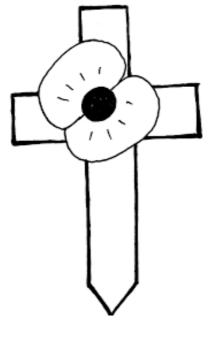
# BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

The Magazine of the Bride Valley Churches and Communities



November 2023

#### Contents

From the Benefice	4	Littlebredy	22
Valley Notes	5	Burton Bradstock	23
Litton Cheney	12	Shipton Gorge	32
Puncknowle, Swyre &	18	Services in the Valley	56
West Bexington		Churches	
Longbredy	20		

**December 2023 Issue deadlines:** Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November for the December issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline please! Correspondents are asked to send copy to the Editor by 9.00am Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November please. Please contact bvctc@outlook.com for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, can be found on <u>https://bvn.org.uk</u> and on the Bride Valley village websites.

**Note:** Contributors are asked to note that space in the BVN is strictly limited and the Editor reserves the right to edit submissions and cannot guarantee that items will be included.

The Bride Valley News is delivered to every home in the valley and carries not only news of local church services but also our societies, activities, clubs and businesses, making sure we all know what is going on in the Valley. It is entirely produced and distributed by volunteers. Donations to help us continue to provide the magazine would be welcome and if you feel able to contribute - please make a BACS payment to: Account: 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council', Sort code 30-91-21 Account number 00074071.....and quote BVN.

## The Bride Valley Churches

St Mary The Virgin: Burton Bradstock St Mary: Litton Cheney St Michael & All Angels: Littlebredy St Peter: Long Bredy Chilcombe (dedication unknown) St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle St Martin: Shipton Gorge Holy Trinity: Swyre

Reader: James Webster (01308) 898657

To enquire about Baptism, Marriage and Funeral arrangements, please contact Helen Fry, Bride Valley Benefice Administrator on 01308 897260, or email BVchurchesTA@outlook.com

#### Pastoral Assistants & Prayers for The Sick

Pastoral Assistants are available for visiting. If you or anyone you know would like such a visit, please contact Jane Williams 01308 898799. If there is someone that you would like to be included in our prayers for the sick, please contact Liz Howlett 07851032454 or a Churchwarden.

#### **Church Floodlighting**

If you would like to have a church floodlit for a baptism or wedding, or in memory of someone, please speak to the following: Burton Bradstock: Chrissie Bailey 897603 or Ian Ibbotson 898484, Shipton Gorge: Phyl Webster 898657, Litton Cheney: Freddie Spicer 482617.

## From the Benefice

#### Lay Pastoral Assistants

Hardship or distress can come at any time but the closer we get to Christmas the more the darkening days might cause those feeling more vulnerable to sink further into need for some support. The Lay Pastoral Assistants in our benefice (LPAs) are here for anyone who needs that support which might be long or short term. We all have a time to be helped and a time to help. There is no shame in needing some help along our way. For some who have lost their support through bereavement or estrangement, things might seem insurmountable for a while.

For some it might be a crisis of health which pushes us into distress, which can be physical, emotional or mental. There are so many reasons why any of our parishioners might need assistance and these are not always predictable. What we offer is non-judgmental listening and practical help but also just being available to share with you what is difficult to go through.

If you know of somebody in your community who might need the sort of assistance we can offer please do help them to reach out to us. Possibly you could let us know if you are worried about a neighbour or friend who is unable to make that call for themselves. It really isn't easy to ask for help sometimes. It isn't easy if you have always coped and suddenly coping is too much of a challenge. Embarrassment can hold people back from asking which we understand, and we all want to think we can cope, or that we shouldn't trouble anybody.

We currently have four trained LPAs in this benefice. We all have a medical background and have had the LPA training through the Diocese of Salisbury. We are all available to visit, phone or email contact. We have access to Deanery and Diocesan teams and welfare agencies where these might be needed. All contact is confidential within the Lay Pastoral Team. Anyone can ask for assistance and, end that as and when you are ready. There is no set pattern as to what frequency or method of support we offer.

We are: Cathryn Johnson (07823332460), Jenny Malyon (01308898768) Liz Orza (01308897451) and Pauline Woodford (01308898327) We can also be reached by contacting Helen Fry, our Benefice Administrator on 01308897260 <u>BVchurchesTA@outlook.com</u>

## Christmas Greetings in the BVN

Its not too late to place your Christmas greetings to local friends and neighbours via the BVN. Names will appear on a dedicated page in the December issue. Please send your name(s), as you would like it/them to appear in the list with an appropriate donation of your choice.

Cheques (made payable to **'Bride Valley Churches Team Council'**), or cash, in clearly marked envelopes, can be handed to Churchwardens, or delivered to Liz Orza (2 Bindbarrow, Burton Bradstock, DT6 4RG).

Donations can also be paid directly into the Benefice bank account **as above**: sort code 30-91-21, account number 00074071. It is essential however, that these payments are referenced 'XG', and that your name or names for the dedication are included. Please ensure that your instructions are received no later than Monday 13th November, in order to catch the printing deadline for the December edition.

Your donations will be shared between the BVN and the Langley Trust. The Langley Trust provide support, care and advice to help men and women with convictions to help transform their lives and to live crime-free. We have chosen to support this charity in memory of the late Rev'd Sue Linford, who worked as a Chaplain at Portland Prison.

## **Burton Bradstock CE Primary School**



#### **Burton Bradstock CE Primary School**

It has been a great first half term at Burton school with the children thoroughly enjoying their learning and all the opportunities school has to offer.

During the first week in October, we held a Beach Team Day where the children spent the day in their Beach Teams looking at our school vision statement and what it means to them. In



the afternoon, we took the whole school to the Hive Beach. Children completed beach art themed on the name of their team and enjoyed some team building games with the older children looking out for their younger teammates.



Our Harvest Festival was held in St Mary's Church at the end of



September. Children in our pre-school and EYFS shared autumn crowns, KS1 performed a Harvest poem and showed some artwork, Lower KS2 shared their Harvest trees and Upper KS2 recited their own Harvest prayers. We collected food for the local foodbank, 'Cupboard Love', as part of our service.



We are showing around families of children due to start school in September 2024 during our open days this term. If you or someone you know would like to come and visit our friendly village school, please make an appointment via the school office. Also, we regularly update our school Facebook page, please do follow us to see pictures of the school in action.

Adam Gough, Headteacher



## **Thorners CE VA School**

The children at Thorner's have been very busy as we head towards half term. Litton and Chesil have been spending time in our Discovery Area looking for signs of the changing seasons and making a variety of nature-based art projects to celebrate the colours visible in the wild at this point of the year.

Bredy and Eggardon are entering sketches for the Askers Meadow Art Competition in which each child is drawing a well know element of the local flora or fauna to be mounted on signs along the new proposed footpath. It is hoped that some of our designs will make it into the final collection.

Lastly, the whole school have been decorating bags for the Candles on the Hill celebration on St Catherine's Day in Abbotsbury. The patterns, drawings and images the children have created will look wonderful as the candles are lit on the hillside Many thanks to the Parish Council for their assistance with this and to the organisers for involving the children

The TSA have been incredibly busy - as always - raising funds and putting on fun events for the children and parents - culminating with the end of term disco in the LATCH hall.

Our children are getting excited about the Rugby World Cup and are entering the Bridport TAG Rugby Festival this weekend as well as using the tournament to learn about countries around the world in our morning assemblies. As part of this series of assemblies - we are also looking at the challenges some of these countries face and also exploring the links between these countries and our own.

Our children have worked very hard this term and the new Reception class have made enormous progress since starting school - we look forward to a

good half term and then the build up to Christmas and the Nativity can begin in earnest!

<u>Stop Press</u> – Photo – Thorner's with their runners up medals and Bridport Mayor Cllr Dave Bolwell Well done, Thorner's!



Mike Sitch, Headmaster

## Bride Valley Gardening Club

#### Last of the year

By the time you read this the club will have held the last meeting of the year – and what a good year it has had. With more members than ever and well attended monthly meetings we've not only enjoyed a wide range of excellent horticultural talks, an outing



to Abbey Flowers, and a splendid Flower and Produce Show but also made new friends over a glass of wine or two. Although we don't meet together again until March the Committee is busy planning to entice and please members next spring.

Whilst doing some of the routine autumn chores – sweeping leaves and planting bulbs for instance - you might like to think of some of the good things we have in store. Always hoping for deliciously crumbling leaf mould from my autumn sweepings I'm often disappointed with the result so an informative but light-hearted talk on composting could be just what's needed. As the spring bulbs are planted, we can look forward to a talk from the owner of the multiple gold medal winners Avon Bulbs for more inspiration; worried about that shady corner or what shrub to plant? We've got that covered too! We will also be sharing details with you about the planned Celebrity Lecture to be held in June when we hope to make this a very special occasion for everyone.

Ali Halliday



## Our Night Sky in November 2023

Saturn will be setting about midnight in the middle of the month, while Jupiter will be bright in the southern sky until it sets at about 6.30 am. Meanwhile, brilliant Venus will be rising in the east at about 5 am, and will remain

visible until the Sun rises about 8.30. Orion and the winter constellations will rise in the east at about 10pm.

We have been overwhelmed with fascinating astronomical news recently. The brilliantly successful soft landing by India on the Moon near the South pole followed by the robotic explorer trundling over the surface. However, the Minus 250 degree night temperatures seem to have affected its electronics,

and India has so far been unable to wake it up. The Russian attempt days before failed.

The successful return of the largest asteroid sample ever to be recovered marks the culmination of a seven-year journey in which a robotic spacecraft Osiris-Rex spacecraft was sent to scout out the asteroid Bennu, scoop up samples of its pebbles and dust, and then return them to Earth. These types of samples are a treasure for scientific analysis for years and years to come, for our children and our grandchildren and for people who haven't even been born.

I will try to keep you informed of any scientific releases.

Bill Turnill

## The Bride Valley WI

The month of September saw the return of our normal Thursday evening meetings. It was also the Bride Valley WI's 10th Anniversary. We celebrated in true WI fashion with cake. A wonderful cake baked and decorated by Lisa one of our members. Of course, no celebration is complete without some bubbles. The evening continued with an extremely interesting, informative and entertaining talk about The Tunnels of Dorchester, presented by David Taylor. The skittle team continue their winning streak with home and away wins over Cattistock WI, and a home win over Colmer. Fingers crossed for a full house when they play their final game in November.

They are also returning to playing for fun every other Tuesday at The White Horse, Litton Cheney. If you fancy joining the fun then let Charlotte know.

## Bride Valley Book Club Review

#### Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

I think everyone enjoyed this debut novel and we could all see why there is going to be a film adaptation. Alongside amusement there was also a recognition of how women of ability fared, career wise, in the late 1950s and early 1960's. Elizabeth Zott is a talented chemist, driven by her vocation, who rises above her difficulties to triumph with determination (and scientific knowhow) in her chosen field - all this via a detour as the host of a daytime local TV cooking show. Set in California - Elizabeth overcomes a traumatic childhood, being abused and belittled as an academic and having her intellectual property stolen. In a quest to locate scientific equipment she stumbles across Calvin, a Nobel laureate and experiences a profound chemical reaction - they fall in love. After introducing Elizabeth to rowing and adopting a reject explosives sniffer dog (named 6.30) Calvin dies in a freak accident and Elizabeth belatedly discovers she is pregnant. Sacked for being an unmarried mother and needing to support herself and her daughter, Elizabeth becomes an unlikely TV cookery host. She subverts the "women belong in the kitchen" ethos of the show by turning it into a series of chemistry lessons. The show becomes a huge success and is syndicated all over the USA. Despite a humorous lightness of touch this novel deals with serious issues and has its dark places. One critic described it as a story written in primary colours and we agreed that the two dimensional characters lack subtlety. However we thought it was a hoot and very much a fable of how far women have come since the 1960's.

Liz Pinfield

#### **BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE**

The BVCS is a volunteer scheme offering residents of the Bride Valley transport to and from medical appointments when they are unable to drive themselves or be driven by relatives or friends. Clients are charged a mileage fee (currently 50p per mile) plus a standard charge (currently £2.00 per journey). Because the service depends on the availability of volunteer drivers, clients are asked to give as much notice as possible – we are unlikely to be able to respond to requests within 48 hours of an appointment. To book a journey please call our voluntary co-ordinator on 07393 607025 (note new number) between Monday and Friday. Calls cannot be taken at weekends. West Gallery Carol Concert

An evening of joyous Dorset music

Ridgeway Singers & Band led by Phil Humphries & Tim Laycock



#### Friday 8 December, Abbotsbury, 7.30pm St Nicholas' Church, Church Street, DT3 4JJ

dgeway

Booking:www.ridgewaysingersandband.org or Tel 01305 262159 Tickets £12; Under-18s £6

Seasonal refreshments available

## Litton Cheney Village Correspondent: John Firrell jfirrell20@gmail.com Tel: 01308 482313 Village web-site www.littoncheney.org.uk



#### From St. Mary's Church

Our Coffee Mornings will be returning for the winter months starting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am to 11.30am. A chance to st and have a good chat w th neighbours and friends and also for parent with pre-schoo children to enjoy a free cuppa and home-made goodies while their youngsters play for a while. All welcome to pop in – we'll look forward to welcoming you to St Ma y'.

<u>On Remembrance Sunday</u>, the 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be Choral Evensong at 6.00pm sung by the choir, with music to reflect this special day.

Coming up on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December there will be another special service at 6.00pm – "Darkness into Light" to mark Advent Sunday and the start of the run-up to Christmas.

#### Litton Cheney Parish Council

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm at LATCH Do join us as we apply our ministrations in the hope of improving life for all in the village.

Do you have a project in mind that would qualify for funding from monies the Parish Council has received from the Community Infrastructure Levy? Speak to a parish councillor or Maggie, our parish clerk, for more details.

<u>Litton Cheney Remembers</u> – In the lead up to Remembrance Day and, on behalf of the village, the Parish Council will be placing a wreath on the war memorial in St Mary's churchyard in memory of those of the village who died during the two world wars and in other conflicts.

#### Parish Clerk

Could you be our next Parish Clerk? Sadly, our present Clerk, Maggie Walsh has decided to stand down in the foreseeabl future, and we are now seeking a replacement. If you believe you have the required talents to take on this post then we would love to hear from you. For more details on what the job entails and how to apply please contact Bill Orchard, John Firrell or Sue Hewish (contact details can be found on the village website or village notice boards).

#### Events at LATCH – for November

#### Weekly:

Mondays: 3.30 – 4.30pm Big Q Church Tuesdays: 4.45 – 5.45pm Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 01308 482661) 6.15pm – Pilates (johanna@larkpilates.com 07920 421783) Wednesdays: 4.45pm - Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 01308 482661) 7.00pm – Mindful Movement with Jane Hutchins ( 07882 527697)

#### Special:

Thursday 2nd: 7.30pm Film Night

Tuesday 14th: 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>: 3.30pm Artsreach production "Model Village" (see separate announcement)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup>: Bingo Night – see details below.

Saturday 25th - 9.30am Tai Chi (Andrew Howard 07912 107950 bamboogtc@tutanota.com)

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>: Morning Yoga with Nadiya Wynn (nadiyasime@hotmail.com)

**Village Cafés:** A reminder that the hall is available for hire free of charge on Saturday mornings for a Café to raise funds for any group. It's a good social event for the community and always popular – contact me to book a date.

Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532 wtlitton@gmail.com

#### 80th Anniversary of D-Day Landings – June 2024

D Day holds particular significance for Dorset as the county was in the front line of the build up to the invasion of Europe. Soldiers from America, Canada, and France, as well as British troops were stationed across Dorset, with many areas becoming militarised zones. Litton Cheney together many communities along and near the coast were very much involved.

It is hoped to put together an exhibition telling the story of Litton's involvement in this mammoth event, and that of the Bride Valley generally. If you have a story to tell or mementoes of that event, perhaps the house you now live in was requisitioned at the time, please stand ready to tell all when we request it early in the new year.

#### BINGO Friday 24th November 2023 In aid of Julia's House (Dorset)

Litton and Thorner's Community Hall,

School Lane, Litton Cheney

Doors open 6.30pm - eyes down 7.30pm

Great Prizes, Raffle, Refreshments and Bucket Draw. All Welcome Don't keep it to yourselves - bring a friend and give them a great evening out!

#### BRIDE VALLEY FILM - November films at Litton Cheney Community Hall

#### Reminder...

## Thursday 2nd November, "WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING" 'a truly compelling story'

From the best-selling novel comes a captivating mystery. Where the Crawdads Sing tells the story of Kya (**Daisy Edgar-Jones**), an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumours of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from



town, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world; but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by the community as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh.

Cert. 15 2hrs.

## Thursday 30 November, "LIVING" 'a quirky, beautifully observed film'

The story of an ordinary man, reduced by years of oppressive office routine to a shadow existence, who at the eleventh hour makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into something wonderful – into one he can say has been lived to the full. 1953. A London shattered by WWII is still recovering. Williams (**Bill Nighy**), a veteran civil servant, is an important cog within the city's bureaucracy as it struggles to rebuild. Buried under paperwork at the office, lonely at home, his life has long felt empty and meaningless. Then a shattering medical diagnosis forces him to take stock –



and to try and grasp fulfilment before it goes beyond reach. The film charts his

road of discovery resulting in a legacy for the next generation. A best career performance from Bill Nighy; also starring **Tom Burke, Aimee Lou Wood** and **Alex Sharp**.

Cert. 12 1hr.40"

Doors Open: 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. TICKETS: £5.00 (to include a glass of wine) Tickets in advance from: Sally Dyke 482752, Elizabeth Kingston 482162, Bella Spurrier 482367 or on the door. (All nos. 01308)

These films will be shown at Litton Cheney only. Look out for further details on posters, on the website and in the BVN.



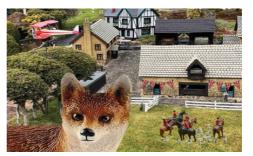
NEW PERSPECTIVES THEATRE PRESENTS MODEL VILLAGE SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER @ 3.30PM

Litton Cheney and Thorners Community Hall

A satirical comedy based on attempts to up-date and save a model village but tensions arise and will the villagers accept the proposals?

Adults £12.00, children (suitable for 14years+) £5-00, Family £30, Refreshments available Tickets from Artsreach.com or Patricia 01308 482514

More info from <u>New</u> <u>Perspectives Theatre.com</u>



#### The White Horse

Now the Indian summer is well and truly behind us, we start looking towards the festive time of year. We have Basilico Pizzas returning on a fortnightly basis starting on Halloween and will run through to mid-December.

Liz is organising a fun quiz for the end of November and there's one or two other bits and pieces in the pipeline TBC for November so keep an eye on our Facebook page and blackboards for updates. On 2nd December we are having a Christmas Casino night where we've booked a proper roulette wheel and Blackjack table with professional Croupiers. £30 per ticket will buy you entry, White Horse currency to play with, cheeseboard and a medium size glass of wine or a pint. The three players with the highest value of chips at the end of the evening will win a prize each. No pressure at all to dress up, but if you want to wear your best cocktail dress or tuxedo and dickie bow and be all suave and sophisticated James Bond 007 style that's fine by us. Tickets on sale now.

We are pleased to welcome the Mummers back on 9th December at 7:30, and have got the Christmas Quiz and Christmas Draw on Sunday the 17th and the Grand Christmas Meat Draw on Friday 22nd. We will also be serving Christmas roasts on the first three Sundays in December. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Liz & Andy

### **Reflections of a Harvest Festival**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October dawned over Litton Cheney. To the early riser, perhaps it being their turn to deliver the Sunday papers, it was a typically and seemingly appropriate autumn morning. The mist had come down, visibility was clouded and sounds muffled.

On this day, the church service at St Mary's, normally timed for 9.30am in the morning, had been moved to 11.00am to accommodate Harvest Festival and a post bring and share lunch. Shortly after 10.00am there appeared, in addition to the usual dog walkers, a flurry of individuals heading in the direction of the church, some armed with sustenance, others intent on ringing bells. As they converged on The Rocks they exchanged greetings, peered at each other's offerings, caught up on the gossip of the day and headed up to the church.

Church warden John Vercoe was already active in putting out the various bits of church regalia required for the day's service. The church had been decorated in its harvest finery the previous day, and tables were now being assembled at the rear of the church in preparation for the lunch. Various individuals moved around the church sure of their duties. Organist Paul Cheater prepared his music sheets and began playing soft incidental organ pieces. Lay Worship Reader Vicky Thomas allowed herself to be fitted with a lapel mic and sound tested. The congregation began to assemble, the bells rang out, the hum of conversation could be heard, and the organ music swelled to a crescendo.

Under the expert guidance of Lay Worship Reader Vicky, the congregation glided their way through the Order of Service, lessons were read, reflections remembered and offerings offered and gratefully received. A collective blessing was said and those gathered were cordially invited to partake of the generously provided sustenance. There was however a special occasion that needed to be celebrated before lunch was to begin. Diana and Freddie Spicer were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary; champagne flowed, glasses were raised, with cake to follow. Amidst the friendly chatter, food was happily consumed and then, almost too suddenly, it was all over. People departed, tables were cleared, washing up was done and everything was put back in its place.

Harvest Festival was over for another year. In a week or so's time the grapes would be harvested by the new owners of the Bride Valley Vineyard and the valley would move slowly and majestically into its autumn finery. The season of mellow fruitfulness is upon us

John Firrell

### Important note to all contributors to the BVN

The BVN has to be produced to a very strict printer's deadline, and also within a limited number of pages. Please try to meet the monthly deadlines, which are set out on the inside front cover, and also keep your entries as succinct as possible. Your help on this will be appreciated by the Village Correspondents and the Editor!

#### Can you help the BVN?

If you have a few spare hours and would like to help produce the magazine and have some computer skills, then the advertising manager would like some assistance! We would be happy to discuss this with you! Please email the Editor for further information! Many thanks.

## Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents: Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle) liz@ruddle.org.uk Tel: 01308 897751 Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington) Jill.neill@live.co.uk Tel 01308 897479 Village website: https://puncknowle.net



#### St Mary's Church Puncknowle

St Mary's welcomes everyone to join us in our se vices – visitors and locals will all receive a very warm welcome and hopefully join us afterwards for coffee in the pub opposite.

#### Growing Our Food Together

- Do you enjoy eating fresh organically grown fruit and vegetables?
- Would you benefit from some fresh air and exercise?
- Do you live in the Bride Valley?
- Would you like to join a friendly group to grow food together at a low cost?

If you can answer yes to all these questions, this new venture is for you! Lifelong gardeners and complete beginners are equally welcome to apply and, as an experienced grower and teacher, I shall lead, facilitate and teach. For further details, please call, or text me on 07815 661973 Marion Derbyshire

#### Puncknowle 100 Club

Here are the draw results for September

1 <sup>s</sup> Prize	Clai e Hart
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Steve Neill

#### The Houses We Lived In

A presentation about the history of Swyre by Dr Peter Northover, at Holy Trinity Church, Swyre, 7.00pm, 18th November. Tickets: £10



per person (children free). Includes wine and nibbles, available at the door, or in advance from:

Sally Bowsher, Swyre Cross 01308 897987 Sue Taylor, 4 Green Barton 01308 898523

**St Andrew's Day,** Coffee Morning, with cake and raffle, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 10.30am to 12.30pm. Holy Trinity Church, Swyre. All proceeds will go to the up-keep of the church



#### Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with the amazing window displays on the corner window of the hall this year. Do we have any other budding artists/window dressers out there? Perhaps there is a family that would like to do the window between them? The platform will be all yours for the month. If you are interested, please contact one of the committee. Details on Puncknowle web site.

#### **Puncknowle Art Group**

We are a friendly group that has been going for some years and is now restarting after 2020 put the brakes on. We meet on the last Friday of the month in the village hall at Puncknowle from 10am-12.30am, and extend a warm welcome to people of all abilities from beginners to accomplished artists to join this relaxed and sociable group.

We have a watercolour pencil workshop on 24 November and after that the next meeting will be on 26 January (programme to be arranged). If you would like more information please contact Sally 01308 897987.

#### **Great Whist Drive**

Puncknowle Village Hall, 7th December. Starts at 7.30pm All welcome, the more the merrier.

#### PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE, WEST BEXINGTON, CHILCOMBE, LONG BREDY and LITTLE BREDY .....LUNCH CLUB...... PUNCKNOWLE VILLAGE HALL – 1.00pm Enquiries – please contact David Buckland, 01308 898492 for more details. LUNCHES COST £6.00 November 21st Beef Bourguignon with mashed potato, Roast carrots/parsnips. Lemon Crunch FUTURE DATES December 12th - Roast Turkey Roll with trimmings and roast potatoes Christmas pudding & custard January 16th 2024 Chicken Tagine/Rice. Key Lime Pie

February 20th 2024

All meals include fruit juice, cheese and biscuits, plus tea or coffee

## Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Rebecca Grove 07904275655 bvn@longbredy.org.uk Village web-site: www.longbredy.org.uk



#### Long Bredy 100 Club September Results

£30.00	No. 118	E. Scothern
£15.00	No. 48	B. Peppiatt
£5.00	No. 69	S. Dyer

#### Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival was celebrated on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September, which is an important date in the calendar for this farming community. Donations were given to the Dorchester Food Bank. Thank you to all who contributed.

#### Coming up this November:

#### Poppy Appeal - Village Annual Raffle at the Coffee Break

The Annual Raffle in aid of the Royal British Legion's (RBL) Poppy Appeal will be held during the village coffee morning on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November this year. There will be lots of worthwhile prizes to be won and it is an opportunity to give to an excellent cause.

Tickets will be for sale at the coffee morning or, if you are unable to make it in person, tickets can be bought beforehand from either Gwen Kinghorn (01308 482270) or Nick Orr (07737 503680). Each ticket is 50p, so a strip of 5 is  $\pounds 2.50$ .

#### Annual Remembrance Day Service

The annual Remembrance Day service will be held in Littlebredy on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10.45am and will start at the memorial in the Churchyard, where the names of the fallen from both villages will be read out.

A church service will follow at 11.00am and everyone is invited to attend both the memorial and the church service.

#### Come Along Inn

The village hall will open its doors for the Come Along Inn on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 5.30pm to 9pm. Join in to meet neighbours and friends over drinks and supper.

#### Games afternoon

Now that we are heading for winter days, would anyone enjoy a games afternoon once a month? Rummikub, Scrabble, etc. with tea, cake, companionship and laughter between 2.00pm and 4.00pm (TBC), possibly on a Tuesday or Thursday? If you are interested, please phone 482274.

#### It's time to get Christmassy...

#### December Coffee Break

The December coffee break taking place on Saturday 9th December from 10.30am to 12:00pm will certainly get you into the mood for Christmas with an opportunity to participate in a raffle and buy gifts. Certainly something to look forward to as winter approaches!

#### This year's Christmas Theme

This year's Christmas theme will be 'Follow the Star and join the song'. If you'd like to add a star to your Christmas decorations in your garden or window, it would be greatly appreciated by all

#### Live Nativity and Church service

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, you are invited to follow the star to the church to see the 'Live Nativity' and join the song There will be a Holy Family and animals, including friendly Donkeys.

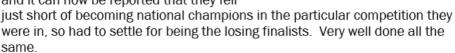
The festivities will kick off at 9:30am with the service starting at 10:00am. There will be refreshments and carol singing.

Littlebredy Village Correspondent: Philip Williams <u>pw@bridehead.com</u> Tel: 01305 482232 Village website: http://www litt ebredy.com



The Church decorations looked simply wonderful for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at the end of September, with a goodly display of flowers fruit, vegetables and other produce Thanks and congratulations to all who contributed or did the work, which was obviously widely appreciated, given the remarks in the visitors' book The Harvest Lunch which followed the service was enjoyed by a rather smaller gathering than sometimes, but again people had been generous in their bring & share contributions, so thanks also to everyone for that. The Apple Day which was mentioned last time was held at the Walled Garden Barn on the 14th October, and produced over 40 litres of juice, which were then shared out among the participants, from the apples w ich ad been brough along. Thanks to Tim and Angela Laycock for organising it, and to those who lent, and operated, the presses.

The last edition also ment oned Phil Hallett and his Dorchester bowls team, and it can now be reported that they fell



Remembrance Sunday is on November 12th this year, so our regular morning service will begin in Church at 10.55am that day, then the congregation will move to the War Memorial for the traditional short ceremony, before continuing the service back in Church.

## **Burton Bradstock**

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton patgrafton43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264 Village web-site: www.burtonbradstockvillage.org.



### St Mary's Church 'Songs of Praise!'

Our Songs of Praise service, on Sunday November 5th at 11.00am, will be led by The Reverend Jonatha Herbert, the Chaplain to Gypsies and rave e s n Dor e and Wiltshire. This is a rare opportunity to hear Jonathan speaking about his work amongst them and what he has learnt about their way





of life from his experiences. Lasting just under one hour this is a service to which all residents and visitors are warmly invited. Don't miss it!

Our next Songs of Praise service, on December 3rd 11.00am, which is Advent Sunday, will be led by the Rev'd Prebendary Alastair Wheeler.

#### Come and join us for these inspiring services!

## Tots' Time

Pram races are still proving popular as Tots charge up and down, sometimes dislodging their 'babies' on to the grass, the pram-pushers using up lots of energy in the process.

Making sandwiches for their parents was an interesting experiment. All the Tots decided their mothers would prefer jam over marmalade or Marmite, and they chose to make either triangles or squares. One mother received a sandwich minus the jam which had mysteriously disappeared en route!

We have finished the Moses stories including 'manna' (aka rice crispies) which Tots eagerly gobbled up from a tablecloth spread on the grass.

We had fun bandaging dolls, furry animals and one another on the day when Ro read the story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan. With several medics among the staff and parents there was no lack of expertise.

By the time you read this we will be doing something poppy-related and Christmas will be just round the corner. Do come and join us if you are a bump, baby, toddler or pre-school child, but do bring your adult with you.



More details from Audrey (897227), Heather (897780) or Helen on <u>BVchurchesTA@outlook.com</u>

## **Burton Coffee Mates**

HELP is needed by Coffee Mates, who meet in the Church at 10.30 on the second Thursday of the month. Could anyone please help to escort a walker, push a wheelchair or pick up a few by car to bring them to our coffee morning? We would be most grateful if you could help us in this way. Please contact Pauline on 898327.

## Supper Club

The November supper club will be on 27th November. This will be the last one for 2023. Enquiries please ring Mags Chue on 01308 897543

## Burton Bradstock Village Hall

#### Village Hall Bookings

Should you wish to use the Hall at any time, the booking officer can be contacted via email at <u>bbvht.bookings@gmail.com</u> or by phone on 01308897648.

#### **Coffee Mornings**

The popular monthly coffee mornings where you can get a sensibly priced coffee/tea and cake plus a chat with friends will be held on the dates below. They run from 10:00 to 12:00 and all are welcome.

Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Burton Bradstock School
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	St Mary's Church

#### **Burton Bradstock Films**

Burton Bradstock Films will be showing **Indiana Jones And The Dial Of Destiny** on **Friday 24 November 2023** in the Village Hall. Harrison Ford is again the iconic Indiana Jones in an unforgettable adventure in this final film in the series. Packed with thrills and intrigue the archeologist, accompanied by his goddaughter, is fighting against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history before it falls into the wrong hands. Tickets are £6 each and include a glass of wine or a soft drink and can be



bought prior to the evening from Burton Bradstock Farm Shop and Post Office or, if still available, at the door on the night.

Films in the Village Hall take a break over Christmas and will be back Friday 26 January 2024.

#### **Christmas activities**

The festive season approaches and the Hall Trust is organising the two regular activities which are very popular.

#### **Christmas Market**

The Christmas Market and coffee morning will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Following recent years' successful format, half the Hall will be dedicated to a smaller number of market tables selling Christmas related goodies, the other half will be laid out for coffee and cake with table service. Entrance will be £1 for adults, children under 16 free.

If you wish to register interest for the market tables, which will cost £10 each, please contact the organiser, Richard Ferre via email at <a href="mailto:rwferre99@gmail.com">rwferre99@gmail.com</a> or phone 897648. It is almost certain that not all who want one will be able to have a table, so please be understanding. Allocation will be on a first come first served basis.

#### Christmas Quiz

The hugely popular Christmas Quiz will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, with Quiz prepared and run by Richard Ferre. Doors will open at 6.45pm for a 7:30 start. The ticket price of £12 per head will include a light supper, plus all the normal crackers, party poppers, balloons and odd Christmas carol that add to the festive fun. There will be a sensibly priced bar, raffle and prizes for winners and last place.

There will be teams of 6 per table to reduce crowding and the central aisle will be kept free. Tickets will go on sale at the Post Office in blocks of 6 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November on a first come first served basis. Please purchase all 6 of your team's tickets at the same time.

Once you have your team tickets contact Richard Ferre (details below) to confirm your table and any dietary requirements. Individuals or couples unable to make up a team but wanting to participate should contact Richard from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November onwards (not before please). There will be places available for those people to be put into a team on a first come basis. If history is a guide, tickets will sell out in a few hours, so put the dates in your diary now. To contact Richard Ferre email <u>rwferre99@gmail.com</u> or tel 01308 897648.

## Burton Bradstock Village Hall "200 Club" October 2023 Draw

#### Congratulations to the winners:

1 <sup>st</sup>	£34.20	No 60:	Mr Peter Newton
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£17.10	No 164:	Mr Jim Thorpe
3rd	£8.55	No 43:	Mrs Sue Harrison

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the November 2023 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have  $\pounds 2$  – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw. **WDDC Licence no: SL0080** 

## **Burton Bradstock Village Society**

#### **November Society Talk**

Please join us to hear Sue Moores a keen historian and Society member tell an illustrated story of "Burton Bradstock over the last 100 years" on Friday 17th November in the Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and only £5 for nonmembers. You are welcome to bring friends. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase.

Hold the date! Our Christmas Bingo and get together will be on Friday 8th December.



#### **Christmas celebrations**

Confirmed date! The traditional turning on of the village's Christmas tree lights is scheduled for **Saturday 2nd December**. Every year the Parish Council buys the tree that goes up on the Village Green. The Society puts it up and supplies lights and decorations.

The Village Society will again be running the "Sponsor a Christmas Tree Bauble' programme. Sponsorship is £5 per bauble, for which you can choose the style and colour, as well as add the names of loved ones. Sponsorship lasts for three years, after which the baubles are recycled. Anyone who sponsored a bauble last year still has two more years. The funds raised help to pay for the replacement of failing lights, which do not last long in a windy seaside climate. There are 20 new baubles available for sponsorship this year, which are available now on a 'first come, first served' basis. To sponsor a bauble, please contact Richard Ferre via email at <a href="mailto:rwferre99@gmail.com">rwferre99@gmail.com</a>. You will be given the opportunity to put your bauble on the tree yourself when it is put up.

## **Burton Bradstock WI**

Well, October was certainly a very busy and adventurous month for Burton Bradstock WI. First up was an



unforgettable trip along part of the Silk Road taking us through the beautiful scenery and amazing architecture of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in a very huge and sturdy truck. Luckily, however, we didn't have to leave the comfort of our seats in the Village Hall because our Speaker, Ian Williamson, talked us through the expedition with the help of some fascinating photographs! Thank you, Ian, for sharing your journey with us - and possibly inspiring a few of our members to visit some of the less familiar countries of the World. As he said "Do it when you can". It was particularly poignant that Ian was donating the fee for his talk to St. Margaret's Hospice in Yeovil, where he is a volunteer.

Next a trip to a possibly better known part of the World, namely Poole! Seven members attended the Annual Meeting of the Dorset Federation WI and were treated to another two very interesting speakers. In the morning Ann Jones, Chair of the National Federation gave an inspiring talk about her life and her involvement with the WI, entreating us to continue to support the WI's chosen resolutions in order to try and make a difference, especially in the current troubled and unsettled times.

Top marks of the day, however, must surely go to the bubbly Rev'd Kate Bottley, a familiar figure on tv and radio, whose hilarious, yet sometimes very touching, but extremely entertaining talk about her life and experiences had us all in fits of laughter!! I think we could have easily listened to her for another hour! A real tonic!

The Craft, Mah Jong, Kurling and Book groups have all continued with their meetings in October and the Lunch Club paid a visit to Redlands Yard in Beaminster where they not only had a delicious lunch but also enjoyed browsing round the shopping areas.

We also ran a stall at the Village Coffee morning where we have hopefully encouraged some more new members to come along.

Our next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> November and will be at 2.15pm now that the evenings are getting darker. Our speaker will be Brian Pettit whose illustrated talk will be entitled "Pictures of the Natural World"

On 11<sup>th</sup> November we shall be holding an Early Christmas Market and Coffee Morning. Please see separate notice for details. Donations of cakes would be most welcome. See you there!

Janet Pearson 01308 898346

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Burton Bradstock WI Early Christmas Market and Coffee Morning Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am – 12.00noon Crafts Cakes Books & Puzzles Fancy goods Christmas decorations Raffle Mince pies

### The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

We are open: Monday 2.00-4.00pm Wednesday 10.00am-12noon Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm



Thanks to all Friends who have renewed their membership recently. Your support allows us to continue to provide comprehensive library services for the village and the Bride Valley, and to maintain our historic building.



Your free library card entitles you to access a wide range of electronic resources via your tablet, smartphone, pc or laptop. For example, the Borrow Box app includes e-books, e-audio books, enewspapers and more while the Libby app has digital magazines, comics and graphic novels, for adults and children. For further details go to the LibrariesWest website (<u>www.librarieswest.org.uk</u>). Of course, the Library is open as usual four times a week as above. With cooler days approaching, do call in to choose from our constantly changing book stock, borrow a jigsaw, use the public computers and more! Our Digital Champion Louis has been much appreciated in helping many of you with digital problems and will be pleased to provide advice and assistance if required. Call the Digital Hotline on 01305 221048 (weekday mornings) to book a session.

Sue Brown, Chair

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

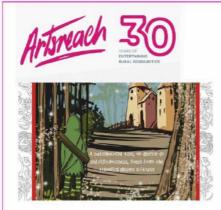
### **Burton Bradstock Parish Council**

The Parish Council has a new Clerk! Leanne Way started in the role in October. We are delighted she was taken the role and also want to say a big thank you to Jo Hughes for having helped us out while we filled the permanent position. The Clerk's email is the best way of accessing the Parish Council: <u>theclerk@burtonbradstockparishcouncil.org</u>. Other information can be found on the Parish Council website: <u>www.burtonbradstockparishcouncil.org</u>

We are looking for potential contractors for grass-cutting around the village, the playing field and children's play area are the largest sites, but there are others – if anyone is interested, they should contact the Clerk on the email address above.

Burton Bradstock Parish Council will be conducting a face-to-face survey of the village in October and November. We will want to talk to as many residents of Burton as we can. It is very important to the new Parish Council that we represent as wide a range of views from the village as possible. This will allow us to direct our limited resources in the way villagers want and lend weight to our advocacy with external agencies like the County Council, Highways Agency and the Police. The survey will include a focus on road safety and support the work of the Parish Council's working group co-ordinated by Bob Ward. The survey responses will be anonymized and we will make the results available to all when complete; the more responses we get, the better the results. It should take around 10 minutes to complete and we encourage as many people as possible to participate, so please don't be surprised when councillors knock on your doors.

Nick Lockwood, Councillor



#### 6pm Saturday 9th December 2023 BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

Tickets £10, £5 (u18s), £25 (fam 4 - max 2 adults) Tickets available online at www.artsreach.co.uk or 07821 363316

## The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood

## A swashbuckling tale of derring-do and ridiculousness:

Can Robin and his barmy band of brigands save the poor people of the Forest from the scheming Sheriff? Can they thwart his greedy plans? Can they find a way to level up? And can Robin right the wrongs, with mischief and merriment, without getting into a terrible mess? Who will he meet in the woods? Come see for yourself!

With quirky storytelling, merriment and mischief, the Travelling Players present a stout-hearted tale of epic proportions. Expect a great deal of swashbuckling, a number of ridiculous fights and some improbable archery. With live music, puppets and far too many trees, this co-production with Bumblefly, Forest Forge and Mischievous Theatre will hit the target this festive season.

Suitable 5+ Running time: 70mins + interval www.bumbleflytheatre.co.uk

### Harvest Lunch

Carol and her team excelled themselves. Food to suit all tastes and 'dickey tummies'. No onions – wonderful. Creamy and plain deserts – wonderful. A hard act to follow. Plus music, well done.

As I mentioned to various people, celery, preferably raw, three times a week helps arthritis, it helps to eliminate UNIC acid from the body and also contains an anti-inflammatory substance. I have definitely found it helps. Keep off potatoes, tomatoes and gluten and, if possible, read 'Eat to Beat Arthritis' by Margurite Patten and Jeanette Ewin.

## Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett richard@c-m-sltd co.uk Tel: 01308 897278 Village web-s te: www.shiptongorge.org.uk



Welcome to our village diary Just search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/

SHIPTON GORGE VILLAGE DIARY

You' I be able of nd out all that's going on in the village from the Village Society, the New Inn/New Inn Support, the Village Hall, Shipton Gorge Heritage, the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.

## St Martin's Church

### November Flood light sponsors

Doreen in loving memory of Frank on his birthday Janet, Caroline and Faith in memory of John & Bee Epplestone's wedding anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> November Ed and Linda Buck Myra & Co in Gardine for their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. David & Rosemary Greasby Jerry & Jackie Carolyn & Geoff Hall for their anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

If you would like to light up St Martin's for Christmas or a special occasion, a suggested donation of  $\pm 5$  would be gratefully accepted. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** Breakfast Church 9.30am in the Village Hall followed y a Remembrance Service at 10.45am in Church

#### Harvest Festival and Supper

A huge thank you, to all who made this year's harvest celebration such a success Our bell ringing team rang out the bells of St Martin' to greet us as we gathered in a beautifully decorated church. We sang with gusto a

collection of traditional hymns. Our breakfast church families charmed us with their costumed recital adding a sparkle to this years' service. Thank you to everyone for your support.

#### Church Yard Tidy Up

Thank you to everyone who joined us and worked so hard for the Autumn tidy up of the church yard. It was an excellent turn out and very much appreciated.

## Village Hall

#### 100 Club

On behalf of the SG Village Hall, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the 100 club. Your financial support helps us at a time when we are looking to make a significant investment in improving the facilities at the hall. If you think that you would like to contribute further in some small way, I have a few 100 club tickets available at £10. Please contact me on 897357.Our cash prizes won't change your life but will make a big difference to our future projects.

#### Graham Garner

### Artsreach presents: Bassett

## 7.30pm, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Shipton Gorge Village Hall

Toronto-based folk-roots duo Basset bring a deep love of the natural world to their music. Sam Clark and Yasmine Shelton explore themes of life in change, their travels around



Northern Ontario, the Canadian and American prairies, their lives in the bustling city of Toronto, and the many characters who have crossed their paths. Intricate fiddle playing with stunning harmonies and musical storytelling.

Tickets £12, £5 (u18s), £30 (fam 4 – max 2 adults) Tickets available online at <u>www.artsreach.co.uk</u> / 01308 897407

#### October 2023 100 Club Draw results

<b>1</b> st	15	£25	Liz Langran
$2^{\text{nd}}$	16	£10	Janet Whight
$3^{rd}$	83	£5	Doreen Rogers

Congratulations to all winners

Graham Garner

## **Village Society**

#### Xmas Get Together

This year the Village Society will be hosting our annual Xmas get together on Sunday 26th November from 12pm, at the village hall. Usual format, bring along a plate of food to share and a bottle of wine/soft drink. Everyone is welcome, so come along and have a good time, meeting new friends and old.

As a one off we will be having a tombola stall, as this was cancelled at the time of the village fete, due to bad weather. Maybe a good opportunity to win something towards Xmas.

See you all there.

Village Society Committee

## **Parish Council**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm and will be held in the Village Hall. At the start of the meeting an Open Forum is held and this enables parishioners to raise any issues.

The Parish Council is short of two Councillors. If you feel you can fulfil this role and want to contribute to the Council, please inform any Councillor. Shipton Gorge Parish Council needs you.

Hilary Cunningham, Councillor

#### SHIPTON GORGE HERITAGE

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the October draw was Caroline Harrison – a bottle of Lyme Bay Gin has been delivered and hopefully enjoyed.

#### Saunders Richardson Wood

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding a Bonfire and Marshmallow party. Starting around 3.00pm – drinks and cakes supplied, you are welcome to join us around the comforting glow of a roaring fire! National Tree Week this year takes place 25<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December–we will be participating by planting a number of trees in the Wood –please come along on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 11.00am-12.30pm if you would like to help. Please note that the open wood sessions in November will be on Monday 6, 13 & 20 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Any changes to this, we will advise via village Facebook and email. Members only, but we can sign you up on the day.

#### Shipton Gorge Orchard

In early October a small but enthusiastic team picked the cider apples and a car-load was taken off to Dorset Nectar Cider Farm to be turned into juice and cider. A few days later, a group of us went on the tour round their extensive organically managed orchards of heritage cider apples, learnt about the history of cider making in the area and very

importantly, had a tasting session, which we all enjoyed. The grass which had been left to grow long over the summer has now been scythed and raked off into the base of the hedges, providing habitats for overwintering insects etc. and a mulch for the hedges.

Shipton Gorge Heritage AGM – will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Mince pies and Mulled wine will be provided for those keen enough to join us. If you are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe on 07393 214635 Details as usual on our website:

http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton Gorge Heritage 16417.aspx and in the Shipton Gorge Diary https://www.shiptongorgediary.co.uk





## The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace

On why rural churchgoers like to freeze in church

The Rectory St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a five-foot drift under the lychgate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport, to ice hockey.

Inevitably, our congregation has soared these past few weeks. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

eato		
on Prin	November 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday All Saints' Day 5 <sup>th</sup> November
t & Des	Burton Bradstock	11am Songs of Praise (Working with Gypsies and Travellers)
eaton Print & Design Ltd	Shipton Gorge	
Telephor	Swyre	3pm Annual Memorial Service
ne: 012	Puncknowle	9.30 Holy Communion
297 2	Litton Cheney	9:30am Morning Worship
2602	Long Bredy	11.00 Holy Communion
Wet	Littlebredy	
0: W	Weds, Nov 1st,	Midweek Holy Communior
Telephone: 01297 22602 Web: www.seatonprint.cc	,	

November	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4th Sunday
2023	All Saints' Day	Remembrance Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent	26th November
	5 <sup>th</sup> November	12th November	19th November	Christ the King
Burton Bradstock	11am Songs of Praise (Working with Gypsies and Travellers)	10.30 Remembrance Service	8.00 Holy Communion 9.30 Café Church	11.00 Holy Communion
hipton Gorge		9.30 Breakfast Church in Village Hall followed by Remembrance at Church at 10:30		11.00 Holy Communion by ext
wyre	3pm Annual Memorial Service	11am Service of Remembrance	11.00 Morning Worship	
uncknowle	9.30 Holy Communion		11.00 All Age Holy Communion	Café Church 11am Vicky
itton Cheney	9:30am Morning Worship	6pm Choral Evensong Remembrance Service	9:30am Holy Communion	9.30 Holy Communion
ong Bredy	11.00 Holy Communion		9.30 Morning Worship	
ittlebredy		10.45 Remembrance Service		11.00 Morning Worship
Veds, Nov 1st,	Midweek Holy Communio	n and light lunch 11:30am at St Mary's,	Burton Bradstock	_