two planning enquiries to achieve this!

- supporting Colfox Academy's application for a pedestrian crossing near the school entrance;
- helping to reduce speeds around Bridport Primary School and establishing the Co-op crossing for its parents and pupils; and
- backing access to a pathway from Coneygar Road to the town over the hill past Mountfield.

The association's purpose is not to put its nose into everybody's backyard but to look at the overall needs of the Bradpole Ward and address these through council and police action. It may also be time to change the name from 'St Andrews' to the wider Bradpole area, including Bradpole village and surrounding roads.

Outgoing president Simon Williams suggests there is still lots to do. He hopes the revived association will campaign to get a permanent speed camera between the Co-op and the decontrolled area north of Gore Cross. There will also be a need to monitor speed and parking of heavy goods vehicles once the abattoir re-opens.

Whatever your skills or experience, if you are interested in helping to make a difference and getting to know some of your neighbours in the process, please email Simon on sandhwilliams.gen@gmail.com.

You can keep up to date with ward news on our Facebook page, Bradpole Ward Matters, or email me if you want to get in touch about anything in the ward.

Sandy Goldsmith

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

Parish editor – please contact the magazine's editor (details on p2)

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An appropriately themed send-off for Lorna

Tuesday 1 September was the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This special day – established by Pope Francis – launched the Season of Creation, which ends on 4 October, the feast day of Saint Francis, the patron saint of nature and ecology. This year marks the 800th anniversary of St Francis's death.

The theme of creation and the natural world was incorporated into the leaving service of the Revd Lorna Johnson on 6 September, for which the church was full (we ran out of hymn books and service sheets).

Lorna has served the community of Allington and



ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

beyond with dedication and an abundance of grace. She gave particular attention to being with young people at Messy Church, Eco Church, God's Green Acre and community outreach.

The sermon was given by the Revd Helen Lynch, warden of the Pilsdon Community. Helen gave a brief history of the place and what it offers people who are in need of supportive sanctuary. It has a prayerful and structured work ethic without being a therapeutic community. She referred to Antoine de Saint Exupéry's book *The Little Prince*, an inspired choice that uses dreamlike imagery and a poetic sense to convey ideas of moral backbone and framework. It was notable that the eucharist was served by four women: Revds Lorna and Helen were accompanied by the Revd Cally Burch and the Revd Margaret Preuss-Higham.

The last hymn was sung outside on the church steps, while the children sowed wildflower seeds in prepared ground at the front of the churchyard.

Afterwards we were treated to cakes and bubbly, beautifully organised by some of the church's core members. Now Lorna prepares to fulfil her new role as Community Missioner and Parish Priest at Holy Trinity Church in Weymouth. She will be greatly missed.

Gathering in local harvests

In October we gather in and feed on the harvest. Lammas – meaning 'loaf mass' – on 8 and 9 August marked the start of the harvest and blessing of the first fruits. For centuries, the first loaf baked from the first batch of grain would be blessed at a special mass and usually given to the lord of the manor (the 'loaf giver').

At Cock Crowing Farm, a 17-acre regenerative farm in Eype, Lucy Sommers and Chit Chong had sown an ancient grain called St John's Rye. One morning a few of us helped to scythe the crop, then picked the ears off the stalks by hand. The fun bit was the threshing: laying the separated ears of grain on a rubber mat, and (wearing rubber-soled shoes for added friction) stamping and using a bit of twist-and-shout action to release the husks from the gold grain. The grain is then winnowed and milled into flour. It was a stimulating experience learning new skills and processes. Kevin Payne, Scout Leader in Charmouth and a regular at St Swithun's, is due to take the Scouts there next year to have a go, and in his case to enjoy it all over again.

Another local harvest is flax, and this crop has been part of an ongoing project for seven years. Volunteers from the Bridport School of Regenerative Fashion have been working with Wessex Community Assets to promote interest in the local flax industry, and have



Pictured from top: The Revd Lorna Johnson (far left) with the Revd Helen Lynch (in white), the Revd Cally Burch and young people from Wild & Messy Church; Lorna with her husband Pete, Angie Churchill and Liz Jones; Lorna presented Angie with a mounted photo taken by the Revd Margaret Preuss-Higham. Angie and Lorna started Wild & Messy Church together at St Swithun's



been processing, spinning, knitting and weaving flax to make a garment. Their Flax Forward Showcase will run in the Allsop Gallery at Bridport Arts Centre from 10 to 24 October and at Oxenbury's Yard in Gundry Lane from 22 to 24 October. It will be a fascinating exhibition, particularly for anyone interested in Bridport social history and textiles.

Anna Sullock

Bridport Town Council WEST & ALLINGTON WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

It has been a very special year for the Allington Hillbillies, our amazing local volunteer group, and what better way to celebrate their achievements than by taking part in the Bridport Carnival in August. The occasion became even more memorable when Cathy Harvey was honoured by being nominated as the Carnival's very first 'Local Hero'.

This was an incredibly well-deserved recognition for Cathy, who has been instrumental in everything the Allington Hillbillies have achieved since the group's inception. Her commitment, enthusiasm and dedication have helped make the Hillbillies the fantastic community group they are today, bringing people together and making a real difference locally.

Of course, the Hillbillies couldn't do all they do without the tremendous support of the local community and, most importantly, their amazing volunteers. To everyone who has given their time, energy and support, a huge and heartfelt thank you. Your contribution is very much appreciated and helps the group continue the fantastic work they do in our community.

Looking ahead, local residents, in partnership with Bridport Community Orchard and the Allington Hillbillies, are holding the Allington Autumn Harvest event on Saturday 10 October (*see ad above*). Everyone from Allington and the neighbouring community is warmly invited to come along and enjoy a wonderful celebration of local produce and community spirit.

Bring your hand-picked apples and pears along to be juiced. Donations of apples, pears and surplus winter vegetables are also very welcome.

There will be a chance to meet local Allington honey producers and members of the Bridport and District

Allington Autumn Harvest Saturday October 10th 10am-2pm



Bring your own apples or pears to juice

Locally produced products from Allington and our neighbours
Bridport And District Allotment Society, all about chutneys

Fun activities for children and adults
provided by Messy Church and Jo Burlington

Stalls, refreshments and juice to try.

Funds raised to support
Bridport Community Orchard and Allington Hillbillies

Hosted by Allington Hillbilly Volunteers
In partnership with local residents and Bridport Community Orchard
Supported by Bridport Town Council



Venue: Coopers Field, Hospital Lane,
North Allington, Bridport.



Allotment Society, who will be sharing chutney recipes and offering advice on using and storing winter veg. There will be fun activities for children and adults provided by Messy Church and Jo Burlington, plus stalls, refreshments and plenty of juice to taste!

Organisers would particularly welcome volunteers to help with juicing, as well as any other local groups who have food-related items to sell. For more information, please email allingtonhill@gmail.com.

Finally, our next ward meeting is on Tuesday 13 October at 6.30pm (please note, this date has changed from previous notifications). The meeting will still be at St Swithun's Church Hall and, as always, is open to all ward residents.

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 the services table on page 4 for more information. We also have Morning Prayer every Monday at 10am.

A new venture with the Discovery Centre was held in September, when St John's hosted pupils from Year 7 of Colfox School on an environmental artistic project by Emerald Ant, including various activities in the church as well as guided walks around West Bay led by ➔

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

Discovery Centre volunteers. We hope St John's will be used more for events outside of services following the success of Come & Sea.

West Bay WI

The newly renamed 'Chatterbox' session will be on Wednesday 7 October, 10am–12 noon. At the meeting on Wednesday 14 October, 2.30–4.30pm, historian Rosemary Griggs will speak about bringing to life 'Lady Katherine', a Tudor noblewoman.

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

Once the campers and the funfair pack up in early September, you know that autumn is here – but what a summer it has been! Unfortunately the annual torchlight parade had to be cancelled because of the extremely dry conditions and the possibility of a fire being started accidentally. I think we all breathed a sigh of relief when rain finally arrived, although fortunately it held off for the Melplash Show. The show seems to get larger each year and unlike at so many other similar events in Devon and Cornwall there were animals on show (my favourite section).

Going out for my early morning walk round the harbour one Saturday morning, listening to my AirPods and head down, I met a group of over 20 walkers heading towards me, all wearing black t-shirts with Lymphoma Action printed on. I chatted to the support team in the station car park and learnt that it was a 20-mile charity walk from West Bay to Yeovil Rugby Club led by Luke Hodgson in memory of Neil 'Macca' McKenna, a member who sadly died from the disease.

The Discovery Centre was so busy over the summer period, with 5,000 visitors to the centre and 300 visitors for the two workshops and outdoor performances. The centre was also represented in the Bridport Town Council tent at the Melplash Show, with a table staffed by volunteers (*pictured top right*). It's always a good chance to publicise the centre's work and to recruit volunteers.

The new exhibition 'A Poor Man's Friend' started in September, telling the story of Dr Giles Roberts, who was born in West Bay in 1766. He lived an extraordinary life and became famous for his Poor Man's Friend ointment. On Thursday 1 October there will be a talk at the Salt House by Mary Tassel, a herbalist who has written about Dr Roberts' life.



Pictured from top: The Discovery Centre's stand at the Melplash Show; an early morning view of East Cliff

Unfortunately I missed the sighting of a sunfish in the harbour. They normally live in the Atlantic and are quite rare here, although they are seen in our waters during summer. There have been quite a few reports of sightings off West Bay, and they feed on jellyfish so that could have been the attraction.

Completion of the black hut was delayed and it is now expected to be finally operational in October.

I hope you like this early morning photo (*above*) of the stunning East Cliff, a sight that never ceases to impress and one that appears nightly on BBC Spotlight. *Sue Pollock*

Forthcoming events

Last car boot sale for 2026	Sunday 25 October
Last Discovery Centre walk*	Thurs 29 October at 11am
Bonfire by the Beach	Sat 31 October at 4pm

*West Bay Hidden History; places are £5.

Bridport Town Council WEST BAY WARD

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

The ward clerk writes...

West Bay continues to experience an increased police presence amid sustained efforts to tackle the antisocial behaviour and nuisance driving that have affected the area, along with other local concerns. Partnerships with other agencies continue to develop, with the shared aim of addressing these issues and improving the experience of residents, visitors and businesses.

The popular West Bay Car Boot Sale will hold its final event of the year on 25 October. A reminder to all traders that they can set up from 6.30am and must leave the site by midday. All proceeds from the car boot sale are donated to community projects, and local groups can apply for funding through the Bridport Town Council grant scheme.

Unfortunately, blockages at the various public toilets in West Bay are an ongoing problem. The toilets are managed by Dorset Council (DC), who should be contacted if there are any issues. DC has reported some particularly inappropriate items being flushed, including beer cans and even t-shirts. This can result in toilets having to be closed while blockages are cleared or repairs carried out, causing considerable inconvenience to those who rely on these facilities.

We would therefore ask everyone to please be considerate when using the public toilets. They are free for everyone to enjoy, and a moment of care can help ensure they remain available and accessible to all.

We have also been in discussion with DC about



additional road markings in and around West Bay. These are intended to discourage parking in locations where vehicles can cause obstructions, restrict access or create safety concerns. DC is looking to implement these works before the end of the year.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful volunteers who run the West Bay Beach Wheelchair Scheme, allowing people with mobility issues to enjoy the simple pleasure of spending time on the beach. We loan beach wheelchairs for free and there is a volunteer team who accompany wheelchair users into the sea on our floating 'Mob' wheelchair. For further information about this fantastic scheme, please visit www.westbaybeachwheelchairs.co.uk.

We hope to hold our next ward meeting in November and details will be available on the town council website, our Facebook page and noticeboards around West Bay. However, you do not need to wait until a meeting to raise an issue or concern; please feel free to contact me at any time.

Amy Stephenson

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159

Church secretary – Jane Clinton
buechurchsec@gmail.com

Church bookings – visit
hallbookingonline.com/bridportuc
or email *lettingsbuc@gmail.com*

Why not try praying...

When I was 43 years old, I heard God call me to be a "fisher of men". I use the phrase for it comes from the

Bible and they were the words I heard God speak to me. However, what it means to me is to be a person who seeks to draw others to Christ. Being an introvert means this is not something that comes naturally to me, so I have to work at it. After not a little reticence, and continued prompting and nudging from God, I embarked on Local Preacher training, which I regard as one of the gifts of the Methodist church. I became a fully accredited local preacher in 2008, so have been preaching for 18 years. However, through preaching you only reach people who enter the church, so I have sought ways of reaching those who remain outside the church.

These are some of the ways I have tried reaching out to others: personal testimony; participation in outdoor

Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...

Easter and Christmas dramas; being a Street Pastor; helping with the running of the Alpha course in prison; a Christian outreach stall in an open air market; and giving away ‘trypraying’ booklets.

Only God knows how I have impacted the lives of others through these activities, but I do know that I have been blessed through doing them, and I hope and pray that I have been a blessing to others through them. I was certainly a Christian presence and a Christian witness in the market in Monmouth, and, judging from the children’s reaction to the ‘Easter Experience’ production, telling the Easter story to final year primary school children and their teachers, I’d say I’ve helped to bless them through it.

My wife and I moved to Bridport last year and have begun to enjoy the next phase of life: retirement. However, one never retires from being a Christian and I am still seeking ways to carry out my calling to bring people to Christ. During one of my quiet times with God, the idea came to me that I could have a presence in the Bridport market by giving away trypraying booklets. I approached my church about this and, with their blessing, I have started giving out the booklets outside Bridport United Church during the Wednesday market.

Most people simply walk past, although, some – maybe one in a hundred – stop to take one. A little girl came up to me and said, “That looks like a nice book,” so I offered her one and she took it. Similarly, a young lad came up to me and very politely asked for one, which he happily took away with him. One of the first people to take a booklet from me was a young man with three young children. He told me he’d seen the booklet advertised on the side of a bus and he was grateful to be able to take a copy.



I hope and pray that each person who has taken a trypraying booklet may encounter God themselves, come to know the love God has for them, and accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

I think of all those who pass me by and I wonder what their life is like and whether they’ll ever know the riches of the glory of God. We can but make the offer; it is up to them to accept it.

Let us, as churches and individuals, continue to find creative ways to reach out to others and offer them the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Richard Lownsbrough

October services at Bridport United Church:			
Sunday 4	10.30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion	
		Rev'd Soon Cheol Choi	
	4pm	Soul Space	
Sunday 11	10.30am	Explore Together	
Sunday 18	10.30am	Morning Worship	
		Rev'd Jane Wilson	
Sunday 25	10.30am	Morning Worship led by church members	

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)
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 or our Facebook page.

We have rooms available for hire. For details or to book, please contact us using the details on page 2.

St MARY & St CATHERINE
Roman Catholic Church

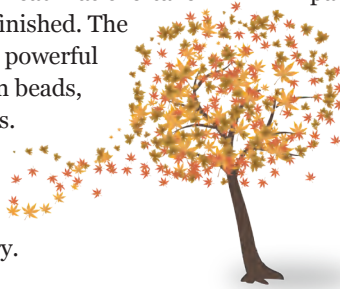
Parish priest – Fr Colin Groombridge
colin.groombridge@predtr.org.uk
Secretary – Faith Leborgne
bridport@predtr.org.uk
Phone 07544 595633

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

As poet John Keats knew, October is a lovely time of year. We welcome the cooler days after the heat and bustle of summer. And what a summer we have had! Never before in our living memory have we had to hide away from the sunshine and heat in our island. We retreated to our homes with curtains and windows closed, not venturing out. Not braving the intense heat.

And now we welcome October's crisp weather. We light our fires; there's the earthy smell of woodsmoke in the air. The leaves, now golden, are falling and the landscape takes on a contented air. The evidence of God's magnificent work is all around; it is, for sure, a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". Our thoughts turn inward as the weather changes and there's a chill in the air. Gradually there's a drawing down of blinds and a closing of curtains. Gone is the heat and rush of the summer months and we gladly settle into autumn.

October is a month deeply dedicated to Our Lady, the mother of God, and 7 October is her feast day. It is the month when we pray our rosaries. When I was young, many families gathered by the fire before bedtime to say the rosary and many a little sleepy head was overtaken by slumber before the rosary was finished. The rosary is a devotion to Our Lady, a powerful collection of prayers represented in beads, and its practice goes back centuries. The rosary is important to the spiritual life of many Catholics and many gather in our churches at this time of year to say the rosary.



"The family that prays together stays together." This was a slogan made famous by Fr Patrick Peyton in the 1940s to encourage family unity and daily prayer. He became famous for promoting the rosary all over the world and was known as "the rosary priest".

Though the month is dedicated to Our Lady, each day in October is also a feast day for various saints: St Therese of Lisieux, St Francis of Assisi, St Teresa of Avila and more. And a very new saint, St Carlo Acutis.

For all these gifts in this month of October dedicated to Our Lady may we sing aloud – Hail Mary indeed!
Pat McEvoy, Bridport Catholic Parish

Activities at our Bridport church

During the autumn and winter months, a group of us meet each Tuesday evening from 6 to 7pm at the Catholic Church in Victoria Grove to pray in silence for peace before the blessed sacrament. Anyone who would like to join us for either part or all this time is welcome.

If you are interested in finding out a little more about the Catholic Faith, do contact Father Colin via the parish office.

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.

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.

BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

We are starting a monthly men's breakfast at Beacon Church...

Bridport Men's Breakfast takes place on the third Saturday of every month from 10am. The next one will be on Saturday 17 October and we will make sure there are sausages, bacon, eggs, toast, juice, tea and coffee.

The format is flexible, but the primary aim is to gather as guys and share food together. There will also be a short talk, and an opportunity to ask questions. Anyone is welcome – it is free with a voluntary donation box if you would like to pay for your breakfast.

The breakfast is being organised by Jim, who moved to Bridport from Bristol in March. "I miss the bustling city, but am learning to appreciate the peace of Dorset," he says. "I am an engineer by trade, and called to be a follower of Jesus. I enjoy running, 3D printing, coffee, and of course I love a cooked breakfast."

Jim continues: "Growing up surrounded by conflicting views on manhood, I had wrestled with what it means to be a man, where my value comes from, and whether my struggles even matter. Lately, men are caught between two bad messages: aggressive dominance, or endless criticism with no positive guidance. Turning to the Bible gave me a perspective full of genuine hope—one that stood out from everything else I was hearing."

Bridport QUAKER MEETING The Meeting House 97 South Street

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

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



So many men today are asking these hard questions. The Bridport Men's Breakfast is a place for men to simply be themselves and build a bridge of hope for anyone seeking answers and a supportive community.

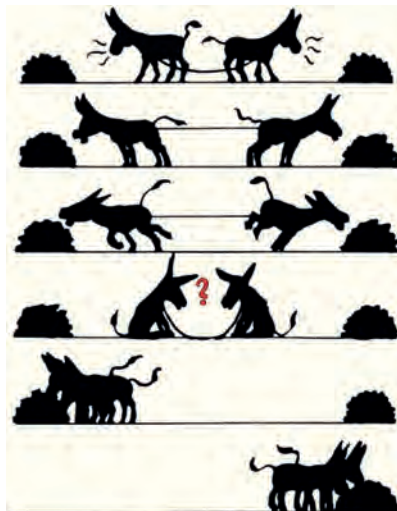
We meet on Sundays from 10am for prayer, worship and coffee (the service is at 10.30am).

We also meet for prayer on Thursdays from 5 to 6pm. 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.

The Art of Co-operation?

For many years a version of this illustration of two hungry donkeys has been on the Meeting House wall, and with the state of the world at the moment it may be a good time to share it...

Jeni Edwards



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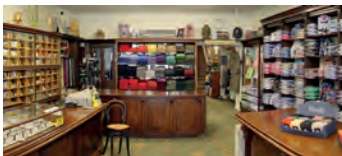
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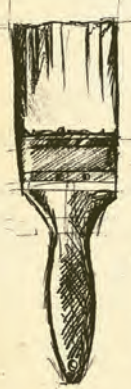
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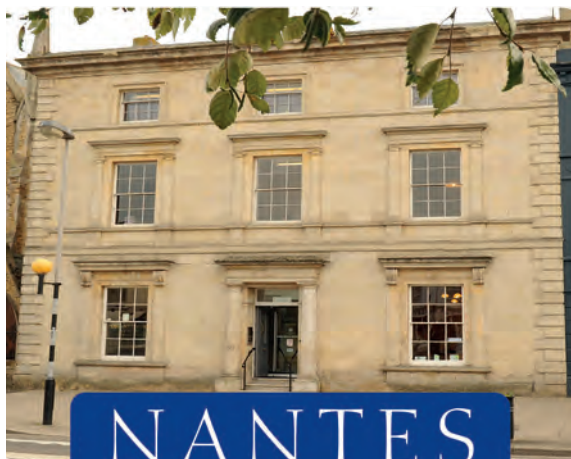
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