

The Magazine of The Bride Valley Team Ministry

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## To advertise in this publication please contact Bob & Anne White

email: cairnhill@talk21.com tel: 01308 898203

Copy for future issues should, where appropriate, be sent to the relevant Village Correspondent, (contact details shown at the head of each Village Section) no later than **two days** prior to the deadline date shown below, for forwarding to the Editor,

Mike Brown, email: BVN@hattiemaths.com tel: 897953

#### Deadline for January issue: 9th December

Pictures (not necessarily photographs) for consideration for the front cover, should be sent/delivered direct to the editor by the same date.

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS to OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS & OUR VERY BEST WISHES for 2008,



Geoff	&	Sandy	Adderley
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Joan & Ian Allan

Mary Bailey

Catherine & Darren Batten

Howard & Linda Bongers

John Bowden

Peter & Pat Broomhead

Bernard & Kate Chennells

Judy & Alan Clarke

Diana & Cecil Clifford

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Edna Murrell

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John & Deryn Pakenham-Walsh

Derek & Val Parsons

Susan Paul

Dick & Judy Pearce

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Sheila & Ken Pett

Anne & Graham Rees

Terry Rendell

Gill & Charles Robertson

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"Walditch" Bob & Linda Simpson

Yvette & David Smith

Mike & Anne Southgate

Jill Spinney

**Betty Starkey** 

Freddy & Elaine Tame

Peggy Thompson

Bill & Heather Thomson

Pat Lepine

Clare Viney

Norman Webber

Andrea & Chris Wilkinson

In support of the Bride Valley News &

🛪he Joseph Weld & Trimar Hospice & Cancer Care Dorset Trust

#### FROM THE RECTORY

THE REVD. BOB THORN A.K.C
THE RECTORY,
BURTON BRADSTOCK, DT6 40S

Tel: 01308 898799

When I take assemblies at Thorner's school these days, we have a blessing at the end. I say the words, and cut my hand through the air in the shape of a cross, and we all say "Amen" at the end. Of course, to set a good example I keep my eyes closed for prayers; except when I don't, because we all take just a little peek now and again – don't we? Anyway even if you never do, I plead provocation in the form of very small rustling and giggling noises.

I won't say who, I promise. Those near the back know who they are anyway, don't you dears.

As a matter of fact, the noises are rather charming. I squint through my half closed lids (hypocritically trying to pretend I still have my eyes closed) to see lots of little hands flapping the sign of the cross back at me, with the other hand held over the mouth so that the little tee-hees of laughter won't be heard. And I think to myself, vain as I am, that imitation is some form of flattery.

But Christmas says there is something more to it than amusement on one side and self deception on the other. There is the possibility that when those little hands are crossing themselves back at me there is, all unbeknownst to any of us, a greater, deeper and holier blessing going on than there ever would be with just me doing my Priestly thing. The children are a blessing, and they bless. Just because they are little and don't really understand what they are doing beyond finding it funny, doesn't mean that I as a grown up should not know God with me in what they do. After all, I don't really know how God does what he does through me beyond trying to be serious and solemn about it; so, who's the fool?

And the reason it is important to get this straight at Christmas is that once again we are going to have to become accustomed to the idea of the Son of God being born. We who are all so grown up and pleased with our maturity and worldly wisdom; we are to know ourselves as the children of the child, baby blessed.

#### **SERVICES IN DECEMBER**

The service plan (back page) carries a list of those services which will be held on Sundays in the month. It also has times of those arranged for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This is to note other services not covered, and one or two alterations from the norm so that pencils can be applied to diaries. I am not including the singing of Carols round the Villages – please look at local notices for those.

A Christingle Service will be held at St Mary's, Burton Bradstock at 4.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and will be followed by tea at 5.00pm in the Hall.

W.I. Carols will be at St Mary's, Burton Bradstock at 2.30pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm there will be a **Carol Service** at St Mary's, Litton Cheney, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

On Friday  $21^{\text{st}}$  at 6.30 pm; there will be a **Carol Service** at Chilcombe Church.

Please note the times of **Crib Services** at **Litton Cheney** and **Burton Bradstock** on Christmas Eve. We have moved them half an hour in either direction so that the Rector can zoom from one to another. So ..... the crib service at St Mary's, Litton Cheney which in the past has begun at 4.30 will this year start at 4.00 pm. The crib service at Burton Bradstock which has kicked off at 5.00 pm in past years will now be beginning at 5.30 pm.

#### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### **BAPTISMS**

Philippa Ann Pepperdine Cook (known as Pippa) was Baptised on Sunday,  $7^{\text{th}}$  of October, at St Peter's Church Long Bredy. The service was set into the 11.00 Holy Communion, and was conducted by the Reverend William Cummings, Pippa's Grandfather, who also preached. Her other Grandfather read the lesson. It was a service with just the right blend of solemnity and intimacy. The girl at the centre of attention did all the right things, and did them very well, from

looking a picture to posing for them. A reception followed at Long Bredy House; family and friends delighting in the lovely setting and the beautiful weather of our long, warm Autumn.

On  $14^{\rm th}$  of October, Callum John Alan Gale was brought from his home in North Allington, Bridport, to St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock for his Baptism. Callum's parents, Russell and Anna, with Karen and Andrew Loxton and Adam Cranden the Godparents, made the vows on Callum's behalf, joined in no small way by the candidate himself, keen to make his presence felt and take part. Another lovely afternoon and another joyful occasion.

#### **FUNERALS**

The ashes of the late Alfred Charles Allen, of Weymouth, were interred on  $11^{\text{th}}$  of October at St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock. He had strong personal and family connections with the Parish, and is now laid to rest nearby other late members of his family in the South West Corner of the Churchyard.



On Friday 12th of October the funeral took place of Marjorie Frances, lately of St Bride's, on the coast road just up from Othona. A strong and inspirational lady, she established the theatre and drama department in Goldsmith's College at a time when such things were a great innovation. She was noted for initiating "theatre in the round," and to this day lectures are given in her honour at the College by luminaries of the stage. The first movement of a Bach sonata was played by David Woodford, and Andre; Marjorie's nephew. Mozart's concerto for flute and harp followed, and at the end, the Londonderry Air in remembrance of Ireland, which she so dearly loved.

John Thacker, lately of the Parish of Long Bredy, had his ashes laid to rest in St Peter's Churchyard on Friday 26th of October. The service began with all those taking part lining up along the North wall of the Churchyard so as to include Joan, John's wife, who had been driven up the adjoining field to be nearby. Prayers were said and silence was kept beneath the wide, surrounding hills and the high, clear sky.

On Thursday, 1st of November, the funeral of the late James Frank Maunder (Frankie) was held at St Martin's Church, Shipton Gorge. Frank described himself as a general dealer, and had a rare gift for dreaming up projects and businesses, and then making them work. He was known far and wide as an honest and straightforward man. The very opposite of the image of aggressive business, he liked his customers to know they had been generously dealt with, and was known to give away stock when he thought another's need greater than his. Sadly, the last months of his life were attended with a long illness, through which he was devotedly cared for by Sylvia, his wife. Tributes were made at the service, including a poem, written and read by his son, David, for the occasion.

On Monday 24th of September the funeral service was held of baby Thea Rose Gillott. The Revd Janice Moore conducted the funeral at the Church of st Michael and all Angels, Littlebredy. May the angels of heaven gather little Thea into their gentle arms.

Following the date of submissions to the B.V.N. there was a week of great sadness in the Valley. The funeral of Jean Langdon, of Burton Bradstock was on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November: the funeral of Derrick Geoffrey Shepherd (Geoff) took place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, at St Martin's Shipton Gorge, and the following day saw the funeral service for the late Ray Lee in the St Mary's, Puncknowle,

Fuller accounts of these services will be given in the next edition of the magazine.

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, From whence cometh my help. My help is in the name of the Lord, Who hath made heaven and earth

From psalm 121.

#### FROM THE TREASURER

The financing of the "News" production is mainly through its advertising revenue but substantial assistance is given through donations by many groups, societies and Parish Councils in the valley.

I am very grateful for this support and to those who have already contributed this year and hope that all who have helped the "News" in the past will feel able to continue their support for the future.

David Buckland, Treasurer

Doubt 'til thou canst doubt no more...doubt is thought and thought is life. Systems which end doubt are devices for drugging thought.

Albert Guerard

#### FROM THE PARISH COUNCILS

#### LONG BREDY AND KINGSTON RUSSELL PARISH COUNCIL

The new Code of Conduct including Paragraph 12/2 was adopted at a meeting of the Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Council held on 31st May 2007. Standing orders have been amended accordingly.

Litter and dog fouling were two issues raised at the recent parish council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. It is a shame we seem to have so much litter about at the moment and the Council are very grateful to everybody who picks up the litter when out walking around the village. Please ensure your rubbish goes home with you.

Dog fouling is extremely unpleasant for everyone. Please clean up after your dog and do not let it roam free to do its business wherever.

On a happier note the playground has two new bouncy seats for little ones to play on. Our thanks go to Ashley Chase Cheese Factory for their kind donation towards their purchase. If you have never visited the playing field it is behind The Rookery and has swings, climbing frame and a football pitch plus plenty of seating for us oldies to sit and watch. Do pay it a visit.

Gwen Kinghorn, Parish Clerk 01308 482270

#### LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

The new Code of Conduct including Paragraph 12/2 was adopted at a meeting of the Litton Cheney Parish Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Standing orders have been amended accordingly.

Gwen Kinghorn, Parish Clerk 01308 482270

#### PUNCKNOWLE & SWYRE PARISH COUNCIL

The new Code of Conduct including Paragraph 12/2 was adopted at a meeting of the Puncknowle & Swyre Parish Council held on  $4^{th}$  September 2007. Standing orders have been amended accordingly.

The next meeting of this Council is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th December at the Village Hall in Puncknowle. Agenda for the meeting and draft minutes of the previous meeting are published on the Parish Council noticeboards in Puncknowle, Swyre, and West Bexington at least one week before the meeting.

If you would like to make any comments beforehand on this or any other local matter, please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs Carloyn Buckland on 01308 897726.

#### BURTON BRADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

The National Trust and the Parish Council were very pleased with the interest shown at the consultation open meetings on 13th & 14th October. Over 220 people came to see the displays of information and to discuss the options presented for the future management arrangements at the Hive. 145 completed questionnaires were handed in at the meetings along with many comment chits

and a further 30 more forms were received by the closing date of 1st November.

The Trust is now analysing these before passing them on to to the Council so that we can both take stock of local views. Discussions will take place over the winter months so that the way ahead is agreed well before the busy season next summer and the termination of the current leases in April 2009.

Approval has been given by West Dorset District Council for the number of councillors to be increased from nine to eleven. If there are more than two candidates, elections will be held in January; otherwise the places will be filled by co-option. If you are interested and wish to discuss what is involved in being a parish councillor please contact the Clerk, Fel Moore on 459001 or me.

Mike Southgate, Chairman Burton Bradstock Parish Council. - (897487)

\*\*\* POSTAL SCAM \*\*\*

Royal Mail and the Trading Standards Office have re-issued their warnings to make people aware

of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on telephone number starting with 090.(a premium rate number.

**DO NOT CALL THIS NUMBER**, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message *you will already* have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud or Trading Standards Office.

Always be wary of anything suggesting you dial premium rate numbers which begin 090.

## HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH YOUR WINTER SAFETY ROUTINE?



Seasonal advice from Dorset Fire and& Rescue Service

The clocks have gone back, there is a cold crispness to the morning and evening air. Winter is approaching. It is this time of year when the central heating is turned back on, we get the electric blanket out of the cupboard, we prepare more hot meals and the festive season sees us using more candles and open fires.

For Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, we see changes to the types of emergency calls at this time of year. Many accidental fires in the home could be easily avoided if we spend a few minutes to think about our safety. Being aware of the dangers of fire and taking simple preventative measures could help save the lives of you and your family.

Your home is full of potential fire risks. If you are aware of these risks you can ensure that you GET SMART and reduce the chances of a fire starting in your

home. We have highlighted below some of the most common causes of house fires at this time of the year.

- Smoking. Always use proper ashtrays and ensure that cigarettes are put out properly! Remember it is easy to be careless when you are tired or if you have been drinking.
- Candles. Always use a proper holder and never leave them unattended. Ensure you put them out completely at night.
- Lights. Use common sense and keep lights away from combustible items, like curtains and other fabrics. Check those festive lights and remember to turn them off when you go to bed.
- Cooking (including chip pans and deep-frying). Never leave a saucepan on the heat if you are called away, keep the top of your cooker clean and keep toasters away from curtains. Make sure the festive roast is not the festive toast!!
- Heaters and fires. Always position heaters at least one metre (three feet) from combustibles such as furniture, curtains or clothing. Always use a fireguard for open fires.
- Overloaded or faulty electrics. Be careful not to overload sockets and be sure to use the correct adaptor. Do not plug an adaptor into another adaptor. Always turn off electrical appliances at the wall, rather than leaving them on standby - and never mend cables with insulating tape.

**CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARM..** Check the battery is working by pressing the test button. This should be done weekly.

Fires strike when you least expect them, often during the night so ensure that you and your loved ones have an escape plan of what to do and where to go in the event of a fire. Be aware that although fires spread quickly, it is smoke that is the real killer. If you are asleep when a fire starts and you don't have a smoke alarm to wake you, your chances of surviving are very slim.

**GET EQUIPED.** Smoke alarms are a proven life saver. Dorset Fire and Rescue Service can offer a free home safe check to priority groups. If you have no smoke detectors we can install, free of charge, a 10 year smoke alarm. We can also test existing alarms and replace them if necessary. We can also provide alarms with strobe lighting and vibrating pads for people with hearing impairments.

Finally, if you are unfortunate enough to experience a fire in your home, GET OUT, CALL US OUT, STAY OUT.

For further fire safety information visit <a href="www.dorsetfire.co.uk">www.dorsetfire.co.uk</a> or, if you would like to know more about free home fire safety checks, please ring (01202 538282 or 01305 259660).

#### You're alive. Do something.

The directive in life, the moral imperative was so uncomplicated. It could be expressed in single words, not complete sentences. It sounded like this:

Look. Listen. Choose. Act.

Barbara Hall, A Summons to New Orleans, 2000

#### **VALLEY NOTES**

#### BRIDE VALLEY MOTHER'S UNION.

Our next meeting will be the Deanery Carol Service on Monday 3rd December at Mosterton for 2.15pm. If anyone would like to go but needs transport please let me know.



Yvette Smith. 898219.



held at the old WI Hall.

#### **TINY TOTS**

It has been decided to start at our original time of 11.00am again so the next service will be on Friday December 14th at 11.00am at St. Mary's, Burton Bradstock.

If the church still has the builders in, the service will be Apologies for any inconvenience.

Yvette Smith, 898219, Bride Valley Mother's Union

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Can anyone in the valley give some help in the Oxfam shop at 20 West Street, Bridport? Sadly, the lack of volunteers has recently forced the shop to be closed on some days.



If you can lend a helping hand, please call into the shop and talk to the manager or telephone 01308 422117.

Thankyou.

#### BRIDE VALLEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MUSICAL EVENING

A near capacity audience was entertained to a Musical Evening by The St. Swithun's Band on Friday, 26th October in Burton Bradstock Village Hall. The event was organised by The Bride Valley Branch of The Royal British Legion and over £500 was raised in aid of The Poppy Appeal.

For more than twenty years the Band has helped the Branch raise money for the Appeal, originally under the leadership of Rex Trevett and for the past few years under the direction of Philip George.

The President of The Bride Valley Branch, Admiral Gwyn Pritchard, presented the Band with a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Poppy Appeal committee in recognition of their achievement.



Admiral Pritchard, Margaret Trevett & Philip George.

The Branch is holding a social evening on the 3rd December at The Three Horseshoes commencing at 7.30pm when Poppy Appeal Collectors for the Valley are invited.

Ray West, Chairman of The Bride Valley Branch

#### **BRIDE VALLEY GARDENING CLUB**

The Committee are delighted to announce that all the vacant posts have now been filled. Pauline Jones from Litton Cheney, a lecturer at Kingston Maurward who runs her own garden design consultancy, has volunteered to take on the Chair and the Committee gladly co-opted her at a meeting in November. She will be formally proposed and seconded at our annual A.G.M. in May.

We also have volunteers to take over the roles of Treasurer and Programme Secretary so we can now look forward to a renewed and revitalised gardening club. It has long been felt by the Committee and many members that turning out on a cold dark winter's night for a summer activity has not been very attractive. So we are now going to change our annual programme and use the lighter evenings for our meetings starting in March and continuing through to October.

Our new Chair is keen to get input from everyone on what they would like to get from meetings, for example practical help, as well as speakers on different subjects. This means suggestions not only from our current membership but anyone else in the valley – we are of course eager to welcome anybody with their own ideas of what a gardening club can offer them.

We had a fascinating practical demonstration at our meeting on November 12th on what we can do to brighten up our gardens in winter. Castle Gardens provided us with an enthusiastic speaker who demonstrated how to pack a deep wire hanging basket with moss, compost and an unbelievable number of plants which will happily grow and flower throughout the winter and spring. We were then offered the beautiful result as a raffle prize.

Don't forget our Christmas Party on December 10th, again at the Puncknowle Village Hall with the added attraction of Barbara Whillock, an expert on William Barnes, reading some relevant poetry. We provide the wine, members bring festive food and a good time is usually enjoyed. All visitors are most welcome.

#### Jobs to Do

Check stored fruit. Cover celery with straw to protect against frost and lift and use parsnips. Continue to tidy up but do leave an untidy corner where birds can turn over the leaves for insects and don't forget to check the bonfires for hibernating wildlife before lighting them. Water your winter hanging basket sparingly throughout the winter months and feed in January.

Valerie Cameron, Club Secretary. e-mail: secretary.bvgc@virgin.net Tel: 01308 482240

FIRST STEPS TODDLER GROUP

We now meet 9.15am - 11.45am at Long Bredy Village Hall every Wednesday except for the last Wednesday of term (19th December) - when all accompanied babies & toddlers are welcome to join in for our Christmas outing.

We are also planning our adults only social evening

(venue & menu to be decided) for Friday, 14th December.

Please note we have dropped "parent" from the name of the group, in recognition of the fact that we have a granddad & other childminders involved.

For further information contact Barbara on 482126.

Barbara Gibbs

#### **BRIDE VALLEY FLEDGLINGS**

Half Term soon came round, but just before it, Sue came in to visit the children and receive her leaving gifts. Another visitor on 1st November was our new Early Years consultant, Marie Harris, to whom we talked about lots of things, including ideas for the new outdoor play area.

Playgroup

Special activities have included a Nature Ramble across the fields to Litton Cheney playing field, and we had a visit from Alan and his Library Van from which we all borrowed a book.

Continuing with our theme of "Traditional Stories", we have also baked lots of Gingerbread men and visited ducks at Littlebredy, but did not see an actual "Ugly Duckling". Reception children have joined us for these activities along with their staff. and some of us have gone into school Assembly on a Thursday morning requested by older Fledglings children!

After "Three Little Pigs" week, we will start Advent and Christmas activities. We will see the school Christmas Concert and our Christmas Party will be on Monday 17th December.

During the term, Fledglings staff observe children coming to playgroup to monitor their development. We write down what we see & hear, and keep a



scrapbook for each child, including photos, drawings and other work they do. In fact they often stick in things themselves, and take great pride in showing their scrapbooks to their parents. At the end of the term before they start school, they get to keep the scrapbook as a memento of their time at playgroup.

We are beginning to plan a big reunion for next summer, inviting all previous Fledglings, their parents and anyone else who has been involved in any capacity over the past 21 years! The first step is to compile everyone's names and current addresses so that we can invite them.

Please let us have your name (plus others in your family) and current contact details – address, telephone number, email address and years during which you were involved

We also want to catch up with others who may have moved away, people from further back etc so ANY information you can remember that will help to ensure that everyone who should gets an invite, will be much appreciated.

We would hope to put together a display of photographs and other memorabilia from 21 years of Fledglings so get sorting through those drawers!

Once the database is compiled everyone, will be sent an invitation to the party sometime next year. Should be a great Bride Valley get together!

Carol Bennett (Playleader) 897771 and Rachel Maltby (Chair) 482246



Our playgroup is a committee run organisation, hugely reliant on fund raising.

This month we have a number of people to thank who have very kindly supported us in our attempts to raise money, so that we can continue to improve and update the facilities we offer our children.

On Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> Margaret Graham entertained us with an informative and

amusing talk about her life as a writer. Thanks to Margaret's generosity just over £200 was raised for the playgroup.

Thank you again to the Anchor Pub for their continued support, a collection taken during their Halloween fancy-dress party added £44 to our funds.

Our cake stall also raised £41, thank you to everyone who supplied a variety of delicious "goodies" that sold at an alarming speed!!!!

Autumn has been the focus for our village walks and the children have collected lots of interesting things which they have added to their collage. They have also spent time in the Rectory garden finding leaves to make lovely leafy prints. The children have also been making flower pressings and painted poppy pictures using vegetable prints.

We also had a special visit from "Scorch", the baby dragon, who came to chat to us about keeping safe when there are fireworks about. Many thanks to John Lay-Flurrie and "Scorch". The children had a super time making very colourful firework pictures using glitter and paint.

We are looking forward to Christmas with our Nativity, lots of creative activities and a great Christmas party.

Our playgroup offers a warm, friendly and caring environment in a beautiful village setting where children have the opportunity to learn, play and make friends. New children are always welcome and if you would like to pop-in and visit us we are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.30am – 12 noon.

Contacts: Ann Marie 07853 150467 or Audrey 01308 897 227

#### BURTON BRADSTOCK CE VC SCHOOL

Having recently frozen on the touchline whilst watching our football team come from behind to win in an enthralling Kenway Cup match away to St. Catherine's, I am reminded that Christmas is well and truly on its way. At present we are at the stage when we know that we ought to get started on Christmas activities but are reluctant to do so knowing how much excitement and upheaval it can cause. I confess to having some sympathy with Mr Scrooge. However, if we keep a good balance we can also enjoy the benefits that come from the season. Our bi-annual Christmas production provides an opportunity to work creatively on a scale not always possible at other times of the year.

Last month Class 4 designed posters for the poppy appeal competition with the winners attending the British Legion coffee morning in the village hall. Certificates were presented to eight children with Tilly Burwood and Ellis Dearnley both gaining first place. Posters were displayed at the hall and the children were also treated to biscuits and squash.

We were very grateful to Stuart Broom, from the 'View from Bridport' newspaper, who came in to respond to Class 4's questions about reporting, editing and publication. The children have been working on newspaper reports in their literacy lessons and had some thought-provoking questions to put to Stuart. Everyone certainly learned a lot, and a good time was had by all.

I am tempted to respond to the recent increasingly large deluge of negative headlines about education but have decided not to rise to the bait on this occasion. I merely point out that schools are obliged to respond to the policymakers. I guess that if there is a lesson to learned, it is that educating children is a complex business. If it were not so, surely after more than a hundred years of a state education system, someone would be able to get it right by now? There again, what do we mean by 'right'? Much as I would like to ponder such deep questions I need to concern myself with more pressing issues such as who to cast as the 'wicked witch'.

By the way, the final score was St. Catherine's 1 Burton Bradstock 3.

Mark Stratta

#### 100 Club October

£20 Mr R. Maude: £10 C.R. Harrington: £5 J & C Lamble

#### THORNER'S CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are currently collecting Christmas filled shoeboxes to send to children less fortunate than ourselves. Earlier in the term we were visited by two people, Eileen and Peter, who have helped to deliver boxes in previous years to



Belarus, it was very interesting to hear their stories, and to watch the video of the children receiving and opening their presents, the delight was obvious.

All the children in school showed an appreciation of how lucky they are to have such sophisticated toys and how they just take books, paper and pencils for granted. Our shoeboxes will be sent to different care homes and schools this year ... we wait to hear where they end up.

By the time you read this our shoeboxes will have started their journey, we are hoping to reach our target of 55 boxes!!! I hope Mrs Hooper will not be disappointed.



Congratulations to the girls and boys Cross Country Team who recently competed at Sir John Colfox against other year 5 and 6 pupils from around the county. There were over 40 girls running, 8 of our girls took part: Imogen (2<sup>nd</sup>), Annabel (5<sup>th</sup>), Honor (6<sup>th</sup>), Lucie (7<sup>th</sup>), Dionne (8<sup>th</sup>), Tarren (12<sup>th</sup>), Ebony (15<sup>th</sup>) and Rebecca (40<sup>th</sup>). In the boys race there was an even larger field with Aaron (12<sup>th</sup>) and William (44<sup>th</sup>). Considering the quality of the field this was an excellent set of results and later this month we are

hoping for fantastic results in the Symondsbury Run.. watch this space?

We are now well under way with Christmas preparations: parties, decorations, fund raising and most importantly of all the Christmas Play performed by all the pupils, written by two of our parents, Mr Cleden and Mr Jevons. If you want to come along and watch, it will be well worth it. Contact the school office for full details. All families and friends welcome.

Hope you all have a great festive Christmas with family and friends.

Alison Johnstone, Headteacher

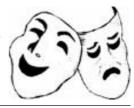
#### 100 Club: November winners

£15 Elizabeth Edwards (friend of School): £10 Robin Fry
The response this year has been excellent; hopefully with continued support
from outside members as well we will be able to provide even more for our
children. If I have missed anyone who would like to join please get in touch, or ask
at the school office for a form.

Your continued support is much appreciated. We now have 75 members, thank you to everyone. Any queries, please feel free to speak to Caroline Cox or contact the school office. Many thanks.

#### **BURTON BRADSTOCK PLAYERS**

A swashbuckling musical play, "All for One," will be the next production to be staged by Burton Bradstock Players. It will run from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February until Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March in Burton Bradstock's Village Hall. The first performance on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February will be a matinee starting at 2pm. All



other performances will start at 7.30pm and will run every evening from Monday 25th February until Saturday 1st March. The play will be imaginatively staged with fun-filled entertainment for all ages and is loosely based on Dumas' "The Three Musketeers".

Tickets will be on sale in Burton Bradstock from  $12^{th}$  January. Booking details will follow in the next edition of the Bride Valley News.

#### BRIDE VALLEY COUNTRY CARS-TEAM AWARD.

This car service, which helps many people in the Bride Valley with their transport problems for medical and other urgent needs, was nominated to receive an award, given by the Volunteer Centre of Dorchester, in the category of Volunteer Team of the Year.

I was pleased to attend the awards ceremony to receive the Certificate on behalf of the 17 drivers, the un-sung heroes, who give their time to keep the service running.

I would personally like to thank these drivers for their willing responses to my requests for their help to carry out the service. For those who do not have need of this service, and may not know about it, please give some thought to becoming a volunteer driver. For those who do use it, please note that there is another number to ring. Mrs Virginia McShane (01308 428373), who will also liaise with drivers when you need to use the service.

We must thank Mrs Meg Turner, who was in at the beginning of this scheme, initiated by Dorset County Council over 20 years ago, who also deserves recognition in receiving this award.

Frank Whillock, Co-ordinator Dorset Country Cars Bride Valley Area. 01308 482475

#### LONG BREDY

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: MRS ELINOR FROST

BRIDELANDS, LONG BREDY

TEL: 482269



#### ST PETER'S CHURCH

It is Little Bredy's turn to host the Carol Service this year and it will be on Sunday  $16^{th}$  December at 6:00pm.

Our Christmas Day service will be Holy Communion at 11:00am.

**WELCOME** to Tricia and Phillip Kenning who have come to live at the Old Surgery. And a welcome is also extended to a new grandson for Trevor and Elizabeth Toogood, Harvey Michael; a son for Kimberly and Mike.

There are a billion people in China. It's not easy to be an individual in a crowd of more than a billion people. Think of it. More than a BILLION people. That means even if you're a one-in-a-million type of guy, there are still a thousand guys exactly like you."

A. Whitney Brown, "The Big Picture"

## **Christmas Party**

Saturday 15th December, 5:00pm Long Bredy Village Hall

Captain Stupid will be there to entertain the children with Magic Shows & Balloon Modelling

#### Father Christmas will be there with presents

We need to know who will be coming so we can organise food, drink and presents for the children

#### Tickets £3.00 for a family.

(for presents no later than 8th December)

A raffle will be held, donations of prizes would be welcomed.

Soft drinks and finger food will be available, please bring your own alcohol Contributions of plated food will be appreciated

Please contact any of the following for a ticket: Elinor Frost 482269, Giles Maltby 482741, Sara Winter 482637, Janet Cuff 482233, Mike & Valerie Shepherd 482250 Alan Kinghorn 482270, Paul Sainsbury 482300

#### **SHIPTON GORGE**

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: BARBARA CHAMBERS
WEST COURT, BROOK STREET, SHIPTON GORGE
bjc39@btinternet.com Tel: 01308 897482



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARTIN'S CHURCH CAROL SERVICE

All are welcome to our service of carols and readings on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.30pm, which will be led this year by the Rev. Bob Thorn. Mince pies and punch will be served afterwards in the Village Hall.

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

There will be a service of Holy Communion with carols at 9.30am to which all are welcome.

#### VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

Calling all carol singers! Come and join our happy "choir" as we sing carols around the village, on Wednesday, 19th December, collecting for Save the Children Fund. We shall start by the telephone kiosk in Brook Street at 6.30pm and finish at the New Inn

by 8pm approx. Carol sheets will be provided, but please wrap up well and bring a torch!

Janet Lane

#### CHURCH YARD MAINTENANCE

On behalf of the PCC very many thanks to all who helped with the maintenance of the churchyard on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. A lot was achieved and your willing and able assistance was appreciated very much.

Bob White

#### ST MARTIN'S TOWER NEWS

On Friday  $7^{\text{th}}$  December a visiting team will be ringing from 12 noon until 1.00pm.

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January the DCA will be holding a practice night between 7.30 and 9.00pm. All ringers welcome. *Charles Errington* 



#### SHIPTON GORGE RAMBLERS

Our final ramble of the year will start from the New Inn car park at 11am.Friday 21st December. We will walk locally, weather permitting, so why not come and join us for a pleasant morning in the fresh air, followed by a pub lunch – very therapeutic!

The itinerary for our rambles in 2008 will be available from Vicky or Janet in the New Year.

Janet Lane

#### SHIPTON GORGE VILLAGE SOCIETY

#### THANK YOU LITTON CHENEY

Thank you for your kind words and congratulations on our Community Award. It shows what sporting neighbours you are, and what a good "wider community" the Bride Valley is.

#### SHIPTON GORGE PLAYING FIELD

Following the public meeting on 29th October, it has been decided to repair and reinstate the existing roundabout as soon as possible using existing funds. There is an offer to donate a new bench which has been accepted.

Following a generous donation there is now a considerable sum of money available to upgrade the playing field and the committee is also hoping to gain outside funding in 2008. Suggestions for improvements include a slide wire, picnic bench, covered shelter and raised planters.

Please contact committee members Amy Steele (898461) or Bob White (898203) if you have any suggestions for improvements.

#### SHIPTON GORGE LTD

Shipton Gorge Ltd will be holding its AGM on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in the Village Hall, Shipton Gorge starting at 7.30pm.

There is a vacancy for a director and anyone wishing to stand should notify the secretary as soon as possible – Mary Boughton, Gullivers, Shipton Gorge, DT6 4LP.

The meeting will be open to the public and seasonal refreshments will be provided to those attending. Everyone is welcome.

#### SHIPTON GORGE VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

#### **NOVEMBER DRAW**

£10 No 60 Peter Bates £20 No 24 Linda Stockwell

#### THANK YOU FROM SYLVIA MAUNDER

I would like to thank all my friends and neighbours who have been so kind and supportive since the loss of a very special man - my husband Frankie.



#### Village Hall Trust

#### CHRISTMAS BINGO

Shipton Gorge Village Hall

Monday 10th December

Eyes down 7.30 p.m. Seasonal Prizes/Raffle Entry: £5 (includes tea/biscuits)



#### PUNCKNOWLE & WEST BEXINGTON

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: ELIZABETH SLATER

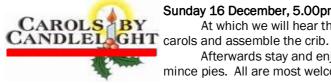
1, LITTON CLOSE, PUNCKNOWLE liz@ruddle.co.uk TEL: 897751



#### DECORATING THE CHURCH

Saturday 15 December, 10.00am

We will be decorating the church with tree and greenery. Help with this will be more than welcome. Donations of night lights would be appreciated.



#### Sunday 16 December, 5.00pm

At which we will hear the Christmas story, sing

Afterwards stay and enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. All are most welcome.

#### CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE

Wednesday 19 December, 6.00pm

Meet at the Village Hall with a torch, to enjoy a glass of mulled wine. Telephone 01308 897716

#### PUNCKNOWLE ART GROUP

Our meeting at The Crown was a drawing session consisting of three quick life sketches. Following this we had some sad goodbyes to say to Mick and Ann, landlords for the past twenty one years. They will be missed very much but we wish happiness to them both on their well earned retirement. We will be raising a glass to them on 14 December at our Xmas lunch. We have not yet met the new landlords but wish them every success.



Christine Molony

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

A seat has been placed in Beach Road, West Bexington, in loving memory of Mary Hardy, who lived in Bexington for thirty years and died in March at the age of ninety-three.

Constance O'Shea

#### WELCOME

A warm welcome to Emma & Darren, and to Gregory, Jessica and Evie, who recently moved into Looke Farm Cottages in Puncknowle. Welcome..... and enjoy.

## PUNCKNOWLE AND SWYRE VILLAGE HALL. HALL BOOKINGS



Enquiries for bookings for the Puncknowle and Swyre Hall during December should be made to David Buckland, Telephone 898492.

#### **QUIZ EVENINGS**

There will not be a Quiz Evening in December. We will re-commence on a monthly basis from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January

2008 and look forward to seeing you then.

Sid Marshall 897318

#### WALK THE PUNCKNOWLE ADVENT TRAIL

Following last year's successful first attempt, Lifesized Advent models will be up again round the village from Saturday December 8th until after the New Year.

On Sunday December 9th, you are invited on the inaugural walk round the trail, to bless the models and use Bible references and either the fun activity sheet or clue sheet to discover the identity of the models. Lucky dip prize for completed sheets. All ages welcome. Bring a clipboard and pencil.

Meet at the church steps for 2.30pm finishing



back at the church for refreshments at 4pm.

At other times activity sheets can be obtained from the back of the church, The Crown, Liz Slater at Ruddles 1, Litton Close or Sue Brown at 30 Springfield.

## FATHER CHRISTMAS IN SWYRE & PUNCKNOWLE Saturday 8th December

Following his extremely successful 'tours' in the last two years, Santa will once again pay a visit to his special grotto – this year at the Village Hall, Puncknowle from 4pm on Saturday 8th December.

#### COME FOLLOW SANTA'S PROCESSION

Santa and his helpers will be gathering at Swyre Church at 3.20pm for a blessingFollow his 'sleigh' singing some seasonal songs along the way until he reaches his grotto around 4pm at the Hall.

where, with his helpers, he'll be encouraging children to tell him what they'd like for Christmas and, of course, dispensing PRESENTS!!!!!

#### admission to grotto £1.

There will be general festivities **until early evening and** all families, friends, and adults of the villages of the Valley must come and welcome Santa. Join together for carol singing and festive music, mulled wine, local produce and other stalls, Chocolate Tombola, and Prize Draw.

#### Stay for the 'Cheese and Wine Do' in the evening,

Elizabeth Slater (897751) would like your help now with offers of home-made products (eg. cakes, preserves, fancy goods, decorations etc.)

If you would like any further information on this event or would like to help in some way, please contact Andy Marshall on 897732 or Sid Marshall on 897318

#### **SWYRE**

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: SID MARSHALL

1 GREEN BARTON, SWYRE

smarshall@which.net tel: 897318



#### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SWYRE

#### ADVENT

Every Sunday in December We will start our service with a brief ceremony to light the Advent candles. It is a lovely way to "count down" to Christmas, helping us to remember the true meaning behind all our celebrations, in the midst of so much hustle and bustle in the world around us. This will be at 3.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and 11am on the other three Sundays.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

On  $24^{\text{th}}$  December at 9.30pm, we will hold our usual early "Midnight Communion" by candlelight.

There will be no service at Swyre on 30<sup>th</sup> December, but there will be a United Valley Service at 11am at Burton Bradstock.

#### **BURTON BRADSTOCK**

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENTS: CATHY & JOHN LAY-FLURRIE

22 BEACH ROAD, BURTON BRADSTOCK

CLAYFLURRIE@TISCALI.CO.UK Tel: 897281



#### **BRIDE VALLEY DISTRIBUTORS**

With effect from !st January 2008, I will be relinquishing the overseeing of the distribution of the BVN in Burton Bradstock. I am grateful to the volunteer – Mrs Cathy Lay-Flurrie (tel. 897281) who will succeed me.

My sincere thanks to the 42 villagers who have made the task run so smoothly over many years.

#### BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE SOCIETY

We were all taken back to the Cold War on  $19^{th}$  Oct when Lt. Col. Simon Cleveland MBE gave us a talk about BRIXMIS- Britain's most daring Cold War spy mission.

The Cold War lasted about 44 years and really ended with the destruction of the Berlin wall in 1989. During this period the Soviets were occupying the eastern part of Germany and Berlin, and BRIXMIS (the British Exchange Mission) were ordered to constantly tour the area to see what the Soviets were up to. This intelligence gathering exercise was done in specially adapted vehicles often at great risk to life and limb.

We were shown an interesting selection of slides and video clips illustrating the sometimes desperate and unpredictable life in the eastern zone and some of the risky missions that BRIXMIS personnel undertook.

At the end of the evening, as one of our audience eloquently put it, the whole horrendous affair could be put down to a desperate lack of mutual trust between countries and this very sad aspect of human interaction is still true today.

The next talk will be on  $7^{th}$  Dec when David Taylor will be entertaining us again with tales of his life at the BBC, illustrated with video clips. In the new year we will welcome David Barnikel sharing his images of China on 11th January.

Peter Dutton

## BURTON BRADSTOCK W.I. Many Happy Returns!

A momentous event happened in Burton Bradstock in November ninety years ago: the inaugural meeting of our WI, and even though a few more years elapsed before enough money was raised to build the hall in the centre of the village, it's an occasion worth celebrating.

So imagine the scene. Many of our fifty-four members enjoying birthday cake and sparkling wine as we chat and reminisce after our special speaker from Dukes the Auctioneers, and the valuations of personal items. We also enjoy viewing the photographic exhibition, *Burton Bradstock in Bloom*, to be judged by David Barnikel, and applaud the winner of the

flower of the month trophy. There's our Christmas Dinner/ Birthday Lunch on 7<sup>th</sup> December to look forward to and on 1<sup>st</sup> December we're holding the Christmas Coffee Morning in the hall to which everyone is welcome.

After this our President will announce the Bride Valley Group Carol Service on 6th December that it's our turn to host in our church at which we hope to welcome many friends to join us.

May the friendly fellowship, help and support enjoyed through ninety years continue for many more!

The Christmas Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 10.30am till 12 noon. There will be cakes, home produce, raffle, tombola and gift stall.

Admission 60p which includes coffee/tea and a mince pie.



#### BURTON BRADSTOCK BRIDGE CLUB

The club will meet on Tuesday  $4^{\text{th}}$  and  $18^{\text{th}}$  December at 2pm in the Village Hall.

#### **BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE HALL "200 CLUB"**

Thank you everyone for your generous contributions to the Club for 2007, providing an invaluable source of income towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. Although the membership of the "200 Club" exceeded the 200 mark this year, new members will be warmly welcomed in 2008!

#### **FELICITY KNIGHTSMITH**

The funeral took place recently, of Felicity Knightsmith, who died at the age of 90. She was the last of a remarkable family who had lived for many years a quiet and secluded life at Norburton Hall. After the death of their parents Felicity, Sylvia and Nick did, indeed, "burst forth" from the confined life in that lonely old house and became involved in all aspects of village life. Among their activities were the Scouts and Brownies, the Royal British Legion, the Women's Institute, the Village Society and the annual pantomime when they actually trod the boards as well as helping with a wonderful collection of costumes.

Their hospitality and parties at the Hall were enjoyed by many. They had a love of the Church and were great animal lovers; they even brought their pet donkey to church on Animal Sunday!

Although latterly they moved to Dorchester to live they will always be remembered in Burton with appreciation and love for all they did for this village over a number of years.

Nancy Bushell

#### **EXCELLENT NEWS FOR TANZANIA!**

In the summer when Missionary partners Andy and Susie Hart and their two little girls visited, many of us saw the plans for a purpose built workshop and store for Neema Crafts. Now the construction is underway. Neema (Grace in Swahli) Crafts was founded in 2003 by Susie to show God's love to disabled



people by training and employing them. It started with a few deaf students and a plan to make and sell stationery made from elephant dung. These first students trained others and Neema's catalogue now includes jewellery, woven goods, picture frames and lamps.

In Tanzania disabled people are considered almost sub human, a mistake or a curse. One of the first students was Joseph. After becoming orphaned he was looked after by his extended family who made his life a misery and considered him a burden as he is profoundly deaf and has spina bifida. At Neema Crafts he quickly became very skilled in making hand made paper and he now earns a good wage and is able to support himself. Deaf people give each other shorthand signs instead of spelling out their names. Joseph's sign had been "hunchback" for as long as anyone could remember. After a few months at Neema Crafts however the deaf trainees changed his sign to "he is able" as they recognised how skilled he had become. Joseph's whole identity changed from his disability to his ability.

We ask God's blessing on the new building in progress with the consequent expansion of the important work of Neema crafts, and on the Hart family. We wish Andy, Susie, Grace and Rosie a very Happy Christmas

#### **LITTLEBREDY**

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENTS:

Email: pwbridehead@btinternet.com Tel: 482232



The somewhat belated Harvest Festival Service in Church at the end of October was very successful, thanks mainly to Bob Thorn who took the service in inimitable style and all those who had decorated the Church so beautifully. The Harvest Supper in the Village Hall which followed it was also a typically convivial Littlebredy occasion, with the fare provided on a bring-and-share basis most generously by those who came. Thanks to all concerned.

The Hall was again open at the beginning of November, as a reconstituted Social Club, now chaired by Ed McFadden, who emerged just in time to organise a bonfire and fireworks display and then arrange food and drink afterwards. A lot of goodwill and energy went into this, which we hope is an auspicious start for the new committee and a programme they will be putting together. Because of Christmas and the New Year, however, there will be nothing organised in December.

At the end of November, the village said *au revoir* to Robin and Lyubov Cuff, who move from 2, Punchbowl Cottages into Bridport. Only three households in the village have lived here longer than Robin, so it is the end of an era for him. However, they will not be far away, and we hope they will keep in touch with their friends and neighbours here.

Despite the best efforts of all the shops (for whom it seems to begin in mid-September), Christmas seems a long way away as this is written. However, various plans have already been made and need to be circulated:- The shared **CAROL SERVICE**, which alternates between Long Bredy and here, is in Littlebredy this year, and will take place **in Church at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, followed by mince pies and mulled wine for all the congregation in the Village Hall.

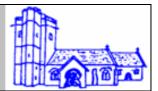
The **CHRISTMAS DAY** service will be an **11.00 a.m.** Holy Communion in the **Church**. All ages are welcome, of course, as is anyone who might at other times regard their connection with the Church as a touch on the tenuous side.

As we move towards Chris and Judy's swansong (more of them anon in a future edition), they will still welcome offers of help to have the Church decorated in time for the Carol Service: could volunteers please ring 482307.

#### **LITTON CHENEY**

VILLAGE CORRESPONDENT: JOHN YATES 2, SUNNYSIDE COTTAGE, LITTON CHENEY

yjohnyates@aol.com Tel: 01308 482585



#### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM LITTON CHENEY CORRESPONDENT.

It's that time of year again. John and Sandra would like to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. See you all in 2008!

#### THE VICARAGE

Information has now been received from Salisbury Diocese that it is the intention of the Diocese to let the Vicarage for one further period over the winter and then to proceed with a sale of the property at the end of April 2008. The PCC

#### THE LITTON CHENEY RELIEF IN NEED TRUST

Financial assistance for those in difficulty.

As in previous years the trustees of this Charity invite Applications from residents of Litton Cheney who in the main have to rely on State Retirement Pensions or Benefits. If you think you qualify or know of someone that could qualify, please apply on or before 8th December 2007 to:

Mary Anderson at Talisman Main St or Brian Prentice at Steddings, Chalk Pit Lane.

Mary Anderson

#### LITTON CHENEY SOCIAL COMMITTEE

#### **BONFIRE PARTY**

On a fine night everyone was warmed in the glow of the bonfire whilst they partook of the light refreshments on offer. Thanks go to all those who helped with the preparations and on the evening of the bonfire. Generous contributions on the night raised a total of £140 for Children in Need - so well done everyone.

#### VILLAGE WALK

The village walk is on Tuesday 1st January 2008 - weather permitting. Meet at the bus shelter at 10am to step forward into the New Year.

#### CAROL SINGING

There will be carol singing around the village on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th December. Meet at the bus shelter at 6:30 PM.

Sheila Davison

The Social Committee wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you at events in 2008.

Secretary LCSC 482262

#### PRODUCERS' MARKETS - 2007

Our Christmas Market on 19 November at the time of writing is still a week away but we remain hopeful that it will continue the success of previous years and provide a few more pennies to our very worthy local cancer charity Weldmar Hospicecare Trust.

For the rest of 2007 thank you to everyone who came, shopped, chatted, shopped again and came back for more the following month. The markets have now been running for three years and have now become part of the summer/autumn social scene in Litton Cheney and surrounding area.

Thank you to all the producers who often braved the elements in order to make their wares available to regular market goers. Also my personal thanks to the

valiant LRA few who turned up, carried out their chores without complaint (well, just a couple!), warmly welcomed those attending the markets and then stayed to clear up when all they wanted to do was put their feet up or sup a cool pint. To Wendy and David Taylor, Lesley and John Salvetti, Claire Gross, Pat Foxwell, Virginia McShane, my wife Sallie and John Perrin plus several other willing bods who



helped from time to time, my grateful thanks. A special thanks to John and Cassie at The White Horse for putting up with us and providing superb no doubt soon to be banned bacon butties.

We have yet to plan for next year but hopefully come the New Year we will be back brimming with renewed enthusiasm and vigour. Now, where did I put the Sanatogen?

John Firrell, Chairman (Litton Retailers Association) - Tel: 482313

## LITTON AND THORNER'S COMMUNITY HALL A BUSY YEAR

2007 has been an interesting year for LATCH. Having put a great deal of time and effort into a business plan and application for a grant from the Big Lottery Fund we were hugely disappointed when our bid was turned down. It appears we were in very good company throughout the land and we can only hope that the money apparently sidelined for the Olympics in 2012 is put to good use.

Happily the Salisbury Diocese on its white charger rode to the rescue and their initial offer of £100,000 was raised to £200,000 which certainly indicated their faith in the project but also their strong support for our wonderful village school. The £200,000 together with funds already gathered from local residents,

and a promise of further funds from the local authority has given us renewed heart that come the end of 2008 (only a year away) we could well have a brand new sparkling community hall sitting proudly adjacent to the school.

Further funds are required and we are forever seeking grants and donations from near and far. We intend to go out to tender in the early part of 2008, with the thought of putting a spade in the ground come early spring. It will mean the hall is no longer a pipe dream; that the valiant efforts of local residents over the decades have finally paid off.

Thank you all who have supported this worthy cause. We are not there yet but we are a darn sight closer than we were this time last year or indeed six months ago. Please continue your much needed support and come along to the many LATCH events that are in the process of being planned for 2008.

#### ST MARY'S CHURCH - SHOCK! HORROR!

"Following the acquisition by the Parochial Church Council of an ex Army corrugated iron hut to accommodate the Sunday School, and their decision

to site it beside the entrance gates to the Church, a special meeting of the Council was convened to discuss the reaction to the proposal. A photograph was produced with the hut superimposed – all agreed it would be a major intrusion affecting the tranquillity and setting of the Church.

The Rector, Rev Frederick Crick, explained that in

due course a lean-to kitchen and WC with a new entrance door will be built on the side of the hut adjacent to the steps.

Members sympathised with those in the village who believe the hut, and especially the rather ugly extension, will be an eyesore at a sensitive part of the village; but all agreed the ministry of the Church to be of paramount importance.

It was conjectured that one day, when the hut becomes too old for further use, the eyesore complained about could be removed and the site reinstated with a



simple drive up to the Church, following the line of the path. Members marvelled at the prospect of transporting the elderly and infirm to the very door of the Church and providing access for motorised conveyances for weddings and funerals and other purposes."

Reprinted from the Bride Valley News of November 1921? (Comments/brick-bats to Freddie Spicer 482617)

#### **BEYOND THE VALLEY**

#### NEW WEBSITE FOR WALKERS IN DORSET

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day.

Studies show that walking can:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce high cholesterol and improve blood lipid profile
- Reduce body fat
- Enhance mental well being
- Increase bone density, hence helping to prevent osteoporosis
- Reduce the risk of cancer of the colon
- · Reduce the risk of non insulin dependant diabetes
- Help to control body weight
- Help osteoarthritis
- Help flexibility and co-ordination hence reducing the risk of falls

Walking offers a great way to help kids get the active habit. If parents express excitement about the prospect of a walk in the countryside, they are more likely to transmit this feeling to their children. It's important to treat the walk as an exploration or adventure and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice

#### **BARNADO'S**

MINCE-PIES & COFFEE
Saturday 8th December 10.00am - 12noon
in the Village Hall, Salwayash

Cakes

LIVE MUSIC BY Raffle
WEST DORSET MUSIC
CENTRE

**Christmas Cards & Gifts** 

Entrance £1 to include mince-pie and coffee



cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So www.walkingindorset.co.uk came into being:

**Free Walk descriptions**: Download loads of Dorset walks Free of charge! **Want to walk with others?** Go to the Walking Groups page.

**How about a book of Dorset walks?** Check the many books of walks on the books page

Need a map for your Dorset walk? Go to the maps page
What will the weather be like Go to the Dorset walking weather page
There are also links to other useful sites, how to get to your walk by public transport – and more is being added all the time.
So check out the website and get walking!

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

This year's Festival begins on Tuesday 4th December at 7 pm with a Dedication Service when all the lights will be switched on by the Town Mayor, Cllr Geoff Ackerman. It will continue for eight days, opening at 10 am on weekdays and 2 pm on Sunday. On both Wednesdays the Church will stay open until 9 pm; on other days it will close at 6 pm except on the Saturday when it finishes at 3 pm as there is a wedding at 4 pm. The town's late night shopping event will be on Wednesday 12th December. Throughout the tree festival there will be various activities including a concert by the Mountjoy School Handbell Ringers on Wednesday 5th December at 2 pm.

More than 60 illuminated trees will be on display. They will have been decorated by a charity, community organisation, church, school or young person's group and each will have a theme. Since these annual festivals commenced in 1998, over £35,000 has been raised for charitable purposes. It is visited each year by thousands of people from home and overseas. The Church's main charity this year is the Weldmar Hospice Care Trust. Admission is free but charitable donations will be appreciated.

#### THE BRIDPORT NATIVITY

Following the huge success of last year's Bridport Nativity that took place in December in the streets of Bridport, Churches Together in Bridport & District are planning a similar event for this year.



We invite everyone to come and see a live outdoor nativity, bringing the true message of Christmas to the streets of Bridport!

Watch Mary and Joseph coming from the west with their donkey (kindly loaned by Freshwater Holiday Park), the Magi coming from the east, and the shepherds from the south – and lots of angels!! Tableaux, drama, dance and songs will take place in and around Bucky Doo Square.

This will all happen on Saturday morning, 15<sup>th</sup> December from around 10.30 am. Come dressed as shepherds, angels, or any appropriate costume if you wish – but only if you want to! And walk along with the actors if you wish.

There will be more room for the spectators this year as part of South Street will be closed to traffic for the morning.

#### **BRIDPORT CHORAL SOCIETY**

invites you to celebrate the approach of Christmas with our Concert among the Christmas trees on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Bridport United Church, East Street, Bridport.

Conductor: Wynne Hughes (her last concert).

Soloists: Georgia Collins, Rosanna Brewster and David Tozer.

Accompanied on piano and organ by David Illingworth.

Tickets are available from Burton Bradstock Post Office or from members or at the door. Adults £5, children £3.

PLEASE COME AND ENJOY SOME LOVELY CHRISTMAS SONGS AND JOIN IN THE CAROLS. A donation to the Air Ambulance will be made from the proceeds

#### NO BBC RADIO DORSET: HAVE YOUR SAY

Below is the essence of a draft press release. It seems we might have an opportunity (but not for long) to get Dorset Radio reinstated, but only if residents respond in large numbers! I hope you will support us & get others to do so too. For too long Dorset has been 'underserved' with no proper local news on radio or TV.

"Residents will have heard the recent news that the planned FM BBC Radio Dorset station has been cancelled due to budget cuts. This is despite Devon & Cornwall having their own stations! However, the BBC now has a web page asking for feedback on this decision entitled "No BBC Radio Dorset: Have Your Say": see www.bbc.co.uk/dorset/content/articles/2007/10/19/bbc\_dorset\_feature.shtml."

This page allows anyone to type in their views on this serious setback for Dorset & it already has a large number of respondents demanding Dorset Radio! But we need many more!

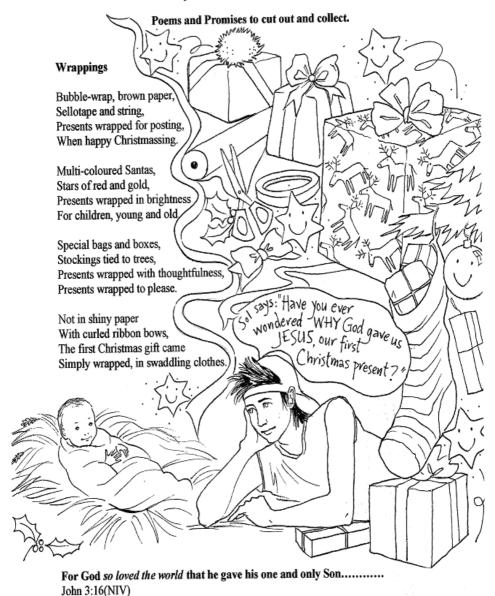
Readers may remember that the South & West Dorset Broadcasting Action Group's (SWEDBAG) survey went to some 40,000 homes. Of those who responded 95% demanded a BBC radio station for Dorset. Full details are on SWEDBAG's website (<a href="https://www.swedbag.org.uk">www.swedbag.org.uk</a>). Check out the web site itself and log on to register for the SWEDBAG Newsletter (e-mail).

The BBC's offer of a local online news service, while a welcome addition for computer users, is no substitute for our own local radio station. Most people want to be kept up to-date by radio (or TV) in the car, on the portable or their bedside radio etc., not via a computer! And, of course, many do not have computers anyway. It will be many years yet before everyone gets their news, radio, TV, etc. from a broadband connection!

Ken Pett for SWEDBAG

#### FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE

### Rainbow Rhymes



31

Poem by Daphne Kitching, Picture by Elaine Hill, Coloured by .....



#### HOLLY

We sing about the 'Holly and the lvy', and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.

In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus — the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.



Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn, but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

#### SHARP PRESENTS

A quick way to make little presents for all your class and friends.

You will need pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils rather than the hexagonal type.

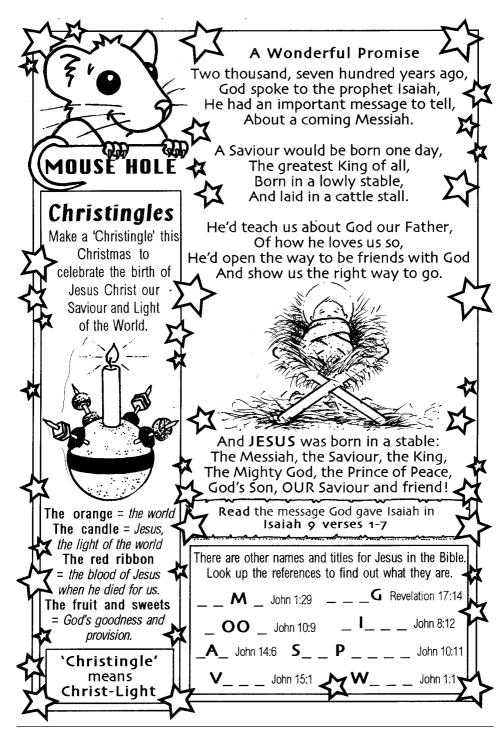
Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil. When the glue has dried; trim away any excess paper with small scissors.

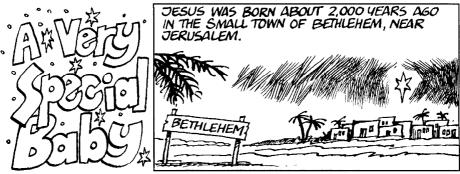


What did the werewolf write on his Christmas cards?
Best vicious of the season.

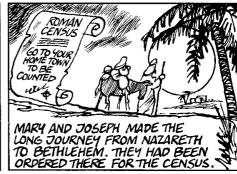


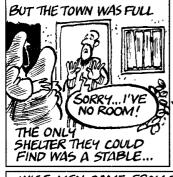




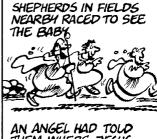




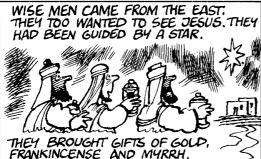








THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.







#### **OH WINTRY SOGGINESS**



Oh wintry sogginess
How you leave me in a mess
My nose is dripping
my dog is licking
at the puddle on the path
I need to go home and have a bath

#### THE UNIVERSE REJOICES

Bells of joy at midnight sound Vibrating wintry air Echoing chimes around the world In countries everywhere. Their universal language By all is understood, Ringing out the message That God is always good. For on this night, this holy night His Son was born and He A true example set to us Of what we all might be. Heralded by angels. Honoured with a star. Calling hillside shepherds And wise men from afar. Resounding through the Heavens, A thousand angel voices, For with the birth of God's own Son The Universe Rejoices!

Valerie Jeffery

Oh wintry chilliness
It takes so long for me to dress
I've put away the shirts and frocks
now just wool and padded socks
The mud is thick beneath my feet
A good excuse to stay home and eat

Oh wintry merriness
A time of the year to wish for less
The chestnuts are roasting
and soon we'll be toasting
good health to all our friends
Then make resolutions before the year ends

Oh wintry grubbiness
You rarely do impress
But the clock is ticking
and soon I'll be picking
the daffodils up on the Hill
So hurry along now, if you will

re

Claire

#### **CROSSWORD** 8 Use the NIV Bible **ACROSS** 10 5 ..to \_\_\_\_\_ him into their city (Josh 20.4) (5) 11 8 Insane (8) 9 Feel a sharp stinging pain (5) 16 10 The Lord commanded Elijah to turn in this direction 20 21 23 1 Kings ch. 17 (8) in 11 Fluid gushing from the brock in Psalm 105 (5) 25 Lamentations ch. 4 mentions heaps of this

16 The name of the Lord is such a tower, says Proverbs ch. 18 (6)

17 You lie on beds \_\_\_\_\_ with ivory (Amos 6.4) (6)

27

18 Finish (3)

residue (3)

20 Used a hassock in church (5)

24 Description of the chariots in Isaiah ch. 22 (8)

25 St Augustine (354-430) was its bishop (5)

26 Come to light again (8)

27 Concur, like Joseph's brothers in Genesis ch. 37 (5)

#### Down

1 Where Moses defeated Og in Deuteronomy ch. 1 (5)

2 Christian symbol (5)

3 Bites on, as men bit on their tongues in Revelation ch. 16 (5)

4 Unsearchable parts of kings in Proverbs ch. 25 (6)

6 Deserving of a curse (8)

7 Modern day inhabitants of Bethlehem (8)

12 ..\_\_\_\_ beside the canal (Dan

8.3)(8)

Fall down, like the wicked mans victims in Psalm 10 (8)

14 Era (3)

15 What a servant did with his master's money in Matthew ch. 25 (3)

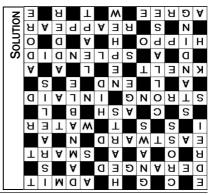
19 Relationship of Lot to Abram in Genesis ch. 5 (6)

21 Jumped (5)

22 Snake hatched in Isaiah ch. 59

(5)

23 How right they are to \_\_\_\_\_ you (Song 1.4) (5)



#### THE RECTORY ST. JAMES THE LEAST

My dear Nephew Darren

It really is time to get some new figures for the crib. After a series of accidents over the years, we are now down to two wise men and one three-legged sheep that only remains

upright if it is leaning against a shepherd.

Joseph, having been obliged to stand outside the shelter of the stable for the last four decades, is now comprehensively veneered with bat droppings. In a rather desperate effort to enlarge this rather frugal cast, Miss Timmins hit on the idea of introducing characters from the children's Easter garden. This would have all been very well if both sets of figures had been to the same scale, but we now have the shepherds apparently being threatened by two ten feet rabbits.

One of our local farmers - I am sure very kindly meant donated far more straw for the stable than was necessary. Our decorators, refusing to let his generosity go to waste, used the lot. The result is that Mary and Joseph stand up to their waists, looking as if they are being engulfed by a straw snow drift and the crib along with baby Jesus have disappeared entirely. The latter is not entirely to be regretted, since no one can now see that Jesus has no nose, the result of one of our children dropping him on the floor at last year's Crib Service.

I am sure your ecologically appropriate Christmas tree, made of re-cycled dustbin liners will be much appreciated by your congregation, knowing that they are saving the planet for future generations. We however remain traditional, with a tree always donated by the local squire from his estate, even if is at the cost of adding another degree to global warming. Not only does it look more fitting, but it gives our verger something to do on twelfth night, as he sweeps up several hundredweight of pine needles.

I sometimes wonder if it is entire coincidence that the tree is always delivered by the estate staff on a day when there has been torrential rain in the area. Carrying it into church up the aisle makes it look as if the parting of the Red Sea has unsuccessfully taken place inside St. James'. The major problem every year is getting the wretched thing to stand upright in the sanctuary. It takes so long that I

sometimes feel it would be quicker to re-align all the church pillars to the same angle as the tree itself.

Last year's decision to have tree lights which flashed in succession was not a success. Those members who stared at them for too long while singing carols tended to fall overalthough I suspect that Major Crump's inability to remain upright at the midnight Service was for rather different reasons. Not using flashing lights this year, the Major will have to find a different excuse.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

#### THE RULES OF BEING HUMAN



- •You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for this time around.
- •You will learn lessons. You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called life. Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons, or think them irrelevant or stupid.
- •There are no mistakes, only lessons. Growth is a process of trial and error: experimentation. The failed experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiment that lands up working.
- •A lesson is repeated until learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it you can then go on to the next lesson.
- •Learning lessons does not end. There is no part of life that does not contain lessons. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned.
- •"There" is no better than "here". When your "there" has become "here" you will simply obtain another "there" that will again look better than "here".
- •Others are merely mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects to you something you love or hate about yourself.
- •What you make of life is up to you. You have all the tools and resources you need what you do with them is up to you. The choice is yours.
- •The answers lie inside you. All you need to do is look, listen and trust.
- You will forget all of this!

DIA	RY (	OF EVEN	TS FOR ALL PARISHES:	DECEMBER 2007
DECEN	MBER			
Sat	1	10.30am	WI Christmas Coffee Morning	BB Village Hall
		4.30pm	BV Christmas Market	Thorner's School
Sun	2	7.00pm	One World Worship	Othona Community
Mon	3	2.15pm	MU Carol Service	Mosterton
		7.30pm	British legion Social Evening	Three Horseshoes, BB
Tue	4		St JOHN of DAMASCUS	
		2.00pm	Bridge Club	BB Village Hall
		7.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival Service	Bridport United Church
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	PSWB Village Hall
Thu	6		St NICHOLAS	
Fri	7	7.30pm	Shipton Gorge Ltd AGM	SG Village Hall
			BB Village Soc Talk	BB Village Hall
		Village Co	rrespondents' deadline for January	BVN
Sat	8		The CONCEPTION of the BLESSED	VIRGIN MARY
		3.20pm	Santa in Swyre & Puncknowle	Holy Trinity, Swyre
		7.30pm	Bridport Choral Society Concert	Bridport United Church
Sun	9	2.30pm	Advent Trail Inauguration	St Mary's, Puncknowle
		Editor's de	adline for January BVN	
Mon	10	7.30pm	BV Garden Club Christmas Party	PSWB Village Hall
		7.30pm	SG Village Hall Trust Bingo	SG Village Hall
Wed	12	7.30pm	Bridport Camera Club Talk	The Salt House, West Bay
Thu	13	6.30pm	LC Carol Singing	LC Bus Shelter
Fri	14		St JOHN of the CROSS	
		10.30am	Puncknowle Art Group	Crown Inn, Puncknowle
		11.00am	Tiny Tots Service	St Mary's, BB
		6.30pm	LC Carol Singing	LC Bus Shelter
			1st Steps Social Evening	??
Sat	15	10.00am	Church Decoration	St Mary's, Puncknowle
		10.30am	The Bridport Nativity	Bucky Doo Square
		5.00pm	Christmas Party	LB Village Hall
		5.00pm	LB Christmas Party	LB Village Hall
Tue	18	2.00pm	Bridge Club	BB Village Hall
Wed	19	6.30pm	SG Carol Singing	Telephone Kiosk, Brook St., SG
		6.30pm	Puncknowle Carol Singing	PSWB Village Hall
Sat	22	10.00am	Church Decoration	Holy Trinity, Swyre

Mon	24	CHRISTMAS EVE
Tue	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Wed	26	St STEPHEN
Thu	27	St JOHN the APOSTLE
Fri	28	HOLY INNOCENTS
Sat	29	THOMAS BECKET

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR ALL PARISHES:	JANUARY 2008
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JANU	ARY			
Tue	1	10.00am	LC Village Walk	LC Bus Shelter
Sun	6	7.00pm	One World Worship	Othona Community
Wed	9	7.30pm	Bridport Camera Club Competition	The Salt House, West Bay
Wed	23	7.30pm	Bridport Camera Club Talk	The Salt House, West Bay
		ton Cheney lebredy	SG: Shipton Gorge BB: Burton PSWB: Puncknowle, Swyre & West B	

# VILLAGE WEBSITES

giving details of events, news, history, photographs etc.

www.burtonbradstock.org.uk www.littoncheney.org.uk www.shiptongorge.org.uk www.puncknowle.net www.swyre.org.uk www.westbexington.org.uk

#### AND NEXT COMES NEW YEAR'S EVE ..

"The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise.

- EK Kruger.

"The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig.

- Alfred Hitchcock.

"Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble.

- Ionathan Swift.

CHO	CHURCH SEF	SERVICES	THE BRIDE \	THE BRIDE VALLEY TEAM OF PARISHES	OF PARISHES	Decem	December 2007
Date	2nd December 1st in Advent	9th December 2nd in Advent	16th December 3rd in Advent	23rd December 4th in Advent	24th December Christmas Eve	25th December Christmas Day	30th December Christmas 1
BRADSTOCK	8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 9.30 Family service 11.00 Songs of Praise 6.30 4.00 Christingle Service	9.30 Family Service 11.00 Holy Communion 6.30 Evening Prayer	8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Family service 11.00 Holy Communion (By extension) 6.30 Carol Service	9.30 Figure 11.30 pm Holy Communion 11.30 pm 11.00 Morning Prayer 6.30 Evening Prayer	5.30 pm Crib Service 11.30 pm Holy Communion	om Crib Service 8.00  Holy Communion 11.00 Christmas Day Service	8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 United Service for the Valley
SHIPTON	11.00 All age Holy Communion	9.30 Morning Prayer	9.30 Holy Communion	6.30 Carol Service		9.30 Holy Communion	
CHILCOMBE			Carol S	Carol Service, 6.30pm, 21st December	ecember		
SWYRE	3.30 Evening Prayer	11.00 Moming Prayer	11.00 Holy Communion ship	11.00 Morning Wor- ship	9.30 pm Holy Communion		
PUNCKNOWLE	9.30 +Holy Com- munion	5.00 Evening Prayer	8.00 Holy Communion 5.00 Carol Service	11.00 Family Service		11.00 All Age Worship Holy Communion	
LITTON	9.30 Morning Worship	9.30 Holy Communion	9.30 Moming Prayer	9.30 4.00 pm Holy Communion 11.30 pm (By extension) Hc	4.00 pm Crib service 11.30 pm Holy Communion		8.00 Holy Communion
LONG BREDY 11.00	11.00 Holy Communion		11.00 Morning Worship			11.00 Holy Communion	
LITTLEBREDY		11.00 All age Worship Holy Communion (By extension)	6.00 Carol Service	11.00 Holy Communion		11.00 All age Worship: Communion by extension.	
Rector: Reader:	: The Revd Bob Thorn r: Mike Read	As	Tel: (01308) 898799 Tel: (01308) 897445 Associate Minister: The	NS Re The Revd Ryder Rogers	NSM: The Revd Jean Thorn Reader: James Webster Tel: s Tel: (01308) 897780	horn Tel: (01308) 898799 Tel: (01308) 89 8657	898799