

PILGRIMAGE WALK

Join **Revd John Rees** on Wednesday **16 April** for a Pilgrimage walk (5-6 miles) around our 6 churches start at St Swithun's, finish at Holy Trinity Bradpole. Bring a packed lunch. An opportunity for us to enjoy the Spring beauty of our area and recap some of the topics in "**The Whole Easter Story**" written by Jo Swinney – our chosen LENT book.

Contact: 07340 589375 or john@parishofbridport.org

ECO CHURCH NEWS

Saturday **17 May** – **Deanery Creation / Eco day** 2pm to 4.30 pm and Saturday **27 September** - **Parish Green Day** 10am till 4pm – both events at St Mary's Church Bridport.

Janet Webster - Eco Church Sub Committee

MOTHER'S UNION

Be part of the MU's 2025 global commitment against gender-based violence. Our local MU has a fund raising social event through a sketching workshop with a local artist. Tuesday **8 April** from 2pm in the Walditch village hall, DT6 4LB. Will be looking at Jo Swinney's (Lent Book) sketches illustrating different types of flora, fauna, animal and sea creatures in danger of existence. Demonstrations of different media / techniques given, warm-up activities to develop confidence and skill. Sketching of objects for half an hour, tea break to look at each other's work, bit more sketching / socialising (45 mins). Please book via Michele Craddock on 01308 458725 or email: mmcraddock4321@outlook.com Donation to MU on the day would be appreciated.

WHAT IS A PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE?

It is a 6-week course starting in May. Its aim is to equip as many as possible with skills needed for safe and appropriate practice to support those who may need it in the parish. The skills taught are eminently transferable to many aspects of our communal life and will enhance you both practically and spiritually.

No commitment for ongoing volunteering is expected, but an opportunity to seek God's purpose in our lives will be available after the course. Need to know more, got some questions... *Great!!!!*

Come along to an OPEN MEETING on Sunday **27 April** from 4pm to 5pm in St Mary's Church Bridport. We would *love* to see you there, and together, through our pastoral care in the Parish, we can continue in our work of **Making Jesus Known**.

Diana Wright

30 March 2025

Fourth Sunday of LENT
PARISH NEWS



Greetings from Bridport's worshipping community

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Mothering Sunday is often a day of mixed emotions. It is a day on which many of us celebrate and give thanks for our Mothers and others who have loved us and nourished us, but it is also a day in which we acknowledge loss and recognise grief, both in our own lives and in the lives of others who we are close to, including those in our Church family.

At this time, I give thanks for my own Mother, who lived a full life into her 90's but who died in the Covid years, at least partially from working too hard in her house and garden when her normal sources of support were unavailable. There always will be part of me wondering how long she might have gone on if we hadn't had the pandemic. Anne and I also remember our many years of childlessness before we adopted our elder Son, years in which turning up at church on Mothering Sunday was just too painful. These memories make me aware that some of you have suffered loss more profoundly and deeply than me.

Our readings today teach us of the importance of showing love and support to one another. Paul, writing to the Colossians, told them to clothe themselves with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. This is wonderful – yet aspirational and deeply challenging. Please don't ask Anne if I am always patient - I suspect you could guess her answer! Paul also called us to forgive each other as the Lord has forgiven us.

In a healthy Christian community, others can often see the Holy Spirit at work, and sense the reality of Jesus' love for all, in the ways in which we value our differences and express different points of view lovingly. In the Parish of Bridport, with our six churches representing the breadth of Christian spirituality, we have a God given opportunity to do this well, but we can only do this when we depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and work through us.

In our Gospel reading we see Jesus, hanging on the cross, recognising even in his deep suffering the need of his Mother Mary and the beloved disciple (generally thought to be John) for mutual support in their days of grief. I give thanks for the wonderful, caring pastoral ministry shown by many in our Parish – and also for the Pastoral Skills course which will begin after Easter. Do pray that it will be a blessing, both to those who join it and those whom they will serve.

Revd John Rees

COLLECT

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross
drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(or)

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

READINGS

Colossians 3 : 12 - 17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 19 : 25b - 27

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Psalm 34 : 11 - 20

Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good? Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

THURSDAY PARISH 'CYCLE OF PRAYER'

First and third Thursdays of the month 3.30-4.30pm.
3 April Holy Trinity Bradpole and **17 April** St Mary's Walditch

ELECTORAL ROLL

Application forms - to go on the Electoral Roll - will be in each of the six churches of the Parish from the **6th April** in accordance with the electoral roll timetable, and will have to be returned before Saturday **26th April**.

James Craddock - Electoral Roll Officer

OTHONA QUIET DAY

"Christ's Passion in God's Creation" 12 April from 9.30am-4pm. The Revd Canon John Wood will lead our time of quiet and reflection as we approach Holy Week. To book a place contact Bridget (07952 517764) £16 per person includes lunch.

ST MARY'S CHURCH BRIDPORT FLOWER & QUILT FESTIVAL

27-29 June Celebrate the town's colour & vibrancy.

GOOD BOOKS EASTER

Easter cards + new or good-condition (used) adult books on Easter, plus Easter story and activity books for children. We would be very pleased to see you, do come and have a browse. Thank you. *Janice*