

the **Bridge**

July/August 2024



THIS ISSUE IS

Michael Dark of
Bridport Auction House

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A community magazine for Bridport supported by the Anglican Church

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**The advertising and copy deadline
 for the September 2024 issue is
 5pm on Monday 12 August**

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Volunteers are ‘lifted’ through giving to others

In June the UK’s annual Volunteers Week was held for the 40th time, looking to inspire more people to make a difference.

Over 14 million people in the UK – that’s one in five – currently volunteer through a club or organisation. Many more – about half the population – are involved in informal volunteering: shopping for neighbours, babysitting, offering lifts to hospital appointments, free house cleaning for relatives and friends, and so on.

The Old Testament Book of Ruth tells of two women: an Israelite, Naomi, and her Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth. Both are widows and childless. After her son’s death, Naomi tells Ruth to return to her own family, but Ruth refuses, saying: “Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your god my god.” Ruth eventually marries another family member, Boaz, and as a result of that marriage, three generations later, David – Israel’s great king – is born.

This story is very powerful as childless widows were vulnerable in ancient societies. Ruth and Naomi came from different backgrounds and the Israelites and Moabites were long-standing enemies. But Ruth reached out selflessly. By telling of her actions, the Bible added a new word to the English language: ‘Ruth’ means compassion, sorrow for the misery of another.

Today people are giving their time and energy to

bring hope and blessing to others. Society needs “the kindness of strangers”, a phrase coined by Tennessee Williams. We only have to look at the Get Involved pages of The Bridge to realise how many ‘ruthful’ people there are in Bridport. And there is room for more. We know, too, that

In times of crisis, communities come together to reach out with compassion to those in need

in times of crisis communities come together to reach out with compassion and generosity to those in need.

Volunteering is not always easy: it is time-consuming and a commitment. There is always a feeling you must not let people down, even when a more exciting invitation lands on your doormat!

But the more we give to others, the more we ourselves are given. Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi from 1991 until his death in 2020, wrote in his book *The Power of Ideas*: “Lifting others, we ourselves are lifted. Happiness – the sense of a life well lived – is born in the blessings we bestow on others. Bringing hope to someone else’s life brings meaning to our own.”

Our communities, and our church families, welcome volunteers – so let’s take the opportunity.

The Revd Ann Ayling



The Revd Ann Ayling

Showtime for Melplash

For this issue I had the great pleasure of interviewing Martin Cox, MD of West Dorset Leisure Holidays, at his Highlands End base.

Martin is this year’s Melplash Show President, following in a long tradition of people with an interest in farming being asked to head up the Melplash Agricultural Society’s activities for the year. The show on 22 August is the highlight of the local farming community’s year and has loads to offer everyone, whether you’re happiest in your wellies or rarely stray from the town centre. Turn to page 9 to meet Martin.



**Olivia Daly
Editor**

Bridport bellringers triumph

On 15 June, a team of bellringers from Bridport and Bradpole won the Greenings Shield for ringing excellence at a striking competition of West Dorset ringers.

Congratulations and well done to the excellent team of ringers!



Bridport Food Bank’s annual general meeting will take place at St Mary’s Church, South Street, on Wednesday 10 July at 5.30pm. All are welcome. For catering purposes, please email sonia.maynard@bridportfoodbank.org, with BFB AGM in the subject line, if you are coming.

Celebrating George Biles, Bridport's sign painter

A major retrospective art exhibition celebrating the remarkable talents of George Biles, Bridport's master sign painter, will take place during August at several venues in the town.

Biles (1900–87) was a highly talented signwriter and pictorial painter who lived in Bridport throughout his life. For many years he painted the pub signs for Palmers Brewery.

The George Biles Project has been delivered by Bridport Town Council working with Palmers and local signwriter Jemma Thompson. Work to research, record and exhibit the Biles pieces was made possible by support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This funding has allowed the project to digitise the collection of pictorial pub signs held by Palmers Brewery; support two signwriting workshops for 12 people in Bridport; and create a public exhibition of Biles's works this summer.

“George regilded the clock at St Mary's Bridport [pictured right] but we know from word-of-mouth reports that he decorated the interiors of many other local churches, too,” says Caroline Pearce, Project Manager, Bridport Town Council. “His lettering can be seen on various signwritten ‘honours boards’ for parish vicars in churches in the area and he would also have lettered other local boards such as the list of mayors in the town hall and members in the masonic lodge.

“Among the documents in the collection is a letter he wrote to Douglas Read of South Street asking for permission to borrow the St Mary's back cloth and repaint a fresh English country village scene on it, free of charge, to the St Mary's Hall Committee ‘as a good turn for favours granted in the past’. His largest painting measures 15 by 5 feet and shows Noah sending out a dove from the ark, surrounded by his family and several animals.

“We hope the exhibition will bring back many happy memories as people see once-familiar signs on display and recall stories of seeing George at work.”

The three exhibition venues will be open from 1 to 29 August between 10am and 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday):

- Royal British Legion Hall, Victoria Grove – a re-creation of Biles's studio with a selection of pictorial pub signs and other images of Biles at work in Bridport;
- Bridport Arts Centre – display of pantomime screens and backdrops painted by Biles;
- Bridport Museum – display of the original ‘Spirit of Bridport’ town sign by Biles.



The top two photos are from the George Biles photo album by kind permission of Ken Allen



Jemma Thompson

From top: George Biles regilding the numerals on the St Mary's clock; the Spirit of Bridport sign; Biles's largest painting, showing a scene from Noah's ark

More of the Palmers pub signs will be on display in the Lord Nelson skittle alley during the pub's opening hours. Visit www.lordnelsonbridport.co.uk for details.

www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/george-biles-lottery-project

St Mary's marks the centenary of its bells in style

Celebrations to mark 100 years since the recasting of the St Mary's bells kicked off like the clappers (!) in late May with the first in a series of special events.

The weekend included the opening of the bell tower to the public and a dog show as well as a concert in the evening, and raised more than £2,000 for a fund to secure the bells' future. The performers at the concert were Bothenhampton Handbell Ringers, choir Local Vocals and musical trio Hat Trick.

The winner of the 'guess the weight of the clappers' competition was Paul Groom, who guessed a weight of 72 lbs against the actual weight of 71.6 lbs. He kindly donated his winnings to the bell restoration fund.

"We are so grateful to the church for all the help we received," says tower captain Bob Hardwick. "As we joined in with the church team, we realised how much they do behind the scenes – usually after we have gone home – so that was inspiring. We are committed to keeping these lovely bells ringing, and are considering what we need to do to prepare them for the next 100 years, with the help of the great people of Bridport."



Photos by Bob Hardwick

Local Vocals (above), Hat Trick (right) and the Bothenhampton Handbell Ringers all performed at the celebration concert



Calling all pianists!

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A concert at St Swithun's

West Dorset Community Orchestra will give their summer concert at St Swithun's Church on Wednesday 3 July at 7.30pm.

The orchestra (with guest appearances) will perform a varied programme including music by Vaughan Williams, Beethoven, Strauss and Elgar.

Admission is free with a retiring collection. There will be interval refreshments and a raffle. www.westdorsetmusic.org.uk

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CHURCH SERVICES

JULY 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
Mon 1						10am Morning Prayer
Tues 2				2.30pm Parish HC & licensing service (see page 15)		
Wed 3	2.30pm HC					
Thurs 4		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 7 <i>6th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)			10am Parish HC service	
Mon 8						10am Morning Prayer
Thurs 11		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 14 <i>7th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise (Pet service – see page 13)		11am HC 4pm Sea Sunday service (see opposite)
Mon 15						10am Morning Prayer
Thurs 18		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 21 <i>8th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am HC		11am Morning Praise
Mon 22						10am Morning Prayer
Thurs 25		10am Eucharist				
Sat 27						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sun 28 <i>9th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am HC	11am Morning Praise
Mon 29						10am Morning Prayer

HC = Holy Communion / BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CC = Contemplative Church

AUGUST 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
<i>Thurs 1</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 4 <i>10th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC	4pm CC (hall)				10am Parish HC service
<i>Mon 5</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tues 6</i>				2.30pm HC		
<i>Wed 7</i>	2.30pm HC					
<i>Thurs 8</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 11 <i>11th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am HC
<i>Mon 12</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 15</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
Sun 18 <i>12th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am HC		11am Morning Praise
<i>Mon 19</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 22</i>		10am Eucharist				
<i>Sat 24</i>						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
Sun 25 <i>13th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am HC	11am Morning Praise
<i>Mon 26</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 29</i>		10am Eucharist				

Sea Sunday service: Churches Together in Bridport and District (CTiBD) will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the RNLi with an open-air service at 4pm on Sunday 14 July on Harbour Green, West Bay. The preacher will be our very own transatlantic priest, the Revd Cally Burch. The Wessex Military Band will provide the music for the service. All welcome. In St John's Church if wet.
The Revd Philip Ringer on behalf of CTiBD





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Sunday 14th July at 10.30am



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Martin Cox takes up the reins as Melplash Show President for 2024



This year's Melplash Show President is Martin Cox, whose 'day job' is running West Dorset Leisure Holidays (WDLH) from its flagship holiday park, Highlands End.

We caught up with Martin at the park on the cusp of the busy holiday season and with the area's favourite agricultural show on the horizon...



The Bridge: Martin, you have big shoes to fill, taking over from Michael Fooks as Melplash Show President. How do you feel about stepping into the role?

Martin Cox: It's a huge honour and I feel very proud. I'm a local person – I grew up in the centre of town, where my dad was a coal merchant – and I started going to the Melplash Show when I was at secondary school. I've always admired the show and the way the local community supports it.

TB: Why do you think you've been asked this year?

MC: WDLH is a family concern and we've supported the show for a long time, both personally and as a business. I'm particularly interested in the Melplash Agricultural Society's educational work, teaching young people about farming and where their food comes from.

I'm also pleased that a few years ago we were able to put in place a very long-term legal arrangement to provide the show with parking on the west side of the river, with access from the A35. My wife, Vanessa, and I were very proud to be in a

position to do this and it shows how a tourism business can act for the benefit of agriculture, community and such a key local event.

TB: Highlands End is a Bridport institution! How did your business develop?

MC: Highlands End was started by Vanessa's parents in 1971. I came on board in 1984 – that's 40 years ago! – and we've been running it together ever since. Our sons, James and Robert, are now on the team, too. Over the years we've developed the park to meet our customers' expectations and added five others: Eype Beach; Golden Cap at Seatown; Larkfield and Graston Copse at Burton Bradstock; and Sandyholme at Owermoigne. Our staff team has grown from 7 to 90.

TB: You own a lot of land, but do you have any experience of farming?

MC: As well as our six holiday parks and some tenanted farmland at Burton Bradstock, we also own Watton and West Cliff Farm run by my youngest son, Robert, and his partner Isobel. There we have a flock

of 280 Suffolk ewes, 8 rare breed Blue Texels, 8 alpacas and some chickens. I'd say we're 'soft farmers' but I like to think we understand some of the challenges farmers face, and what's important to them.

Here at Highlands End we had a 10-year plan under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which meant we could concentrate on enhancing the landscape, and we've continued to do this by planting and laying hedges and replacing fences. We're starting to see the benefits of that now. We've also agreed to convert a four-acre plot into woodland as part of a government initiative to expand and create woodlands on suitable land. And we've joined a 'rewilding' project and will rewild an area of wetland by the river going down to West Bay. I'm in favour of rewilding unproductive areas like these, but it's not so good when farmers lose productive land to rewilding schemes.

TB: Why do you think it's important to teach children about farming?

MC: I think it's sad that there are children in big towns and cities who don't understand how animals are bred for food, which meat comes from which animal, and that vegetables have roots! We need to improve understanding about our food supply, particularly in the context of global uncertainty, and also about the importance of not wasting food. Melplash runs a brilliant education programme called Discover Farming, which gets right back to the basics of food production. It even has a classroom at Washingpool Farm where groups from schools and other young →

Martin Cox is Melplash Show President continued

people's organisations can go to learn about food and farming. Our holiday park gives many urban families the chance to visit the coast and countryside, and to understand and appreciate rural life more fully.

TB: What do you enjoy most about running your holiday businesses?

MC: I find I appreciate more and more just how important a holiday is to our visitors. Living here, often we don't fully understand the benefits of our area, but people from urban areas look forward so much to coming here. That was brought home to me when I got chatting to a couple on Thorncombe Beacon. They were camping at Seatown and had just arrived – they said the first thing they always did was to walk to the top. They'd been waiting all year in a city environment to come back here. They didn't know who I was and it was a very rewarding comment. We

have lots of regular customers and it's lovely when people come back again and again.

Walking in the countryside is the second most important attraction after the beach for visitors to the area, and I enjoy looking after our land so the visitors can enjoy it safely alongside farming. Most of our customers come from within two and a half hours' drive; over the last 30 years I've noticed that people travel less far for their UK holidays. We used to have more people from Scotland and the north of England, for instance.

TB: Which of your business's achievements are you most proud of?

MC: I'm particularly proud of our involvement with the community. There are a few things that stand out: we provided the car park for Eype Centre for the Arts; we host the Makers Market each November, with proceeds going to the Julia's

House children's hospice; and we host and support other events that your readers will be aware of.

And of course there's our collection of fire engines and memorabilia in Martin's Bar! I was a retained firefighter at Bridport Station for 31 years and I'm fascinated by the history of the fire service. We have on display a 1902 Merryweather Horsedrawn Steamer, which was bought by the Bridport service and is on loan from Bridport Museum. We also have a 1936 Leyland which was purchased by Weymouth and finished its service in Bridport in the early 1960s when some members of my family were in the crew.

I hope we've made Highlands End a visitor destination that's also seen as being very embedded in the local community.

This year's show is on Thursday 22 August. Advance tickets are £20 from www.melplashshow.co.uk

The Parish of Bridport launches its new website

The parish's new website went live in early June and the team behind its creation hope users will find it attractive, helpful and easy to use. Sue Pollock describes what went on behind the scenes...

It has taken a long time to get to the launch and the last three days were pretty hectic! The site was created by a web designer, but collecting the information from our churches and various groups took its time. I hadn't realised how tricky it is to find just the right photo to represent things and often we ended up changing our choice.

Work on the site began last year,

when the six Parish of Bridport churches supplied content to be included. As you will appreciate, however, there have been some changes in the parish, and for various reasons we didn't get started on these until January.

As well as working on the site, Paul Groom set up the new email addresses and cloud storage for anyone who needed them. Users in the parish team will be able to store documents on the cloud rather than on their own computer, and it's also a place to put documents that will be uploaded to the site.

This January our web designer, a freelancer, had committed to other

jobs and so needed to hand the site over to us. Paul Groom, Bridget Trump and I had one training session on editing the site, although we also needed the assistance of an IT person. He looks after the site for us and edits the two features that we can't. Editing started and the software seemed to have a mind of its own, making the changes we asked for but seemingly erasing other items.

If you have a special event coming up, please email webmaster@parishofbridport.org so we can add it to the homepage banner. We plan to update the site weekly or monthly depending on the content.

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ST MARY'S Bridport

Parish editor – Peter Wright 456967

Director of music – Tim Linsley

07830 308701

Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

A month of abundance

The Collins dictionary gives as one of its definitions for the word 'abundance' the phrase 'an overflowing fullness' and that was certainly what we enjoyed last month at St Mary's. June is always the most wonderful month in our churchyard, with flowers in abundance and self-seeders frothing everywhere, but during the spring and early summer of 2024 we seem to have enjoyed 'abundance' in a range of other ways, too.

This year we are celebrating the centenary of the re-casting of the St Mary's bells. During the coming months we will have a number of events to celebrate the centenary and also to raise funds to make the bells 'fit for purpose' for the next 100 years. A grand launch event took place over the last weekend in May. Two days of bell ringing, tower visits, a dog show, a concert and a treasure hunt, all accompanied by copious amounts of coffee and cake and heralded by the town crier, brought an abundance of good cheer. On the following Wednesday the East Dorset Ringers visited the tower and rang a full peal in celebration of the day in 1924 when the bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Salisbury. The peal was named Bridport Delight Major and lasted for three hours – a real abundance of bells.

These events raised more than £2,200 – an excellent total – but with an appeal target of £25,000 there is still a way to go. If you would like to donate to the appeal, please contact the tower captain, Bob Hardwick, who would be delighted to hear from you!

The June parish service was held at St Mary's with a congregation gathered from our six churches coming together to focus on the theme 'Made in the Image of God'. In typically unique fashion, the children used their thumbprints to represent themselves in a collage of the church. Everyone else was then invited to join in and create a thumbprint circle depicting the family of the church. A time of much happiness and affirmation.

The following week we marked the 80th anniversary of the Allied invasion of France, remembering those who had sacrificed their lives in the D-Day landings and honouring the veterans who had served in World War 2. At our midweek communion service, a number of the older members of the congregation, who had



Clockwise from above: St Mary's churchyard displays its natural abundance; the town crier heralds celebrations for the bells' centenary; the parish service congregation's thumbprint circle represents the family of the church



been teenagers in Bridport at that time, shared their memories of the event. Their clarity of recall and an honesty in the telling made it a real privilege for those of us who were just there to listen.

Back in the churchyard, the St Mary's Gardening Group invited others to join in their 'Count on Nature' afternoon. The group has been working for several years to manage and care for our churchyard and each year they count and record the range of plants and animals there. The aim is to increase the biodiversity of the churchyard, provide a rich habitat and bring an abundance of wildflowers and insects to this green space in the centre of our town.

Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) As the summer progresses, the overflowing fullness in our gardens and the countryside does largely obviate the need for a dictionary definition of 'abundance'.

Lesley Hill

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

Holy Trinity's popular monthly coffee mornings regularly raise well over £200, thanks to the generosity of all who come along. The combined hobbies exhibition and coffee morning in May raised a wonderful £786 from sales of cakes and refreshments, and from donations. These funds will go towards the upkeep of the church – thank you everyone for your support. The summer coffee mornings are on Saturdays 6 July and 3 August, 10am until 12 noon.

Many people take a great deal of pleasure in having a pet. Dogs and cats in particular can show much loyalty and affection to their owners and be loving companions. There will be a pet service at Holy Trinity on Sunday 14 July at 11am, and you are invited to bring your pets along. Even if you don't have any animals, or don't wish to bring yours, you are of course welcome at the service. Refreshments will follow.

Wyld Morris will be coming to Bothenhampton on Wednesday 14 August, playing and leading folk dancing in Main Street from 7pm. If it is wet this will take place in the village hall. Refreshments will be available.

Film evenings continue in the village hall on the last Saturday of each month. This is a very pleasant way of seeing up-to-date films, but it is not always possible to

Pet Service



**Holy Trinity Bothenhampton invites
you and your pets to our informal**

Pet Service

**so we can thank God for the love and
companionship they give us**

Sunday 14 July at 11am

Refreshments will be served afterwards

establish which film will be shown in time for the Bridge publication dates. If you would like to be included in the list of film club members so you get the latest information, please contact the email address below.
Barbara Ffooks

FILM NIGHTS in Bothenhampton Village Hall
Saturdays 27 July & 31 August – titles to be announced
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Admission £5 • Refreshments available
Please book by emailing lenc2413@outlook.com

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232
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Tower captain – Janet Robinson 07913
549946 / htbrabells@parishofbridport.org
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. The last meeting before the summer break will be on Wednesday 17 July and the new term will start on 18 September.

Village lunch club

Do come to The King's Head for a social and reasonably priced lunch. The last one before the August break will be on Tuesday 23 July at 12 noon and the autumn lunches will start on 10 September. Please let Daphne King (427552) know if you will be coming so she has the numbers for catering.

Other groups

The Mothers' Union will meet on Tuesdays 16 July →

HOLY TRINITY Bradpole continued...

and 20 August at 2.30pm at 11 Fox Close. The Knit and Natter Group will meet on Thursdays 18 July and 22 August at 2.30pm, also at 11 Fox Close.

Eco Church

The annual nature count in the churchyard took place after the service on the morning of 9 June (*see photos*). The count is part of the churchyard management plan, which is implemented by the church core group.

Fiona Wood, a local botanist, helped members of the congregation to identify the many species of plants, animals and insects that have made their home in the churchyard. A mole has made itself very evident by leaving mounds around the gravestones, and a pair of herring gulls nesting on the roof made their presence known by objecting to the people milling around!

Fiona brought her sweep net to use in the long grass to identify grasshoppers, crickets and other bugs. There were some small challenges for the congregation, such as learning the name of a new wildflower or how to relax out in nature while listening to birdsong. The nature trail leaflets written by Alan Bowley were available to follow. The event was part of the Big Green Week organised by Friends of the Earth and was supported by Sustainable Bridport.

Church news

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday 19 May and the updated electoral roll was accepted. Next year there will be a complete revision of the roll and everyone who wishes to be included will have to complete an application form. The parish churchwardens were elected including John Adams for Holy Trinity Bradpole. Chairing the meeting, Canon Deb Smith described some highlights of the church's work during 2023. She also presented the accounts for the year, which were accepted.

A booklet called *The Year in the Life of the Parish 2023* has been published and is available in the churches. The Holy Trinity Bradpole section includes details of the work to replace the gutters on one side of the church and the upgrade of the sound system using digital equipment, which has improved the reproduction of music and speech and enhanced the quality of sound for people who use a hearing aid. The year was very busy for the Holy Trinity community including Tots@Ten, to which on average 16 children with their parents, grandparents and/or carers had come each week. The helpers were lauded for their work, particularly arranging the chairs and providing



From top: investigating finds at Bradpole's annual nature count; a molehill by a gravestone is evidence of underground activity; local botanist Fiona Wood; flora and fauna in abundance

refreshments. Other activities included groups for fellowship and craft, organising the village lunch club, the monthly village brunch, bellringing and training, and the monthly visits to Bradpole Pre-school. The Friends of Holy Trinity were also very active during the year having arranged coffee mornings and afternoon teas, a Desert Island Discs evening with the Revd Janis

Moore making her musical choices as a ‘castaway’, a circular ramble ending with tea and cake at the church, a well-attended concert by Parnham Voices, and a fascinating presentation on local road and foot bridges and their origins at the Friends’ AGM.

Licensing service

On Tuesday 2 July at 2.30pm, in a parish service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, the Bishop of Sherborne, Karen Gorham, will license the Revd John Rees as an associate priest and commission his wife Anne as a lay worship leader in the Parish of Bridport. All will be welcome to this special event.

Bridport Town Council – Bradpole Ward

With a turnout of nearly 34% of the Bradpole electorate on 2 May, the following candidates were elected to the Bradpole ward: Nigel Amor, Ian Bark and Patrick (Paddy) Mooney (Lib Dem), Robert Casey (Green) and Anna Killick (Labour). Neil Chilcott, a former parish councillor, was not elected.

The new councillors’ photos, contact details and a list of the committees they have been appointed to are on the council website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/councillors-2024.

The first public meeting will be on Monday 8 July at 7pm in the village hall. Residents are welcome to attend and speak to the councillors on any matter relevant

**The Friends of Holy Trinity Bradpole
invite you to a**

Strawberry tea

Saturday 13 July from 2.30 to 4pm

*Come and join us for a selection of sweet treats
All welcome • Just £5 on the door*



to Bradpole Ward. A notice outlining the meeting procedure will be displayed on the ward noticeboards and website at least five days before the meeting.

If there are any ward matters you would like to raise, please contact the ward clerk, Sandy Goldsmith: bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk / 07944 523084.

ST MARY’S Walditch

Parish editor – James Craddock 458725
walditchbridgejsc@outlook.com

Verger – Pat Stapleton 456421

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

Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our meetings on Thursdays 25 July and 29 August 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 details phone 07810 110461.
Jane Mowatt

July gardening jobs:

Ensure birds have enough water; deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials to ensure

continuous flowering; prune early summer flowering shrubs; water tubs and new plants if dry but be ‘water wise’; check clematis for signs of clematis wilt; keep salad and veg crops well watered in hot weather; pinch out runner beans at the top of their canes; pinch outdoor tomatoes when four trusses have formed and remove side shoots; pick courgettes before they become marrows; clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds and keep pond water topped up; harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines.

August gardening jobs:

Trim hedges regularly; prune rambling roses after flowering; take cuttings from tender perennials such as pelargonium and fuschia; collect ripening seed from plants you wish to keep; layer pinks, clematis and rhododendrons; complete summer prune of wisteria; summer prune gooseberry and redcurrant plants; plant new strawberry plants; harvest first apples and pears.

*Some favourite plants and shrubs for July and August:
(pictured overleaf): Daylily ‘Chicago Sunrise’ (1), →*



Thelma's hymn notes

Morning Has Broken

This Christian hymn was first published in 1931, with words by Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965), who was inspired by the village of Alfriston in East Sussex. Eleanor won many literary awards and a prize in her memory is presented annually by the Children's Book Circle.

Mary MacDonald (1789–1872), a Gaelic speaker from Ardtun on the Isle of Mull, composed the tune from an old Gaelic melody. It is now known as Bunesan.

One arrangement of the hymn is by Dr Noël Harwood Tredinnick BEM FRSCM, a living British composer, organist, orchestrator and conductor. In 2021 he received the British Empire Medal for life-long services to church music and music education.

This lovely hymn, which I began singing at Colfox School, is now a favourite at weddings.

Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch



ST MARY'S Walditch continued...

lavenders 'Hidcote Pink' and 'Hidcote' (2), clematis (3), tithonia 'Torch' (4) and hybrid tea rose 'Mama Mia' (5).

Walditch marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day

Greeted outside by a silhouette of a soldier, those entering St Mary's Walditch on Thursday 6 June were met by a splendid array of photos, book covers and information prepared by Robin Stapleton alongside the flags of participating nations and a D-Day banner. The display, which remained in the church for two weeks, comprised memorabilia from 13 May 2012, when a plaque in memory of American soldiers stationed in Walditch was unveiled and dedicated.

The plaques on display included that of the Eastbourne Battery 58 Sussex field Regiment, who landed on the Gold Beach on the second day of D-Day. Another plaque, engraved on Portland stone and installed on the left inside the church door, states that these American troops were one of the first to land on Normandy's Omaha Beach in France. Its inscription, 'Semper Paratus', means 'always prepared'. The plaque was created by Ian Chalmers, a stonemason who has worked at Gloucester, Durham and Lincoln cathedrals.

When Walditch welcomed American troops in November 1943, The Hyde had already been requisitioned and became the officers' mess while the sergeants occupied Hyde cottages and the men were billeted in the grounds. Two trees in a private garden in these grounds remain marked by these visitors' initials.

The display included photos from 2012 of local people dressed in 1940s clothing to celebrate the plaque's dedication, and of an exhibition in the village of cigarettes, chewing gum packets, a medical pack, a handbook about England, a post-war newspaper, and even a tin of louse powder and a 70-year-old Nescafé label in almost perfect condition.

It was easy to see the gratitude and hard work of the people living in Walditch 12 years ago who collaborated to create a memorial to these men of the 16th Infantry's E and G companies (code name Dagwood). The US Ambassador gave permission at the time to fly the stars and stripes flag in the front of the church, and this tradition continues. Responsibility currently lies with our flag officer, Robin Stapleton.

One visitor reflected that the exhibition was dedicated to young men who gave their lives for the sake of future generations. St Mary's is an apt location for these plaques, as it's a place where we can pause to think about 80 years of history, recovery, healing and hopes.



Pictured: St Mary's Walditch hosted a fascinating exhibition about the 2012 unveiling of a memorial to GIs who fell on D-Day; Robin Stapleton (left in photo) with stonemason Ian Chalmers in 2012; two of the books on display



We also had a special service at St Mary's Walditch to mark the anniversary, including remembrance of the three military chaplains who died on D-Day. The Revd Ann Ayling led the prayers, finishing with the lines: "They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."
Michele Craddock
Churchwarden

ST JOHN'S West Bay

Parish editor – Sue Pollock
07903 558568
Chapel warden –
Rosemary Russell 423013

News from St John's

Regular Sunday services are being held in St John's, as well as Morning Prayer on Monday at 10am and the monthly Service of Wholeness and Healing on the fourth Saturday of the month at 6pm.

A number of chalice assistants attended an evening service of Corpus Christi on 30 May, led by the Revd Philip Ringer.

West Bay WI

The regular Knit 'n' Natter session will take place on Wednesday 3 July from 10am to 12 noon, and then there will be a meeting on Wednesday 10 July from 2.30 to 4.30pm, when Hilary Green will present 'My Life as a Vet'. The WI then takes a break in August



Pictured: WI members have started planning an exhibition to mark their centenary next February

but their meetings will resume in September.

Back in May the WI met to start preparations for their centenary celebrations in February 2025. The plan is to have a small exhibition in the Discovery Centre that month, displaying members' items of interest together with a slide show. Sarah West and Macarena Styles from the centre dropped in to the meeting to see what members had brought along (pictured above). ➔

ST JOHN'S West Bay continued...

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

The weekend of 18–19 May was a busy one for West Bay. The annual Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge, a race of 55 miles from Watchet to West Bay, took place on the Saturday. This is a charity event in aid of the Dorset Air Ambulance and reportedly raised £46,000.

Unfortunately I don't think I could take part in that race, but when out cycling early on the Sunday morning, I met some people who were doing the 100 km Jurassic Challenge. I gave them a few words of encouragement as they neared the finish line in Asker Meadows.

During the half-term break the Discovery Centre saw a record numbers of visitors – 1,795 – and the total for May was another record breaker at 3,647. The children managed to make 100 pirate hats as well as completing many pirate-related colouring sheets and taking part in the 'Hunt the Pirate' challenge, in which 11 pebbles painted with pirate hats were hidden around the centre for the children to find.

At the beginning of July the Discovery Centre will launch its new exhibition, 'West Bay: a Resort to Rival Others', revealing what happened 140 years ago when a group of local businessmen believed that with investment and imagination Bridport Harbour could become a seaside resort to challenge Weymouth and Bournemouth. So what happened to West Bay's dreams of tourism grandeur?

Could the railway be returning? The signal post has been repaired and repainted and looks very smart but sadly there's no sign of any new railway line (*pictured right*). Another recent addition in the Bay is the two wooden rubbish bins near the kiosks/hub (*also pictured*). It is hoped that these will help to keep the area round the hub relatively free of rubbish.

Have you seen the new noticeboards by the Salt House and the toilets in the main car park? There are six boards, including one for the Discovery Centre and one for the West Bay Community Forum (WBCF), so be sure to look at them for upcoming events. One of the first things going on these boards is information about the four defibrillators in West Bay (*see photo*), something we at the WBCF have been asked for.

The WBCF committee met in June and it was great to have both our new councillors there. Matters discussed once again included anti-social behaviour and Cllr Bolwell emphasised the need to report incidents,



There has been some 'sprucing up' at the station!



New rubbish bins near the kiosks should help to keep litter to a minimum

as without this there is no evidence of the problem. Inconsiderate parking in Meadowlands also came up, including people even parking over driveways.

The weather was fine for the Vintage Steam Rally in early June and there was lots of tooting and music coming from the Melplash fields. It certainly seemed busy judging by the number of cars parked in the field. *Sue Pollock*

Upcoming events in West Bay

- 5–7 July Powerboat racing
- 21 July Beach Clean (10–11am)
- 25 July RNLI raft race (unconfirmed date)
- 4 August West Bay Day
- 18 August Torchlight procession and fireworks
- 22 August Melplash Show

ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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A bumper crop of customers!

St Swithun's held its annual plant sale and car boot fair on 18 May and it proved as popular as ever. This event is timed so that bedding plants will sell like hot cakes – and they did! The church also offered bric-a-brac, books and clothes for sale and had a tombola, all of which went down well.

People streamed in as we were setting up – our regulars, of course, but also lots of new faces, some new to Bridport.

The kitchen team excelled themselves, not only with coffee and cake but also with bacon butties, which flew out of the door as fast as they could be produced.

The event raised over £1,000 for church funds, while Christian Aid and Symonds Church had also taken stalls to raise money for their own coffers. Finally of course we had a number of 'open boots' offering a variety of different delights for all ages.

We are grateful to all who participated and helped: friends and neighbours as well as our own congregation. This was a genuine community event as well as a fundraiser, and as we welcomed and spoke with people who came along, we hoped that St Swithun's was fulfilling its mission to 'Make Jesus Known' in this place.

Yvonne Welch



The plant sale and car boot fair at St Swithun's was a hit, offering bric-a-brac, teas, plants and much more!



Wild & Messy Church

St Swithun's hosted a Wild & Messy Church session in early May on the theme of the Pentecost story.

The first activity was centred on the wind, helping the children to wonder about God's creation and nature. St John's Gospel tells of Jesus describing the Holy Spirit as being like a wind that blows where it may.

The second activity was Pentecost leaf painting, which the children enjoyed, and the third activity was based on the fruits of the Spirit, with soft balls being thrown into a sheep's tummy (pictured left) and all eventually finding their target.

The fourth activity was based on a Christian Aid prayer map featuring this year's country, Burundi. The children enjoyed finding various other countries on the map. The fifth activity was the planting of flax seeds as a part of God's creation.

The tea featured a delicious Pentecost birthday cake and everyone sang Happy Birthday.



Annie Gordon with one of the fun activities at Wild & Messy Church



ST SWITHUN'S Allington continued...

A big thankyou to all the organisers and helpers who made this such an enjoyable event for the children and their families.

James Craddock

More fundraising success

Members of St Swithun's will be delighted to hear that the church has raised the magnificent sum of £501 for this year's Christian Aid Week, which is supporting projects in Burundi.

Repair and Renewal – an update

The St Swithun's Repair and Renewal Project celebrates the 200th birthday of the current building in 2027. But it is much more than a bricks-and-mortar initiative: it's all about making the building fit to serve God and our neighbour in the future.

And although major building works haven't started yet, much has been done to enhance our worship and our community outreach. Demand for our church hall as a community resource has increased dramatically: we are already transferring events to the main church and we are going to upgrade the lavatory facilities – always a mark of increased usage! Our car park is in weekly use for the Community Fridge, and trees in the churchyard are going to get an approved haircut.

In the main church we have enjoyed extra space created by the temporary removal of the choir pews. For a church with a strong liturgical tradition we have enhanced the sense of gathering to celebrate the Eucharist. The new space has been greatly welcomed by an increased number of choral and orchestral users and our latest gift, a concert grand piano, is being played by any and all comers on one Saturday each month. The piano joins our organ as part of our music outreach.



Original image by Brian Smith

But the physical security of the building is important and preparations are underway for external repair and redecoration. Phase 2 is internal decoration. Our aim is to address the water ingress that is very evident on the internal walls. None of this will be cheap but since November 2023 we have raised an additional £222,000.

The Church of England has an ambitious plan to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. We are considering solar panels on our roof, and making a change from gas to electric heating.

We have a committed band of volunteers, not limited to regular churchgoers, but we could do with more. If you'd like to help, we'd love to hear from you: just email me at chair@stswithunsrandr.org.

Philip Sturrock

Please note that the community coffee morning on Thursday 4 July has been cancelled as the hall is being used as a polling station.

Bridport UNITED CHURCH

Minister – The Revd Jane Wilson
01308 341159

Church secretary – Sue Herman
422598 / bridportsec@gmail.com

incorporating UPLODERS CHAPEL

Correspondent – Carol Hall
423163 / carol.a.gribb@gmail.com

Lots of activities for youngsters at BUC

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:13–16)

As we approach the summer holidays, we are taking the opportunity to look back at some of the fun times we've had with the younger members of our church community this year.

We have been thrilled to open a new toddler group, Little Lambs, which meets every Monday morning during school term. Our young friends and their parents, grandparents and carers enjoy a morning of play, songs, stories and snacks. Starting from a very

small number, we now have a lovely group of regular members who enjoy their Monday mornings with us.

Messy Church has been an important part of our church life for many years (despite a break during the Covid lockdowns).

We meet once a month, usually on the fourth Thursday. As most of our number arrive straight from school there is a drink and snack awaiting them (and their parents and carers) and then we proceed with our activities, some of which are messier than others... painting, crafts, colouring, food art, Lego and playdough. Later we go into church for a Bible story and songs and afterwards we share a delicious meal. During the year we also have some 'special' occasions such as our Noisy Nativity at Christmas, an Easter egg hunt and our summer games and picnic afternoon in July. We will take a break during August but will be back bright, breezy (and messy!) in September.

It is a blessing and a privilege to spend these special times with our children and young people, and to share something of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

If anyone would like to join us, or find out more, please visit our website (www.buc.cool) find us on Facebook or pop into one of our sessions.

Jane Clinton, BUC member



For children up to 11 years, with their adult carers.
Songs, Bible stories, craft activities, a meal & mess!
Come and join in!
Thursday 3.30 - 5.30
4th Thursday of the month

July services at Bridport United Church:

Sunday 7	10.30am	John Yarrien (HC)
	4pm	Soul Space
Sunday 14	10.30am	local arrangement
Sunday 21	10.30am	Chris Warren
Sunday 28	10.30am	John Yarrien

August services:

Sunday 4	10.30am	John Walker
	4pm	Soul Space
Sunday 11	10.30am	United service at Dorchester United Church
Sunday 18	10.30am	John Yarrien
Sunday 25	10.30am	Tim Wells

Regular events at BUC

Coffee morning every Wednesday and Saturday 10am–noon except 10 August. Lunch Club on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Mondays	9.30am	Toddlers group (term time only)
	10am–noon	Art group (inner hall) Not in August
Tuesdays	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third) Not in August
	2pm	Bridport U3A (fourth)
	4.30pm	Rainbows (term only)
	5.30pm	Brownies (term only)
	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band (church)
Wednesdays	12.30pm	Lunch Club (fourth only) All welcome. Two-course home-cooked meal. Please book: 422598
	5.30pm	Kickboxing (inner hall)
	6pm	Fitsteps
	7.30pm	Kickboxing (main hall)
Thursdays	2pm	Thursday Club (third) All welcome for tea, chat, games and crafts
	3.30pm	Messy Church (fourth) Not in August
	6pm	Fusion Dance
Fridays	6pm	Kickboxing (main hall)

Special events

Thurs 4 July	all day	Polling station (inner hall)
Sat 13 July	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast
Sun 28 July	11.30am	Church meeting
Sat 3 August	9–11.30am	Big Breakfast
Sat 10 August	from 10am	Vinyl Saturday



Little Lambs
0 – 4 yrs
+ parents and carers
Mondays
in term time
9.30 – 11
in the main hall
TOYS, CRAFT, SONGS, STORIES, DRINKS, SNACKS, FRIENDS
NO CHARGE **Bridport United Church**

From Uploders Chapel

As I write this the sun is shining and to be honest I want to get outside! However, first things first.

As before, the Scarecrow Festival went well and for the three bank holiday days at the end of May we were open for Cuppas & Cakes as usual. We raised just under £300 with the possibility of a further donation. It was really heartwarming to hear folk say how much they had enjoyed coming to the chapel, not just because of the delicious cake and cuppas but also for the warm welcome they received. A couple of young families came along and said they didn't use cash but we didn't turn them away. We said they were welcome anyway and when they came to leave they apologised and took the chapel's address so they could send us a cheque sometime. Apparently they had experienced being turned away elsewhere as they had no cash! We also had a couple come back a second time because they had so enjoyed the refreshments and the warm welcome.

The Pop-up Post Office (PUPO) continues to do well in spite of some technical problems on one occasion. So many thanks to all of you who support the chapel

one way or another. You are all such super folk, whichever way you support us. I know I have said this before but this is one thing that it never hurts to repeat, over and over again.

So do your best to be very Jovial in July and hopefully we'll have time and courage to enjoy an Adventurous August!

Carol Hall



July services at Uploders Chapel:

Sunday 7 10.30am Gwyneth Owen
Sunday 21 10.30am Joint service with Loders

August services:

Sunday 4 10.30am Roger Phillips
Sunday 18 10.30am Chris Smith

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

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

Jesus wants us on his team

I am always glad when the summer term is over because it is a time that brings up all my 'rejection' issues. I was OK in the winter because I was reasonable at football but I was hopeless at cricket! I did not understand it and still don't. I was usually put to field somewhere where the ball was unlikely to be hit and on the rare occasions I was allowed to bat, I was no sooner 'in' than I was 'out' again, taking the walk of shame back. As a consequence, no one wanted me in their team. Thus my summertime rejection issues.

There is always something special about being chosen, about being wanted. Rejection is a bitter pill to swallow. We all want to be accepted. We all want to be affirmed. We all want to feel that we matter. In fact, we are and we do!



We have to look no further than the words and example of Jesus in the Gospel: "You did not chose me. No, I chose you" (John 15:16). He addresses women and men as his "friends" and lives among us in order to invite us and receive us into his friendship. Words of friendship not rejection are his very nature. He says to all of us as he said to his disciples: "I call you friends". We are not servants to whom he barks orders or slaves who have to be knocked into shape. He wants us as part on his team. We do not have to be good; we just have to be open to his friendship.

It is a pity that we live in a world that sometimes seems bent on condemning and rejection rather than accepting and affirming. It seems so much easier to criticise than it does to affirm. Yet it is true to say that we flourish when we are affirmed, and we shrivel up when we are rejected.

Thank God, we often hear from visitors in the summer how welcome they have been made to feel here. May that be true with every encounter we have with our visitors this summer and with one another – even if we are rubbish at cricket!

Monsignor Keith Mitchell

Sunday Mass is at 10am and is streamed online at www.bridportcatholics.org.uk and the Bridport Catholic Parish Facebook page. For updates about Sunday and weekday Mass, see the weekly newsletter on 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 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).

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



BRIDPORT
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP

BEACON CHURCH Priory Lane, Bridport

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

A very special baptism service

On Sunday 12 May Beacon Church had a celebration service down at the river, when it was incredible to see three young guys coming to be baptised.

They all have different backgrounds and different, incredible stories of where God has lead them, but the same faith in Jesus. All their testimonies spoke of God moving in their life in life-altering ways. We could really sense God moving as we prayed for them and worshipped on the river bank. The weather was beautiful and sunny and not a breath of wind. We were able to pray new members into the church and it was a real celebration of God's goodness.

Just as we were praying for Simon to be filled with the holy spirit, the wind started to blow and the blossom fell down from the trees on all who gathered. It was incredible to witness God's glory in such a humbling way.



Three young men were baptised in the river during the Beacon's celebration service in May

If you are considering baptism, faith or simply whether there is something more than just us in this universe, we would love you to join us at Beacon Church. We are open 11am to 2pm on Wednesday and Thursday for the community kitchen and every Sunday from 10am to 12.30pm.

Bridport QUAKER MEETING The Meeting House 97 South Street

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

Action

The four testimonies are the basis from which Quaker beliefs have grown. Sometimes there is a fifth added – Environment or Justice – but definitions of the four can encompass most of the additions. Maybe there is just one word missing, and that is Action.

It is easy enough to say “yes, I agree with them all,” but it can be anything but easy to put them into practice. Simplicity means getting rid of complexity; Equality means getting rid of inequality; Peace means getting rid of aggression or war; and Truth means being honest and straightforward at all times. Can one really live like that?

The temptation is to give up before beginning and so to fail. But there is help. That’s the power of community to encourage and support, that’s the power of believing together. By supporting each other we may not achieve perfection, but we can try. With a smile, I have heard the phrase that my right to punch my enemy stops just before the end of their nose! Controlling feelings of aggression and so on is a life-long task but that doesn’t



A cupboard door in the Quaker Meeting House is decorated with the four testimonies

mean we don’t have to try. And if we keep trying, they may even transform into love . . .

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

The Quaker website at www.bridportquakers.org contains all the 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).

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. More details online at www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

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.

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 8 July Carol Norman will present ‘Hearts and flowers’, plus a ‘Blooming marvellous’ competition and bric-a-brac and book stall. No meeting in August. Phone 456339.

Bridport Stage Company theatre group is now working on a production of The Snow Queen and needs actors plus people to make/source costumes, props and sets. Monday nights from 7pm at The Bull. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie for details of future plans: tasterella@hotmail.co.uk

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

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 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

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 / 425312.

Bridport & District Gardening Club will meet at the WI Hall, North St on Thursday 18 July at 7.30pm when Mickey Little will speak about bulbs and their planting. Non-members £2. There is no meeting in August. www.bridportgardeningclub.co.uk

Bridport Bridge Club meets for duplicate bridge at St Swithun's Hall on Tuesday afternoons (beginners/rusty players; not 4th Tuesday), Wednesday evenings & Friday afternoons (relaxed; not 3rd Friday), plus online on Thursday evenings. See www.bridgewebs.com/bridport or phone Martin Angold 01308 861120.

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.

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 / 07887 675161 for more details or to join the mailing list.

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

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 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

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 for details and to receive newsletter. www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/more-trees-please

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

Bridport Choral Society rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster margefoster1956@gmail.com

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

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 or visit www.ascapegroup.org

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

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

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 →

The Harmony Centre provides friendly, informal support for local adults of all ages (18+) who want to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Call in during centre opening hours (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am–1pm) to find out how we can help you. New address: Unit 1 The Tower Building, St Michael's Estate (entrance via courtyard off Foundry Lane DT6 3RR). Telephone: 01308 801154.

Bridport Community Front Room offers face-to-face and phone support with mental health practitioners and peer specialists for people reaching a mental health crisis point or needing wellbeing support. Thursday to Sunday 2.15–9.45pm. Based at The Harmony Centre, new address: Unit 1 The Tower Building, St Michael's Estate, (entrance via courtyard off Foundry Lane DT6 3RR). Phone: 07385 290804.

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 23 July Professor Karen Hunt will present 'Bridport 1919: conflict and tensions in a small industrial town in West Dorset'. On 27 August Alex Leger will present 'Life on the licence fee', tales from his many years as producer and director of Blue Peter. 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 / 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

Bridport Stroke Club meets weekly Sept–Christmas and Feb–July at the Community Room, Vernon's Court. Contact David Lawrence: dandhlawrence@gmail.com

The Rotary Club of Bridport meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 for 6.30pm at the Bridport & District Golf Club, Burton Road DT6 4QT. We also hold fundraising and social activities on other dates and elsewhere. We help good causes locally, nationally and internationally and support the local community. Contact Mike Green 07909 990693 / mikegreen@greenmail.net



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

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 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

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

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

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 or visit 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 / www.bridportyouthdance.org.uk.

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

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 or drop in to 45 South Street, Bridport (Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am–3pm, Wed & Fri 10am–1pm).



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

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. More information at www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk

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

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

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!

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

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

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

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

Bridport 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 (membership).

Somerset & Dorset Family History Society (West Dorset Group) meets at Loders Village Hall. Members £1, visitors £3. Email Jane: 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.

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. They are taking a break over the summer but plan to meet again on 18 September for a talk about Charles I. £10 per person to cover costs. Tea/coffee from 1.30pm, talk starts at 2pm. Contact 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

Bridport & District Good Neighbour Scheme provides help for people in the community needing transport to medical appointments who cannot use public transport, do not qualify for the hospital car scheme, have no friends or family to help and cannot afford taxi fares. Donation to cover cost of the journey if possible. Contact 07778 211140.



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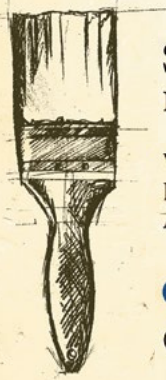


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