

May 2024

# *the* **Bridge**

A community magazine for Bridport  
supported by the Anglican Church



**THE PARISH OF BRIDPORT**

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**Beacon Church, Priory Lane** 456031 office

**The Christian Fellowship** 458227

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**The advertising and copy deadline  
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# Learning to press pause: the gift of time out

**“Keep the Sabbath, it’s holy to you... because in six days God made the heavens and the earth and on the seventh day he stopped and took a long deep breath... Keep my days of rest, for this is something special between me and you forever.” Exodus 31 (The Message)**

Next month I’m taking a sabbatical, a gift from the Methodist Church to its ministers every seven years. It’s based on the biblical principle of Sabbath as a time of rest that allows us to “stop and take a long deep breath” as God did. As the church puts it, a sabbatical is “a chance to do something different that will inform and perhaps re-enthuse ministers in their ministry; a time of grace allowing them to spend time with God doing something different; a time for refreshment and renewal... to be able to hear the still small voice of God.”

Businesses and organisations are increasingly offering sabbaticals to employees, but even if we don’t have that opportunity, it’s important to try and take time in our daily lives to press the “pause” button, to stop, look, listen, notice and enjoy being in the moment.

We live in a world of constant pressure to be on the move, planning for the next deadline or event, checking social media and messages. All this affects our ability to focus on one thing, or one person, at a time, and to resist the temptation to squeeze one more thing into our day.

In his book *The Power of Pause*, Terry Hershey suggests that society values people by how busy they are, so we ask and talk about how busy we are. But the danger of being so busy is that we have no “white space” in our calendars, no space that isn’t filled with stuff to do, so we’re always hurried and stressed.

That way of living means we have conversations where neither we nor the other person is really there, because while we’re talking or in a meeting, we’re also sending emails or texting rather than paying full attention.

He tells the story of a little boy who asks his mum: “Mummy, will you listen to me, but this time, will

you listen with your eyes?” because he wants his mum to actually “be here” with him, paying him full attention.

Hershey argues that what many of us are missing in our lives is giving ourselves permission to just “be here”,

*Taking time to be still helps us to notice and give thanks for the beauty of the present moment*

so we need to learn the “wisdom of two spaces”.

One space is where we get stuff done, we’re active and productive, which is good. The other space, often neglected and overlooked, is where we pause: for prayer, reflection, renewal, to “be here” with God or Jesus, for poetry and friendship or even just doing nothing.

Paying attention to that second space is really important because it allows our souls to catch up with our bodies. Taking time out to pause and be still helps us to notice and give thanks for the beauty of the present moment. The writers of the Psalms were good at that, and Jesus regularly took time out to be alone with God as part of the rhythm of his ministry.

During the Covid-19 lockdowns many people reported feeling more in touch with the rhythms of nature because the limitations on movement meant they had more time to pause and become aware of the world around them.

So maybe this summer we can all try to be fully present to each moment or each person we encounter, looking and listening attentively, and give ourselves that time of grace allowing ourselves to spend time with God doing something different, allowing ourselves a time for refreshment and renewal, a time to be able to hear the still small voice of God.

Because that’s something we all need, for the good of our souls, as well as our bodies.

*The Revd Jane Wilson  
Bridport United Church*



**The Revd Jane Wilson**

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# This year's Christian Aid Week appeal will help people in Burundi to escape poverty

**Christian Aid Week (CAW) 2024 focuses on Burundi, one of the smallest countries in Africa and the second poorest in the world. The global cost of living crisis has intensified challenges for families there, and malnourishment and poverty now affect more than 70% of the population.**



Poverty robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. Aline Nibogora (pictured) was married young and had her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14. She experienced constant abuse from her violent husband, who then married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children, and cruelly told the local community that she was mentally ill and unable to care for them.

"I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep," Aline says. "Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being."

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life through a transformative three-day community workshop funded by Christian Aid. She learnt how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs let people save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally, and in time bought a bicycle for carrying her goods. Eventually, she rented a house, allowing her three eldest sons to escape their father and join her. Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own land, where she has baked bricks and built a strong home for her family. "I am so happy that we are together," she says. "Now my children feel supported as they have a parent who can meet their needs."

You can change someone's life in Burundi with so little. Just £5 could buy a savings book to help them set up a small business; £27 could buy a lockable safe to protect a community's savings, hopes and dreams; £100 could train 10 people to support their families in starting small businesses, such as selling home-grown vegetables.

You can help in several ways, such as helping to drop off envelopes, or acting as a collection point. Or take part in this year's CAW Challenge, '70K in May' – that's

just over 2km (1.5 miles) per day, running, walking, cycling, swimming – however you fancy! There's more information online at [fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/fundraising-ideas](https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/fundraising-ideas) and you can donate to Bridport's CAW campaign here: [fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/bridport](https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/bridport). Thank you!

*Jill Henderson  
Organiser, Christian  
Aid Churches Together  
in Bridport*

*07970 685665 / jillpetrina13@gmail.com*



**Aline Nibogora with the bicycle she bought with help from Christian Aid**

## St Swithun's Church Grounds

**Community**  
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Do not miss our **PLANT SALE!** **10am-1pm**  
**Saturday 18 May 2024**

**PLANTS, Clothes, Bric a Brac, Tombola, Jazz Cafe, Drinks, Bacon Butties, Produce and (free) Charity Stalls**

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Find us in Allington, Bridport **FREE Admission**

# All aboard the Number 7! Passenger feedback leads to improved community bus service

**The Service 7 bus has been revised (from April) to include some changes taken from passenger feedback.**

The warm and comfy Number 7 community bus is an around-town service linking places such as Court Orchard, Skilling and Bradpole to the town centre, hospital and shops on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The drivers speak warmly about their passengers – “It’s like driving your neighbours around!” – and passengers describe it as a lifeline. Regulars include the elderly and visually impaired, and drivers will help them on to the bus with their shopping.

The revised route for each of the two circuits starts and finishes at Morrisons rather than the bus station. The timetable and map have been adapted and printed in a larger format to make them easier to read.

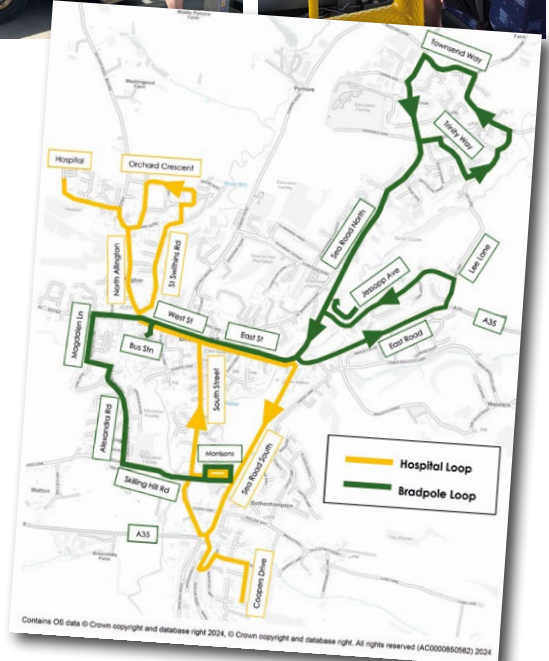
There is plenty of room for more passengers, so if you’d like to see the timetable (and a larger map than shown on this page) go to [www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/visit/map-directions](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/visit/map-directions) or pop into Bridport Tourist Information Centre on Bucky Doo Square for a free hard copy.

There are flat-rate fares of £2 a single journey, £1 for under-19s and free for under-7s. Concessionary passes are accepted.

Service 7 is provided by Dorset Community Transport and funded by Bridport Town Council.

*Caroline Pearce*

*Project Manager, Bridport Town Council*



## Annual appeal for donations

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

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

1. It’s quick and easy to donate online through the Charities Aid Foundation, and the site will

automatically process your Gift Aid if you tick the relevant box. You’ll find our donations page here: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14198>

2. You can send a cheque, payable to ‘St Swithun’s DCC’, to The Bridge, Allington Lodge, 52 West Allington, Bridport DT6 5BH.

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

## Bridge

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

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

# Parish Green Day answers a call to action

**The recent Parish Green Day brought together representatives from the six Parish of Bridport churches to explore ways to nurture and protect wildlife – around church buildings, through worship and via community engagement – using A Rocha’s Eco Church scheme.**

“What a wonderful day!” says Janet Webster, leader of the parish’s Eco Church sub-committee. “We had lively discussions, surveys to complete and discuss, excellent speakers and guests from other green organisations in Bridport.

“Eco Church encourages us to look at five areas of our lives, to assess through a survey how we’re doing, then plan some simple targets to improve our custodianship of the natural world. The scheme rewards certain milestones with Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.”

Gill Perrott from Beaminster Church kicked off the morning session with a presentation about the church’s successful work towards the Eco Church Gold award.

Workshops for individual churches then allowed representatives to work out their current position in respect of the A Rocha scheme, and make a six-month plan of action.



Guests from other environmental groups visited at lunchtime. Alison Little from Bee Friendly Bridport (pictured left) presented two bee boxes for the churchyards at St Swithun’s and St Mary’s Bridport. Then the afternoon began with a clear message

from Miriam and Christopher from Wild and Messy Church: young people are the future, and everyone must work harder to make a better world.

Lesley Windsor from Sustainable Bridport gave a lively talk, and there was a presentation by David Morgan from A Rocha and the Diocese of Salisbury. Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector, closed the afternoon.

“Our six churches are now all registered for Eco Church,” says Janet, “and a second Bronze award has been achieved as a result of the Green Day, too. Many thanks to all who took part in the day or helped to make it happen. Our Eco Church journey continues! Come and join us – you’ll be very welcome.”

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MAY 2024						
Date	St Mary's Bridport	St Swithun's Allington	Holy Trinity Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity Bradpole	St Mary's Walditch	St John's West Bay*
Wed 1	2.30pm HC					
Thurs 2		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<b>Sun 5</b> 6th Sun of Easter	8am BCP HC	<b>10am Parish Eucharist</b> 4pm CC				
Mon 6						10am Morning Prayer
Tues 7				2.30pm Holy Communion		
Thurs 9 Ascension Day		10am Eucharist	7pm Evening HC service for Ascension Day		10am Morning Praise	
<b>Sun 12</b> 7th Sun of Easter	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am HC
Mon 13						10am Morning Prayer
Thurs 16		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<b>Sun 19</b> Pentecost APCM	8am BCP HC			<b>10am Parish HC followed by APCM</b> 11.30am Bradpole Brunch (village hall)		
Mon 20						10am Morning Prayer
Thurs 23		10am Eucharist				
Sat 25						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
<b>Sun 26</b> Trinity Sunday	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am HC	11am HC	11am Morning Praise
Mon 27						10am Morning Prayer
Thurs 30		10am Eucharist				

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church / APCM = Annual parochial church mtg



**Bridport Choral Society presents**

**'Now is the month of Maying'**

**Saturday 11 May at 7.30pm  
Bridport United Church**

Featuring works by Mozart, Karl Jenkins and Thomas Morley, traditional English folk songs and a spiritual, contemporary songs and a medley from Mamma Mia

Tickets £13 (incl. programme & refreshments) from Bridport Music Centre, Smith & Smith or on the door.

Musical Director:  
*James Crawshaw*  
Accompanist:  
*Peter Parshall*



**The Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole present**

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

**The Red Kyte Band**

**Friday 10 May at 7pm in Bradpole Church**

*£10 per person to include a cheese platter  
Drinks by donation*

Booking essential: tel 01308 420716  
Payment in advance or on the door

**Bridport Area Development Trust**

**Volunteer trustee required with experience of building services and maintenance**

A charity dedicated to improving the wellbeing and resources of the community in Bridport is looking to recruit a trustee with knowledge of building maintenance. Bridport Area Development Trust (BADT) has been responsible for innovative initiatives in the town, not least the Literary and Scientific Institute (LSI) in East Street and the multi-award-winning West Bay Discovery Centre. BADT is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee established in 2009 and run by eight volunteer trustees. The trust works in partnership to identify, plan and deliver projects that meet local need and provide long-term economic, social and cultural benefit to Bridport and beyond.

The Trust employs managing agents to deal with day-to-day maintenance and liaise with tenants, and you will be responsible for approving higher-value works, liaising as necessary with the tenants and advising fellow trustees of planned maintenance and any substantial repairs.

Experience of building services, maintenance, construction or engineering is essential. You will need to think logically, have a command of operating systems and possess the interpersonal skills to interact confidently and effectively to identify problems and their appropriate solutions.

BADT Chair Phyllida Culpin said: "We are a tight-knit, focused, hands-on and supportive team and would be delighted to welcome a new member who is equally enthusiastic about actively giving something back to their community.

"The trust will consider any project in and around Bridport that has a regenerative benefit, especially if it is of an economic and/or educational nature, and a top priority for BADT support is sustainability."

For a role description and a recruitment pack, email [mail@bridportadt.org.uk](mailto:mail@bridportadt.org.uk) or call 07810 708591 for an informal discussion.



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# Is your family commemorated on the bells of St Mary's? Get in touch for this centenary project!

**In the last issue we brought you news of the forthcoming centenary of the eight bells in St Mary's Bridport. The ringing team and other members of the church are preparing to celebrate this important event and are launching an appeal to fund repairs and an upgrade.**

In 1924, the people of Bridport arranged for the complete recasting and renewal of the bells in St Mary's. Each bell bears an inscription commemorating one or more of the families who contributed towards the cost.

"Many of the people mentioned on the bells have descendants living in Bridport now," says Bob Hardwick, Tower Captain, "and we'd like to mark the occasion by acknowledging each family's important contribution to bellringing in the town.

"We're asking them to contact us and tell us what they know about their 1924 family, as we plan to compile a memorial book of these stories. We'll also arrange for them to see their family bell in the tower, to sound it and hear its note, and even to have a go at bell ringing if they'd like to."

## The inscriptions are as follows:

**Treble bell. No 1.** *To the glory of God, two bells were added & the peal completed in the Jubilee year of the reign of Queen Victoria, AD 1887*

*EJLB Henslowe, Rector; S Whetham, JW Hartgill, Churchwardens*

*Re-cast AD 1924, in memory of Edward Humphreys, killed in action, 1915*

**2nd** *Jubilate Deo. From the women of Bridport, AD 1887. Re-cast by the women of Bridport AD 1924*

**3rd** *Added AD 1843. R Broadley, Rector*



*Re-cast AD 1887. Re-cast AD 1924 by the Sunday School teachers & scholars of the parish*

**4th** *AD 1681. RD, ND, CW. Re-cast AD 1887*

*Re-cast AD 1924 by St Mary's Ringers*

*WH Bishop (C). J Tompkins. TCS Podger (VC)*

*E Manuel. WSB Northover (HS). F Beer. J Gale.*

*VSC Keech. WJ Zealley. CW Crabb. ET Spencer*

**5th** *John Colfox, Elias Punfield, churchwardens*

*Cast by Thomas Bayly, Bridgwater AD 1764*

*Re-cast AD 1887 at the cost of William Colfox*

*Re-cast AD 1924 in memory of Thomas David Colfox, Killed in action, 1918*

**6th** *AD 1727. Re-cast 1843. Re-cast AD 1924 to God's glory & in memory of William Kerridge Brown, churchwarden 1854-1855*

**7th** *AD 1630. Re-cast AD 1887. Re-cast AD 1924 in memory of JA Collins L.R 1873-1908*

*S Whetham c.w. 1887. W James c.w. 1898*

*WB Northover c.w. 1902. AM Furlonge, priest*

*Caroline Suttill. Fanny George. SJ Alden, MD*

**8th** *Sing praise to God. AD 1734. Re-cast AD 1887*

*Re-cast AD 1843. R Tucker, ES Knight, churchwardens*

*Re-cast AD 1924, in memory of FJ Balson, c.w.1914-15 by Sarah his wife. JW Coulter, Rector*

*WSB Northover, E Clarke, churchwardens*

*The gift of John Grancell and Joan, his wife*

**Please get in touch with your stories! You can email Bob Hardwick: [bob@leanenergy.co.uk](mailto:bob@leanenergy.co.uk)**

## Tower Open Days: all from 10am except 29 May

*Come and visit the tower, see the bells, chime them, ring the Ellacombe Apparatus, ring a handbell, have a cake, get a coffee!*

Saturday 18 May (Charter Fair). Tower open & church refreshments.

Sat 25 May, the first day day of celebrations. Tower open & church refreshments. Quarter peal 2.30pm.

Wed 29 May, full peal day. Peal from 12.30pm, refreshments from 2 pm.

Sat 15 June. Tower open & church refreshments.

Sat 20 July. Tower open & church refreshments.

Sat 17 August (Carnival Weekend). Tower open & church refreshments.

Sat 7 September (Hat Festival). Tower open & church refreshments.

Sat 21 September. Tower open & church refreshments.

Sat 19 October. Tower open & church refreshments.



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# Millennium Green is a wildlife haven in the town

**Sometimes, building projects can have unexpected advantages. This was the case in 2000 when Churchill Retirement Living wanted to build retirement properties next to Mountfield.**

Our story begins in 1786, when William Downe purchased land on the southern slope of Coneygar Hill to the north of Bridport and built himself a fine house there – Downe Hall. He was a Bridport local with fishing interests at West Bay, but was also a London merchant. It is likely that when Downe Hall was built, several trees were planted on the hill behind the house, and these include the famous Lucombe oak, a cross between a turkey oak and a cork oak first propagated by an Exeter nurseryman around 1765. Another splendid tree from the same era is the lime tree on the east side of Mountfield. By 1839 the estate included most of the land from the gardens between Rax Lane and Downe Hall all the way through Victoria Grove to Dodhams Lane. You pass through the pillars marking the southern entrance to the house and estate as you approach the woodland from Mountfield.

Alfred Dammers bought the hall in 1894 and altered and extended the house as well as establishing a new terrace garden and a woodland. The 'Ice House' by the current entrance to the wood is actually part of a bridge that carried the road up to the house.

In 1999 that new development (Alfred Lodge) gave the opportunity for the town to acquire much of the estate as part of the Millennium celebrations, and in 2000 West Dorset District Council vested the land to

Bridport Millennium Green Trust. Coneygar Hill is now registered with Historic England for its Historic Landscape Importance (Grade 2) and the gardens, meadow and encircling woodland have become an invaluable asset for residents and visitors – human and otherwise!

The meadow and woodland are part of the crucial green patchwork of sites that provide a home for wildlife around Bridport and this is a marvellous place to visit and enjoy. Woodland trees include beech, ash, maple and oak, with occasional hornbeam and lime



trees on the eastern side of the hill. The mature pines are the remains of a plantation that once covered a large part of the hill's west side. More recently, we have planted several hundred native shrubs and trees to improve the area for wildlife. Woodland flowers include ramsons (wild garlic) and bluebells, there are extensive badger setts, and occasionally roe deer are seen. Over 30 bird species have been recorded and small mammals abound in the lightly cattle-grazed grassland, while several butterfly species take advantage of the bramble and other foodplants.

Would you like to be involved? The trust is looking for new trustees to help make sure the land is kept in good heart for future generations. For more information and contact details, visit our website at [www.bridportmillenniumgreen.co.uk](http://www.bridportmillenniumgreen.co.uk).

*Alan Bowley*

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# Here's the buzz about Bee Friendly Bridport's trail launch



**Bee Friendly Bridport is a community group that's spreading the word about the importance of all pollinators and how habitat loss puts them at risk. It was set up last year by the team at The Dorset Bee – a group of natural beekeepers – and the Symondsburry School Bee Club.**

The group launched its campaign at the Charter Fair last May and since then members have been telling individuals, groups and organisations about things they can do to support pollinators, and how these actions can have a positive effect on natural ecosystems and biodiversity. The suggestions include growing more pollinator-friendly plants, leaving areas to grow wild, cutting grass less often, leaving insect nests undisturbed and trying to reduce the use of pesticides. The group has also been giving out information about how to build bug hotels and how to complete a pollinator survey.

The culmination of all this hard work was the launch of the group's Bee Hotel Trail on 30 March this year in Bucky Doo Square. John Collingwood, the town crier, alerted the residents of Bridport to the trail and the afternoon's celebrations with the following words: *"Just 10% of bees have Queens on their thrones, Exploit workers, live in hives, make honey & fly drones. The rest of the 250 species are the gentle, solitary bee, Carpenter, masons, leafcutters, to name but three. For biodiversity these creatures are the best, And the least we can do is give them somewhere to nest. There are 12 hotels in town, just for that purpose, Visit them now, and then the Buzztastic Bee Circus."*



The Bee Hotel Trail was sponsored by the Bredy Veterinary Centre and the bee hotels themselves were lovingly crafted by members of the Bridport Community Shed. They are sited close to a range of businesses and community groups that have agreed to be involved, namely: 1 Red Brick Cafe; 2 Bridport Community Orchard; 3 St Mary's Church; 4 The Woodman; 5 Chapel in the Garden; 6 Bredy Veterinary Centre; 7 Bridport Community Shed; 8 Mountfield; 9 Coneygar Hill; 10 Borough Gardens; 11 St Swithun's Church; 12 The Cowshed at plot 17.

A map of the trail is available from the Tourist Information Centre, from some of the locations above, or to view or download at [www.beefriendlybridport.org](http://www.beefriendlybridport.org). Each hotel also has a QR code that links to the map.

Bee Friendly Bridport's aim for 2024 is to apply for an award from the Bee Friendly Trust, which recognises villages, towns and cities that have demonstrated a commitment to being more bee-friendly. Bridport would benefit from this 'Bee Friendly Town' status as it would help to focus residents' efforts to provide and protect pollinator habitats, and provide a springboard for further environmental and social projects.

Recipients of the award will be announced on World Bee Day, 20 May.

**Clockwise from left: Bridport Mayor Cllr Dave Bolwell was at the launch of Bee Friendly Bridport's Bee Hotel Trail at the end of March; a bee hotel installed in a tree; the back of a bee hotel; and the front**





# Harmony: supporting wellbeing in

**Harmony has been a vital part of Bridport's wellbeing support network for almost a decade, providing group sessions and individual care for anyone who needs help with their mental health.**

Harmony provides mental health support in two main ways. The daytime drop-in sessions offer a safe, social space for anyone who needs it, with optional activities such as arts and crafts, yoga, or gardening at the charity's allotment by Bridport Community Orchard. There's no referral or booking system, just a friendly welcome from Harmony volunteers, along with a hot drink and biscuits and a chance to chat and join in as much, or as little, as visitors feel like.

These sessions, which have space for up to 25 people, are held each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 1pm at Harmony, plus 11am to 1pm most Tuesdays at the allotment (weather permitting). There's also MENTal Health, a men's walking group, on Tuesday afternoons, and Pilates on Monday afternoons (these two activities are free but it's a good idea to call

beforehand to check availability – details are online).

“Our drop-ins are an early intervention tactic, a way of catching emotional needs early, when people are feeling a bit wobbly,” says Carrie Gamble, Harmony CEO. “We want to reduce isolation and make people feel part of a community. Loneliness is often a precursor to mental health issues – admitting ‘I'm lonely’ is a big step, but once someone's taken it, they've started on the path to increased self-esteem and reduced anxiety.

“We have about 100 people on our books for the drop-ins, although not everyone comes regularly. Many have established a strong social network through Harmony, which is enormously helpful in supporting wellbeing.”

## **Safe harbour in a storm**

Harmony's other regular offer is the Community Front Room (CFR), an NHS-commissioned service providing one-to-one support from qualified staff for anyone facing a mental health crisis. It runs from 2.15 to 9.45pm, Thursday to Sunday, and between 12 and 15

people visit over a typical session, although there's capacity for 19. As the testimonials on Harmony's website prove, this service is a literal lifesaver.

“CFR is for people who've reached crisis point – they need help to stay safe tonight,” says Carrie. “People will sometimes come back several times in an evening to talk if they're really struggling. They get help from our qualified staff, who are from different walks of life and come to us through different routes: at the moment they include a mental health practitioner and a mental health nurse, plus two peer specialists with lived experience.”

Harmony's CFR is part of a network of similar facilities in the region – the others are at Wareham, Weymouth, Shaftesbury and Bournemouth University. People often visit Harmony from outside Bridport, however – even if they live nearer one of the other CFRs – so they can be anonymous. They can also attend by video call or phone if they can't get to the centre.

## **A bright future**

The charity is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an exciting upgrade: at the end of May it will be moving just a couple of hundred metres from its current building, the Assembly Rooms on Gundry Lane, to larger premises on St Michael's Trading Estate.

“We've outgrown this building and we need more space,” says Rachel Coney, Chair of Trustees. “There's no disabled access, which we absolutely should have, and



**Left: the warm, welcoming interior at Harmony's current premises on Gundry Lane**

# the Bridport community since 2014

**Harmony's drop-in activities include gardening at the centre's allotment and arts and crafts as well as a chance to chat over a cuppa**

we need a more flexible layout. The new Harmony Centre, as it'll be called, will also give us more confidential space for private one-to-one sessions, and more office space so all our staff will be able to work there, rather than at home."

Harmony has secured a grant of £365,000 over five years from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities England programme. This is funding the restructure that accompanies the move – including the appointment of a full-time operations manager and a part-time administrator last October – and help the charity to deliver foundation systems and processes. Funding also comes from the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation and the Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Foundation, as well as smaller grants from Bridport Town Council and donations from local businesses and individuals.

"These are significant sums of money, and we need to give our funders confidence," says Rachel. "We're working hard to prove that



we're a mature organisation with good controls."

The Lottery money won't, however, cover the refurbishment of the building, and Harmony has launched a Crowdfunder appeal to ask the local community to help with this additional £6,000.

### **Want to get involved?**

Harmony always needs more volunteers – people to help at the drop-in, meet and greet, make tea, chat to people while they're waiting – and currently has vacancies for paid staff, too. The paid positions include bank staff for the CFR to cover holidays and other absence. "Our CFR shifts are eight hours, but staff don't need to commit to doing the whole shift," says Carrie.



We're a friendly, skilled team, and we offer training where we can. We hope people will come forward – it's very rewarding."

### **Harmony's timetable:**

**Mondays** 10am–1pm: Arts & crafts and social

2.30–3.30pm: Easy Pilates

**Tuesdays** 11am–1pm: Gardening and social at allotment

2–4pm: Men's Health Walk

**Wednesdays** 10am–1pm: Social drop-in

**Fridays** 10am–1pm: Friday wellbeing sessions (see website for programme)

**Carers' support group:** third Tuesday of each month, 7–8.30pm

**Bereavement support group** (in partnership with A G Down): first Thursday of the month, 10–11.30am

**Community Front Room:** 2.15–9.45pm, Thursday to Sunday

*For information about joining the team, please email [harmonyinfo@harmonydropin.org.uk](mailto:harmonyinfo@harmonydropin.org.uk)*

*[www.harmonydropin.org.uk](http://www.harmonydropin.org.uk) and on Facebook.*

*[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-burrough-harmony-centre-1170086](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-burrough-harmony-centre-1170086)*

### **As a reward for 10 years of supporting the community's wellbeing, Harmony received the King's Award for Voluntary Service in November.**

The team are anticipating an invitation to a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace this summer as a result. "It's a huge honour – like an MBE for charities," says CEO Carrie Gamble. "One of our founders, Roz Copson, will be going to the palace, plus someone who was a visitor and became a volunteer. It's very nice to be recognised in this way."





## ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967  
 Director of music – Tim Linsley  
 07830 308701  
 Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

### Light!

At the end of March, as the days grew longer, as the clocks changed, as Easter dawned, the symbol of light grew in significance as St Mary's celebrated Holy Week.

As Lent drew to a close, a small group met on Maundy Thursday evening to remember the day when Jesus washed his disciples' feet and first broke bread and shared wine. We celebrated by having our feet washed and sharing Holy Communion together. On Good Friday, using a poem called I Thirst, we remembered the pain and agony of Jesus' death on the cross. The poem ends with these words:

"Give us the courage to still our feet, to lower our fists, and stay with you, where you already are, in the places where you suffer still."

To help our reflection, images of the cross were interspersed with images of pain, suffering and light across the world today, while a selection of music was played, including songs from Lebanon.

On Easter Eve, we were joined by the five other churches in the Parish of Bridport for fish and chips around the light of the firepit. Then, following the single lighted Paschal



**Members of the Parish of Bridport carried lit Paschal candles to each of the six churches (above); a cross made from the bare branches of St Mary's Christmas tree was decorated with flowers for Easter (below left); the Easter Day service ended with a hymn outside**

(Easter) candle into the unlit church, we felt we were entering a dark tomb. Each of us lit our own candle from the Paschal candle, reminding ourselves afresh that Jesus is the light of the world, and the church became bathed in candlelight.

The service ended with the six lit Paschal candles – one for each church in the parish – being carried out of St Mary's to be taken to the churches (*pictured above*).

And so Easter Day 2024 dawned, and the more adventurous assembled on the East Pier at West Bay at 6am for the Churches Together dawn service. Back at St Mary's we held our Easter Communion service, which included adding flowers to the bare cross made from the dead trunk and branches of our church Christmas tree (*pictured left*). The service ended with us leaving the church building and meeting in the churchyard (*also pictured left*) to sing the final hymn, Thine Be the Glory – our first step this Easter in taking the good news that Jesus is alive from inside the building of St Mary's to the community outside.

*Peter Wright*



*Covid-19 made an impact in many ways, and many 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.*





## HOLY TRINITY Bothenhampton

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

### From the parish editor

This month begins with the exhibition of hobbies on Saturday 4 May in Holy Trinity Church from 10am to 4pm; this will combine with the usual monthly coffee morning. There will be a cake stall but no books or puzzles this time. Light lunches will be available and teas in the afternoon. Do come and see what interesting activities people pursue. The following coffee morning will be on Saturday 1 June.

The Luncheon Club will meet in the village hall on Thursday 9 May, and this will be the last meal until October. To enjoy a hot two-course lunch, please book a place with Heather on 423220.

Rogation Sunday, when we give thanks to God for the work of farmers and growers, is on 5 May. As it is traditional for Holy Trinity to observe Rogationtide, which this year falls on a parish service day, the Morning Praise service on 12 May will acknowledge this season. The very wet winter and spring have been particularly challenging for farmers, who need help through our prayers. We will process through the village to the church, starting at the Old Church at 10.30am, and anyone is welcome to join in. After the service there will be a church meeting for everyone.

## Hobbies in Bothenhampton

A display of crafts, models and interests  
Saturday 4 May, 10am to 4pm  
Holy Trinity Church

10am to 12 noon: Usual coffee morning with cakes  
12 to 2pm: Soup and sandwiches  
2 to 4pm: Tea and biscuits



*Come and chat to  
the hobbyists about  
their pastimes  
and why they  
enjoy them*

## Luncheon Club

at Bothenhampton Village Hall

Thursday 9 May

From 12 noon; lunch served at 12.30pm

*Come and enjoy a two-course hot lunch with others*

• Steak & ale pie or homity pie

• Fresh fruit salad

Price £5.50 per head

Please book so we

have numbers for catering:

Heather Purse 423220

[heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heatherpurse@yahoo.co.uk)



Holy Trinity is now registered with A Rocha's Eco Church programme. This is an award scheme for churches who want to demonstrate how they care for God's world in their worship and how they look after their buildings and land. We have been awarded bronze status for our initial work in the church garden and on how we use the building.

The roof of Holy Trinity has now been repaired. The loose, broken and missing stone slates have been replaced. Thanks to Minterne Roofing for the work.

Bothenhampton handbell ringers will be supporting St Mary's Bridport at the end of the month. They will join the celebrations to mark the centenary of the recasting of the current tower bells in a concert on 25 May. After 100 years the bells are in need of repair work, which will cost around £25,000, so lots of fundraising activities are being planned throughout the rest of the year.

*Barbara Ffooks*

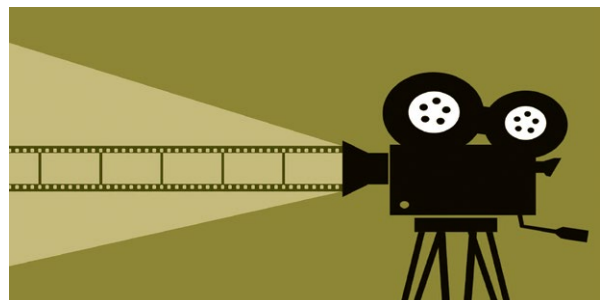
### FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 25 May – title to be announced

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5 • Refreshments available

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



## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232  
[douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com](mailto:douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com)  
 Tower captain – Janet Robinson  
 07913 549946 / [jrb-jrb@outlook.com](mailto:jrb-jrb@outlook.com)  
 For pastoral or personal issues, please  
 contact the Revd Janis Moore 425644  
 (Wednesday is her day off)

### Tots@Ten

Pre-school children are welcome to join others, with parents and carers, normally every Wednesday during term time in the church where there is lots of space and toys to play with. Refreshments are served.

### Village lunch club

Do come to The King's Head for a social and reasonably priced lunch on Tuesdays 14 and 28 May. Please let Daphne King (427552) know if you will be coming so she has the numbers for catering.

### The Red Kyte Band

There will be an evening of live music from the 60s and beyond in the church on Friday 10 May at 7pm. The event is being organised by The Friends of Holy Trinity and will cost £10 per person, to include a cheese platter. Drinks will be available by donation. Booking is essential for catering purposes – please phone 420716. Payment can be made in advance or on the door.

### Christian Aid Week

There will be a coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid Week in the church on Thursday 16 May from 10am to 12 noon. The event will feature a 'Bake for Burundi' cake stall so please bring along your best bakes to raise money for Burundi, one of the smallest and poorest African countries. There will also be a bring-and-buy plant stall.

### Bradpole Parish Council

The council's final meeting took place on Thursday 14 March in the village hall and the full minutes are on the revamped community-based website for the Bradpole ward of Bridport Town Council: [www.bradpole.org.uk/bradpole-content/uploads/2024/03/FINAL-March-Minutes-2024.pdf](http://www.bradpole.org.uk/bradpole-content/uploads/2024/03/FINAL-March-Minutes-2024.pdf)  
 The matters discussed included the following:

- New paths – Gore Cross Recreation Ground and



## Bradpole Brunch

for children and their families



### Would you walk on by? Or be a Good Samaritan?

Come and hear the bible story and take part in activities, songs and prayers. All starting with bacon rolls or cheese toasties

**Sunday 19 May, 11.30am to 12.30pm**  
**Bradpole Village Hall**

Pageants Field. The clerk said that unfortunately owing to the wet weather it had not been possible to lay the paths but she would follow up with the contractor. She added that if the works were not completed by 31 March, Bridport Town Council would still honour the work.

- Bradpole archives. This project was two-thirds complete and had involved lots of input by councillors. Some areas were still outstanding, and there would be a meeting in April to finalise remaining bits before work starts on compiling all the information into a first draft.
- Moveable assets. The clerk said a list of the moveable assets had been circulated to all. It was unanimously agreed that the assets be gifted as proposed: Bradpole Fete Committee – gazebo; Bradpole Village Hall – display boards, overhead projector and extension lead, photocopier, shredder, desk and office chair.
- Bradpole Buzz Group. The group had asked about the provision of a water butt for Pageants Field but after discussion it was felt this might pose health and safety issues and a water bowser might be a better option for Bridport Town Council to consider.
- The Monarch's Way Association had been assessing the possibility of installing interpretation boards along the 650-mile Monarch's Way footpath. In Bradpole, this would be near the memorial stone of King Charles II (pictured right) at the top of Lea Lane. The association would pay all costs. The suggestion would be carried over to Bridport Town Council.
- Bank balances – current account: £35,372.76. The Clerk said there was



**HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...**

around £10,000 still to be paid out of agreed expenditure and around £5,500 of VAT to be reclaimed, so the balance to be transferred to Bridport Town Council was expected to be around £30,000\*.

- The clerk, Sandy Goldsmith, took the opportunity to thank all councillors past and present who had served during her 16 years as clerk. She also thanked the deputy clerk, Jo Hughes, for her work over the last three years.
- Chairman Colin Baker’s closing remarks. The parish council was being dissolved after 130 years, having been founded in 1894. While councillors had determined the policy direction of the parish council, and maintenance of the civil parish, this could not have been fully implemented without the work of the valued clerks who would be transferring to Bridport Town Council, providing continuity for residents. He thanked the councillors, both past and present, as well as clerks and the volunteer community groups for their work over the years for Bradpole residents.

*\*The balance carried over is expected to be used within the new Bradpole Ward, but this cannot be guaranteed. Bridport Town Council has committed*

*to maintaining the parish as before and will consider future projects. DB*

**Bradpole Buzz Group**

The group would love some support with the following:

- Practical help with planting
- Offers of wild plants and seeds from your garden
- Suggestions and general support



Please phone Rose Van den Akker on 01308 425756 or email [bradpolebuzz@gmail.com](mailto:bradpolebuzz@gmail.com).

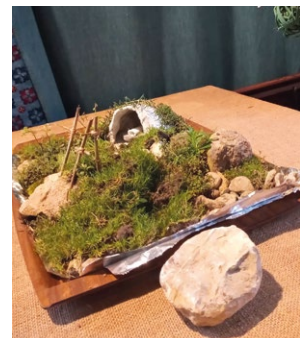
**Bradpole Forster Village Hall**

The main hall is available for hire by local community groups and private hire and is fully accessible with facilities for disabled people. All enquiries for bookings to Jane Bryant: 01308 427493 or [oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com](mailto:oxeyedaisy101@gmail.com). See also the parish council website: [www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall](http://www.bradpole.org.uk/the-forster-memorial-institute-bradpole-village-hall).



**ST MARY’S Walditch**

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725  
[walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com](mailto:walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com)  
 Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421  
 If you have any pastoral or personal issues, please contact the Revd Ann Ayling 424896 (Wednesday is her day off)



**Our Easter Sunday service**

Although the weather on Maundy Thursday was stormy with hailstorms and torrential rain, it was dry and sunny for the Easter Sunday morning service at St Mary’s Walditch. The church was beautifully decorated for Easter with various flower decorations including the representation of Jesus’ tomb (pictured right).

Our organist, Thelma Pulman, gave the small congregation a strong lead as usual as she accompanied the four hymns, encouraging everyone to sing heartily. The hymns were: Now the Green Blade Riseth; Jesus Christ Is Risen Today; Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; and Thine Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son.

The readings were Acts 10:34–43, when the Apostle Peter reveals that the Good News of Christ is open to all regardless of race, colour or creed, and John 20:1–18:

Jesus, who was crucified, has been raised. We learn that Mary, Peter and an unnamed disciple discover Jesus’ empty tomb – the outward, visible sign that He has conquered death and that a new creation has begun.

The Revd Ann Ayling gave a very moving sermon inspired by the Gospel reading and on the theme of love, which permeates the narrative and the characters involved. She quoted from a poem called Love by the mystical lyricist George Herbert (1593–1633). The poem describes a celebration of life’s feast, to which one is invited but there is hesitation owing to the consciousness of sin. Love tells the guest that there is always a welcome, despite one’s sins; Christ bears the blame and we are completely free to enter the feast.

Ann also mentioned a book by the now Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, called The Things He





**ST MARY’S Walditch continued...**

Carried: A Journey to the Cross: Meditations for Lent and Holy Week, in which he tells the story of a mother waiting for her daughter to return from the nearby primary school. The girl is massively late, and the mother becomes very worried. Eventually the child returns, to her mother’s immediate relief but great annoyance, too. The mother learns that her daughter had been delayed by a woman dropping a large, expensive vase. “Did you help her pick up the pieces then?” asks the mother. “No,” replies the daughter. “I helped her cry.”

*James Craddock*

**Walditch Garden Group**

Join us for our garden group meeting on Thursday 30 May at 10am in the village hall. We meet on the last Thursday each month for seasonal topics and garden discussion with tea/coffee and biscuits. We look forward to welcoming you. For more information phone 07810 110461.

*Jane Mowatt*

**Garden tips for May:**

Watch out for late frosts and protect tender plants; Prune spring-flowering shrubs and prune *Clematis montana* after flowering; trim formal hedging lightly; continue taking cuttings from herbaceous perennials; plant out dahlias at end of the month; protect young plants from slugs and snails; thin out annuals and



vegetables sown earlier; sow and plant out tender vegetables; continue successional sowing of vegetables; remove all frost protection at end of the month.

Some favourite plants and shrubs for May (the numbers refer to the photos above): *Hesperis matronalis alba* (1); bearded iris (2); *Papaver orientalis*; *Deutzia rosea*; *Geum* ‘Scarlet Tempest’ (3); *Choisya* ‘Aztec Pearl’; foxglove (*Digitalis*); allium (4).

**ST JOHN’S West Bay**  
 Parish editor – Sue Pollock  
 07903 558568  
 Chapel warden –  
 Rosemary Russell 423013

**News from St John’s**

Services returned to St John’s in time for Easter but without heating or lighting, and currently there is no timescale for the work to start.

I was interested to learn recently that when the church was built, there was a request from the fishermen of the time to have a clock. It seems that in those days fisherman never wore a watch when they went to sea and they wanted a clock that they could see from the harbour. I’m not sure whether this tradition

still exists but judging by the number of people who want to know when our clock will be working again, it’s obviously still very important!

**West Bay WI**

The WI will meet for their regular Knit ‘n’ Natter on Wednesday 1 May, 10am to 12 noon. The following Wednesday (8 May) they have their monthly meeting from 2.30 to 4.30pm, when they will be making preparations for their centenary celebrations in February 2025.

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

**Round and about the Bay**

I happened to be in the Bay on the day that the postbox outside the gift shop was being painted, something I haven’t witnessed before anywhere. Before long the lovely Easter ‘topper’ appeared, too! (*pictured opposite*).

## ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

It seems the awful weather on Maundy Thursday caused problems with the power in some areas of West Bay and you may have seen the large generator outside the church, so obviously some areas around there are still not connected to the mains. We have had two named storms recently – Nelson and Kathleen – although on a rare sunny day during Easter the bikers descended on West Bay (*pictured right*).

The West Bay Community Forum held their AGM and I was delighted to see a good number of members there. The forum has expenses, including insurance, and its only income is from membership subscriptions, so it sought approval at the AGM to increase subs from £5 to £7.50. This was passed unanimously, for which we are grateful. John West showed a film that he had put together, and it was great to see how West Bay had looked in the past. One thing that was clearly apparent was the change in the shape of the eastern cliffs following the many rock falls.

Have you heard about 'Stampede by the Sea', the herd of 50 brightly coloured elephants coming to Bridport, West Bay and Lyme Regis next April to raise funds for the Weldmar Hospice? Check out the website [www.stampedebythesea.org](http://www.stampedebythesea.org) for details. You may not know, however, that real elephants were seen on the East Beach back in the 90s (*pictured below*). They were in West Bay performing at Gerry Cottle's Circus. A local resident walking her dog across the field where the circus was set up saw two lions tethered by a chain. Needless to say she left the field rather smartly! Obviously Health & Safety wasn't an issue then.

The Discovery Centre has lots of information about West Bay in days gone by, giving a fascinating glimpse of life then. Because of the poor weather, the centre has been very busy, with a staggering 2,105 visitors over the Easter period.

On Thursday 9 May at 7pm, photographer Gary Holpin will give a talk in the Salt House about his journey around the South West Coast Path. Tickets are



**Bikers flocked to West Bay on a rare sunny day over Easter (above); the Easter-themed postbox 'topper'**



available from the Tourist Information Centre.

The popular weekly guided walks return in early May on Thursday mornings at 10.30am. Each walk lasts about an hour and is a chance to learn some fascinating facts and stories about West Bay. The centre asks for a donation of £6 per person. Details will be posted on the centre's website, [www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk](http://www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk), and on its Facebook page.

The Bridport Gig Club will be taking two gigs, – including their new boat, Beacon – to the World Gig Championships in the Isles of Scilly from 3 to 5 May. The squad has been training very hard when possible over the winter months. The club has also been running 'learn to row' sessions in West Bay and will be taking part in the Weymouth Regatta on 25 May. The gigs will be displaying the Palmers logo on some of the racing oars after a generous donation by the brewery.  
*Sue Pollock*



**Elephants visiting West Bay with Gerry Cottle's Circus in the 1990s**





## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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### Wild and Messy Church

Wild and Messy Church continues to take place on the second Thursday of each month and March was no exception. With just two weeks until Easter, that was the theme of the occasion.

The title was Seeing is Believing and the event introduced the idea of the Risen Christ, telling the story from Mary Magdalene's point of view as a witness. After Jesus' crucifixion by the Roman authorities, Mary went with two other women to his tomb, carrying spices to anoint his body. The women were terribly sad but to their amazement they found an empty tomb and two angels, who told them Jesus was not dead but was alive again. After confusion among the disciples, there was huge joy when they realised that Jesus was still with them. Mary told of the shock of Jesus' death and finally her own joy of meeting him after his resurrection in the garden beside the tomb.

Reflecting the idea of Mary Magdalene's trust in Jesus, Annie led the children on her guitar as they sang Why Don't You Put Your Trust in Jesus? and Jesus Is Alive Today.

As always, the Wild and Messy craft activities matched our chosen theme, and we focused on making a model tomb using rather messy papier mache. Some of the children enjoyed building up the layers and were somewhat better at the activity than their adult helper! Afterwards we set the finished tomb, complete with large stone, on a display tray for the congregation of St Swithun's to enjoy over Easter.

The most colourful activity this month was the creation of fold-out Easter cards with Michele and Annie. The children helped to complete a pre-prepared card on the theme of Fruits of the Spirit, and they chose the spiritual gifts that Jesus can help them to grow: love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control. They decorated the crosses with these words and used natural pre-dried items and butterfly printed cloth for decoration. Each open card formed the shape of the cross. These creations are always impressive and the children are encouraged to show them off during the celebration at the end.

Again on the topic of resurrection, the 'wild' aspect of this Messy Church was the awakening of the natural

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**Fun and reflection at March's Easter-themed Wild and Messy Church. From top: Michele Craddock helps children with an activity; Paul Groom and a young visitor work on a hedgehog house; Annie Gordon and Michele; Rose Harvey; Janet Robinson and young friend with their craft project; story time in the church with the Revd Lorna Johnson**



## ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

world to new life in the spring. We hoped the theme of hibernation and butterflies emerging out of chrysalises would help children explore the mystery of the resurrection; creatures and plants look dead but then spring into life again!

We thought about how hedgehogs hide away during the cold winter months and then re-emerge, as if from a tomb, in the spring. The practical task for some of the children was to create a hedgehog house (with some help). Working with tools is a particular favourite for some of the children and parents alike.

One of the highlights of each Wild and Messy Church is affectionately known as Kevin's Challenge – an activity for the children to do on arrival. Our activities take place in the garden when weather permits.

Every Wild and Messy Church also includes time for a meal and the opportunity to meet together as one Messy Church family. In March this was an Easter-themed tea, for which we'd like to thank all our volunteers who baked lovely cakes, as well as Morrisons for providing so many delicious treats.

*James Craddock*

### Thursday crowds at St Swithun's!

A busy Thursday in March really showed St Swithun's at its best. The hall was full of children from three local schools: Symondsbury, Burton Bradstock and St Mary's Primary. Meanwhile, in the car park were the free food stall and the Ukranian clothes stall, both of which offer free items to individuals and families who need them.

## Community coffee mornings

**Please note that the community coffee morning at St Swithun's on Thursday 2 May has been cancelled because the hall is being used as a polling station.**

The next coffee morning is on Thursday 6 June, 9.30 to 11am. Come along for a friendly get-together and chat, with free refreshments.



And in the church, a service was being held.

What followed was a neat swap as the children moved into the church for a rehearsal of Mozart's opera The Magic Flute, which they performed that afternoon, while worshippers made their way to the hall for coffee and two separate church meetings. This was a perfect example of the local community making full use of the facilities of the church premises.

"This is just what the church is here for, to serve the local community in diverse ways," says Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector. "It was heartwarming to see the church used in this way."

### Community car boot sale

Pitches are still available at the St Swithun's car boot sale on Saturday 18 May, 10am to 1pm. See the advert on page 4 for more details of this event.

## Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson  
01308 341159

Church secretary – Sue Herman  
422598 / [bridportsec@gmail.com](mailto:bridportsec@gmail.com)

incorporating **UPLODERS CHAPEL**

Correspondent – Carol Hall  
423163 / [carol.a.gribb@gmail.com](mailto:carol.a.gribb@gmail.com)



### Reflections for May

As we look forward to Pentecost this month, we reflect on the Easter just past when we at BUC were challenged by a bold change of seating arrangements. This made us look at one another and also provided

space for a very ad-lib drama, completely unrehearsed, that asked us all to imagine ourselves in the upper room on that first Easter day when all seemed quite lost. The disciples gathered together, fearing what was going to happen to them and wondering just what, to their minds, had gone so terribly wrong.

But of course, what at that moment seemed to be the end, by the conclusion of the day had become just the beginning. It was a moment when everything →

**Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...**

changed and the reality of our risen Lord and what this means for us today became apparent. That despite all the disappointments, denials and failures, Jesus' death and resurrection mean we can, with those first querulous disciples, enjoy our wonderful new relationship with God and with each other.

We look forward with expectation to Pentecost and what the Holy Spirit may do in our lives if we only allow it. So, as we enjoy the springtime flowering around us, may we also experience a flowering in our spiritual lives bringing glory to our Risen Lord.

*Tim Tarling*

*A church member*

**May services at Bridport United Church:**

<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Brenda Stevenson</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Soul Space</b>
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Jane Wilson</b>
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Jane Wilson (HC)</b>
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>John Yarrien (HC)</b>

**Regular events at BUC**

Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday 10am–noon. Lunch Club fourth Wednesday.

Mondays	9.30am	Toddlers group
	10am–noon	Art group (inner hall)
	2pm	Art history (13 and 20 May only)
Tuesdays	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society (6 and 13 May only)
	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third)
	2pm	Bridport U3A (fourth)
Wednesdays	4.30pm	Rainbows
	5.30pm	Brownies
	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band (church)
	12.30pm	Lunch Club (fourth only) All welcome. Two-course home-cooked meal. Please book: 422598
	5.30pm	Kickboxing (inner hall)
Thursdays	6pm	Fitsteps
	7.30pm	Kickboxing (main hall)
	2pm	Thursday Club (third) All welcome for tea, chat, games and crafts
	2.30pm	Bridport History Society (second only)
	3.30pm	Messy Church (fourth)
Fridays	6pm	Fusion Dance
	6pm	Kickboxing (main hall)

**Ukrainian Evening**

The town's Ukrainian refugees are holding a special event at Bridport United Church on Saturday 4 May at 5pm. There will be a presentation about Ukraine with photos and videos (in English) plus dinner including a delicious hearty soup called borscht, which is a Ukrainian national dish.

The event is free but the group is collecting donations towards a secondhand vehicle for the Ukrainian army. If you'd like to come, please book with Sue (422598) so they have catering numbers.

**Special events**

Thur 2 May	all day	Local elections, main hall
Sat 4 May	5pm	Ukrainian evening (see above)
Sat 11 May	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast
	7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society concert
Sat 18 May	from 10am	Vinyl Saturday

**From Uploders Chapel**

Well, April went by in a flash! They say that time flies when you're having fun so I must be having a heck of a good time. Actually, I must admit that is true, with so many lovely activities and lovely people to share them with.

We had our CAKE session on Tuesday 2 April on the theme of Lost & Found, which resulted in a wide variety of thoughts and was very interesting. Our next one will be on Tuesday 7 May, so if you haven't been before, why not come along and see why we all enjoy it. It runs from 2.30pm to 4pm and Liz always comes up with a thought-provoking theme.

Our service at the chapel on 7 April was taken by Lois and we all chose a hymn that had a special meaning for us. Again, it was lovely hearing from everyone what made their choice special to them.

Looking ahead, the chapel will be open as usual from 10am to 4pm to provide refreshments, etc., for three days of the Scarecrow Festival over the bank holiday weekend of 25, 26 and 27 May. Another exciting event to enjoy – there's definitely no reason to get bored!

Hopefully April provided you with an Abundance of things to enjoy and May will provide you with Multitudes more.

*Carol Hall*

**May services at Uploders Chapel:**

<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Richard Lownsbrough</b>
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>John Walker</b>

## St MARY & St CATHERINE Roman Catholic Church

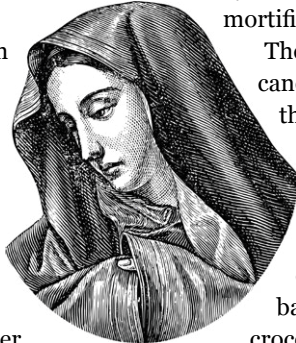
Parish priest – Monsignor Keith Mitchell  
*keith.mitchell@predtr.org.uk*  
Presbytery 424754  
Secretary – Faith Leborgne 422594  
*bridport@predtr.org.uk*

### May is the month of Mary

Throughout the world, the Catholic Church dedicates the month of May to Our Lady – the Blessed Virgin Mary. May is the month when vibrant new growth appears in the fields and meadows. Nature bursts into green. Blossoms abound on the trees; there's new life, too, in the young lambs gambolling in the fields. May tells us that spring is here at last, and we're leaving behind the long, cold, gloomy winter. May is also the month that heralds summer.

In times gone by, every English village had a maypole on the green (some still have) and on the first day of May the children danced around the maypole then celebrated the crowning of the May Queen. It is a pretty ceremony that we still carry out on the green here in Bridport. And in the church calendar we have the very important devotion to Mary, mother of God.

The adoption of devotion to the Virgin Mary throughout May probably began in Italy in the 17th century and by the 19th century had spread to France and then throughout the Catholic world. Many of us remember the May processions held in Catholic



churches throughout the land where young girls, dressed in white and wearing white veils, processed from the church, through the grounds and around the building. We would assemble in the school hall to get ready and line up so the nuns could put on our veils. Many a scalp was scratched with the hair grips that were used to anchor these veils, and many a little girl sobbed when she saw the reflection in the mirror of a comically applied veil, tied tightly just above her eyebrows. There was nothing she could do about it, because "Sister said to leave it alone". It's funny to think of it now, but at the time it was sheer mortification.

The priest (very often under an ornate canopy), accompanied by the altar servers and the young girls in white, led the procession from the church out into the pleasant air of a May evening singing such hymns as O Mary We Crown Thee with Blossoms Today, Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May. By the time we had processed back into the church, the tail of the singing crocodile was usually half a verse behind the head. At the close of the procession there would be Benediction and a child would be chosen to crown the statue of Mary with a garland of flowers.

May processions seemed to peter out after the 1960s and 70s, possibly in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Will we see them return?

*Pat McEvoy*

**Sunday Mass is at 10am** and is streamed online at [www.bridportcatholics.org.uk](http://www.bridportcatholics.org.uk) and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see our weekly newsletter on our website.

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

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

**We are a member church of the UK Evangelical Alliance and an Ichthus Link Church. We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30am and at various times during the week.**

We seek to bless the community of Bridport with the



## BRIDPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Good News of Jesus, and everyone is assured of a warm welcome at our Sunday services or when joining in any of our activities.

Our usual pattern of activities is as follows (it varies during church festivals such as Christmas – see online for details: [www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://www.bridportchristianfellowship.org)).

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



**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP continued...**

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

**Wednesdays:** One House group meets at 7–9pm. Precious Ones Baby & Toddlers Group, for under-4s and their parents or carers, meets in the church at 9.30–11.30am.

**Fridays:** One House group meets at 12.30–2pm. You can also come along and join in our Art Group, 10am–12 noon. You don't have to be brilliant at art!

**Saturdays:** Pray Chat coffee bar with free tea, coffee and cake, 10am–12.30pm.

**Sundays:** 10.30am–12 noon is our weekly service. On the first Sunday in the month, we also join together for a meal or BBQ after the service.

**BEACON CHURCH**  
**Priory Lane, Bridport**

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

**At Beacon Church we focus on communicating with God through prayer, being family to all who come through the doors, and reaching out to the community of Bridport.**

During the week we meet on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes (11am–2pm) to be a place of peace and to be family for the hungry and lonely through the Community Kitchen. We offer a variety of free homemade soup and/or meals, tea, coffee and cake.

On Thursdays we also open the door at 5pm to provide a place for anyone to come and sit and rest from the busyness of life as we pray for the community of Bridport. Our Sunday mornings are very relaxed and Spirit-led. We follow a pattern of prayer and worship, teaching and fellowship.

We have been working on a fundraising project that involved knitting squares for a scarf to reach from the church to the Town Hall. As The Bridge went to press we were looking forward to the Grand Rollout on Friday 26 April, when the scarf was to be unrolled all the way from the Community Kitchen, up Gundry Lane



**Bridport  
Community Kitchen**

**HOT MEALS & REFRESHMENTS**

**SHOWERS & CLOTHES WASHING &  
DRYING FACILITIES**

**HEALTH CARE & ACCOMMODATION  
ADVICE & ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE**

**OPEN 11 a.m - 2.00 p.m**

**WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS**

**AT BEACON CHURCH, PRIORY LANE. DT6 3RW**

Email: [bridportcommunitykitchen@gmail.com](mailto:bridportcommunitykitchen@gmail.com)  
 Contact: Simon 07598 683456

and to the Town Hall, where refreshments would be served. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for news and photos from that event!

**Bridport QUAKER MEETING**  
**The Meeting House**  
**97 South Street**

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

**The third Quaker Testimony is to Simplicity** “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow and reap and store in barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them...” (Matthew 6:26). This is an oft-quoted Bible verse that seems to suggest that we'll be looked after by some higher power if we just stop worrying about things. But is it really that simple?

Can we live simply in the modern world as it seems to become more and more complicated and sophisticated? And don't human beings have complicated wants and

## QUAKER Meeting continued...

needs that require more than bird food?

Perhaps what we have to do is to peel away the layers, discard the unnecessary ones, and delve down to the nub of things. This can be time consuming and difficult. A faith can help as it can take away the 'undergrowth', and friendship helps as well because it brings the shared bits into focus. For the really important steps in life we need to strip away the sound and clamour of everyday demands and home in on the simple harmonies. It's like listening to the song of a thrush



as the sun rises on a spring morning – all will become clear.

Meeting is held at the Meeting House 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](http://www.bridportquakers.org) contains all the details you need to book a room for an event or to find out more about us.

*Jeni Edwards*



## Get involved: local clubs, groups & societies

*Please contact the editor (details on page 2) if you'd like your group to appear here. Entries are free but are limited to a few lines and are for non-profit community groups and clubs and their events (not ticketed events such as concerts). Unless otherwise stated, all phone numbers are Bridport (01308).*

**West Dorset Flower Club** meets at the WI Hall, North Street, at 2.30pm on the second Monday each month with demonstrations and speakers. On 13 May Denise Bright will present The Joys of the Season and there will be a competition on the theme of The Darling Buds of May, plus a plant stall. Phone 456339.

**Bridport & District Model Railway Club** meets each Tuesday at Askerswell village hall 7–9pm. Members can run their stock on the club 'test track' or operate a club layout. Chairman Geoff Purse 423220.

**Bridport Stage Company** theatre group meets on Mondays 7–9pm at The Bull hotel, where they will perform The Importance of Being Earnest around Easter. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie: [tasterella@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tasterella@hotmail.co.uk)

**Bridport & District Allotment Society** (BADAS) is open to all. Membership is £5/year and gives discount at several gardening suppliers. Contact 250260 / email [BADASHUB@outlook.com](mailto:BADASHUB@outlook.com). More details online at [www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk](http://www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk)

**Free play singing**, improvisation and earth/peace movement chants. Spontaneous compositions of sound; few words. Tuesdays 2pm at Bridport Youth & Community Centre, Gundry Lane, for about an hour. All welcome, £1 per person. Phone Pen 07713 008290.

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet at the WI Hall, North St on Thursday 16 May at 7.30pm, when Sally Nex will speak about vegetable gardening. Non-members £2. [www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk)

**Bridport Bridge Club** meets Wednesday evenings & Friday afternoons for duplicate bridge at St Swithun's Hall, plus online on Thursday evenings. Friday sessions (not third Fri) are more relaxed. See [www.bridgewebs.com/bridport](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridport) or phone Martin Angold 861120.

**Bridport Blind Club** is a social club for the visually impaired. It meets twice a month for tea, entertainment & chat. Part of Dorset Blind Association, which provides personal and technical help. Ian Ibbotson 898484.

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

**Friday Dance Group** for women meets every Friday 11.30am–12.30pm at St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. Come and enjoy dancing as you like to a range of music. First session free. Details from Sue 425037.

**West Dorset Singers** (formerly the New Elizabethan Singers) meet for choral rehearsals in the United Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm from September to May. For more information contact the secretary, Sarah Stamford: [secretary@westdorsetsingers.org](mailto:secretary@westdorsetsingers.org) / 425312.

**Bridport Folk Dance Club** meets every Monday 7.15–9.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. All welcome, including beginners. Phone 458165 or 459001.

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

**Bridport Stroke Club** meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon’s Court. Contact David Lawrence: [dandhlaurence@gmail.com](mailto:dandhlaurence@gmail.com)

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

**Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)**, in support of the National Trust, organises illustrated talks on the last Monday of the month (except summer) in the United Church Hall, East Street, at 2.30pm. Contact Mike Nicks 459855.

**Bridport Scottish Dancers** meet on Wednesdays at 7.15pm (7.30pm start) in St Mary’s Church House Hall, South St. All welcome, no partner required. First visit free, then £2 per session (incl. refreshments). Basic tuition given in the first hour. Please wear soft shoes if possible. Caroline 538141 / Malcolm 07790 323343 / [www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk](http://www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk)

**Bridport Choral Society** rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster [margefoster1956@gmail.com](mailto:margefoster1956@gmail.com)

**Bridport Community Shed**, between Mountfield and Bedford Place, opens Mon, Wed & Thurs 10am to noon. On the first Tuesday of the month there is also an evening stitching session (please book in advance). Contact 07593 880428.

**Bridport Health Walks** are free gentle walks around town. A 30-minute walk every Wednesday and a walk of about 60 minutes on the first and third Thursday each month. Meet in front of the United Church on East St at 9.45am and return for hot refreshments. No need to book, just turn up. For more details contact 01305 252222 / [sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.davies@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

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

**Bridport Tree Planting Group** plants & gives away 1,000 trees a year in public and private spaces around Bridport. Three free saplings available per household. Help needed to water and weed young trees. Contact [joe@thehacketts.uk](mailto:joe@thehacketts.uk) for details and to receive newsletter. [www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please](http://www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please)

**The Cowshed Wellbeing Gardens** group meets on Tuesdays 2–4pm. Gardening, talking, art and workshops for people with health vulnerabilities or wishing to enhance wellbeing. Access is to the left of Bridport Medical Centre. For more information please text 07769 720773.

**Bridport History Society** meets on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) at the United Church Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Visitors welcome £5pp. Membership is £10 individual / £15 couple. For more info visit [www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.bridporthistorysociety.org.uk)

**Harmony Drop-in** provides a safe, social space and peer support to aid the recovery journey of adults in the Bridport area who are living with mental health difficulties. Our group (Mon, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm) offers activities and support, fostering wellbeing and increased self-esteem. Contact 07597 379290.

**Bridport Community Front Room** offers face-to-face support for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Assembly Rooms, Gundry Lane. Thursday to Sunday, 3.15 to 10.45pm. Appointments 07385 290804.

**AScape** offers social opportunities and support for autistic young people and those with social anxiety aged 4–25 and their families. Contact [info@ascapegroup.org](mailto:info@ascapegroup.org) or visit [www.ascapegroup.org](http://www.ascapegroup.org)

**Bridport & District u3a** is for people no longer in full-time employment. Monthly meetings are at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday each month in the United Church Hall, East St. The talk lasts about an hour, followed by Q&A and refreshments. On 28 May retired police officer Alan Jenkins will speak about his police journey from Liverpool to Dorset. Members free, visitors £3. More than 60 u3a groups meet regularly, covering a huge range of interests. Contact Alastair Forbes 424166 / [chair@bridportu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@bridportu3a.org.uk) / [www.bridportu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridportu3a.org.uk)

The **u3a Singers Group** meets on alternate Thursdays for a 10.30am start at the WI Hall in North Street. Contact Heather 425219 / [www.bridportu3a.org.uk](http://www.bridportu3a.org.uk)

**Bridport Community Fridge** redistributes surplus food free or for a donation. Usually Tues and Sat 10–11.30am at The Chapel in the Garden, East St. Also at St Swithun’s Church with **Bridport Food Surplus Stall** on Thursdays 9.30–11.30am. See their Facebook page or email [events@bridportunitarians.co.uk](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk)

### Citizens Advice is here to help

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







**Bellringers in the Parish of Bridport:** We always welcome new ringers and are happy to train you on our bells. At St Mary's Bridport we meet at 7.30pm on Thursdays. Contact Bob Hardwick 420632. At Holy Trinity Bradpole we practise at 7.30pm on Tuesdays. We have a ground-floor ringing chamber and training simulator. Contact Janet Robinson [jrb-jrb@outlook.com](mailto:jrb-jrb@outlook.com)

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

**Colmer WI** meets on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, North Street. Visitors welcome to come for a no-obligation evening. Contact Sarah Fletcher [sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah.fletcher33@hotmail.co.uk)

**Bridport Community Carnival Committee** enables both carnival processions to happen on the third weekend of August each year. Would you like to get involved with planning this sociable event for 2024? Contact [joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joycedunford@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.bridportcarnival.co.uk](http://www.bridportcarnival.co.uk)

**Bridport Youth Dance** offers classes in tap, contemporary, street, urban and musical theatre. To enrol or for more details contact Nikki Northover 07765 971357 / [bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com](mailto:bridportyouthdance01@gmail.com) / [www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk](http://www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk).

**Bridport & District RNLI** holds five or six events (including Seatown BBQ) each year to raise money. Volunteers always needed. Contact Sadie 07811 470127 or Annie 07790 713156.

**The Rotary Club of Bridport** meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6pm at the Bull Hotel as well as for other fundraising and social activities. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Contact Mike Green 07909 990693 / [mikegreen@greenmail.net](mailto:mikegreen@greenmail.net)

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

**Bridport Branch Royal Naval Association** meets on the third Thursday each month at 7 for 7.30pm in the Bridport & District Social Club, North St. Ex-matelots & all other ex-military welcome. Refreshments available.

Contact Peter May [glassertonm1141@outlook.com](mailto:glassertonm1141@outlook.com)

**Bridport Dog Training Society** has been active for 60+ years and meets on Monday evenings at St Mary's Church House Hall, South St. Contact club secretary Sue Palfrey 07787 289425. A trained dog is a happy dog!

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

**Bridport St John Ambulance** unit meets at TS Keppel, West Allington, on Mondays. Cadets (aged 10–18) 6–7.30pm, adults 7.30–9pm. Volunteers are always welcome to join the unit. For details contact the unit manager: [caroline.rendell@sja.org.uk](mailto:caroline.rendell@sja.org.uk)

**Disabled Carers & Friends** meet on Thursdays 9am–noon at Vernon's Court Community Room, South Street. Contact [pete.bowditch@hotmail.com](mailto:pete.bowditch@hotmail.com) / 423620 / 421213 / 427819.

**Life+line Bereavement Support** is a Parish of Bridport initiative for people of all faiths or none, meeting in a supportive, confidential environment to listen to and encourage one another in our experience of grief. Fourth Monday of every month 2.30–4pm at Greenfields, Bridport Community Hospital. Contact Diana Wright 456967.

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

**Bridport & Lyme Regis Royal Air Forces Association** meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm in various locations. Whether currently serving in the RAF, a veteran, a family member, or someone who wants to do your bit to help, you are always welcome to join us. Contact Bill Davies: 281200 / [buccbill@hotmail.com](mailto:buccbill@hotmail.com)

**Girlguiding West Dorset** has Rainbow, Brownie, Guide & Ranger groups meeting in Bridport area. Open to girls aged 4+ and adults, we offer an inclusive space for fun and friendship and a wide range of activities within a progressive programme structure offering opportunities and awards. [www.girlguiding.org.uk/girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com) →

**Bridport Royal British Legion** meets on the third Saturday each month at 10am for a coffee morning. Come along to our hall in Victoria Grove for a chat and to find out about membership and activities. The newly refurbished hall now has disabled access and is available for hire. Contact Linda 425664 (hall bookings) or Mike Thompson 07974 534945 / [mickey\\_thompson56@hotmail.com](mailto:mickey_thompson56@hotmail.com) (membership).

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

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

**Friends at Greenfield** is a social get-together for those on their own, or simply needing a bit of company. We meet weekly 10am to 3pm at Greenfields, Bridport Community Hospital. Contact Lyn Goward 488272.

**The New Arts Group** has been set up by members of the now-defunct Arts Society (West Dorset) and has similar aims without a membership structure. Their first meeting is at Bridport Town Hall on Thursday 23 May when John Francis will present *The Girl with the Tutti-Frutti Hat: The Magic of Busby Berkeley*. £10 per person to cover costs. Tea/coffee from 1.30pm, talk starts at 2pm. Contact [jenifer.morley@btinternet.com](mailto:jenifer.morley@btinternet.com)

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

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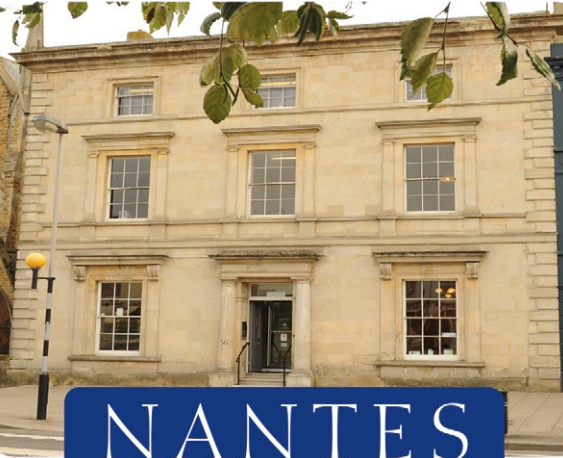
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