

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

December 2024



Follow The Star
CALM and BRIGHT

The Bride Valley and Chesil Churches warmly welcome you to services this Christmas.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eve Crib Services
Litton Cheney 4pm
Burton Bradstock 4pm

Christmas Day Praise
Puncknowle 10am

Christmas Eve Communion
Holy Trinity, Swyre 9pm
Litton Cheney 11.30pm

Christmas Day Communion
Shipton Gorge 9.30am
Burton Bradstock 10am
Abbotsbury 10.30am
Portesham 10.30am
Littlebredy 11am

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Bride Valley News – the magazine of the Bride Valley Communities and the Bride Valley & Chesil Churches



The Editor, Advertising Manager and all the Volunteers who bring you the Bride Valley News each month wish all our readers a

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025

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January 2025 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 6th December 2024 for the January 2025 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 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 at bvnr.org.uk or 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 or refuse submissions and cannot guarantee that items will be included.

The Bride Valley & Chesil 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

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Rawding (01308) 898799

Associate Priest: Rev'd Margaret Preuss Higham (01305) 87397

To enquire about Baptisms, Marriages or Funeral arrangements in the Bride Valley Churches of Burton Bradstock, Chilcombe, Litton Cheney, Littlebredy,

Long Bredy, Shipton Gorge, Puncknowle or Swyre please contact

Rev'd Rawding by phone (see above) or

email rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com

You can also use www.acny.com for Baptism and Marriage enquiries.

Contact Rev'd Margaret Preuss Higham by phone (see above) or

email revmph@gmail.com for enquiries in the Chesil Churches of Abbotsbury, Portesham or Langton Herring.

Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)

Within the Bride Valley Churches there is a small team of Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's) who are available for anybody throughout our community.

responding to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. If you need help

please contact the Churchwardens, Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator

(01308 897260) or one of the Lay Pastoral Assistants who are:

Cathryn Johnson 01308 897169, 01308 898327, Jenny Malyon 01308

898768 and Liz Orza 01308 897451.

Home communion is available by arrangement. Please contact any of the LPAs.'

From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

Love, joy, peace and hope to you all this Christmas from the Rector and all the people of the churches of the Bride Valley. We pray that wherever you are and whoever you are with on Christmas Day that you will experience some kindness and generosity and know that you are not on your own. We pray you will know the warmth of God's love for you.

If you asked me what the central message of Christmas is I might say it is 'God with us' (Hebrew: *Emmanuel*), and by that I mean 'unconditional reliable consistent love is with us' (Hebrew: *hesed*). I might also say the 'light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not and will not be able to overcome it' (John 1:5). My words of faith are taken from words in the Bible, but they are only meaningful and powerful if we *become* the central message of Christmas, and bring them alive, and make them a reality in our homes, in our villages and in our communities. What can we do and who do we need to contact or spend time with to let them know that they are not on their own, and that steadfast love is with them? How can we be a light in the darkness with those for whom Christmas exacerbates loneliness, isolation and despair?

For those who will spend Christmas in the presence of young children and get to see the wonder and pleasure in their eyes from the nativity, Santa, Christmas trees, lights and presents, Christmas can and should be a time which brings smiles and joy. But for so many people, in addition to pressures to buy presents and food, Christmas can be such a painful reminder of broken relationships, grief and separation from loved ones. Here in the rectory, we know that reality as there are likely to be adult children that we will not see or even hear from at Christmas, with a grandchild that we have never seen. That's a heartache. The emotions of Christmas can be so painful and heartbreaking that for some people keeping a distance and withdrawing is part of their coping mechanism. We may feel powerless in the face of this reality, we may feel guilt and shame, but our only hope and prayer is that it won't always be like this and that the flickering light of love is still shining in the darkness. But for some people, where death has brought separation, it will always be like this as nothing can truly replace a loved one. For some it's easier to try and just survive or avoid Christmas, struggling to find the energy

to get through the day. The warmth of our understanding presence which acknowledges the pain could bring light in their darkness, embodying 'God with us' and bring hope. May love, joy, peace and hope be with us all.

Andrew

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: Ian Ibbotson 898484, Shipton Gorge: Phyl Webster 898657, Litton Cheney: Freddie Spicer 482617.

Safeguarding: The Churches of this Benefice have adopted the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and are 'Promoting Safer Churches'. The Benefice Churches have an open door to all survivors. For further information or support please contact our Safeguarding Officer:- Les Keatley. Tel:- 07833545450 email:- Les@Keatley.me.uk

From the Registers

Baptism

Edward Baggs at Long Bredy, 3rd November

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



Thorners CE VA School

Merry Christmas to all in the valley from everyone here at Thorner's!

The end of term has been the usual riot of rehearsals, trips, carol concerts and church outings. The children have been on outings to a range of places this term starting with trips to the Tank Museum at Bovington, Hive Beach for a series of climate workshops, the Tutankhamun Museum in Dorchester and the Fleet Air Arm Museum. It is wonderful to see the children get so much academically out of these visits and activities as well as giving them the chance to go on trips together and experience visiting new places with their classmates.

We are looking forward to our carol service in church, it promises to be a special night with a selection of favourite carols all sung by (electric) candle light. The children selected the hymns and carols and many thanks to all in the village for helping with the setting up of church and organising the bell ringing - an element of the service the children look forward to taking part in immensely.

Our Christmas production will likely have been performed by the time you read this and many thanks to both Paul Cheater and Claire Shaw for their help in making the music sound so wonderful in rehearsals. Thanks also to all the teachers who have written the scripts and scenes from scratch this year and who have organised some superb Christmas end of term parties to send the children off full of Christmas spirit.

We also look forward, in the last week, to having our whole school Christmas dinner - where the children and staff all have a special lunch together with crackers, sprouts, pigs in blankets and all the other trimmings - accompanied by Christmas music and a decorated lunch hall. Huge thanks to Jeanette Wills, Abbie Derbyshire and our cook Clare Turnbull, for working so hard to put together Christmas lunch for 120 people!

Whilst we often hear each year of the latest must-buy toy or craze - it is lovely to still see the children get so excited about and enjoy all aspects of the Christmas celebrations - from the food to decorating our school tree, and from carol singing to dressing up as wise men (with the obligatory tea towels!). Long may all these aspects of the Christmas magic continue!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Mike Sitch, Headmaster*



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

'Do justice; love kindness; and walk humbly with God
(Micah 6:8)

We are inspired by this verse from the bible and how it shapes all we do. We all believe that fairness, kindness and being humble are the key to flourishing for all. The links between this and our school values of Happiness, Friendship, Hope, Love, Courage, and Respect are clear.



The Autumn term has flown by with so much happening at Burton School. This term we have been thinking about the values of Hope and Respect and the children have been linking our work in collective worship to homework and classwork. They have thought about how they can be respectful to others and the world around them and why Hope is such an important Christian value. In our collective worships with Rev'd Andrew, the children have been learning how to create their own prayers and blessings. Collective worship is such an important part of our school ethos and it has been great to talk with the children and see how much they value it too.

In the first half of the Autumn term, Wagtails have followed the enquiry question 'Who am I and where do I belong?'. They have thought about people and places that are important to them which has enabled them to



grow in their sense of belonging here at Burton. For the next part of the term, they are looking at celebrations such as Diwali, Bonfire Night and, of course, Christmas!

Throughout the Autumn term, KS1 children in Robin class are looking at 'Movers and Shakers' where they are learning about some famous people from history, Kingfishers (Lower KS2) are studying 'Through the Ages' and learning about the different ages such as the Stone Age and Bronze Age and Owl class (Upper KS2) are looking at China with a focus on the Shang Dynasty through their project 'Dynamic Dynasties'.



We have had good attendance at our football and running clubs this term (see pictures below) and children are enjoying taking part in various other extracurricular activities such as our Animal Explorers club and Art club. Forest school continues to be a popular part of our school week; children in The Nest visit every week and the rest of the school visit on a rotating basis. Another highlight of the term was seeing a number of our Year 5 and 6 children pass their 'Bikeability' level 2 test. It is great that we have children who are confident and feel safe using the roads. Thank you for your patience if you saw them when they were out and about around the village!





As I write this, we are preparing for our Christmas Production which, this year, will take place at Freshwater Holiday Park at the end of term. All children from Nursery to Year 6 are looking forward to taking part in what is sure to be a joyful show! I look forward to sharing some photos with you soon. We will also be holding an end of term service in the church and our Christingle will be held in the run up to Candlemas in the new year.



We are continuing to show around families of children due to start school in September 2025 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: office@burtonbradstock.dorset.sch.uk.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page and school website: www.burtonbradstockprimary.org. From all at Burton Bradstock School, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

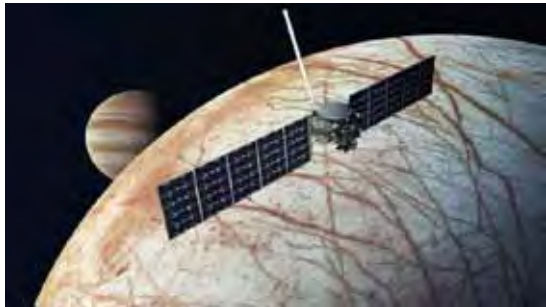
Adam Gough, Headteacher

Our Night Sky in December 2024

The Sun will be setting at about 1700 in the middle of the month, but Venus will be prominent for another 3 hours before it also sets in the South west, followed by Saturn at about 2300. Jupiter will be visible throughout the night between Aldebaran in the V of Taurus, and the Pleiades, a wonderful close combination, and perfect for a photo with your I Phone, if it has the capabilities of night photography. Orion is also a favourite constellation, again visible throughout the night.



NASA launched Europa Clipper toward Jupiter on Monday. The spacecraft is expected to near Jupiter's moon Europa around April 2030. Europa is the sixth-largest moon in the Solar System and Jupiter's fourth-largest satellite. Despite its cracked and discoloured appearance, it is the smoothest solid object in the Solar System.



An artist's impression of Europa Clipper performing a flyby of Europa as it orbits Jupiter (Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech)

This frigid moon of Jupiter hides a tantalizing secret: a probable sea containing twice as much water as all of Earth's oceans combined. While the icy shell is hard as rock, the interior is warmer, heated by the flexing of its iron core and stone mantle. The side of Europa that's closest to Jupiter experiences a stronger pull than the farther side, stretching the entire moon and probably causing the long cracks that run across its surface as well as heating the interior. If the liquid ocean really is there, it could make Europa an especially promising place to look for life, because liquid water is crucial for life as we know it. We also know that many forms of life including fish, exist in the depths of the deepest ocean on Earth, fed by volcanic plumes in the crust, and jets of water ejected by Europa into its atmosphere, hint at all the elements that are necessary to support life. Its a long time to wait until 2030, but if the Hubble and James Webb telescopes reveal anything new, I will let you know.

Happy Christmas and Night Sky watching, *Bill Turnill*

Farming Report

Rain Rain Rain and more rain perhaps we should sell all livestock, etc and plant watercress or rice!!! But seriously, some of our cows winter out at the top of the farm and the calves seem to be enjoying playing in the dew pond which is already overflowing.



Good news was we had a clear TB test therefore we could sell a few to pay a few bills.

Jobs for this month are feeding cattle and sheep and hopefully if it dries up starting to trim some hedges and get them looking tidy.

Sheep will stay out until 2-3 weeks before lambing which will be February 2025. But we may well have some Christmas lambs as the Rams escaped and had a night of passion!

Gill & Pete Mayo

“Meg you left one behind!”

Could you Write for the BVN?

We would like to extend our coverage of the Bride Valley into both more general and specific topics, and if you could contribute please let the editor know or contact your local village correspondent. Contributions between 250 and 300 words please, and we can include a picture of two as well. Now is the chance to get into print!

Attendance Allowance: Information from HM Government

Attendance Allowance is extra money you can claim if you're over State Pension age and need help with your care needs or regular supervision. It's not means-tested, so you can claim it whatever your income or savings.

Overview: Attendance Allowance helps with extra costs if you have a disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you. There's a different way to claim if you're nearing the end of life (for example, because you have a life-limiting illness). It's paid at 2 different rates and how much you get depends on the level of care that you need because of your disability.

You could get £72.65 or £108.55 a week to help with personal support if you're both:

- physically or mentally disabled
- State Pension age or older

It does not cover mobility needs. You could get extra Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction if you get Attendance Allowance. You do not have to have someone caring for you in order to claim.

If you do have a carer, they could get Carer's Allowance if you have substantial caring needs.

Events in the Bride Valley and nearby

Walking Church - 29th December

Let's take a walk, get some exercise after the Christmas fun, share life's journey and think about faith while we are outdoors together! Meet outside Burton Bradstock Church at 10.30am for a circular walk, at a leisurely pace! Enjoy a cuppa at the church at the end of your walk! Suitable for all the family - especially as we will be walking to the beach - you can even bring your dog!

Why not try something different this December?

Plough Sunday

12th January at 3.00pm at Puncknowle Manor Farm Grain Store, DT2 9BX, by kind permission of Sarah Wild. Plough Sunday is an occasion to celebrate rural life and an opportunity to thank God for all those who care for the land. Traditionally this service prays a blessing on all the tools of our work (as symbolised by the plough), the land and those that worked upon it. Please come along and share this special day to think about and thank those who work on the land, produce food in this and other communities, and maintain the beauty of our local countryside.

There's parking at Puncknowle Manor Farm - just follow the signs - and there will be refreshments too.

Everyone is welcome! Please bring your friends and family.



Mendelssohn
HYMN OF PRAISE

Parry
BLEST PAIR OF SIRENS

Poulenc
GLORIA

West
Dorset
Singers

Reg Charity: 1125032
Musical Director
Matt Kingston

St Swithun's Church Bridport
7.00pm Saturday 25th January
Tickets £15 (under 18s free) from Goadsby
or www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 7.30PM – A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Join us in the Village Hall for Burton Bradstock's first Dorset Artsreach event of the 2024/25 season.



Celebrate the festive season with David Mynne's performance of his highly-acclaimed, amusing and mesmerising one-man interpretation of Dickens' classic tale. Spend an evening with Ebenezer Scrooge, watch horrified as he is haunted by four creepy ghosts, and sob at the bedside of a small sickly boy with a frail body. Joy to all mankind? BAH Humbug!

See posters in Burton and in village notice boards elsewhere in the valley. Suitable for adults and accompanied children aged 9+. Tickets £12.50 for adults, £6 for U18's available online via artsreach.co.uk. where you will also find details of the entire Dorset Artsreach winter programme. Or if you prefer call David Witham on 01308 897403. Licensed bar and festive refreshment available (cash only).

Continuing the Dickens theme, we are also delighted to present on Sunday January 19th 2025 a performance by Heather Alexander of HAVERSHAM, the imagined life-story of Miss Haversham, one of the great characters in Great Expectations. The story that Dickens left out – who was the woman behind his most monstrous female creation? More details of the event to come in the January Bride Valley News.

Bride Valley Book Group Review

Our book this month was "**The Stopping Places**" by Damian Le Bas. Le Bas is a Romany, part of a large traveller family from the south of England. He did not have a typical traveller upbringing however: his father was a well-known artist and he won scholarships to a prestigious boarding school then St John's College, Oxford. He feels himself an outsider so to try and explore his heritage and roots he sets out to travel alone round the country living in a van and stopping at the traditional Romany halts or 'atchin tans'. This book relates his journey.

We had mixed views about it. The Romany history and language were fascinating as were his trips to France and Scotland but some of us felt the rest of the book was a bit aimless. Many of the 'atchin tans' were simply lay-

bys and didn't seem to provide much illumination about the way of life he was trying to emulate. Some members did however enjoy the description of a traditional way of life now under threat.

Michèle Vassar

Bride Valley WI

This month we were given an interesting and entertaining talk on Crime and Punishment in the Bride Valley by one of our members Debbie Legge. Her research into the 'Beat Record' in Victorian times highlighted a good deal of drunkenness and smuggling!

It was of course a hazardous job being a police constable back in the day. Many miles of walking were required to cover the area allocated to him and it came with the added danger of working alone.

We were pleased to welcome a few guests and hope they enjoyed the talk as much as our members.

The WI skittles league has officially started and as we go to print the team have played 2 games and won both of them. Whatever the outcome, the team is enjoying visiting different alleys and enjoying the company of other WI groups.

Thank you to Phyllis for stepping in as Captain while Charlotte is indisposed. Good luck to the team for the rest of the league!

We have forgone our regular monthly walk-rain and mud being the outright winner for October!!

We meet every third Thursday of the month in Puncknowle Village Hall at 7.30pm

Please contact us if you would like to know more at:-
bridevalleywi@gmail.com

Litton Cheney

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



St Mary's Church

On **Sunday 1st** our special Advent service "**Darkness into Light**" is at 6.00pm – a beautiful and thought-provoking service of music and readings to start us on our journey to Christmas.

Then a new event for Christmas this year – **Thorner's School** will be holding their first Carol Service at St. Mary's on **Tuesday 10th at 4.00pm**. It should be a lovely occasion. The School will also hold their end of term service in the church the following Thursday 18th at 9.30am

Carol Singing: Paul Cheater and members of the choir will be singing carols round the village on **Friday 20th**, weather permitting. All ages are very welcome to join in. Meet at 5.30pm, dressed warmly and with a torch. Carol sheets will be provided. Meeting place will be advised nearer the time when the route has been planned!

We hope many of you will join us for our other Christmas Services. Our traditional candlelit **Carol Service** is on **Sunday 15th at 6.00pm** followed by mulled wine and mince pies – always a special occasion. On **Christmas Eve**, the **Crib Service is at 4.00pm** and a service of **Holy Communion at 11.30pm** that night. All the collections over the Christmas period will go to Julia's House.

Light up the Church this Christmastime - For a donation of £5 you can floodlight the Church for an evening over the Christmas and New Year period, either to remember a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary or event. Please contact Freddie Spicer to arrange a date on 482617 or email fandspicer@gmail.com

Litton Cheney Remembers – The annual wreath laying took place at the village war memorial in St Mary's churchyard on Monday 11th November when two minutes silence was held in memory of those from the village and beyond who gave their today for our tomorrow. Lest we forget.

Parish Council – January Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th January 2025 in the Meeting Room of Litton and Thorner's Community Hall at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend. At this meeting the 25/26 Parish precept will be decided.

We will also welcome our new Parish Clerk, Debbie Hollins, whilst saying a sad farewell to outgoing Clerk Lucy Beasley. Like Lucy, Debbie will also look after the clerking requirements of Shipton Gorge. We thank Lucy for her all too-short time as our Clerk, but appreciate other pressures that have resulted in her early departure.

Litton Cheney Parish Council wishes all residents of the Bride Valley and Chesil Bank a wonderful Christmas and bountiful New Year.

Charging Up – Thorner's now has an EV charging unit and it is available for local residents to use at a reduced rate by registering your details with the school - office@thorners.dorset.sch.uk, more details in January's BVN, village website and FB.

Events at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) – for December

Weekly:

Mondays: 3.30 – 4.30pm Big Q Church (2nd only)

Tuesday: 4.45pm. Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)

Wednesdays: 4.45pm - Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 482661/Paul Kingston 482162)

7.00pm – Mindful Movement with Jane Hutchins (07882 527697)

Thursdays: 9.15 – 11.15am First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)

Special:

Friday 5th: Film Night "Save the Cinema" Doors 7.00pm. Film starts 7.30pm.

Saturday 7th: Christmas Wine Tasting with Mark Banham. Booking required: morrishandbanham.com/product/christmas-wine-tasting-bridport-mb
Tuesday 17th/Wednesday 18th: School Christmas production.

Village Cafés: 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, wtlittton@gmail.com

BRIDE VALLEY FILMS

Next films at Litton Cheney Community Hall.

Reminder - THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER

SAVE THE CINEMA 'a funny heart-warming film, based on a true story'

Inspired by the campaign run by Liz Evans, a hairdresser and linchpin to the local Carmarthen community. In 1993 her mission is to stop The Lyric Cinema being demolished. Together with the mayor and a local politician, they enlist the help one of Hollywood's elite to offer a very special treat for Carmarthen, but will this save the cinema?

Starring Samantha Morton, Jonathan Pryce, Tom Felton, Susan Wokoma.

Cert.12 1hr 45"

Our next film will be on THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY (2025)

THE HOLDOVERS 'A heart warming, life affirming black comedy'

From acclaimed director Alexander Payne, The Holdovers follows a curmudgeonly instructor (**Paul Giamatti**) at a New England prep school who is forced to remain on campus during the holiday break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go. Eventually, he forms an unlikely bond with one of them, a damaged, brainy troublemaker (newcomer **Dominic Sessa**), and the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in Vietnam (**Da'Vine Joy Randolph**).

Cert.15 2hrs 13"

Doors Open: 7.00pm. Films start 7.30pm. 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)

Dates for 2025: 6th February (see above) – 6th March; 3rd April, and possibly 1st May.

Look out for further details on posters, on the website and in the BVN.

The White Horse in Festive Mood

Well, what a year it has been! Went by so fast for everybody, and very few people we know seem to have escaped unscathed by life's dramas. Just wanted to thank everyone for their support of The White Horse and for us personally, and to express our gratitude for the stunning area we live in and the fantastic (and interesting 😊) community across the Bride Valley.

We've got a few bits and pieces going on in the lead up to Christmas, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. Otherwise, all we really want to do is wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and hope that 2025 treats everyone well.

The Bingo Fundraising Group would also like to thank everyone for their continued support over the past 5 years and helping us raise money for worthy causes. We hope you will join us for future events in 2025 to give Dorset based charities much needed funds

Lastly – Thank You – Throughout 2024 various individuals and groups have contrived to make our lives in Litton a little less traumatic, often bringing a smile to our faces but most of all helping us get on with our lives and those of others.

Let's start with those who every month contribute to the contents of the BVN, informing us of events and providing information that we might otherwise have missed. David Hearn who continues to administer the village website, Sarah Catahan and Steve Kourik who moderate the village Facebook pages. The Premier Crew who help keep us tidy and orderly, organise the village Christmas tree, plus stand by for any needs over and above the norm. To Patricia and David Charlton and their helpers for bringing us the talents and entertainment contained within the Artsreach productions. To Beverly and Pete Dennis who maintain the wonderful village exchange kiosk at the foot of Whiteway.

Liz and Andy at "The Horse" who provide beverage, sustenance and bonhomie for all, and in the approaching colder months, the cosy warmth of a log fire to warm the cockles of your heart. Sam and Ralph Daubeney who in concert with Liz and Andy organise the Easter Duck Race that produces much needed funds for Julia's House. To those who maintain the churchyard through which you can trace the history and life of the village over the centuries, and those good people who administer St Mary's, making it available to all whenever there is a need. To St Mary's church choir, under

the direction of Paul Cheater, who sing in wonderful harmony, plus bring carols to our front doors in the lead up to Christmas.

To Headmaster Mike Sitch and the staff of Thorner's Primary School, held in high regard for its achievements and as an effective springboard for our youngsters as they set off on life's journey. The Trustees of LATCH, our community hall, a much prized shared asset of the village and school, and the Parish Council who strive for the common good and often battle against petty bureaucracy to achieve what to sensible minds is plain common sense.

Lastly, to those stalwart individuals in the village who go about their business on a day-to-day basis, assisting those in need, being a good neighbour, and generally ensuring the world goes round for others, rather than themselves. Thank you one and all.

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

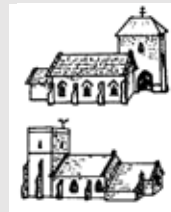
Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

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>



The funeral of Jean Burt was held on 23rd of October in Puncknowle Church with many local people attending. Jean was a local lady who was well loved in the village. In the past she had taken great part in village life – there was even an account of her dancing on the table at the Crown Inn. However, in recent years, and especially after she was widowed, she spent more of her time at home looking after her little dog “Dinky”. Andrew the Rector gave thanks to all those who had helped Jean, giving her friendship, love and care. May she rest in peace.

The funeral of Derek Heaver was held on 6th November in Puncknowle Church. The church was full, including many of Derek's comrades from 3 Para - his regiment. Tributes were read out for Derek, from his sister, his long-time friend, and his Commanding Officer. Derek was an Army Padre, supporting his men, especially during the Falkland's Campaign. He was the

only man going into battle without a gun. Twenty years ago, he retired to Puncknowle with his wife Sandra. He was a well-known, well-respected, and well-loved man in the village – whether helping organise the playing field, on the Parish Council, in his allotment, or founding and running the table tennis club. Tragically Sandra died earlier this year and Derek was inconsolable. They are now reunited. May they both rest in peace.

The Annual Memorial Service was held in Puncknowle Church on 3rd November. It was a quiet and reflective service. It was a time of remembering, praying for, and honouring those who have died recently, and in the past. A cross of candles was laid out on the table as the names of those departed was read out. May they rest in peace.

On 12th January we will be celebrating **Plough Sunday**. This is an old tradition of blessing the plough at the start of the year. It will be a time for us to start the new year afresh after Christmas. More details will be in the January Bride Valley News.



Village Advent Windows

St. Mary's and Holy Trinity Churches are coordinating a display of Advent windows around the villages of Puncknowle, Swyre and beyond this December, we need a bit of sparkle to brighten the dark evenings!

It's not too late to participate. Please do let me know if you would like to join in and where you are so that you can be supplied with a laminated number.

This year the theme is 'Angels' but you can be as creative as you wish. Display your number somewhere near your creation any time early in Advent so that we can all enjoy seeking them out in the build up to Christmas. We'll make a map available with locations marked.

Contact: Sue Lang - sue.lang@hotmail.com - 07557 951305



An Invitation to Christmas Tea and Carol Service

You are invited to the Village Hall Christmas tea party on **SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER** at 2.30pm. This is a free community event at which refreshments will be provided making it a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours, the Hall will be decorated for Christmas and the fire lit to welcome you in. There will also be artisan stalls and a chance to win a home baked Christmas cake in the raffle.

At 4.30pm all are welcome to join the candle lit walk to St Mary's for **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT** and the reading of the Christmas story. This is an interactive service where the children help to create the nativity scene and it will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Thursday 19th December Carols at the Crown 7.00pm

Come and join in singing carols together in the comfort of the pub. A great way to welcome Christmas in Puncknowle.

Christmas Day Come and join us in the church for a Christmas Praise Service at 11.00am to celebrate Christmas Day.

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in December		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	10.00 am - 11:00am	Tripudio Contact Ali on 07968 370485 or by email ali.russell@hotmail.com
Mondays	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
Wednesdays	10:00am - 12:00pm	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Wednesdays	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Table Tennis Contact Eonne on 07891 210739
OTHER EVENTS		
Tuesday 3rd	7:3 pm - 10:00pm	Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-2/
Friday 6 th	10:00am - 12:30pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987
Tuesday 10 th	1:00pm - 2:30pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492

Public Notice

The Parish Council of Puncknowle & Swyre would like to thank all those who completed the Dorset Council & Dorset Community Action Housing Needs Survey between 1st and 25th November.

Dorset Council will issue a report of the outcomes of the survey in early December, which will be available on our Neighbourhood Plan website: <https://neighbourhoodplan.puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk>

If you have any questions or want further information on the Housing Needs Survey or Neighbourhood Planning for Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington, contact us via our website.

**Puncknowle, Swyre, West Bexington, Chilcombe,
Long Bredy and Little Bredy**

LUNCH CLUB 2024/25

PUNCKNOWLE VILLAGE HALL – 1.00pm

Enquiries - please contact **David Buckland, 01308 898492** for more details.

LUNCHES COST £6.00

Dec 10th: Turkey Wellington with trimmings, vegetables and roast potatoes
Christmas dessert & custard/brandy cream

FUTURE DATES 2025

January 21st - Chicken Tagine with Rice, Key Lime Pie and Cream
February 18th - Lancashire Hotpot with dumplings, Treacle Tart with Ice Cream
March 18th

*All meals except, Christmas meal, include fruit juice, cheese and biscuits plus
tea or coffee. Christmas meal includes glass of sherry/wine plus
tea/coffee*

□

Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Rebecca Grove
01308 482882 bvn@longbredy.org.uk
Village web-site: www.longbredy.org.uk



Long Bredy 100 Club October Results

£30.00	No. 147	E. Kinghorn
£15.00	No. 45	B. Maltby
£5.00	No. 52	D. Bailey

Thanks to your generosity at the November 'Coffee Break' and with donations for poppies made available throughout October, over £550 will be going to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. In addition, the 'Come Along Inn' has kindly donated a further £50.

Thank you to everyone involved in the morning and to those who kindly gave raffle prizes. Thanks to Nick Orr for the moving Act of Remembrance at 11.00am, including the exhortation and a minute of silence. The tenor at St Peter's Church was tolled at 11.00am on Remembrance Day and Armistice Day. 'We will remember them'.

Coming up in December...

Christmas Coffee Break

The Coffee Break will take place on **Saturday, 14th December** from 10.30am to 12:00noon in the village hall. There will be Christmas stalls and a Raffle. If you cannot come raffle tickets will be available beforehand to buy. This is much needed fundraising in aid of Church repairs.

This month will include a raffle. All proceeds from the morning and donations from the poppies available through October will be for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Do come along and support us.

Come Along Inn

The 'Come Along Inn' invites you to start your Christmas celebrations by joining your friends and family at Long Bredy village hall on **Friday, 20th December** from 5.30pm to 9.00pm as usual. As is now becoming a tradition we will not be serving a supper but will be offering a selection of party foods. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. The 'Come Along Inn' team wishes all our customers, old or yet to meet, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas Theme

We encourage households to decorate their windows or gardens with stars and angels, bringing the spirit of the season to our community. In the Church, we'll have a dedicated craft table where adults and children can create their own stars, angels, or nativity scenes to either take home or display in the Church. All materials are provided free of charge.

We warmly welcome all handcrafted angels to help decorate the Church, with the goal of filling it with these symbols of peace and joy in time for our Live Nativity.

Live Nativity

Join us for a special *Live Nativity* on **Sunday 15th December** at St. Peter's Church! Animal viewing begins at 9.30am, followed by a carol service led by Rev. Andrew at 10.00am. You're welcome to come just for the animals or stay to enjoy the service and refreshments afterward.

There will be no service in the Church on Christmas Day but there will be Holy Communion at Littlebredy at 11.00am.

The Bride Valley News is delivered to every home in the valley and 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 please quote BVN.

Burton Bradstock

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



Tot's Time

Tots enjoyed using the hole punch, painting red circles and green leaves, then fixing them together with split pins to make poppies, with 'a little bit' of help from parents and grandparents. Only Heather had her hands well painted; the children emerged mainly unscathed. It was great to have Rev'd. Andrew joining in, dancing with us all to the Wiggle Song, then sitting on the carpet as he talked about Remembering. We then sang 'It's love that makes the world go round - there's love to share with everyone', and then he prayed for us.

Audrey will be telling the story of Noah and the Ark, then Tots can all have fun with the beautiful wooden ark and carved animals that Rev'd. Jane gave us. There may be scope for making playdough animals and colouring rainbows.

As Christmas approaches, we shall be icing biscuits and having festive fun as we re-tell the Christmas story using pictures and puppets.

It's Christmas, it's Christmas, we will clap and sing,
It's Christmas, it's Christmas, hello Baby King.



Do come and join us. All bumps, babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers are welcome with their parents/carers from 2.00-3.00pm every Friday in term time. The last Tot's Time this year will be on 13th December, and we recommence on Friday 17th January at 2.00pm. For more details contact Audrey 897227, Heather on 897780, or Helen at BvchurchesTA@outlook.com

A very happy Christmas to you from all at Tot's Time.

Burton Coffee Mates

We will be meeting at the usual time of 10.30am in the Church on Thursday 12th December. We are delighted this month to welcome some children from the school who will be singing some Christmas music to us.

This will be followed by festive treats and the chance to sing a few carols while we have our coffee. Do come and join us if you can and meet up with friends and maybe make some new ones. If you are in need of transport or want further details please ring Pauline (898327)

Village Society Coffee Morning in Aid of the Post Office

A big **thank you** to everyone who attended the coffee stop on the 26th October.....and remember please to keep coming to the shop!

Thanks Gill & Pete Mayo

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 bbvht.bookings@gmail.com 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 10:00am to 12:00noon and all are welcome.

Wed 11th December St Mary's Church

Wed 15th January Village Hall Trust

Burton Bradstock Films

The film on Friday 29th November is "**Save the Cinema**", a heart-warming film about a campaign by locals in a small Welsh Town to save their local cinema, with a little help from surprising quarters. The film stars mostly a British cast (Jonathan Pryce and Samantha Morton).

Tickets are £6 each and include a glass of wine or a soft drink and can be bought beforehand from Burton Bradstock Post Office or on the door if

available. Doors open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. Litton Cheyney will be showing "Save the Cinema" on 5th December.

Christmas Market

The Christmas Market and coffee morning will be held on Sat 7th Dec from 10:00am to 12:30pm. Following recent year's 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. A great opportunity to purchase locally made Christmas presents and catch up with friends.

Entrance will be £1 for adults, children under 16 free.

Christmas Quiz

The hugely popular Christmas Quiz will be held on Saturday 14th December, with the Quiz prepared and run by Sue Moores & David Edwards. Doors will open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start.

The ticket price of £12:50 per head will include a light supper, plus all the normal crackers, party poppers and balloons 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 8 (max) per table and the central aisle will be kept free.

Tickets went on sale at the Post Office in blocks of 8 on Wednesday 20th November on a first come first served basis. Any still available will be at the Post Office. Once you have your team tickets contact Richard Ferre (details above) to confirm your table and any dietary requirements. Individuals or couples unable to make up a team but wanting to participate should contact Richard Ferre at rwferre99@gmail.com or 897648 to find out if places are still available.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall "200 Club" November 2024 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1st	£34.60	No 160:	Mr Jim Thorpe
2nd	£17.30	No 70:	Mrs Joyce Roberts
3rd	£8.65	No 24:	Mr Michael Dean

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the December 2024 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £1 -

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

As many of us will receive our December BVN in the last week of November it seemed sensible to remind Villagers of the lighting of the Christmas tree on **Saturday 30th November 5.00-6.00pm**. There will be a glass of mulled wine, soft drinks, stollen cake, a present for the children, music and carols with the lights being turned on by the Rector. This is the perfect way for us to meet our friends and neighbours and then perhaps make an evening of it enjoying our two hostelryes or whatever floats your boat!

October Post Office Coffee Morning

This is our first opportunity to thank all the villagers who came to support the coffee morning run by the Society in support of the Post Office. The event raised £720 which will be invested in the Post Office facilities. More importantly though, the event's purpose was to highlight the Post Office's importance to the village and the need for the villagers to use it.

Friday 6th December

Instead of our monthly talk the Society will be running a light-hearted Bingo session. There will be prizes for the first line and full house for each game purchased out of the speaker's fee. Doors open at 7.00pm and play starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Mulled wine and Stollen cake will be served in the break and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your friends.

Saturday 7th December 10.00am-12.00noon: Christmas Market.

While this is a Village Hall event several of the Society's members will run a table selling bespoke handmade items ideal as Christmas presents or personal use. The money raised will be donated to the Society.

We wish all in the village a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.



We wish all our friends and neighbours
A Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025

Alan, Rosemary & Ruby

All at Norburton Hall

All at the Post Office

Andrew & Eve Bailey

Anne & Derek Thomas

Anne Combe

Anne Rees

Anne Southgate

Barbara James

Betty Champkins

Bob & Jean Ayers

Carol Houghton

Catherine & Philip Williams

Chris & Gaye Sundt

Chrissie & Andrew Bailey

Christine Hynds

Cilla & Trevor Jones

Clare Viney

Coleen Ringrose & John Bowden

Daphne & Trevor Ekins

David & Pauline Woodford

David & Sue @ The Stables

David & Yvette Smith

David & Yvonne Buckland

David and Ethna Jenkins

Ed & Hazel Counter

Elaine Upson, Darby Lane

Elaine Colbert

Gary and Sarah Tabner

Geoff & Sandy Adderley

Geoffrey Fry

Gill Robertson

Graham and Steph Skinner

Helen & John Sinclair

Helen, Andrew, Isobel and Flora Fry

Hilary Mousley

Howard & Linda Bongers



We wish all our friends and neighbours
A Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025

Ian & Elizabeth Wigglesworth

Ian & Irene Halsey

Ian & Mary Ibbotson

Irene Smith

Jane Stubbs

Janet & Steve Tolputt

Jenny & Tony Malyon

John & Christine Lewis

John & Jill Harper

Judy Clarke

Julia Wermig-Morgan

Julian & Irene Piper

Keith & Pat Lewis Badgett

Ken & Sheila Pett

Liz Orza

Mags and Chue

Malcolm & Christine Lawrence

Marge & Geoff Langwith

Marion, Steve & Hamish

Michael Read

Pat & Peter Broomhead

Peter & Pauline Tompkins

Rob & Rebecca Bryan

Roger & Linda Ashman

Roy & Gill Perkins

Ryder & Heather, Aaron & Kiera

Sheila & Geoffrey Spencer-Smith

Sue and Bryan Brown

Sue Haines & Bob Ponchaud

Susan Paul

Tim Linford and Family

Tom Holmes and Pauline Mackie

Tony & Mo Williams

Val & Richard Ferre

Veda Bull

Vicky & Ernie Thomas

Wynne Hughes and Ilva

Burton Bradstock Greenfingers Club

“Merci” to all who came to November’s informative, interesting and very tasty meeting presented by Karen Broad.

The next meeting is 7.30pm Thursday 12th

December when we are having a seasonal social.

It’ll be a chance to chat together, there’ll be a FUN

Call my Bluff plus who knows what else...! Please bring spare plants (proceeds to Weldmar Hospice). There will be refreshments & a raffle!

Entry: £1



Cilla’s December Checklist – Let’s prepare for next spring; prevent pests & diseases accumulating by removing remains of overwintering weeds, diseased material and old crops; continue winter digging, adding homemade compost or well-rotted manure; clean pots, trays & plant supports with mild disinfectant; clean, oil and sharpen tools. Clear leaves from the crowns of herbaceous perennials and alpine (vulnerable to rot in prolonged damp) Regularly check stored fruit and vegetables for signs of decay.

Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

We are a very friendly group who meet in the village hall every Tuesday afternoon from 1.45 until 4.30pm to play duplicate bridge. If you have played bridge before but feel you are a bit rusty this would be ideal! We could find you a partner if necessary and you would be assured of an enjoyable afternoon with a break for tea and biscuits. Please come and make some new friends. We start the new season on Tuesday 3rd September. For more information, please contact Kathy on 01308 485626.

Supper Club

This month’s Supper Club will be held on 9th December.

Any enquiries please contact: **Mags Chue 07790811905**

Burton Bradstock WI

Our members were very busy making and baking in November for our Early Christmas Market and Coffee Morning, but I cannot report on how it went as the deadline for this article was before it had taken place! Hopefully everyone who came



enjoyed a mince pie with their coffee or tea and also found something of interest to buy on the well-stocked stalls. I'm sure it has put everyone in the mood now for Christmas, which will soon be upon us.

In readiness for this auspicious occasion, several members will be taking a trip to Haskins Garden Centre and Hobbycraft on 2nd December. No doubt there will be lots of Christmassy items to see and to buy as well as the chance to replenish craft stocks in order to continue making items for the next fête or fair. Another reason for going, of course, is to enjoy a good lunch and a good natter with each other!

Talking of good lunches, we are certainly looking forward to our WI Christmas Lunch at Bridport Golf Club on 4th December. We know for a fact that the food there is amazing so a good time will most definitely be had by all. At our December meeting on 10th December at 2.15pm it is our Christmas Party, when there will be fun and games, a quiz, more mince pies, mulled wine – and some sing-along Christmas songs to finish with. A good way to finish a busy and eventful year!

It just remains for us to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a bright and healthy New Year. *Janet Pearson 01308 898346*

A Visit from Father Christmas!

Father Christmas will be visiting Burton Bradstock on his sleigh on Thursday 19th December from 5.30-8.00pm with helpers from Brit Valley Rotary Club. He loves talking to the children and is careful about what he promises. Santa welcomes more helpers, contact Ian Ibbotson 01308 898484.

Christmas Carols Around Burton Bradstock

We will be singing carols around the village on Monday 16th December. Join us at 6.00pm outside the church. Wrap up warm and bring a torch. No need to book, just turn up. Song sheets are provided. All voices welcome and knockers on doors are needed to collect for our charity, The Children's Society. Or stay at home and be ready for that Carol Singers' knock on the door!

Organiser Ian Ibbotson 01308 898484.

If the weather is unfavourable, we may postpone till the next Monday

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Thank you very much to all who have supported the Library recently through their annual subscriptions to the Friends, by attending the Library Lunch and just as importantly, using the various services provided by Dorset Libraries, Libraries West and our own village library volunteers.

Christmas books and jigsaws will be available in the Library so come and see the selection.

Normal Burton Bradstock Community Library opening times are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

Over Christmas we shall be closed on the Bank Holidays – 25th & 26th December and 1st January 2025.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a contented New Year.

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com

www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

Sue Brown

Chairman of Trustees

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

The December Parish Council meeting will be held in St Mary's Church on Wednesday 4th December at 6.30pm. All residents are welcome to join us for a short meeting followed by refreshments. Please come along to find out our exciting plans for the local Forest School.

If you would you like to grow your own fresh fruit and vegetables and are interested in having an allotment plot, please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk for more information.

The Community Apple Pressing event was very successful and it was lovely to see such a great turnout. Special thanks to Reverend Andrew Rawding for hosting the event and to the Friends of the School for all their involvement. It will return next year!

We have a great group of volunteers that help with the upkeep of the village, If you are interested in joining our friendly group of volunteers, please join us for a drink at our annual 'thank you' get together in January. To find out further information contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk

Friendly reminder - can we please remind you all to clear up after your dogs.

Bridport Community Kitchen

Last year I helped with the fund raising for the Christmas Lunch at the Community Kitchen at the Beacon Church and hope to do the same this year. The volunteers (some local) helped serve 58 guests, including Ukrainians, a superb traditional meal with all the trimmings and presents plus a card to take home. With your generosity, however small, it will be help people less fortunate than ourselves to have a happy lovely day. You can donate by bank transfer at (Sort Code) 08 92 99, Account 657734799 using reference K.XMAS, or in an envelope to Barbara at 31, Barrowfield Close (Tel 898165).

Thank you, have a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Philip Williams
pw@bridehead.com Tel: 01308 482232
Village website: <http://www.littlebredy.com>



Readers may remember the excitement (in the national media as well as locally) when a “polissoire” (a sort of neolithic axe-sharpener) was identified by geologists in the Valley of Stones a couple of years ago. Now the area is again to come under a more systematic scrutiny, involving volunteers as well as academics.

A body named Past Participate has been awarded a large grant for a “sarsen survey” which will be attempting to record every single stone, looking for evidence of human activity from prehistory to the modern day. The project will have opportunities for many different types of participation, and it is being organised by one Hayley Roberts, who would like to hear from anyone interested in taking part in any way – no experience needed and all guidance

supplied. Hayley can be contacted at hayley@pastparticipate.co.uk and there is further information at www.pastparticipate.co.uk/events

Congratulations to Jim and Nic Armstrong, who not only both took part (so far unrecognised, for which I apologise) in the Ride & Stride event in aid of the Historic Churches Trust and St. Michael & All Angels here in September, but have now also been the vanguard of Littlebredy visitors to the Isles of Orkney in November.

Normally, as readers will know, we alternate Christmas Carol Services with our Longbredy neighbours, but this year both villages are able to celebrate in their usual way, so both deserve support from everyone. On Sunday 15th December, there will be a service at Longbredy, with Nativity Scene, including animals around the crib, freeing us up for our traditional candle-lit carol service at 4.30pm (please note the unusual time) on Sunday 22nd December. We hope for a good congregation, as also for Holy Communion on Christmas Day in Church at 11.00am.

Littlebredy's Christmas would not be complete without the Boxing Day Duck Race. The "best-dressed duck" will be judged at the Walled Garden Barn at 11.30 am and the race itself will start at the waterfall at midday. There will be refreshments and Christmas cheer in the barn afterwards – many thanks to Edgar and Jacqui Moxom for organising the whole thing as usual.

A very happy and fulfilling Christmas season and New Year to all.

Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett
Greenways, Shipton Gorge
01308 787278 richardhewlett419@gmail.com
Village web-site: www.shiptongorge.org.uk



Welcome to our
village diary
Just search for
Shipton Gorge Diary
or go directly to

SHIPTON GORGE
VILLAGE DIARY

<https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/>

You'll be able to find 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

December Floodlight Sponsors:

Maria, Stuart and Mrs Jenny Radcliffe in memory of Michael Radcliffe who would have been 89 on 9th November

Ann Jones of Polyzoa for cousin Geoff's 90th birthday on 9th and remembering Mollie, Mother in law's birthday on 6th

Lily & Harry Myers in loving memory of their daughter Beverly

Linda & Ed Buck

Sally & family, thinking of Steve Larcombe at Christmas time

Cathryn & Pete lighting up the Village for Advent

Heather & Aiden Goulding

The generous folks in the queue at the fish & chip van!

Hilary & Richard, for Hilary's New Year's Eve birthday

A big thank you to all our sponsors for keeping the lights shining this month and throughout the year. For a suggested donation of £5 you too can light up the church and have your occasion mentioned in the BVN. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

A Crafty Christmas at St Martin's!

St Martin's will have a Christmas crafting and colouring table and materials available throughout December and the Christmas holidays. Please help yourself to materials to create characters from the Nativity and little decorations! There are activities suitable for all ages - and adults might also like to make the lovely little angels we have materials for! Let us know how you get along - we'd love to see your pictures!

Carol Service: 15th December at 4.00 pm

Christmas Day: Holy Communion at 9.30 pm.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Village Hall

Brilliant news! The National Lottery Community Fund has agreed to support the plan to provide 'Access for All' to our village hall and has awarded a substantial grant. Having recently received planning permission, obtaining the grant is the final piece in the jigsaw and enables the project to proceed.

November 2024 100 Club Draw results: Congratulations to all winners

1 st	135	£25	Tony/Claire Colbourne
2 nd	57	£10	Tony Rogers
3 rd	36	£5	Christine Green

Drop-in Café at the Village Hall

The successful Drop-in Café will re-open in the New Year on a slightly more regular basis than previously – on the mornings of the second and fourth Fridays in January, February and March. More details to follow nearer the time.

Drop in for free hot drinks and a chat in a warm, welcoming space. We look forward to seeing you.

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the November draw was Eric Benedict – Gin has been delivered. Congratulations Eric.



Saunders Richardson Wood

Please note that National Tree Week this year is from 27th November to 5th December – the purpose being to encourage us to plant trees and to appreciate their beauty and importance in our environment. We have a number of small trees to plant up in the wood and in the boundary hedges and will be doing this on Sunday 1st December 11.00am to Midday. If you would like to help us, please come along – sensible footwear and gloves suggested. This is a members only event, but we can sign you up on the day and membership is free.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

We have planned a session in the Orchard on Monday 16th December – 11.00am to midday. Amongst some of the jobs will be clearing around the bases of the trees and putting mulch mats down. However, we will not be tidying up too much – insects and small mammals prefer if things are kept a little unkempt.



Ivy flowers are also a great food source during the winter months when there is very little else about – and the tangle of leaves can provide shelter for a large number of insects and birds and therefore best not to be removed at this time of year.

A reminder that there is a dog poo bin in the Orchard with a supply of bags. This is maintained by Shipton Gorge Heritage and emptied by one of its members – for which we are very grateful as this is not an enviable job!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Apple Day in October to support us. Lots of tea and cake helped things along. You will be pleased to



know that we took around £350 on sales of produce, cakes, etc and a further £50 in donations. This is a brilliant result for us and obviously helps towards our fixed costs.

Can we take this opportunity to wish our members and all the readers of BVN a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe on 07393 214635 or email annecrowe2016@hotmail.com

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



My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman - or more likely a double glazing salesman - you will be remembered as "the Curate who offended Mrs Smith."

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on - and if the organist

isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime - and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner. If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on "Here endeth", "This is the Word of the Lord", and "Thanks be to God", are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek - apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last years' Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own - and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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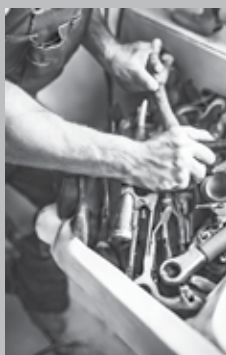
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Burton Bradstock	Songs of Praise for Advent 11.00am	Holy Communion 11.00am	Carol Service 6.30pm			Holy Communion 8.00am	Crib Service 4.00pm	Christmas Day Communion 10.00am	Walking Church 10.30am (See inside BVN for details)
Litton Cheney	Advent service - Darkness into Light 6.00pm	Holy Communion 8.00am	Carol Service 6.00pm			Morning Worship 9:30am	Crib Service 4.00pm Holy Communion 11.30pm		
Swyre	Evening Prayer 3.00pm		Holy Communion 11.00am				Early Christmas Communion 9.00pm		
Puncknowle	Holy Communion 9.30am	Carol Service 5.00pm				Café Church 11.00am		Christmas Day Praise 11.00am	
Shipton Gorge		Breakfast Church 9.30am	Carol Service 4.00pm			Holy Communion 11.00am		Christmas Day Communion 9.30am	

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Long Bredy	Holy Communion 11am		9:30 Live Nativity with Carols						
Littlebredy		Holy Communion 11.00am				Carols by candlelight 4.30pm		Christmas Day Communion 11am	
Abbotsbury	Holy Communion 11.00am	Holy Communion 9.00am	Carol Service 4p.00m			Family Praise 10.00am		Christmas Day Communion 10.30am	
Portesham		Family Praise 10.00am	Holy Communion 11.00am	Carol Service 8.30pm		BCP 9.00am	Crib service 4.30pm	Christmas Day Communion 10.30am	Said Holy Communion 9.00am
Langton Herring	BCP 9.00am	Holy Communion 11.00am	Family Praise 10.00am		Carol Service 6.00pm		Holy Communion 11.30pm		

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Shipton Gorge 4pm
Litton Cheney 6pm
Burton Bradstock 6.30pm

22nd December
Littlebredy 4.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Full details of all December's services inside!

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