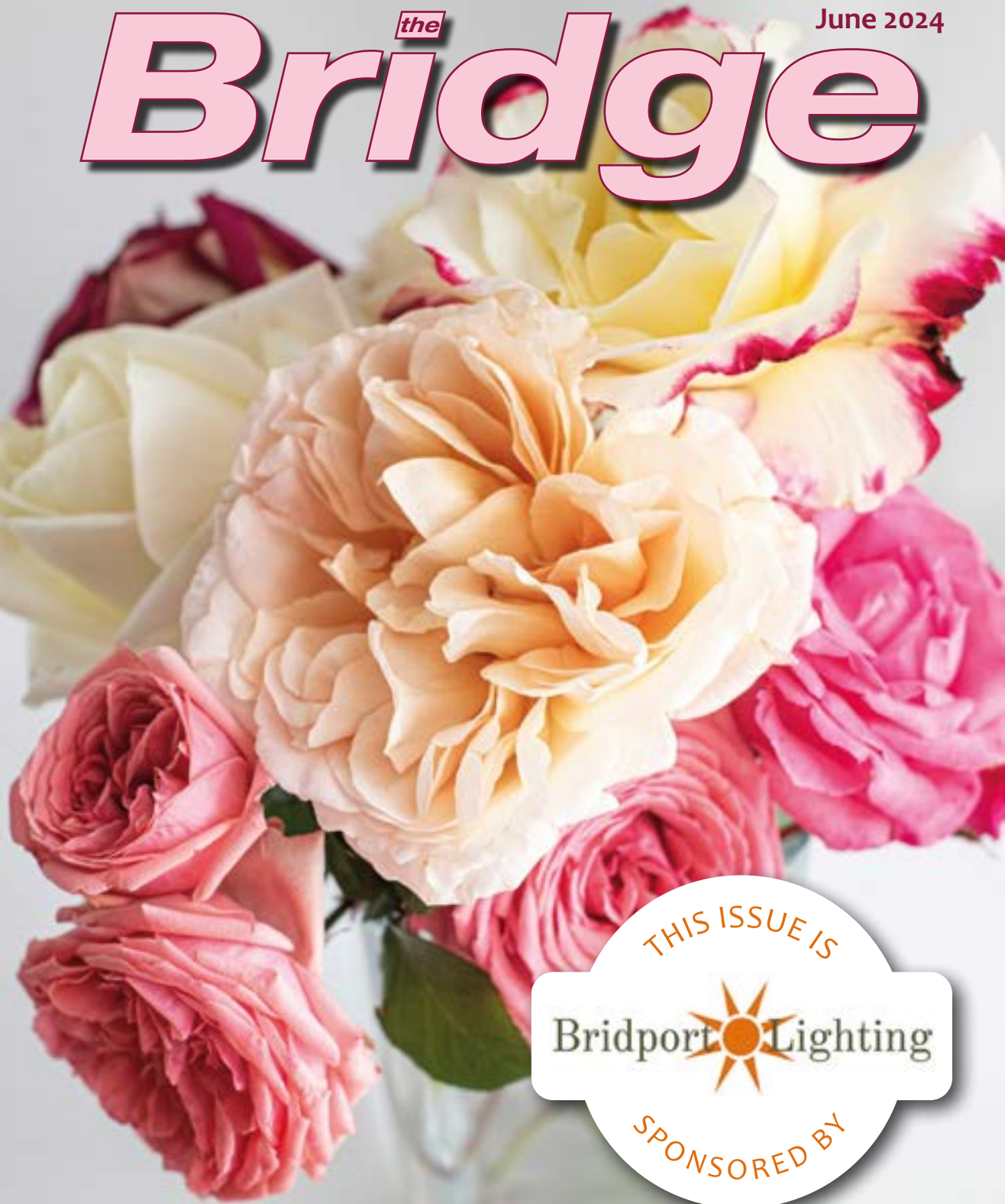


# *the* **Bridge**

June 2024



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**The advertising and copy deadline  
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*Opinions expressed in The Bridge are not necessarily those of either the editorial team or the clergy. While we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the magazine's contents, we cannot accept responsibility for information given or claims made by our contributors or advertisers.*

# Let's make the Church an oasis in troubled times

**June is bustin' out all over! Some of us may be old enough to remember the Rogers and Hammerstein song from the musical Carousel. It is a song full of razzmatazz and all that's upbeat and hopeful in life. It brims over with confidence and optimism. Quite a contrast to the world some years later, a world that sometimes seems characterised by fear and cynicism.**

Recently, some statistics were made available that could point to a Christian revival in our land and beyond in the west. The statistics are made at a time and in a culture in which prophets of doom delight in reporting on the demise and subsequent death of the Christian Church in these islands. It is worth quoting GK Chesterton's observation: "Christianity has died many times and has risen again: for it has a God who knows the way out of the grave!"

Certainly, the statistics show there was a strong overall increase in those attending services over Holy Week and Easter this year in Roman Catholic churches and there is no reason to believe that this was not replicated in other Christian communities. In many places Easter attendances were the highest in 25 years.

Is it because in an increasingly fearful and cynical west there is a growing hunger for faith? Has worship become an oasis of sanity and reason in an apparent sea of senseless madness? Perhaps people are waking

up to the spiritual war in which we are currently living? The world that the so-called New Atheists occupied could be crumbling; the certainties of a united Western liberal order may be crumbling too.

So many of the things we took for granted – Christian

culture, Christian laws, the sanctity of life, freedom

of speech and so much else – have been falling apart before our eyes and we have been slow and fearful to react. People seem to be seeking something different, something deeper, as they are drawn to the good, the true and the beautiful.

June may be "bustin' out all over" – but so is God! Try as so-called western

civilisation might, God as He is in Jesus cannot be kept down. He is the master of new beginnings, new life, of resurrection.

As western civilisation fractures, the Church should be, as Pope Francis says, "a field hospital" catching the fallen and readying them for resurrection – the great renewal.

*Monsignor Keith Mitchell*

*Bridport Catholic Parish*



**Monsignor  
Keith Mitchell**

*People seem to be seeking something deeper as they are drawn to the good, the true, the beautiful*

## Bridport Food Bank AGM

**The annual general meeting to consider the work and accounts of Bridport Food Bank will take place at St Mary's Church, South Street, Bridport, on Wednesday 10 July at 5.30pm.**



After the meeting there will be refreshments and an opportunity to hear more about the food bank from those closely involved in its work.

All are welcome. For catering purposes, please email [sonia.maynard@bridportfoodbank.org](mailto:sonia.maynard@bridportfoodbank.org), putting BFB AGM in the subject space, if you will be coming.

*Mandi Sturrock, on behalf of the trustees  
[www.bridportfoodbank.org](http://www.bridportfoodbank.org)*

## Help the food bank as its volunteer treasurer

**Bridport Food Bank is seeking a volunteer who will take on the role of treasurer for the charity from August 2024.**

You don't need to have a financial background but you should have worked at a level where you have gained experience in budget management.

You should also be interested in working with a group of trustees and volunteers who are committed to the main purpose of the charity, which is the alleviation of food poverty in the Bridport area.

For more information visit our website [www.bridportfoodbank.org](http://www.bridportfoodbank.org) or contact Ian Bark, Chair of Trustees: [ianbark@icloud.com](mailto:ianbark@icloud.com).

# CHURCH SERVICES

JUNE 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
<b>Sun 2</b> <i>1st Sun after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC <b>10am Parish HC service</b>	4pm CC				
<i>Mon 3</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Tues 4</i>				2.30pm Holy Communion		
<i>Wed 5</i>	2.30pm HC					
<i>Thurs 6</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<b>Sun 9</b> <i>2nd Sun after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Morning Praise	9.30am Morning Praise		11am HC
<i>Mon 10</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 13</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<b>Sun 16</b> <i>3rd Sun after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am Morning Praise	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am HC 11.30am Bradpole Brunch (village hall)		11am Morning Praise
<i>Mon 17</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 20</i>		10am Eucharist			10am Morning Praise	
<i>Sat 22</i>						6pm Service of Wholeness and Healing
<b>Sun 23</b> <i>4th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am Matins	9.30am Morning Praise	11am HC	11am Morning Praise
<i>Mon 24</i>						10am Morning Prayer
<i>Thurs 27</i>		10am Eucharist				
<b>Sun 30</b> <i>5th after Trinity</i>	8am BCP HC 11am HC	9.30am Eucharist	11am HC	9.30am Morning Praise		11am HC

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



# Bridport's Swift Town status will help the birds

**Swifts are one of our most beloved birds. Their presence is a symbol of summertime, and spirits lift when screaming parties arrive in the skies above our towns and villages.**

We can hear them from our homes or places of work, and we stop for a moment to watch the small flocks rushing above the high street or darting across the local park.

Swifts, however, are in serious trouble. Between 1995 and 2020 their population saw a massive 60% decline, and in 2021 they were added to the Red List for endangered birds.

Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that Bridport has a good number of swifts compared to similar towns in the UK. This is something to be celebrated but also protected, as the species faces many risks including lack of invertebrate food (flying insects) and nest-site availability on buildings. This is why we are declaring Bridport a Swift Town and planning a summer of events including talks and walks. We will be sharing useful, practical information about how to encourage swifts to nest in more buildings in Bridport, and how to develop a landscape-wide recovery strategy to support and enhance the food supply for Bridport swifts.



Ben Andrews / tsph-images.com

We are asking residents to record the swifts' return via the Swift Mapper website: [www.swiftmapper.org.uk](http://www.swiftmapper.org.uk). The information gathered through the project will be invaluable in helping to support and protect swifts in years to come.

We believe that celebrating the swifts of Bridport is the key to protecting the species from the problems it faces. Please email [swiftmail@commonground.org.uk](mailto:swiftmail@commonground.org.uk) if you would like to be more involved or report a particular nesting site.

*Caroline Pearce*

*Project Manager, Bridport Town Council*

## Council changes bring a dual role for 20 councillors

**The recent expansion of Bridport Town Council meant that electors in the former parish areas of Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, and Bradpole – along with some whose homes now come under Bridport rather than Symondsburys – joined central Bridport residents in voting in the recent May local elections.**

We now have 20 councillors with a dual role: they represent the town on broad issues affecting Bridport as a whole; and as 'ward councillors' they will also be

speaking up for residents in one of the five new town council wards, focusing on very localised issues.

If you would like to contact your ward councillor with any idea or issue, you can do so via the friendly ward clerks. If you are not sure which ward you are in, any of the clerks will be able to direct you to the right person.

### **Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward**

Jo Hughes, Ward Clerk 07398 171955

[bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bandw.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)

### **Bridport Central Ward and West Bay Ward**

Will Austin, Town Clerk 01308 456722

[enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk)

### **Bridport West & Allington Ward**

Amy Stephenson, Ward Clerk 07903 337687

[bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bridportwest.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)

### **Bradpole Ward**

Sandy Goldsmith, Ward Clerk 07944 523084

[bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bradpole.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk)

For more information about your councillors, visit [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/councillors) or have a look at your nearest council noticeboard.

*Caroline Pearce*

## Netherbury Open Gardens

**Gardens in this idyllic village will be open 1–5pm on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June.**

There will also be homemade lunches (12.30–2pm) tea and cakes, plant stall and tombola.

Entry tickets, which are valid for both days, are £7.50 (cash preferred) and free for under-13s. All proceeds go to local charities including St Mary's Beaminst. Free parking is available.

# Bridport Food Matters: the virtual food

**As we look forward to the Bridport Food Festival this month, we take a look at one of the organisations working to secure food security for the town now and for years to come...**

## **Bridport Food Matters (BFM)**

will have a yurt in the middle of this year's Bridport Food Festival, creating a perfect visual metaphor for the organisation's place in the community: in terms of local food provision, it's at the centre.

Our local food scene is busy, buzzy and exciting. Bridport was one of the first towns to have a food security plan, and so many committed people are working in different ways here to produce and provide high quality, sustainable local food. It can seem overwhelming: there's just so much going on. Well, BFM is what ties them all together.

Founded in 2019, BFM is a community hub promoting access to nutritious food for all, for ever. At the moment this 'hub' is virtual, with a website connecting people and organisations, and an email newsletter that goes out to about 400 subscribers with updates about community initiatives.

BFM's priority is building a sustainable local food system, with shorter food miles and stronger links between local producers and

consumers. "We're too dependent on imports," says trustee Candida Dunford Wood. "This is obviously a disaster for the environment, while climate instability – such as more and more extreme temperatures – is having a huge impact on the price of things. The price of basics is skyrocketing.

"We're living through a time of great crises – climate change, wars, the economic and financial situation – and food is part of both the problem and the solution. There's more and more need for connectivity, for us to work together and build a sense of mutual support. We've been working with the town council to determine how much more supply we'd need to be truly resilient in the face of climate shocks and wars. Food is at the heart of every community."

BFM gives visibility to the town's various food-related initiatives. "We're always looking for links, ways to build and strengthen community resilience," says Candida. "This helps to foster partnerships between different groups and encourages volunteers to get involved, too."

## **Bringing the virtual to life**

Now, however, BFM is expanding its focus to include a physical hub, too: a community space built around food. Ideally somewhere central, the building would include a shop for locally produced, healthy food; a community cafe with space for events, workshops and activities; an outside space to grow food for the cafe and shop; and an information point with useful resources, advice and support. Classes and demonstrations at the food hub could include sessions on cooking on a budget, perhaps



without an oven. Other ideas include an online shop for local products, with a pick-up point at the food hub.

"We have lots of support for the idea – now we need to find a venue and raise the money," says Candida. "It's about food security for everyone, and it'll be for all ages and all sections of the community. There are so many people in our community who have the skills to make this happen. We want to build more partnerships and join forces."

## **The Food Festival's 20th year**

So what will BFM bring to the Bridport Food Festival in this, its 20th year? Anyone visiting their yurt will find a celebration of the local projects that are promoting access to nutritious food for everyone. This year BFM will be particularly promoting younger people addressing food security and climate adaptation, including Ele Saltmarsh from Fivepenny Farm, who will be telling stories and bringing the issue to life in a really engaging way. Also in the yurt will be team members from Winnow Farm Seeds – experienced agroecological producers who are expanding their focus to include skill sharing – and Chloe Broadfield who works at Tamarisk Farm in West Bexington and runs courses under The Agroecological Way.

"It's definitely a celebration," says Candida, "and we'll be looking forward to the next 20 years."



# resource with plans for a physical hub

Three thousand people come to the festival – obviously they don't all come into our tent, but a good number do, and we're looking forward to lively discussions with visitors and the chance to spread the word about local initiatives.

"We want people to get involved, and we'll be asking them what they want from a community food hub – there will even be a 'design your own hub' activity."

Elsewhere at the festival there will be cookery demonstrations from local chefs including Andy Tyrrell from Soulshine, Olya from Zhiva Authentica, Valentine Warner and Sanjay Choudhury. Foodie kids

will love the Young Cooks Kitchen, where they will be able to create food from around the world that's designed for sharing. Debbie Smith from Watercleaves Nursery will set up a kitchen garden play area with activities for younger children, and Jo Burlington will be running 'Oops Wow Messy Art' drop-in workshops on themes of growing and sharing food. And of course there will be loads of stalls from local growers and producers – plus the Beer Festival, too, on the previous evening as well as the day itself.

The festival is organised by the Bridport Local Food Group (BLFG), an organisation with close

links with BFM (representatives from BFM are involved in festival planning meetings). The festival is BLFG's main focus, although it also runs some educational initiatives.

"Bridport Food Festival is a fantastic celebration of local food," says Candida. "All the organisers are volunteers – people who love the town, love the community, love food and know how important it is in bringing everyone together. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase what people are doing locally."

*Bridport Food Festival is on Saturday 15 June from 9.30am to 5pm at Asker Meadows. Tickets are £3.50 in advance from the Tourist Information Centre or £5 on the gate. No charge for young people under 18. Bridport Beer Festival, run by Bridport Round Table, is on Friday 14 June from 6pm until late and on Saturday 15 June from 11am until late.*

**Pictured: Bridport Food Matters will have a central presence at the Bridport Food Festival this month**



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## Music at St Swithun's

Volunteers wanted! St Swithun's Allington has two fine musical instruments: a Conacher organ and an Estonia grand piano. The church needs one or two people to help with promoting the use of the instruments and to liaise with possible players.

No musical experience or skill is required, just enthusiasm! You'll join a friendly band of volunteers (church membership is not mandatory) and there will be full training and lots of support.

You will need to be able to communicate by email.

To discuss this (no commitment) contact

Mandi Sturrock: 07887 483228 /  
msturrock@pancathay.com.





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# Inspiring young people's hearts, minds and words: Nick Goldsmith



**Nick Goldsmith is the founder of The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares, the Bridport charity that encourages children to explore their creativity through writing.**

**We met Nick at his office in the LSi to discover more about the exciting work of 'The Bank', and what led him to set it up in the first place...**



*The Bridge:* Nick, we absolutely love what you do! Anything that gets kids writing has got to be a good thing. Where did the idea for The Bank come from?

*Nick Goldsmith:* Around 2016 I stumbled upon a charity in San Francisco called 826 Valencia, set up by the author Dave Eggers. It's a writing and tutoring centre for young people, and it happens to be disguised as a pirate supplies shop to meet local business zoning laws. It's been a huge success – partly because so many people come in, intrigued by the pirate stuff – and has inspired similar groups around the world, including The Ministry of Stories in London. It planted the seed in me for The Bank.

*TB:* So what happened next?

*NG:* Around that time, my wife and I decided to move our family to Bridport. I was born and brought up in London but once we'd had kids I knew London life wasn't ideal. My wife is from Uploders so we knew the area, and Bridport turned out to be exactly what I wanted. I immediately felt culturally connected without the stresses of London.

I was producing films and making music videos and TV commercials, and I continued doing that for a while. Then the pandemic arrived, which turned out to be the catalyst for the birth of The Bank. Having to home-school in the first lockdown meant we had to find ways to keep our two boys engaged. In the second lockdown, though, the school was sending more work and we found the kids were less engaged. Then my mother died and left me some money, which meant I could launch The Bank and not take a salary for a year while I looked for funding.

*TB:* How are things going now?

*NG:* We're three years in and I work full time at The Bank, which is the only way to achieve what we want. My previous job was all-encompassing, I couldn't do both. Year one felt exciting; now I feel the responsibility, although I still find our work incredibly inspiring. I wouldn't change anything.

*TB:* Tell us what The Bank has to offer local kids...

*NG:* Our regular activities go on both in school and out of school. There are standalone morning

workshops for primary schools on themes like storymaking and speech writing, or we can tailor a session to whatever the school wants. We run longer courses, up to 10 weeks, for secondary age students so they can produce a more substantial piece of work, either fiction or non-fiction. Our specialist workshop leaders and volunteer helpers offer great one-to-one support to the kids and the interactive sessions can be transformative.

Our out-of-school offer includes The Vault, an after-school club for young writers aged 10 to 14. They produce What's Going On?, a quarterly paper full of news, interviews and features. There's also The Writers' Account, a place to write, and learn about writing, for 15- to 18-year-olds. And we'll be running a club during the summer holidays, when 9- to 14-year-olds will get to plan their vision for The Children's Democratic Republic of Bridport! All this out-of-school stuff is free for children.

*TB:* Has there been a highlight in The Bank's first three years?

*NG:* For me it's definitely Resonate, the kids' project with Joelle Taylor last autumn. She's an extraordinary poet who led a group of young writers in workshops over two weekends. They produced some amazing work – stories, poems and songs – and performed it with Joelle at the Arts Centre during the Bridport Literary Festival. The kids were brave and inspiring as well as being incredible performers.

I want what we do to be as little like school as possible, and having the kids work with professional →

# Inspiring young people: Nick Goldsmith continued

writers helps us achieve that. If you give young people a voice and a platform, they'll impress you.

*TB:* And we hear you ran a workshop at No 10 Downing Street!

*NG:* Yes we did. It was part of 'Lessons at 10', a program set up by Akshata Murty, Rishi Sunak's wife, in September. It involved young writers from three schools – they thought about the jobs that a prime minister might have to do that no one ever hears about, and then wrote 'life hacks' to make those tasks just a little bit easier. It was quite bizarre to be there, but it was nice to be asked.

*TB:* What have you got planned for this year?

*NG:* We're putting together a three-day literary festival in October called Bankfest with students from Colfox, Beaminster and Budmouth (in Weymouth) schools. There will be interactive workshops with all kinds of writers, and the kids will be writing poetry, stories, plays – whatever fires their imagination. It's very exciting!

*TB:* Are young people getting involved behind the scenes too?

*NG:* We definitely need to be steered by the young people we're working with, and we have a youth advisory board who are involved with planning. I hope that in time some of them will want to join the main board of trustees and eventually run the charity.

*TB:* How can adults get involved?

*NG:* We couldn't do any of this without our volunteers and we're always looking for more. We aim to have one adult to four children at workshops. The kids want support, and when they realise the person with them is there because they want to be, the kids feel respected and worthy.

It's good if volunteers don't have experience as writers; I've found that when we don't tell young people 'how to do it', they blow us away with what they produce. We don't ask too much of our volunteers and you can dip in and out; you just need a DBS check and a training session.

*www.thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org*

## A special evening with the Ukrainian community

**On 4 May, Bridport United Church (BUC) hosted an evening organised by the local Ukrainian community.**

It was a fascinating evening full of friendship, laughter and emotion, and about 100 people came to show support and learn about Ukraine.

The first part was a presentation, film show and commentary by Serhii, who showed us his beautiful homeland. He talked about the landscape we were watching of mountains, rivers, lakes and wild places. I had no idea it was such an enormous, wonderful country.

**Serhii, from the town's Ukrainian community, about to enjoy some borscht**



We saw some of their cities, which are full of old buildings and history and make our big cities look very small! And we learnt about the cultural life of Ukraine – its musicians, artists, authors and sportspeople – and saw and heard a little of their Orthodox services in those magnificent churches.

Then it was through to the hall for delicious borscht (beetroot soup) made by the Ukrainian community and helpers.

Back in the church, we experienced the most emotional and heartbreaking session. We saw the beautiful cities now in ruins, streets covered in bodies, mass graves, and people in despair. Perhaps the most

moving was the contrast between a picture of Serhii's parents' house in the first half and then as it is now – windows boarded against flying glass and a cellar dug to live in. How he managed to keep his emotions in check I don't know.

Events like this are being held around the country to show people something about the real Ukraine, to raise awareness of what is happening, and to raise money to buy desperately needed equipment for their army. So far several portable generators have been sent over, and now the aim is to buy a secondhand SUV.

People were incredibly generous and we raised about £900. Thank you, Serhii and everyone who helped, for sharing your story with us – and all in English, too!

*Sue Herman*

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Tower captain – Bob Hardwick 420632

### Silver lining

As I was sitting down to write this column, I received an email with the good news that St Mary's had received the Eco Church Silver Award. It seemed a good time to reflect on our 'eco journey' as a church. Back in 2021, a group of us from St Mary's met to find out more about Eco Church and to complete the questionnaire on the five different areas of the scheme: worship and teaching, management of church buildings, management of church land, community and global engagement, and lifestyle.

While we were confident about how some of these areas were already part of our personal Christian faith, and the faith and actions of the St Mary's congregation, other areas posed questions we couldn't answer or had never even thought of as part of our Christian witness and responsibility.

For example: Was the church's heating and lighting supplied from 100% renewable sources? Were the church's cleaning materials eco-friendly? Did the church use Fairtrade products for refreshments?

We came to realise that all these things and many more have an impact on the God-created environment that we have a duty to protect and nourish.

And so it was that in March 2021 we tentatively submitted an application for a Bronze Award, conscious of how far we still needed to travel as a church. Much to our surprise and delight, we received that award. Since then we have worked hard to find answers and encourage the congregation to understand the importance of care for the environment – for example, by displaying signs explaining why we only use Fairtrade products for refreshments and why we use environmentally friendly cleaning materials as well as having a dedicated Eco Church noticeboard.

One of the key areas we needed help with was the management of church buildings. We arranged a visit to St Mary's Church in Beaminster – which has received the Gold Award – and came away with many ideas and some answers. One of these was to have an energy audit to identify ways to make the church's heating and lighting more efficient and sustainable.



**The Eco Church display at St Mary's (top). Members of the church were thrilled to receive the scheme's Silver Award last month**

This is line with the Church of England's aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Armed with this information, a plan to implement the recommendations of the energy audit over five years, evidence of progress made in other areas, and information gleaned at the Parish Green Day, we submitted our application for a Silver Award.

Some of the simpler recommendations in the audit will be put in motion this year, while other long-term recommendations need further thought and funding.

I hope and pray that over the next few years the congregation learn to embrace care for God's creation as part of their day-to-day journey of faith so as a church we can move towards a Gold Award. Achieving this will mean not just completing a questionnaire but also providing evidence of what we are doing and how we are living.

*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

The church was buzzing! A large number of people came to the exhibition of hobbies on 4 May to see how others spend their leisure hours. Highly detailed models of a street scene with an underground train station, a commercial dock and a train layout had all been made with infinite patience and care. We could also watch work in progress on model aeroplanes. The dolls' houses were fascinating, two of them designed as shops with all their items of stock, and accommodation meticulously set out above. There was a display of exquisite lace, so delicate, and an opportunity to try your hand at making some. There was also lovely embroidery as well as stitched articles, examples of pyrography (decorating wood or other materials with controlled burn marks; literally 'writing with fire') and beautifully decorated eggs. The whole exhibition showed what amazing talent there is in Bothenhampton – thank you, exhibitors, for sharing your interests and giving us such a treat.

The next coffee morning at Holy Trinity is on Saturday 1 June, 10am to 12 noon, so come for a catch-up with friends over a cup of tea or coffee. If you are new to the area this is a good way of meeting people. There is a cake stall, books and a raffle, and a friendly atmosphere as well!

A pet service is being planned for Sunday 14 July at Holy Trinity. This will be very informal and a chance for owners to meet together. Do come at 11am and bring your pets.

*Barbara Ffooks*

### FILM NIGHT in Bothenhampton Village Hall

Saturday 29 June – title to be announced

Doors open 7pm, film starts at 7.30pm

Admission £5 • Refreshments available

Please book by emailing [lcnc2413@outlook.com](mailto:lcnc2413@outlook.com)



From top: Shirley Fielden with her Buntline Basin model; a decorated egg; Geoff Trenholme with model planes; lovely lace; a London street scene with underground station; beautiful quilts, stitched pictures, dolls' houses and other items

## HOLY TRINITY Bradpole

Parish editor – Douglas Baldwin 424232  
*douglas.baldwin@seaside20.plus.com*

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.

### Village lunch club

Do come to The King's Head for a social and reasonably priced lunch on Tuesdays 11 and 25 June. Please let Daphne King (427552) know if you will be coming so she has the numbers for catering.

### The Friends of Holy Trinity

The Friends' annual general meeting will take place in the church at 6pm on Thursday 13 June. This will be a short meeting to appoint office bearers and committee members, the hard-working group that organises social events and fundraising for the maintenance of the church. After the meeting, John Preston, a member of the congregation, will give what promises to be a fascinating presentation about his work as a volunteer in HM Coastguard carrying out rescues and helping those in distress around the coast. Refreshments will be served, and non-members will be very welcome.

### Church lighting project

The newly installed lights were in operation on Sunday 28 April as shown in our photos, opposite. The project took about three and a half years from concept to commissioning and was the result of the hard work of our small team: John Preston (project lead and design), Martin Whiting (installation lead), John Adams (church building lead) and Douglas Baldwin (diocesan faculty administrator).

Because the church is a Grade II\* listed building, a faculty had to be obtained from the diocesan chancellor (a judge in chambers) through the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), in lieu of planning permission from Dorset Council, before the work could begin.

## Bradpole Brunch

*for children and  
their families*



### Jesus calms the storm... Who helps you in difficult times? Is it Dad – on Father's Day?

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

**Sunday 16 June, 11.30am to 12.30pm**  
**Bradpole Village Hall**

The Church of England is very careful about work on ancient church buildings, and the long, convoluted faculty process ensures that works are in keeping with the fabric of the building and there is no damage.

Architainment Lighting Ltd of High Wycombe provided the design assistance and the lighting hardware, which was installed by Phoenix Electrical and Plumbing Services Ltd of Bridport. Architainment was chosen because of the company's experience in high-profile lighting projects such as London City Hall and the London Eye; Phoenix because it's a local firm and has experience in projects similar to the church's.

The project's original objectives, which were used in the submission to the DAC, came from a survey of the congregation and included the need to replace the old, dim, poor and unreliable system, which was costly and difficult to maintain. The architect had also identified this need in his quinquennial inspection. Replacement would bring several benefits: it would save energy in line with Eco Church principles; make the church more warm and welcoming; add flexibility in how the building could be used; provide effective lighting for the music group, organist and clergy; and future-proof the installation.

The project cost around £30,000. The whole system uses LED technology, which will give a reduction of up to 80% in energy use and a massive reduction in maintenance needs and costs, but with a staggering increase in life and reliability from an average of 3,600 hours to 50,000 hours.

By and large the system is automatic, so anyone entering or leaving the church no longer needs to switch lights on or off; once set, the lights are



**Pictured: The lighting project at Holy Trinity Bradpole is now complete and the lights are in use, bringing many benefits and showing the church off beautifully!**

controlled by passive infrared sensors. Now there is bright, warm, welcoming light where it is needed.

A number of pre-set lighting 'scenes' are available such as 'visitors', 'services', 'music group practice', 'concerts' and 'functions', so areas of the church can be lit or unlit. At the press of a button on the control panels around the church, all can be dimmed down from full brightness. The ordinary use of the lighting of the various scenes is simple and will be managed at any given time by one person from a small team.

The scenes will be trialled for a few months and then reviewed to see if adjustments or additions are required. The system is upgradable and flexible so more scenes can be added in the future if necessary – including, for example, the outside lights.

The outstanding murals and communion table with its ornate embroidery are now shown off to their true potential, while the organ and music group areas are bathed in light, making it easier to read music and play the organ and piano without shadows. Some lights are now focused on the communion table, pulpit and dais, with uplighting below the chancel mural that enhances the colourful wall design. The three-dimensional features in the murals, such as the stars and the angels' golden halos, now stand out in relief, which wasn't apparent before.

The lighting in the vestry and kitchen areas has been upgraded, making both areas safer. It is separate from the main system and not controlled by the panels.

A massive thankyou to the team involved in delivering the project, from the concept and design, preparing the faculty application and dealing with the DAC to checking the contracts before signing,



supervising the installation and liaising with the church architect. Thank you to the congregation, too, for your patience on what has seemed like an almost endless journey. Visitors will be welcome to come and see all the features for themselves – and there's no need to switch on the lights!

### **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  
*walditchbridgejse@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)

### Walditch Garden Group

Join us for our garden group meeting on Thursday 27 June 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 June:

Lift and store tulip bulbs after flowering; give wisteria its summer prune; support tall-growing perennials, including hollyhocks and delphiniums; cut back spring-flowering perennials such as pulmonaria; tie in new stems of climbing and rambling roses horizontally; prune late-spring or early-summer shrubs after flowering (e.g. weigela and philadelphus); sow herbs in pots to grow on windowsills; cover developing and ripening fruits with netting.

*Some favourite plants and shrubs for June (pictured below):* ceanothus 'Skylark' (1), deutzia 'Strawberry Fields' (2), floribunda rose 'Rhapsody in Blue' (3), dianthus 'Doris' (4).



## Thelma's hymn notes

### Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

This hymn was written by William Williams from Carmarthenshire (1717–91), who trained initially as a doctor but switched to theology and for many decades was a circuit preacher/poet for the Calvinist Methodists. Like most of his works, this hymn was composed in Welsh.

The hymn was translated from the original Welsh into English by Peter Williams (1727–96), an Anglican clergyman who was converted to the Calvinist Methodists by the preaching of George Whitfield. He published the first Welsh Bible Commentary and Bible Concordance between 1767 and 1773.

John Hughes (1873–1932) set the hymn to his own Welsh tune of Cwm Rhondda. As well as being an accomplished organist and singer, he was also a Baptist deacon for many years. Hughes held a full-time job at the Great Western Colliery, Pontypridd, for over 40 years, enjoying his musical activities as a hobby.

When sung by a Welsh male voice choir the hymn sounds magnificent.

*Thelma Pulman, organist at St Mary's Walditch*



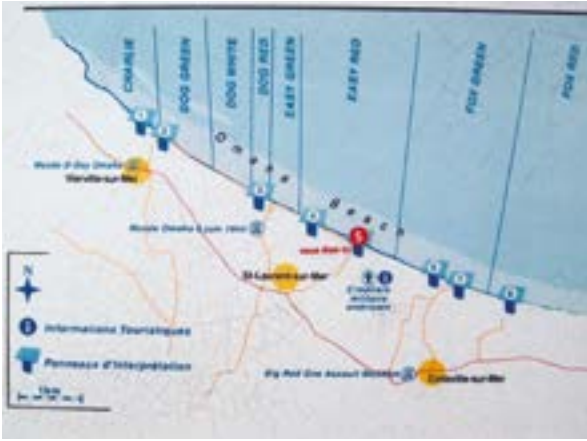
### How American soldiers stationed in Walditch became heroes on D-Day

Thursday 6 June is the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when allied troops landed on five beaches along the coast of Normandy.

Companies E and G, 2nd Battalion, American 16th Infantry Regiment, had been stationed in Walditch and went on to play a pivotal part in the eventual successful outcome on Omaha Beach. Right from the start the plan for Omaha had gone badly awry and it had seemed possible that the Omaha landing could be thrown back into the sea, which would have had serious implications for the outcome of D-Day. However, through initiative, leadership and teamwork, a section of E Company known as the Spalding Section and Captain Dawson's G Company opened up a breach in the German defences and brought about victory in the battle of Omaha Beach.

Company E with F (West Bay) alongside landed in the first phase at 0630 hrs with Company G following 30 minutes later. The sea was choppy and many men





**Pictured: Omaha Beach showing the planned assault sectors; US troops (believed to be from E or F Company) approaching Omaha Beach from the sea**



Conseil Régional de Basse-Normandie / National Archives USA

were seasick. To avoid mined obstacles, the landing was at low tide and had to cover 300 yards of open beach. As the landing craft approached the beach, they came under intense machine gun and artillery fire from formidable defences on a ridge. Owing to a strong tide, most of E and F were landed on the wrong beach sector, which was in chaos with men falling on all sides and the sea red with blood. Intelligence had identified that the beach was defended by low-grade troops and only discovered on 4 June that a well-trained regiment had been moved in, undetected, during March – too late to alter the plan. A carrier pigeon carrying a message from the French resistance had been shot down.

Pre-landing bombing had missed the beach and the naval bombardment was deemed largely ineffective. To add to their woes, naval rockets that were fired off just as the first wave went in fell short into the sea and 27 out of 32 DD tanks (adapted to float) sank. There was no communication as all radios were damaged or lost to the sea and senior commanders out at sea had little idea how the landing was progressing.



Robin Stapleton

However, the Spalding Section of 33 men was put ashore near its correct location (Easy Red). After wading ashore in deep water, they breached the beach defences and reached cover at the base of the bluff. Following a reconnaissance, a route was found to the top. Captain Dawson’s G Company landed in a hail of fire, and likewise started working their way to the top with the Spalding section providing cover.

At the top, after a fierce battle, the Spalding section took out a fortification. Meanwhile, Dawson and his company moved on towards Colleville-sur-Mer, dealing with an observation post in the church. By the end of the day, and after ferocious fighting, they had captured part of Colleville. As a consequence of losing their naval fire control officer during the landing, they came under a naval bombardment and suffered seven casualties.

Captain Ed Wozenski, who with most of his company E had been beached in the wrong sector (Fox Green), rounded up 12 men he could find alive. He led them under intense fire to meet up with his Spalding section and organise what remained of his company before moving on to provide support to G Company.

Each company started out with about 220 men. E Company suffered 129 casualties and G had 60.

A plaque in Walditch Church honours the memory of the two companies.

*Robin Stapleton*

**Pictured: a present-day photo showing the route to the top of the bluff. T/Sgt Streczyk (E Company) took out a machine gun nest at the top right. The American Cemetery is behind the trees with over 9,000 burials**

## ST JOHN'S West Bay

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

### News from St John's

We are continuing to hold services in St John's, and with the lighter evenings it is now possible to hold the monthly service of Wholeness and Healing here too, although it would help if it was a bit warmer. The process of getting approval for the work to repair the heating and lighting continues but we don't yet have a date for the work to start.

### West Bay WI

This month sees the WI meeting for their regular Knit 'n' Natter on Wednesday 5 June, 10am to midday. The following Wednesday, 12 June, at the monthly meeting (2.30 to 4.30pm) there will be two speakers, Anne and Gareth Jones, who will present 'An Afternoon with Henry VIII'. This will include include music with traditional instruments from that time and it sounds like a fascinating event.

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 was slightly late with my walk one Saturday recently when I spotted the ritual of raising the flag at the harbour master's building (*pictured below*). I learnt that the flag, the Red Ensign, is raised and lowered each day during the summer. The Red Ensign acknowledges



and honours the men and women of the Merchant Navy who have served in the past and who serve today on ferries, tankers and container ships.

Saturday 20 April was a lovely sunny day, which meant the event to inaugurate the Harbour Watch scheme (*pictured top*) could go ahead outside the Salt House. It was opened



The Harbour Watch scheme was launched on a sunny day in West Bay

by David Sidwick, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset, who welcomed everyone before meeting members of the public and representatives from various organisations. This Dorset Police initiative aims to improve communication between the harbour community, boat owners, business owners, residents and the police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

On 7 May the West Bay Beach Wheelchair scheme was launched. The new Trail Glider wheelchair buggy is ready for use, allowing disabled people to stay in their own wheelchair and giving them the freedom to roam across the beach. The area of beach matting will also double in size (*pictured below*) thanks to funding from Bridport Town Council. The container currently used to house the different beach wheelchairs has been moved to the end of the Esplanade, but organisers hope to build a more permanent solution once they have the funding.

Although the weather wasn't great early in the Easter holidays, we nevertheless saw an influx of caravans and mobile homes at Parkdean. Another herald of the summer season, the West Bay Car Boot started on Sunday 7 April although numbers have varied because of the weather. The money raised from the pitches goes to local community groups so it was disappointing to learn that one Sunday some stallholders packed





up when they saw the council attendant collecting the fees. Hopefully this was a one-off.

As part of its Community Connectors scheme, Wessex Water has installed a refill point for water bottles (pictured left) by the Changing Places toilet in the long stay car park. This is a valuable addition to West Bay and another way to

encourage people away from single-use bottles.

After the very busy time over Easter, the Discovery

Centre is restocking and getting ready for the new exhibition. The centre is delighted to welcome the new manager, Macarena Styles, who joined us at the beginning of May. She is originally from Chile but has lived in Bridport for the last 12 years with her husband, two children and dog.

The West Bay Community Forum is looking forward to welcoming the two newly elected councillors for West Bay. This is the first time that West Bay has had dedicated councillors and we hope to see them at our meetings to discuss residents' concerns.

Sue Pollock

### Upcoming events in West Bay

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 8–9 June   | Vintage Tractor & Stationary Engine Rally in the Melplash Field |
| 15–16 June | Model Powerboat Chase & Poker Run                               |
| 29 June    | Gig Regatta   |

## ST SWITHUN'S Allington

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### The parish service on Rogation Sunday

The parish Eucharist service (pictured right) was held at St Swithun's on Rogation Sunday, 5 May, on the theme of Celebrating God's Creation. Rogation is a time of asking God's blessings on emerging crops, which is important for all in the rural farming community of West Dorset. The celebrant was our new pioneer team vicar, the Revd Cally Burch.

The hymns included The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy by Bryn Rees; Love Divine, All Loves Excelling by Charles Wesley; and All Creatures of Our God and King, based on a prayer by St Francis of Assisi, paraphrased by William H Draper.

Some moving prayers of preparation were said on various themes: humankind is in God's image; the wild grandeur of mountains and forests, contrasted with the quiet beauty of fields and gardens, reflects God's glory while the crops in the field shows God's bounty.

There were also some thought-provoking prayers of penitence on themes including humanity's careless use of God's gifts; forgetting that God gave us the harvests;

the ignoring of the world's hungry in undeveloped countries; and our obsession with material possessions in the west.

The New Testament reading was 1 Corinthians 13: "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind."

The Gospel reading was from Mark 12 and concerned what are the greatest commandments: "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

There were intercessions on behalf of those who →





**ST SWITHUN’S Allington continued...**

live in captivity to debt; the destruction of poor people’s lands for the benefit of the wealthy few, and those in the west whose harvest joy is choked with things they do not need.

Prayers of petition were said for favourable weather, temperate rains and fruitful seasons and for those who work on the land and at sea. Churchyard blessings were sought for the water that nourishes the seeds, bulbs and plants and to bless the community through our churchyards.

Finally, we heard a blessing for the Flaxseed Project in all the churches and specifically the new plot at St Swithun’s. The congregation then had coffee or tea with cake in the church hall (with a big thankyou to all those who helped to serve the refreshments).

*James Craddock*

**April’s Messy Church**

Messy Church at St Swithun’s on 11 April was on the theme of The Road to Emmaus with three questions for the children to consider:

- What is the best journey you have ever been on?
- What was it like for the people who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus?
- What would it be like to meet Jesus on a street today?



There were none of the usual crafts owing to various factors including restricted time. Kevin’s Challenge did take place, however, in the form of a nature challenge looking for flowers and trees in the churchyard.

There was a song, the Emmaus story was read from the Lion Children’s Bible, and the Revd Lorna Johnson introduced the theme.

This was all followed by a very good high tea and then discussions while the younger children enjoyed a playdough activity table. The event finished with another song, a sharing of what had been learnt and a blessing of the bee box.

*James Craddock*

**Open Piano at St Swithun’s**

On the morning of Saturday 20 April, St Swithun’s held the first of its Open Piano sessions. It was the perfect way to introduce local players and listeners to the fabulous Estonia concert grand piano given to the church by Dr Richard Godfrey, former organ adviser to the Salisbury Diocese.



**Nine-year-old pianist Peter Boot takes his turn at the St Swithun’s Open Piano event**

Pianists of all styles and levels took part, and they was offered 10 to 15 minutes of playing time, although some played for less. There was tea, coffee and cake to enjoy throughout the morning, which made the whole event feel very relaxed and was much appreciated by pianists and audience alike. Everyone seemed very comfortable playing in front of an audience, including young pianist Peter Boot (*pictured above*) who’s just nine years old and another aged nearly 90.

“We were very happy with how well this idea was received by everyone who came along,” says organiser Mandi Sturrock. “The piano has a lovely tone and we all hope the community will get lots of use out of it.”

*Sue Fryer*

*St Swithun’s is looking for someone to manage similar musical events at the church in the future. See page 7 for more information.*

**Community coffee mornings**

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





## 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)



### Time to reflect on our relationship with God

At a recent Sunday service, Peter Clark reminded us that God is the vine and we are the branches. It made me stop and think about the responsibility of that role. Often, as we get involved in the day-to-day outreach of our church, we forget to actually mention God and Jesus, hoping that our actions will suffice as witness to His name.

As I sit here on my decking, I look out to sea with a beautiful view of the coast: to the right leading to Lyme Regis and to the left following the coast from Cogden Beach around to Portland. It does make me appreciate God's wonderful world and how lucky I am to live here in my lodge. In the May issue of *The Bridge*, Jane Wilson, our minister, reminded us all how important it is to "press the pause button" – to stop, look, listen and enjoy being in the moment.

In recent months, since I returned to Bridport at the beginning of March, my life has felt very different. My mobility has been affected by a knee problem and I also brought an eight-week-old puppy, Darcie, back with me. Both have meant I have spent more time at home and less time running around. I have had food deliveries and have gone to church for Big Breakfast and Lunch Club instead of spending hours walking around our local supermarkets, and I've had to apologise rather than attend meetings because of how long it would mean leaving Darcie. I have spent the time with my feet up looking after my pup and also taking time to reflect, be still and enjoy my home and the surroundings.

Without doubt there have been real frustrations: not being able to walk Darcie more than 50 yards; missing a friend's funeral because I felt unable to drive to Bath with my knee; and having to sit down repeatedly during Big Breakfast and Lunch Club, but it has also been a time of many blessings. Friends looking after and walking Darcie, the Big Breakfast and Lunch Club teams taking over when needed and carrying

things back to my car – for all of which I have felt real gratitude – but also the chance to take stock of my situation, and to read my daily bible notes with time to reflect and react, has made me count my blessings and thank God for the hope we all have in Him.

I was very pleased to be reminded by Peter that we are the branches, reliant on a true and faithful vine, and that we need to bear fruit. I hope that the outreach events at BUC help us, as a church, to be a witness to the love of God and that as individuals we will feel empowered to speak up for God and Jesus Christ our Saviour and to share the hope we have in Him in what is a very troubled world.

*Ros Hilliard, BUC member*

### June services at Bridport United Church:

<b>Sunday 2</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Brenda Stevenson (HC)</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Soul Space</b>
<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Chris Smith</b>
<b>Sunday 16</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>John Yarrien</b>
<b>Sunday 23</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Roger Phillips</b>
<b>Sunday 30</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Ruth Lownsborough</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)
Tuesdays	2pm	Bridport Blind Club (first & third)
	2pm	Bridport U3A (fourth)
	4.30pm	Rainbows
	5.30pm	Brownies
	7.30pm	Bridport Big Band (church)
Wednesdays	12.30pm	Lunch Club (fourth only)
		All welcome. Two-course home-cooked meal.
		Please book: 422598 →

**Bridport UNITED CHURCH continued...**

Wednesday	5.30pm	Kickboxing (inner hall)
<i>continued</i>	6pm	Fitsteps
	7.30pm	Kickboxing (main hall)
Thursdays	10am	Bridport History Society (second only – new time)
	2pm	Thursday Club (third) All welcome for tea, chat, games and crafts
	3.30pm	Messy Church (fourth)
	6pm	Fusion Dance
Fridays	6pm	Kickboxing (main hall)

**Special events**

Sat 8 June 9–11.30am Big Breakfast

**From Uploders Chapel**

I was very happy when the weather improved in May after what seemed like ages of it raining cats and dogs! I wonder where that saying comes from...

Richard Lownsbrough took our first May service, which included a lot about peace, hope and faith, and treating everyone with kindness and love – the essentials of life. I know and am so grateful that these qualities can be seen in this area we live in.

Then on 4 May we went to BUC and enjoyed their Ukrainian evening. Three young Ukrainians spoke about what their country was like before the war – and what it has been like since. They showed some ‘before’ slides of the countryside, which was tranquil and very similar to places in this country. The towns and cities were full of beautiful buildings and happy folk. Then we saw pictures of the devastation that the war has brought, which it firmly brought home how we would feel if we had experienced the same dreadful conflict.

Talking face to face with these lovely young people, who shared so much of their lives with us, was extremely thought-provoking and also had us shedding tears. They are of similar age to our grandchildren and are now cut off from their own families. They have also had the courage and determination to learn our language and the two oldest ones are not afraid to do whatever work is necessary to earn a living. The youngest boy goes to school locally and has almost developed an English accent.

On a lighter note, at half time we were treated to a Ukrainian meal, which was very tasty. The whole evening really made us appreciate everything we can so easily take for granted.

As The Bridge went to press we were looking forward to opening the chapel over the bank holiday weekend (25–27 May) for the Scarecrow Festival. It’s always a fun time and we love doing our bit to help everyone enjoy the scarecrows.

Hopefully you can appreciate a Joyful June and do your bit to help others have one, too.

*Carol Hall*



**A scarecrow from a previous year’s festival**

**June services at Uploders Chapel:**

**Sunday 2 10.30am Chris Warren**  
**Sunday 16 10.30am Tim Wells (HC)**

**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*

**A month of love**

A few years ago, I accompanied our bishop and newly ordained priests of the diocese to the beautiful garden

town of Paray-le-Monial in the heart of Romanesque Burgundy. The town is known as the ‘City of the Sacred Heart’. In the 17th century, Christ appeared three times to a young nun at the town’s Visitation Monastery, an enclosed convent that to this day houses a thriving community of nuns. The nun was Sister Margaret-Mary Alacoque and the visions she received were of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The visions were accompanied by a message: “Here is the heart that so loves human kind.” The Sacred Heart was and still is a powerful pictorial image of the immense love that God, as he is in Jesus, has for each one of us and for his world.

Since then, millions of pilgrims have flocked to Paray-le-Monial and many have received powerful spiritual experiences there and have gone on to spread

## ROMAN CATHOLIC Church continued...

the love of Christ in some extraordinary ways.

During our visit there, I had the great privilege of celebrating Mass with our group in the chapel where St Margaret-Mary is buried. In the Catholic Church, the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as it is in this month that the feast day falls.

It is, of course, God's love that lies at the centre of our lives as Christians and whether we have a devotion to the Sacred Heart or not, we all need to reflect on that love with thanksgiving. "We love, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). It is the effectual love of God that first changed our hearts in order to make us capable of love,

and it is His example of love that reminds us again and again of our need to love one another.

*Monsignor Keith Mitchell*



**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 the weekly newsletter on our website.

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

Office 424437 • David Collins 458227  
[info@bridportchristianfellowship.org](mailto:info@bridportchristianfellowship.org)  
[www.bridportchristianfellowship.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:office@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)  
[www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk](http://www.beaconchurchbridport.co.uk)

### Beacon Church – meet our family

We know God is working in our town and we hope to encourage you by sharing a story each month of a follower of Jesus.

### Who are you?

My name is Simon. I am 36 and I have lived in Bridport my whole life. I'm a husband, father, brother, friend, engineer, colleague, mentor and student, but most importantly I am a child of God.



### Tell us about your walk with Jesus

I was raised with typical atheist views. Fascinated by engineering from a young age, I accepted concepts like evolution and the big bang. I would still consider a →

**BEACON CHURCH continued...**

higher power but ignored it in typical teenage behaviour.

A decade later, I met my now wife, who was already a born-again Christian. I began going to church to understand and support her belief and faith.

We did an Alpha course, and on the final day we did a group prayer: my first honest prayer, calling on Jesus. I recall being washed with a feeling, a vibrating sensation from top to toe and nearly fell over. Naturally, I thought I was probably hungry, so I wrote it off.

I continued in ignorance for many more years. Then I was working with a colleague I had known for around 20 years; somehow his phone connected through my headphones, and I found out he was listening to the Bible... I didn't even know he was a Christian! We ended up talking for hours about it, one thing led to another, and I have not been able to stop studying the word since!

That day was only a year and a half ago, but I have now found my faith, only through God's seemingly

infinite patience, even when we are lost, stubborn, and painfully ignorant!

**How do you see God at work in your week?**

I notice His presence in numbers, prayers answered, and as I seek God's guidance throughout my week. Also while I discuss Christianity with colleagues.

I am recognising that the spirit's voice in all things is ongoing, teaching me to grow as a Christian.

*You are always welcome at Beacon Church. Wherever you are in your journey in faith, and whatever you believe, we'd love to meet you. Our service is at 10.30am each Sunday in the Beacon Evangelical Hall, DT6 3RW.*



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

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

**Testimony to Truth**

“Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.” (Quaker Advices and Queries no. 1)

Many have declared that they have the truth – dictators, generals, leaders of cults and anyone who aims to build up a dedicated following. For Quakers, finding their truth is a work of time. We join together to worship in silence, listening and waiting for the right way to be shown. There are no guarantees of what will emerge except that which grows through a community of loving support.

We have this little booklet called Advices and Queries and its first words read: “As Friends we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us.



We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love: all our testimonies grow from this leading.” That introduction, which comes from a few centuries of experience, leads us to reject war and to follow a way of peace.

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 10 June the speaker will be Martina Coleman (subject to be announced). 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 is currently meeting informally at Tortilla Cantina in East St following the success of its recent fundraising performances of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. All ages welcome; no experience needed. Email Valerie for details of future plans: [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 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)

**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.

**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.

**Bridport & District Gardening Club** will meet at the WI Hall, North St on Thursday 20 June at 7.30pm, when Margie Hoffnung will present 'Gardening: a very British tradition'. Margie is the conservation officer for the Gardens Trust (formerly the Garden History Society). 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 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](mailto: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](http://www.bridportscottishdancers.org.uk)

**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 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) →

**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 Choral Society** rehearses on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Church Hall. Contact Margaret Foster [margefoster1956@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@ascapegroup.org) or visit [www.ascapegroup.org](http://www.ascapegroup.org)

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

**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)

**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)

**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 from end of May 2024: 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 from May 2024: 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 25 June Martin Maudsley will speak about his life and work as a professional storyteller. 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 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](mailto:events@bridportunitarians.co.uk)

**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)

**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.

### 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).



**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).

**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](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)

**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](mailto:j.perfect@bridportleisure.com). More information at [www.steppingoutbridport.co.uk](http://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](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) / [girlguidingwestdorset@gmail.com](mailto: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](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)

**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)

**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.

**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](mailto:jenifer.morley@btinternet.com)

**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 **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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