

# BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



Join us in the Bride Valley and Chesil Churches as we celebrate  
Easter!

5.30am Easter Sunrise and Song, starting at Shipton Gorge church  
and walking to Shipton Hill

6am Sunrise Service in Abbotsbury churchyard

7am Easter Communion at St Peter's, Portesham

9.30am Easter Communion Services at St Peter's, Long Bredy and  
St Mary's, Litton Cheney

10am Easter Praise at St Mary's the Virgin, Puncknowle

11am Easter Communion Services at St Mary's, Burton Bradstock,  
Holy Trinity, Swyre and St Peter's, Langton Herring

## April 2025

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

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**May 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 11<sup>th</sup> April for the March issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to [bvnburton@gmail.com](mailto:bvnburton@gmail.com). Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact [bvctc@outlook.com](mailto: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 [bvnb.org.uk](http://bvnb.org.uk) or via links 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 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.

# 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) 873978

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](mailto:rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com)

You can also use [www.acny.com](http://www.acny.com) for Baptism and Marriage enquiries. Contact Rev'd Margaret Preuss Higham by phone (see above) or  
email [revmph@gmail.com](mailto:revmph@gmail.com) for enquiries in the Chesil Churches of Abbotsbury, Portesham or Langton Herring.

## Lay Pastoral Assistants

We have 3 Lay Pastoral Assistants in our team and they are available for anyone throughout our community and can respond to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. Contact Jenny: 01308 898768, Liz: 01308 897451 or Cathryn: 0130 8897169 - or you can get in touch with your churchwarden or Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator on 01308 897260. Home communion is available by arrangement. If you would like to become an LPA, please have a look at the Diocese of Salisbury webpage: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/news/is-god-calling-you-to-be-a-lay-pastoral-assistant->, and then chat with Rector Andrew.

## From the Rectory

Dear friends,

Are you looking forward to Easter? I am. I'm very excited about it. I'm full of anticipation of amazing new life, of the brightness of a new dawn, a new day; full of hope. I'm excited about the 'pilgrimages of peace' we'll be doing in our parishes on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. I'm already imagining what will it be like to gather in darkness at 5.30am at St Martin's Church, Shipton Gorge, on Easter Sunday morning, and then walk towards the dawn and sunrise on Shipton Hill. On a pilgrimage from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from sadness to joy, from death to resurrection new life. It should be glorious, in the beauty of creation. What birds will be singing? What flowers will be smiling? What trees will be waving? What will the view be from the top? What will it be like to sing 'Morning has broken', as the warmth of sunlight powers through, and rolls back the darkness? I appreciate not everyone is excited by Easter. I appreciate that not everyone could make it to the top of Shipton Hill. I'm aware it may be pouring with rain and overcast on Easter Sunday. What then? I'm still going to try and take steps of peace for myself, committed to peace for others too.

If there is to be no hill-top-sun-rise experience, then I will be sharing in the suffering of so many people who feel oppressed and imprisoned in valleys of darkness. An objective of our pilgrimages of peace is to spend some time reflecting on what we can do to support others, praying for peace, maybe feeling helpless and powerless in those prayers, but taking steps as pilgrims of hope, to bring hope. In a recent Bible story where Jesus and his disciples had a mountain top experience of life changing radiant light, there was the temptation to remain on a high, to escape from the painful reality of real life and the needs in the valley below. In our churches we can look up to find hope, but we need to look out to build hope.

Our pilgrimages of peace will be a reminder to us that hope doesn't come on the breeze, but through our actions, in our togetherness, building communities of hope, through steps of kindness. You may not see yourself as a Christian or 'religious.' You may have had bad experiences of church. You may have no idea what church is all about. I do hope, if you can, you will be able to join a 'pilgrimage of peace.' And if you can't, then please wish us well, because we don't have the answers, we are simply exploring the mystery of divine love, through stories, liturgy and song, which remind us of

the suffering of humanity, but also lead us to the possibility of resurrection, life and love in all its fulness, and joy. What a joy to be able to explore this in the beauty and splendour of the Bride Valley & Chesil. Please have a peaceful and joyful Easter.

Andrew

## Marathon Efforts

This year, both the Rector, Andrew Rawding and Paul Thimont, treasurer of St Martin's, Shipton Gorge, are running the London Marathon. They're both fundraising for some fantastic charities, so if you'd like to support their efforts, please make a donation online.

Paul says: 'I'm running for two great charities, Whizz Kidz, which helps young wheelchair users, and Create, which empowers lives through the creative arts.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/paulthimont2025marathon>

Andrew is running for the MS Society. 'Our twins Arthur and Rosie's primary school teacher has multiple sclerosis. I want to support him and other people affected by multiple sclerosis by running the London Marathon 2025 and raising funds.'

<https://2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/andrew-rawding>

## Pilgrimages of Peace - walking in nature, reflecting on the world: when and where to join in

There will be three walks this month! Rector Andrew has described what these are about in his letter at the start of the BVN.

The first is a **Pilgrimage of Peace on Palm Sunday**. April 13th, 2.30pm, meet at St Nicholas', Abbotsbury for a 2 mile circular including St Catherine's Chapel.

The second walk is **A Pilgrimage of Peace on Good Friday**. This Good Friday, 18th April, take part in a '*there and back walk*', although you are welcome to join at any point along the route.

**Starting Point:** Holy Trinity, Swyre **Time:** 10.00am

Together, we will journey:

- **10.30am:** Pause at St Mary the Virgin, Puncknowle for reflections.
- **11.30am:** Pause at St Mary's, Litton Cheney for further reflections.

5

Times & locations of reflections have been updated - see Source to Sea for latest info.

The entire walk spans approximately **4 miles** and will take around **3 hours**. You might like to pause for a coffee break at **The White Horse**, a perfect moment to rest and connect with fellow walkers.

The third walk is **Easter Sunrise and Song** - this starts at Shipton Gorge church at 5.30am on Easter Sunday morning, 20<sup>th</sup> April with a walk up Shipton Hill for sunrise.

All the routes include some hilly parts and walking through fields, so please wear stout walking shoes and dress for the weather. Dogs on leads are welcome.

**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:** Hector Ford 9<sup>th</sup> March at Burton Bradstock



**Maintaining our Church Buildings Coordinator**

Do you feel strongly about our beautiful church buildings remaining open and accessible in all our villages in the Bride Valley and Chesil Benefice? Would you like to contribute your time and energy to ensuring that they remain well-looked after and safe community assets?

We have been fortunate to have had amazing volunteers over many decades looking after our church buildings. We all owe them a great debt of thanks.

However, we now need a person who will be able to support our parish churches with building projects, grants and applications, offering advice, guidance and signposting when necessary. You will need to be skilled in talking to people, working online, self-motivated, open to learning and development opportunities and good at prioritising. Expenses will be met and support provided. To discuss this role, please email Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator, in the first instance: [bvchurchesta@outlook.com](mailto:bvchurchesta@outlook.com) or phone 01308897260.

To find out more about our historic churches, go to [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## 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

We always welcome new drivers.



## 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.*

This term we've been focusing on the value of **Love**. This has been woven into all aspects of school life, and it is particularly evident in our Collective Worship sessions where we have looked at **Love** as we move into the season of Lent. Alongside this, we've been privileged to work with the Royal School of Church Music through their *Hymnpact* project. This organisation aims to share hymns that are popular with children and adults both in schools and at Church. We're delighted that Rev'd Andrew is on board with this and we look forward to singing some of our new hymns at our Easter service.





We've been making the most of the beautiful spring weather and exploring our outdoor spaces in Burton. Our weekly forest school sessions, running club and welly walks are all great opportunities to get out and about!

We've also celebrated the magic of reading with a fantastic World Book Day! It was wonderful to see both children and adults alike embracing the spirit of the day, dressing up as their favourite book characters or even as an

adjective! The school was filled with a wonderful array of costumes and it was a joy to see everyone sharing their love of books.



We have spaces available in our Pre-School from September for children who will turn four that academic year. If you would like to visit our happy and friendly village school, please contact the school office to arrange a tour: 01308 897369 or [office@burtonbradstockprimary.org](mailto:office@burtonbradstockprimary.org)  
To stay up-to-date with all our news and events please follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BurtonBradstockPrimarySchool> or the hashtags #LoveWhereWeLearn #TeamBurton!

*Adam Gough*  
*Headteacher*



## Thorners CE VA School

**Thorner's School**  
Happy Easter!

Prior to the Easter holidays the children have been very busy with a range of trips and activities alongside their usual lessons - as well as our annual Pancake Race - won by Blue House by the closest of margins!

Our Reception class, Litton, have been on a tour of the local farm and met and fed a range of animals as well as seeing how many different animals they could see on their journey through the village. They have also been to Groves in Bridport to plant seeds as well as enjoy a delicious lunch as part of their topic this half term. They capped this off with a play in the play park at West Bay and a visit to the Discovery Centre by the harbour.

Other classes have been to the New Barn Centre for a living history day - seeing what life was like for ancient people in Dorset thousands of years ago - as well as helping in two local tree planting projects. The second of these was kindly supported by local builders CG Fry & Son who are working to plant trees with several local primary schools.

Alongside this outdoor work, all the pupils took part in a brilliant World Book Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March arranged by Mrs Biggins! The children dressed up as their favourite character from a range of texts/authors and took part in a house quiz, themed lessons throughout the day and a brilliant book inspired whole school race in the playground! It was great to see staff join in and house points all round for staff and pupils for the brilliant costumes! To complement this day, we also had a visit from our travelling book fair - which gave the children the chance to buy a range of new titles and also raise funds to allow the school to do the same for each class.

Some of the older children have been out on a visit to see Buggy Malone at Colfox as well as attend a creative writing workshop with other local schools in the West Dorset Collaboration. Lastly, as we begin to look towards summer, the older children have been working on designs for a stained glass project that we hope to install in the front doors of school with a local artist. We hope this will provide the pupils with a chance to leave a lasting marker at the school as they move on to their range of secondary schools. This year we are delighted to see all the pupils get into their first choice of secondary school with pupils in September starting at The Sir John Colfox, Bridport, The

Studio School, Kingston Maurward, Leweston School, Sherborne and Colyton Grammar School, Devon. Well done to all!

We return on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April and look forward to a busy summer term of Swimming, SATs, Forest School, Sailing, Cricket, Creative Writing Workshops, Maths Competitions and the summer fete!

*Mike Sitch*  
*Headmaster*

## **Our Night Sky in April 2025**

Jupiter will be setting in the North west about 2300, followed by Mars at 0200. Venus will greet early risers at 0430, in the east.

We do not have long to safeguard the best place within our reach to find true peace and quiet, away from the noise of human civilization, scientists have warned — before space tourists and private companies ruin it for astronomy.

On the far side of the moon, shielded by trillions of tons of rock, no radio signals from Earth can penetrate. In craters at the poles water ice exists, where no sunlight has hit the bottom for aeons. If observatories were built here, away from the cacophony of our planet, astronomers think they might be able to unravel some of the mysteries of the universe, but only if billionaires do not get there first.

So perhaps we should encourage Elon Musk to settle on the arid wastes of Mars, which after all, he has made that his ambition, and leave the Moon to the Radio Astronomers.

*Bill Turnill*

## **The Bride Valley WI**

Many of our members ventured out on a cold February evening to listen to Patti, one of our members, talk us through her 'Life in Dance'.

Patti told us how she began having ballet lessons at 4 years of age, paid for by her grandfather, and how after lots of training, hours of practice and injuries she was dancing many leading roles in various ballets, Giselle being her favourite.



Patti switched to musical theatre, had singing lessons and studied jazz dance and tap.

Her journey then led her to Phantom of the Opera. This musical became Patti's life - she went all over the world with the show. Eventually becoming an integral part of a small select team that worked tirelessly with a short timetable setting up the production in foreign countries, Sweden, South Africa and Japan to name a few.

We learnt how a career in dance involved hard work, dedication and upsets as well as adoration, bouquets of flowers and applause. Patti will say there have been sacrifices made but she certainly would not change her 'Life in Dance'.

It was a cold grey winter's morning when 8 intrepid WI walkers set off from the Colliton Club Car Park to Beat the Bounds of the county town. Following the tree lined walks of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, we passed the only section of the earlier Roman Wall that survives in Dorchester, along with Thomas Hardy's statue and the Victorian Borough Gardens complete with fountain, bandstand and memorial clock. Lots of lovely snowdrops lined the way with the hope of daffodils to come.

Turning left into Bowling Alley Walks with the former hospital of Somerleigh Court on the left, you can often see nuthatches, tree creepers and grey squirrels in the Sycamore trees here. We head on into South Walks, after a quick inspection of the most recent fire remains in South Street in December 2024, there is a lovely old working Post Box next to the Cenotaph - now under Horse Chestnut trees - leading to a more gruesome area called Gallows Hill depicted by three statues by Elizabeth Frink.

We continued through Salisbury Fields past the modern- day beacon and down to the Old Tannery by the Mill Stream with a little foray out into the water meadows north of the town - no wildlife today! Back over the bridge and up Friary Hill and into Colliton Street with much history regarding the Great Fire of 1613 (one of four ) and the migration of folks to Dorchester, Massachusetts, assisted by Reverend John White ( 1574-1648 ).

As the temperature was not improving, we decided take a short cut through Grey School Passage - formerly a boy's school - with a quaint garden still attached, and seek a warm cafe, for coffee and cakes of course!

A massive WELL DONE to the skittles team who have made it through to the final of the Dorset WI Skittles League. By the time you read this they will

have played the final against Wool WI. Whether they have won or lost it's been great fun visiting and playing against different WI teams. Our "Skittles for Fun" evenings continue fortnightly on a Tuesday at The White Horse, Litton Cheney. If you'd like to be added to the email list then please contact Charlotte at [bridevalleywi@gmail.com](mailto:bridevalleywi@gmail.com).

### **Date For Your Diary**

Saturday 5th April, 10am-12noon, WI Village Café at LATCH, Litton Cheney with Breakfast Baps, Cake Stall, Raffle.

The Bride Valley WI meets on the third Thursday of the month in Puncknowle Village Hall at 7:30. If you need any information about our WI please email [bridevalleywi@gmail.com](mailto:bridevalleywi@gmail.com)

### **The Bride Valley Book Club**

'East of the Sun' by Julia Gregson won the award of Romantic Novel of the Year in 2009. It was an easy read but had more merit as a chronicle of a particular time at the beginning of the 20th century rather than good literature. It follows the lives of several characters who are all facing personal challenges and their reactions to various situations at a time when young women from middle class families were strongly encouraged to find a husband rather than a career.

This 'Fishing Fleet' of women was an attraction to serving soldiers in the Empire who were equally encouraged to find a British wife rather than, or as well as, take a native mistress.

Schizophrenia, resentment of the British presence in India, research into disease and the environment, Ghandi's growing influence and the well-meaning but much resented English model of education are all themes which bubble to the surface but are not developed.

The novel was well-researched; railway journeys made by characters are still possible today and the novel has atmosphere. However, most of us felt that the characters were difficult to sympathise with and the ending was unsatisfactory.

Although published in 2008, it felt like a novel which might have been serialised in a woman's magazine in the 1950's.

*Sue Dyer*



St George's Day April 23rd



## Red Rose Trouser's Day for MEN!!



Slaying the dragon of  
isolation and loneliness!



Join us for a short St George's Day service to remember  
and think about men struggling with life, and to sing  
'Jerusalem' in England's green and pleasant land!

**8pm, April 23rd, St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock**

Wear your red trousers and/or a red rose!

## Bride Valley Gardening Club

The sun is out, the sky is blue – but still very cold. Hopefully by the time this plops through your letterbox the weather will be warmer and gardening will be tempting again. With the tidying up completed there are usually some newly discovered spaces and 'planting opportunities' and this means good reason to visit one of the many plant fairs on offer locally.



If you are already a member of the club you'll know that good plants are regularly for sale at monthly meetings and on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (a departure due to Easter from our regular Monday spot) there will also be opportunities to buy young fuchsias when our speaker Derek Dexter will talk to us about the care and growing of these plants. Be sure to keep some pocket money for visiting some of the other plant sales which often support a local charity as well:

Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> 9.00am-12.30pm outside Bridport United Church. Bridport Garden Club offer plants for sale as part of their Spring Show with proceeds going to The Harmony Centre, supporting those with mental health issues.

Easter Saturday morning, April 19<sup>th</sup> From 9.00am. Stepping Out – the local cancer rehabilitation exercise scheme - celebrates their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Bucky Doo Square and has a large plant stall offering a huge variety of

plants, many of them unusual or hard to find. Grown by just two enthusiasts, of whom I'm one, 100% of sales will be donated.

Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> 10-4 on a more grand sale, will be the annual Mapperton Plant Fair offering a range of professional nurseries and a wide selection of plants. £7 admission includes seeing the garden and a % of sales will go this year to Weldmar Hospice.

Our club meeting on TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> April will begin with the AGM at 7.00pm followed by drinks, plant sales and the Fuchsia talk at 7.30pm. Doors open at 6.30pm. As always, visitors welcome, £2.

Of course, I'm biased but hope to see you in Bucky Doo square!

Ali ([balletboots@live.com](mailto:balletboots@live.com))

## News from the Farm

As we enter April, lambing is in full swing. The early lambers are all out to grass and growing well.

We will be awaiting the results of our by annual TB Cattle test and hoping for clear results so we can start and turn cattle out for their summer grazing as it's been a long wet winter.

Gill



## PRINCE OF WALES & PORTESHAM

### SURGERIES

Anna Meakins, our wonderful practice nurse, is retiring at the end of March. Anna has worked at Portesham Surgery since 2019, previously working in Weymouth and Portland as a practice nurse since 2001. Anna qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1981 having trained at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. She then trained as a midwife at Freedom Fields Hospital, Plymouth in 1983 and practised as a midwife, first on the maternity ward and then in the community until moving to Weymouth in 1986 where she continued her career as a community midwife until taking a career break to bring up her two children.

Anna will be missed by her patients and colleagues. She has a vast amount of knowledge and experience that she has shared amongst the nursing team, and we would all like to wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her continued hard work and support she has given both patients and staff whilst working at Portesham.

Surgery Opening times: A reminder that our Portesham branch is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 6.00pm. The dispensary is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 12.00noon and from 4.00pm to 6.00pm for collecting routine medication or enquiring about prescriptions.

#### Consent to share

Do we have consent to share your medical information with a friend or relative who normally calls us on your behalf? If not, then you can complete a consent to share form the next time you are in the surgery. It is illegal for us to share any of your information without it.



April is Stress Awareness Month. The aim is to bring more awareness about the causes and cures for stress. You can also get more information from our display in the Portesham Surgery waiting room.

Training closure: On Thursday 3rd April Portesham Surgery will be closed between 12.00noon – 2.00pm for staff to complete mandatory Basic Life Saving Training. Surgery website → [www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk](http://www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk)  
On Facebook → Prince of Wales surgery and → Portesham Patient News

# CARL ORFF's CARMINA BURANA

St Swithun's Church Bridport  
7.00pm Saturday 17 May  
Tickets £15 (under 18s free) from  
Bridport Music Centre  
or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds)

[www.westdorsetsingers.org](http://www.westdorsetsingers.org)  
Reg charity No. 1125932.



**West Dorset Singers** are bringing to Bridport one of choral music's best-loved works. Remember the Old Spice advert with the surfer? Or the music played for the entrance of the X Factor judges? 'O Fortuna' is the famous opening to Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, a cantata inspired by medieval poems about life's earthier pleasures - the fickleness of Fate, the joys

of Spring and especially what a young man's fancy turns to. There are maidens who wish they weren't, young men eager for the pleasures of the flesh, drunken gamblers led astray by an Abbot, a roasted swan, followed by a hangover and realisation that Fate will get you in the end. It sounds like a good Saturday night out in Bridport. First performed in Germany in 1937 to great acclaim, *Carmina Burana* has become a twentieth-century classic, so join WDS, a choir of local children, professional soloists, two pianos and a percussion band on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at St Swithun's Church, starting at 7.00 pm. Tickets (£15, free to under 18s) are available from the Bridport Music Centre in South St and from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds).

## Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton  
[patgrafton43@gmail.com](mailto:patgrafton43@gmail.com) Tel: 01308 898264  
Village web-site: [www.burtonbradstockvillage.org](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org).



## Notice Of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of St Mary the Virgin Burton Bradstock with Chilcombe will be held in the Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 after the 11.00am service. The meeting should start at approximately 12.15pm.

You might like to consider service to the church and parish as a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). There are several vacancies and we would be happy to discuss membership with you at any time before the APCM. There is also a vacancy for a Churchwarden. For information about this interesting and important role, or to apply, ring Ian Ibbotson (01308 898484).

## Tots' Time

Hanging rather precariously in the porch at St. Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock is a painting of a sycamore-fig tree. It was a combined effort by Tots who also produced their own versions to take home. Lots of sticky, messy paint!! The staff developed 'green fingers' without even trying. Look more closely at the painting in the porch and you will see Zacchaeus' face among the branches, all shiny and smiley because he has just seen Jesus (not pictured) from his vantage point as he appeared with a crowd of followers. However, by the time you read this, the painting may have faded and the smiley face dropped off! In its place there might be a beautiful Easter Garden to view in a corner of the porch. If so, please write your comments in the accompanying book.

We have planted cress seeds again, but not in egg shells this time. We used see-through plastic ex-mousse pots so that the children could watch the roots grow. This is an exciting time of the year as now we can start venturing outside for Tots' Time, enjoying the fresh air, exploring, running, jumping and marvelling at God's wonderful creation. Hopefully, by the time you read this, chicken-pox will have finished doing the rounds and our numbers will be up to full strength again. It has been a tough time for some of our families. All bumps, babies, toddlers and pre-school children along with their parents/carers are welcome. We meet every Friday during school term time at 2.00pm until school pick-up time (about 3.00/3.15 pm). For more information, contact Audrey (01308 897227), Heather (091308 897780) or Helen on BVchurchesTA@outlook.co.uk

HAPPY EASTER from all at TOTS' TIME!!

## Family Breakfast

There will not be a Family Breakfast in April. We will continue to assess how to proceed in the future, and keep you informed via school news, on social media and in the BVN.

## 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> April St Mary's Church*

*Wed 14<sup>th</sup> May Bride Valley Drivers*

## **Burton Bradstock Films**

Our last film before our summer break is 'Paddington in Peru' on 25<sup>th</sup> April. When Paddington discovers his beloved aunt has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the jungles of Peru to find her. Determined to solve the mystery, they soon stumble across a legendary treasure as they make their way through the rainforests of the Amazon.

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.



## **Village Hall Spring Quiz**

The ever-popular Village Hall Spring Quiz is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April with quiz run by Richard Ferre. Tickets will go on sale at the Post Office on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at £11.50 a head, which will include a jacket potato supper with filling of your choice. As well as supper there will be prizes, raffle and sensibly priced bar. Doors will open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm start

People buying all 8 tickets for a team will automatically get their own table. Those buying lesser numbers will be assigned a table along with other people to make up a team. Once tickets are purchased you should contact the organizer, Richard Ferre, to select food choices, book your table if you have 8, or request more players if you have a lesser number.

Contact details for Richard Ferre: [rwferre99@gmail.com](mailto:rwferre99@gmail.com) or 897648.

# Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club”

## March 2025 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 <sup>st</sup>	£32.60	No 138:	Mr Jim Thorpe
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£16.30	No 46:	Mrs Barbara Stewart
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£8.15	No 139:	Mrs Stephanie Skinner

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the April 2025 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £9 – 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

The Village Society Committee would like to give notice of the AGM to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, at 7.00pm. This date is different from that advertised in your programmes. Doors open at 6.45pm in the Village Hall. There will be a free glass of wine and light refreshments for attendees. If you would like to become a member of the Society or join our friendly active committee please phone the Secretary, Roger Ashman on 07971679020. From 1<sup>st</sup> April subscriptions are due for 2025-26 year. We have managed to hold the annual cost per member to £5 for another year. Details of how to pay will be emailed to members or sent to members without email through their letterbox!

**Race Night, 4<sup>th</sup> April**, is a new venture for the committee and plans to be a lot of fun. Doors will open at **6.30pm and the 1<sup>st</sup> race at 6.45pm**. There will be 4 races overall. Each race has 8 horses and pay-out will be win only. Entrance fee £1.50 for members, £5 non-members for which you will receive a token for a £1 bet to use whenever you want, all extra bets £1. There will be a bar and refreshments between the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> race but no raffle.

**The Duck Race, April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**2.00pm-4.00pm.**

Whilst this event is organised by the Friends of Burton Bradstock School, the Society has been approached for help in getting together some volunteers to set up and take down, and run some



games. The School is a great asset to the village and this event raises considerable funds which are used to the benefit of the children's wider education.

Any members who can give an hour or two of their time on the day would be much appreciated. Please let Roger Ashman know by phoning 07971 649020.

**Plant & Cake Sale, 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am-12.00noon. This is the morning after the AGM so please note that this date has also been changed from that previously advertised.** Always a sign that spring has well and truly arrived. We hope that members will bear us in mind when raising produce to sell and support us on the day.

## **Burton Bradstock Parish Council**

### **Flood Warden Volunteers**

Burton Bradstock Parish Council would like to encourage residents to consider volunteering to become a flood warden to help safeguard lives and properties in the village. Full training and support will be provided by the Environment Agency. Volunteers should ideally not live in a property that it is at high risk of flooding. If you are interested or for more information, please contact Bob Ward on [b.ward@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk](mailto:b.ward@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk) or 07811-320346.

### **VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Celebrations**

Please come along and join us for the lighting of our beacon on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30pm.

### **Post Office**

We would like to mention that Peter and Gill Mayo have run the Post Office for 10 years. It is a vital service to our village and we would like to thank them and say how it is very much appreciated and valued in the village.

### **Coffee Stop Mornings**

The Parish Clerk and the Chesil Bank Ward Councillor Sally Holland will be attending the coffee stop morning at the Village Hall, if there is anything you would like to discuss please come along. We look forward to seeing at the next meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Improvement of the Ashes Area in Burton Bradstock Churchyard**

A group of volunteers is giving attention to the Ashes Area in the Churchyard. They will periodically mow around the memorial stones and clear their edges so that they are visible.

To assist in this, we ask that:

1. The memorabilia on each tablet will be limited to one item only. The items will be removed if showing signs of being a dead plant, if shabby, if unrelated to the tablet etc. The volunteers may use their discretion regarding the removal of items. All items will then be moved to a location by the shed for later collection.
2. A time limit of 3 months will be assigned to a recent committal in relation to the number of memorabilia on each tablet. After 3 months it is one item.
3. For those tablets that are commemorating just one individual, the memorabilia item can be placed on the tablet. Should two individuals be inscribed, then the memorabilia item will be placed adjacent to the tablets if this is necessary to expose the name.
4. Would residents who have relations in these "Ashes Areas" like to join the volunteer group to help maintain the areas? Please contact a churchwarden.
5. Would relatives and friends of loved ones buried in these areas like to make a donation for the upkeep of the Churchyard? Please contact a churchwarden.

*The PCC of Burton Bradstock*

## **Burton Coffee Mates**

Burton Coffee Mates meet in the Church on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30am-12.00noon. Although everyone from the village is welcome, this is particularly suitable for older people and facilities are provided for wheelchair users. Do come and join us.

If you would like more information, please call Pauline. (898327)

## **The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library**

We shall be holding our next fund-raising second-hand Book Sale on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April in the Library between 10.00am and 12.00noon. Donations of clean, saleable books will be much appreciated and can be left in the Library during the preceding week. We look forward to seeing you at the Sale.

Normal library opening times are:

Monday 2.00pm-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm-4.00pm

Please note that the Library will be closed for Easter on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library will take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Drinks and nibbles will be served following the business meeting.

[burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com)

[www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library](http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library)

01308 897563

*Sue Brown, Chairman*

## **Burton Bradstock WI**

This year seems to be going by very quickly – at our February meeting Doug Skinner gave his talk about the Health of our Seas – both good news and not so good. He also outlined the work of Greenpeace. This tied in well with our Green Hearts evening when we think about environmental issues. Members wrote their concerns on green hearts and hung them on a little tree. There were also heart-shaped decorated stones for members to take to remind us to be environmentally aware.

At our March meeting members saw a demonstration of how to make a Spring hanging basket given by Mark Bugler from Groves, then there was the Committee Lunch plus our Annual Spring Lunch, all of which proved to be most enjoyable. What makes you think we enjoy eating out!? The Lunch Club are planning their next meal for May already!

Our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm takes the form of our Annual Meeting at which we shall be electing a new committee and a new President. To lighten the serious part of the evening there will be drinks and nibbles, a picture quiz plus more time to socialise with each other.

We shall also be looking back over the past year and thinking about planning lots of activities for the year ahead.

*Janet Pearson*  
898346

## Greenfingers Club



Thank you to everyone who joined us for The Edible Acre. I'm sure we'll all be taking a look at their stall on market days.

Our next meeting is 7.30pm Thurs. 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Maria Tidy of Plants & Minds, (linked to Cherry Tree Nursery) will talk about Therapeutic Horticulture, surely one of the best reasons for getting out in our gardens! Don't forget any spare plants (donations to Weldmar Hospice). There'll be Tea, Coffee & a Raffle, too.  
Entry: £1

**Cilla's April Checklist** - Tie in vigorous new shoots of climbers. Build supports for taller plants to train in early growth. Divide late-flowering plants & grasses. Plant summer flowering bulbs, tubers & corms. Keep sowing hardy annuals for colourful summer displays. If buying plug plants, once potted on, protect until all risk of frost has gone. Cut back over-wintered pelargoniums & use cuttings to make new plants. Plant out Mediterranean herbs e.g. rosemary & oregano in free-draining soil; sow annual herbs indoors. Remember when potting on tomato seedlings, plant deeper to encourage new roots from stems. If the soil is warm, plant maincrop potato tubers; sow beetroot, cabbages, carrots, chard, leeks, peas, radishes, spinach & lettuces outdoors; sow celery, melons, sweetcorn, runner & French beans under cover.

## Supper Club

This month's supper club will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Anybody wishing to know more about the Supper Club please ring me, Mags Chue, on 07790 81190

## Burton Bradstock Players Panto 25

We told a tale of treachery on the high seas with pirates, cannibals and a beautiful mermaid and yes, we found treasure!

Our panto this year was a sell out and according to our enthusiastic audiences it was a triumph. Our old hands threw themselves into their roles and so did our new hands/members Ken, Kerry, Benita, Gemma, Jan, Derek and Mary-Jane, 4 of them only came to sing in the chorus, but ended up doing far more as their confidence grew and grew before our eyes. Our younger stars Hugo, Luca, Bertie and Reggie totally stole the show!



It was great fun to put it all together and the joy and happiness that we see it brings to so many people tell us it was worth all the months of hard work, but of course we could not do it without the amazing support of you, the community, making props and donating items. We had huge support and encouragement from our volunteers, our dedicated musicians who give their time up so willingly, Burton Bradstock Post Office who sell the tickets for us along with Gill and Roy Perkins (Box Office).

A big thank you to the Anchor Inn for providing us with a bar during evening performances and Nick Good and his team for the fantastic lighting and sound, and all the local businesses in and around the village and in Bridport who sponsored us with such fabulous raffle prizes. We are truly grateful to all of you.

HERE'S TO THE NEXT SHOW! We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you are interested in joining our happy ship at Burton Bradstock Players, please contact Carole on 07764523182

## Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

We are a very friendly group who meet in the Village Hall every Tuesday afternoon from 1.45pm 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. For more information, please contact Kathy on 01308 485626.

## Artsreach in Burton Bradstock A call for new volunteers



As many of you will know I took over the lead role for Artsreach on the Village last summer. The existing team of volunteers kindly agreed to carry on organizing the bar and looking after the reception desk at the Village Hall on the really successful event nights in Autumn 2024 and the Spring of 2025.

After many years of service three volunteers have decided to step down after our Bookshop Band event on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, so I am seeking new volunteers to join me to keep the show on the road, starting with the Autumn 2025 programme in September. If you love live performances of theatre and music then why not help us continue to provide these wonderful events in the Village?

We usually have several events per year, split between the Autumn and Spring seasons. The volunteers are involved on the night organizing the bar, the front of house ticket desk, setting out the seating in Hall beforehand and de-constructing it afterwards, and generally making sure the audience is made welcome. It's not onerous and the upside is that volunteers qualify for complimentary tickets!

If you are interested to learn more, please call me on 01308 897403 or email [d.witham@btinternet.com](mailto:d.witham@btinternet.com).

*David Witham*

## Littlebredy

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



It is several years since a project to repair or renew and replace a number of the windows in the Church, and their surrounding flaky masonry, began to be planned and organised, and the necessary funding and Diocesan permission (called a Faculty) put in place. Several people have been active behind the scenes during the period, but it has now come to a head at last, and the work should have begun by the time these words are read. The glass specialist is Dan Humphreys, who moved onto the site during March, and the repair works to the fabric will be carried out by Simon Crumbleholme's firm (which will already be familiar to some), starting in April. Apart from services,

it isn't known at this stage if the Church will be a sealed building site or open to interested visitors while the restoration takes place. Talking of services, there will certainly be the customary short penitential Litany service at 10.00am on Good Friday. A scheme for Easter decorations in Church will presumably take shape between now and then.

Please note that the walled garden in Littlebredy will be open to the public from 2.00pm-5.00pm on Easter Day and Easter Monday, and thereafter as usual on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons till September.

As "trailed" in the last edition, many of the households here will have a new ownership in April. The fresh faces in the village from the Belport team will already be recognisable to many of us: they are Will Robinson and Kick Douglas. After April, Church Walk will become their organisational hub, which means we shall say a sad farewell at that stage to Ed and Christine Mcfadden, who have contributed so much to village and local community life over the past twenty years (almost precisely). Fortunately they will not be far away afterwards – in Bridport, in fact – so we hope their links with Littlebredy will remain and we wish them well as they move away.

## Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett  
Greenways, Shipton Gorge  
01308 787278 richardhewlett419@gmail.com  
Village web-site: [www.shiptongorge.org.uk](http://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'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

### April Floodlight Sponsors:

*Sally Parker for Steve Larcombe's birthday on 30<sup>th</sup>,  
Sue and John Porter for their daughter Sarah's belated birthday  
on 31<sup>st</sup> March*

*Simon & Sue Melvin of Sunny Bank, thanking the Shipton Gorge residents for their warm welcome to the village!*

A big thank you to our sponsors. So many people say how much they enjoy seeing the church lit up. However, we are running very short of sponsors so if you have a special occasion coming up, or a memory or just enjoy the floodlights we would be most grateful for your support. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

### **Easter Services:**

#### **Breakfast Church is on Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> Village Hall at 9.30am.**

We'll be exploring the events of Palm Sunday and the lead up to Easter. We'll be making an Easter Garden at Church, so if you have any, please bring some little jam jars with flowers, moss to make the garden and tiny pebbles to add to the path. Breakfast Church always starts with a yummy breakfast. Please do come along. Everyone is welcome.

#### **Good Friday Litany 18<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am**

The Litany will include St. Luke's account of events leading to the crucifixion of our Lord, with hymns for Good Friday.

#### **Easter Sunrise and Song, 5.30am.**

Meet Reverend Andrew at 5.30am at Church then walk up Shipton Hill to enjoy the sunrise on Easter Morning. Please wear stout walking shoes or wellies and you might like a torch for the early morning! Be prepared for a bit of a scramble to get up the hill if it's been raining. Everyone is very welcome to join this special Easter morning celebration.

#### **Festival of Bells & Bell ringing at St Martin's Church Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm.**

There is going to be a special service to celebrate Bell Sunday - everyone is welcome, whether you love the sound of the bells or are just curious about bell ringing and would like to watch them in action, please, do come along. In addition to all our local folks, we will be inviting ringers across our Benefice to join us - and indeed some bell ringers might decide to bring their friends or family along!

There are bells at Abbotsbury, Long Bredy, Litton Cheney and Burton Bradstock as well as at Shipton Gorge, so there's potential here for a few

visitors! Also, many of you might know, you can't really do bell ringing without some sort of hospitality - and that usually involves large amounts of cake!! As we have some work to do on our bells and our church, we would also like to use this as an opportunity for a bit of fundraising - and so we are asking for help in organising and serving refreshments at church. If you might be able to make something or *especially* offer to do the washing up, put up the tables, serve the tea, clear up...or generally assist in whatever way you can, we'd love to hear from you!

## Village Hall

Significant progress has now been made with the 'Access for All' project. The detailed plans are on view in the hall and Trustees have asked three local building contractors to price the work. Whilst not wishing to tempt fate we hope to be able to appoint a contractor in April when we'll get a good indication as to when the work could commence.

### March 2025 100 Club Draw results

<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>42</i>	<i>£25 Paul &amp; Martine Thimont</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>160</i>	<i>£10 Geoff &amp; Caroline Hall</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>119</i>	<i>£5 Sue Raybould</i>

Congratulations to all winners

## Parish Council

The Annual Parish Assembly is on Thursday 10th April at 7.00pm. All of the organisations in the village will be giving a roundup of their activities, so do come along and find out about everything that is happening in the village. In addition, we are delighted that Nigel Osborne, Dorset Council's Emergency Management Officer will be joining us. Nigel will give a talk on the wide ranging subject of Resilience, and explain what we need for our Resilience Plan, both for individuals and the village as a whole. We look forward to welcoming Nigel and to seeing as many of you as possible on the 10th.

## Village Society

### Quiz Night

We would like to invite you to participate in Howard's quiz night to be held at the village hall on the 13th May. Fish and Chips will be served in the interval. Teams up to eight people can be booked at any time through

Sally Parker. Howard always puts on a good evening so best to book your table early. Further details in next month's BVN.

Good luck, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

## Village Show and Fete

We are happy to announce that this year's village show and fete will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> August. Please set this date in your diary. More details will come out later.

To enable you to get started this year we are looking to run a SUNFLOWER competition. This is open to all, young and senior. Tallest judged will win a prize.

## Shipton Gorge Heritage

**Heritage Gin Club** – The winner in the March draw was our very own Chris Hewlett – a bottle of gin has been delivered – a little reward for her hard work in the Wood and Orchard! Congratulations Chris.



### Saunders Richardson Wood

A number of nest boxes have now been put up in the wood, just in time as the birds are starting to pair up. Further hedging whips have been planted up in the hedge line in Smacombe Lane – including field rose and field maple. If you walk along the lane, you might spot some red tags – we have marked them so we can check them later in the year. All being well, a further stretch of the hedge along the lane will have been laid. Although 28<sup>th</sup> February is recognised as the deadline for hedge cutting - coppicing and hedge laying can be carried out until the end of April. We will be doing some maintenance work in the wood on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 11.00am–midday. If you would like to come along and either help or have a walk round, that would be wonderful. The Bluebells should be flowering by then. This is a members' only event but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.

## Shipton Gorge Orchard

The hedge along the bottom border has been re-laid by a couple of volunteers – hopefully, it should thicken out during the year providing cover for wildlife and screening off the wall behind it, also allowing the good display of snowdrops to be seen. The hedge along the footpath has had a trim thanks to one of our volunteers – with the footpath sign being visible again. Grass cutting will have started with a similar pattern to last year and some more insect friendly plants



will be going into the borders. The apple and damson blossom should be out and hopefully attracting lots of pollinators. We will be doing some work in the Orchard on Monday 28 April at 11.00am. All residents are welcome to come along – either to help or even just for a chat if you prefer.

A reminder that we intend to produce a calendar for 2026 which will be on sale late Summer/early Autumn – we are therefore looking for some photos to feature in it. These can be of anything or anywhere around the village. If you have any you think would be good to include, then please email [annecrowe21016@hotmail.com](mailto:annecrowe21016@hotmail.com) or speak to any of the trustees.

If you would like to become a member, or are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe on 07393 214635 or email [annecrowe2016@hotmail.com](mailto:annecrowe2016@hotmail.com)

Details as usual on our website:

[http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton\\_Gorge\\_Heritage\\_\\_16417.aspx](http://www.shiptongorge.org.uk/Shipton_Gorge_Heritage__16417.aspx)  
and in the Shipton Gorge Diary <https://www.shiptongorge diary.co.uk>

## Lilian Stone Trust

If you, or someone you know is in need of some financial help then the Trust may be able to help. It exists in order to assist any resident, young or old, living in the Parish of Shipton Gorge. A grant can be given towards a range of items such as assistance with utility bills, schooling (including school trips), higher education, transport or household equipment, in fact most day-to-day

issues where some financial support is needed and would be welcomed. Your application can be sent to [lilianstonetrust@gmail.com](mailto:lilianstonetrust@gmail.com) or contact the Rector or any of the Trustees for further information:

*The Rector - Andrew Rawding 898799*  
*Paul Thimont – 07770 381579*  
*Heather Puttock – 898355*  
*Richard Hewlett - 897278*

All requests are kept in strictest confidence and only shared between the Trustees and the Rector.

## The Drop-in Cafe

The last session of the season takes place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Village Hall. Many thanks to everyone who has dropped-in for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. A big “thank you” goes out to all those who have helped to run the events and to a villager and the Parish Council who made donations to fund them.

## Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell  
[jfirrell20@gmail.com](mailto:jfirrell20@gmail.com) Tel: 01308 482313  
Village web-site [www.littoncheney.org.uk](http://www.littoncheney.org.uk)



## St Mary's

The Annual Meeting is coming up on 6th April after the morning service. At St. Mary's we are getting to a critical stage where the PCC is beginning to run out of steam. Last year our Churchwarden retired and has not been replaced, the Secretary is retiring now and all of us are getting older. If you value having a church active in our village then *please* consider whether you might be able to offer fresh input to the PCC to enable St Mary's to continue as a lively part of our village life, relevant and welcoming to all.

Contacts:

*Wendy Firrell (retiring Secretary) 01308 482532 [wlitton@gmail.com](mailto:wlitton@gmail.com)*  
*John Vercoe (retired Churchwarden) 01308 480768 [vercoe@btinternet.com](mailto:vercoe@btinternet.com)*  
*Freddie Spicer (Treasurer) 01308 482617 [fandspicer@gmail.com](mailto:fandspicer@gmail.com)*

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V.E. Day, there will be a service at 9.15am for Thorner's pupils, parents, and anyone else who would wish to attend. All very welcome! Some of the children will be chiming the bells before the service and the St. Mary's Ringing team will be joining in the national ringing at 6.30pm that day.

If you would like the church to be floodlit any day for a special occasion for £5, please contact Freddie Spicer (482617)

## **Parish Council**

The Next Parish Council Meeting will be the Annual Meeting and Parish Assembly on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 7.00pm.

The Annual Parish Assembly is a meeting of village residents and a chance to discuss the local issues of the day affecting the village, a chance to put forward any cracking and inspirational ideas you may have that allows the community to come together and get involved and, if you really must, to have a moan, or more hopefully celebrate local services and happenings. Have your say, but more importantly come and meet your fellow villagers!

**Openreach** have mostly completed the infrastructure in the village. There are however some planned works coming up, which involve traffic management:

10<sup>th</sup> April, Closure of Cow Lane to allow for overhead works.

23<sup>rd</sup> June, request made to close Chalk Pit Lane, although this has not yet been granted and I have no information as to what works are to be carried out.

Apart from that as said before, if you have signed up via the voucher scheme then that is an obligation to do so. I would also recommend to anyone who asks, that the upgrade to Full Fibre is well worth doing, not only because of the performance, but also because of the connection benefits (fewer dropouts). If you have any questions or problems then please contact me, Rob Matthews robertmatthewslcpc@gmail.com

## **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory-in-Europe (VE) Day - 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Plans are now coming together to enable as many residents/families as possible to enjoy commemorating this event during the week 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday and current thoughts centre around a *Bring your own Picnic* (Street Party) Lunch at LATCH, when we hope the Litton Cheney Community Choir comes together again as we celebrate and

relive the songs of the 1940's. A little later, and for those a little older, there will be jollifications, music and food of the period – did we hear Sausage & Mash? - down at the White Horse.

On VE Day itself (8<sup>th</sup> May) as well as aligning ourselves with the national events of the day, there will be a special school church service at St Mary's (see church entry above for more details), and at lunchtime the school children will have their own street party. In the evening there will be a chiming of church bells across the nation, a lighting of beacons and lanterns of peace and we will pause in silence remembering those whose ultimate sacrifice made victory in Europe possible, an event we still celebrate and remember in 2025.

More details closer to the day, but be prepared to celebrate, and also remember.

<b>What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in April</b>		
<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>		
Mondays	3.30pm-4.30pm	Big Q (term time only)
Tuesdays	4.45pm-5.45pm	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)
Wednesdays	4.45pm-5.45pm	Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 482661 or Paul Kingston 482162)
	7.00pm	Mindful Movement (Jane Hutchins 07882 527697)
Thursdays	9.15am-11.15am	First Steps Toddlers (fortnightly, term time only)
Fridays	10.00am-12.00noon	Art Group (4 <sup>th</sup> ) in Meeting Room
<b>OTHER EVENTS</b>		
Thursday 3rd	7.30pm	Film Night "Conclave"
Saturday 5th	Morning	Village Café run by the W.I – details in Valley Notes
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Pastoral Skills Course (Main hall)
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Bingo Night
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Gardening Club meeting (Main Hall)
	7.00pm	Pastoral Skills Course (Meeting Room)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Pastoral Skills Course (Main Hall)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Yoga with Nadiya Wynn
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Pastoral Skills Course (Main Hall)

Coming up in early May: Thursday 1st Film Night. A very special showing of "Bottle Shock" – the story of Steven Spurrier's "Judgement of Paris" which rocked the wine world.

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.

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

Thank you to everyone who supported the 'pop up' Coffee and Chat in LATCH on Thursday 20th February. The donations raised £70 for Fledglings. We are grateful for the village's support of the event.

*Elizabeth and Sarah* (and thank you Elizabeth and Sarah for organising)

**'Litton Cheney – It's Historic Sites and People'**, a history of the extended parish of Litton Cheney, is a 276-page A4 book and is available from the author Paul Kingston, paulkingston1440@btinternet.com. A fascinating and intriguing detailed record of Litton's days of yore.

### **Bingo Evening – April 11th**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April Bride Valley Bingo Fundraising Group will be holding an Easter Bingo Evening at LATCH, School Lane, Litton Cheney to raise money for University Hospitals Dorset NHS charity towards their BEACH Appeal (Birth, Emergency, Critical Care & Children's Health).

Doors open at 6.30pm and eyes down at 7.30pm. Great prizes, raffle, refreshments and bucket draw. All welcome!

Since we started the Bingo Nights in 2019, we are very proud to announce that this will be Fundraiser Number 10 for Dorset based charities and we always have great pleasure in welcoming you all, and truly appreciate your continued support. Please tell your friends to come too – don't keep it to yourself!

### **Easter Sunday - 20<sup>th</sup> April. An important date for your diary everyone!**

This year's Annual Great Litton Cheney Duck Race will take place on Easter Sunday 20th April. We will be selling ducks in aid of Julia's House from 10.30am at the start line ready for the off at 12.00noon. If you want to be super organised, Andy and Liz at the White Horse will be selling ducks during the week before the big day, Thursday 10th to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a BBQ at the pub from 11.30am until 2.00pm, either indoors or outdoors depending on the weather, and from 1.00pm you can also enjoy musical entertainment from Greg Agar - The Piano Man. Really hope to see you all there!

*Ralph, Sam, Liz and Andy*

## BRIDE VALLEY FILMS

Next films at Litton Cheney Community Hall.

**Reminder: THURSDAY 3rd APRIL “CONCLAVE” – ‘brilliantly shot and extremely atmospheric’**

Conclave is a masterfully crafted thriller that delves into the clandestine world of the Vatican, offering viewers a gripping portrayal of the papal election process. Directed by Edward Berger and based on Robert Harris’s 2016 novel, the film boasts a stellar ensemble cast, including **Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, and Isabella Rossellini**. Cert.12+ 2hrs.

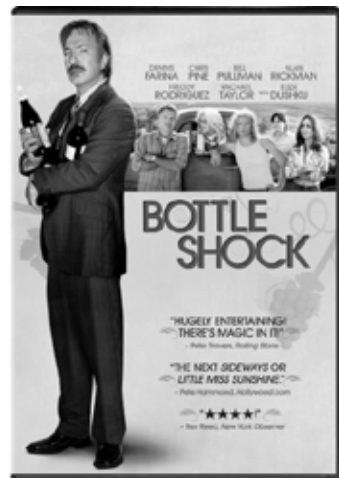
**SPECIAL SCREENING** (for our final film this season).

**THURSDAY 1st MAY**

**BOTTLE SHOCK – ‘vintage entertainment!’**

Steven Spurrier who, many will know, lived in Litton Cheney and started the Bride Valley Vineyard and was internationally well known and respected in the field of wine. In 1976, he was running the **Académie du Vin** in Paris. A visit to California led him to organise a tasting in Paris pitting the Californian wines against the French. The surprising results came to be known as ‘The Judgement of Paris’ and had a lasting impact on the global wine industry. **Alan Rickman** adds his characteristic aplomb to his depiction of Steven in this entertaining film.

Cert.15 1hr.45”



**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)

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

## The White Horse

After a difficult start to 2025 we are beginning to get back in the driving seat and working on future plans for the White Horse, particularly the food offering.

For now, we are continuing as before with the pub menu, and the highlights of Friday night "Traditional Pub Night" with Fish and Chips from 5.30pm, Happy Hour from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and our popular Meat Draw at 8.15pm, and Sunday Roasts from midday to 2.30pm. We really do advise booking for both of these to avoid disappointment - 01308 482539. We have Pizza Basilico food van every other Tuesday to coincide with our fortnightly Snowball Quiz (drinks only on the alternate Tuesdays).

We also have lots of other activities going on in April, with Live Music every Sunday afternoon at 4pm, and don't forget we are the finishing post for the **Great Litton Cheney Duck Race** on Easter Sunday, 20th, at 12.00noon with a BBQ from 11.30am and the fantastic Greg Agar, Piano Man at 1.00pm. Easter Monday we have Knock 'n Run at 4.00pm, a band of young teenagers with amazing musical talent - not to be missed! For May, keep an eye open for news on celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. We look forward to seeing you all in April. *Andy & Liz*

## Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

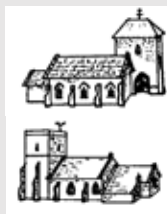
Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

[liz@ruddle.org.uk](mailto:liz@ruddle.org.uk) Tel: 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

[Jill.neill@live.co.uk](mailto:Jill.neill@live.co.uk) Tel 01308 897479

Village website: <https://puncknowle.net>



## Puncknowle And Swyre Parish Council

The Council are looking for a new council member. You do not need any special skills or background to contribute to our team, just a passion to care about our community. If you would like to make a difference, then come and talk to us about what we do. We can tell you more about our work or come to our next council meeting at Puncknowle Village Hall on 1st April, 7.30pm and see what we do.

Further information and an application form is available from the clerk:  
clerk@puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk  
Applications to the clerk are requested by 30th April.

## **The Antiques Road Show comes to Puncknowle**

Have you ever wondered what that spoon Granny left you, or that old chair in the corner of the bedroom is worth? Then bring them along to St Mary's Church, on Thursday 3rd April, between 5.00pm and 7.30pm to get a valuation by Dukes specialist auctioneers who are holding a Charity Evaluation Evening in Puncknowle. All are welcome to bring items to be valued by Duke's specialists at the cost of a small donation. The event will last approximately 2-3 hours and all proceeds will go to the Church.

## **Puncknowle Church Book of Remembrance**

The Book of Remembrance had been locked away in its cabinet since 2006 because the key had been lost. The cabinet has been opened and new keys made. A huge THANK YOU goes to Roxy who, with her beautiful handwriting, has filled in the many missing entries, and brought it up to date. It has been a big task and we are very grateful.

**Easter time** at Puncknowle on Good Friday there will be a "Walking Church" Pilgrimage of Peace. It will start at Holy Trinity Church in Swyre at 10.00am, stopping at Puncknowle at about 10.30am, and then proceeding to Litton Cheney Church (passing the White Horse Inn if anyone wants to wait there). It will then return to Swyre. You are welcome to join for as much or as little as you would like – and there will be coffee and rest stops. Do bring children and dogs and make it a special occasion together. You are welcome to help decorate Puncknowle Church on Easter Saturday morning, in preparation for a 10.00am Easter Praise Service on Easter Sunday. This will finish in good time for those who want to then go to the Easter Communion Service in Swyre Church at 11.00am. Do come and join in whichever service you wish to attend to celebrate Christ risen from the dead.

## **The Early May Bank Holiday weekend 3rd - 4th May**

We will be holding our May Flower Festival on the weekend in Puncknowle Church. The church is dedicated to St Mary, and May is the month of Mary. However, it is also the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, so there will be a VE Day theme. You are welcome to help decorate the church on Friday 2nd May, or to bring flowers at any time the church is open. Let us fill the church with flowers. On Monday 5th May (2.00pm – 4.00pm) there will be a Garden

Party at the Crown Inn at Puncknowle with cream teas, stalls and games. Come for an afternoon of fun together and raise money for Puncknowle Church and for the Weldmar Hospice.

### **Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club**

*Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy*  
Puncknowle Village Hall 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Lunches cost £6

**April 15<sup>th</sup>: Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding, Dessert to follow**

#### **Future dates 2025:**

May 20<sup>th</sup> Lasagne with Salad & Garlic Bread, Dessert to follow  
June 17<sup>th</sup> Sausages Mash & Gravy, Dessert to follow

*All meals include fruit juice to start and cheese and biscuits  
with tea or coffee*

*Vegetarian option can be provided.*

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

## **Long Bredy**

Village Correspondent: Rebecca Grove  
01308 482882    [bvn@longbredy.org.uk](mailto:bvn@longbredy.org.uk)  
Village web-site: [www.longbredy.org.uk](http://www.longbredy.org.uk)



### **Long Bredy 100 Club February Results**

*£30.00 No. 24 D. & R. Cullingford*

*£15.00 No. 76 J. Cain*

*£5.00 No. 36 S. Horsley*

## **Church news**

### **Easter Day**

Easter Day at St Peter's will be Holy Communion at 9.30am with Rev'd John Wood. All welcome. Refreshments after. If anyone would like to leave an

arrangement in the Church for Easter - especially in memory of someone please do. All decorations welcome.

### **Churchyard**

We will be starting the Churchyard mowing rota in April. All help very much appreciated if anyone would care to join.

Even for a short while during a month to suit you - May, June and July always need an extra pair of hands. We have many visitors who leave lovely comments about the Churchyard so we hope to continue its care. Contact Jackie Cain if you can help – 01308472379.

### **Repair work**

Work was scheduled in the Church underneath the ringing chamber to repair the tower in March. So, expect some disruption for a few weeks.

### **Coming up in April ...**

#### **Coffee Break**

March Coffee Break will take place Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from 10.30am to 12.00noon in the Village Hall.

#### **Come Along Inn**

The 'Come Along Inn' will be open again on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April from 5.30pm to 9.00pm in the Village Hall. Supper will be available and who knows Spring is here so we may be able to sit outdoors!

#### **Note for your calendars:**

#### **Coffee Break Plant Sale**

Just a reminder than the annual Long Bredy Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025. As usual, we are asking anyone who is sowing seeds, taking cuttings or splitting plants to put one or two aside to donate to the sale if possible. We will also accept good tools which are no longer needed but not books or magazines.

Please contact Sue Dyer (01308 482882) for any details.

## Recipe Corner

### Super healthy orzo casserole

Nutritionists recommend 30 plants a week, so this recipe is a very tasty way to get started on healthier habits! If you'd like to add meat to this recipe, I recommend frying some chorizo in the same pan at the very beginning for maximum flavour.



Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 35 minutes

### Ingredients:

- 1 onion
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 leek (chopped)
- 2 peppers (finely chopped, any colour)
- 2 courgettes (copped into cubes)
- 2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes
- 1 x 400g tin of haricot beans and their liquid (you can also use butter beans or cannellini beans)
- 120g orzo pasta
- 100g pitted olives
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp miso
- 30g of fresh basil leaves
- Juice of half a lemon
- Salt and pepper

### Method:

1. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan or casserole dish (30cm diameter or similar) over medium heat. Fry the onion until softened, then add the finely chopped garlic and fry for another 30 min. If you want to add chorizo, now is a good time to do it!
2. Stir in peppers, leek, courgettes, cover with lid, reduce heat and gently cook for 5-8 minutes until softened. Add the tinned tomatoes, beans and their liquid, orzo, olives, paprika, miso, basil and a pinch

of salt and pepper and stir until all the vegetables are thoroughly coated with the sauce and the orzo is evenly dispersed.

3. Bring to boil, then lower the heat and simmer with the lid on for 10 minutes, then turn off the heat and allow to rest for another 10 minutes to allow the orzo to fully cook and absorb the stock. Remember to regularly check and stir.
4. Serve with a couple of leaves of fresh basil and a little lemon juice

Email me (Rebecca) to let me know what you think and score this recipe out of 10!

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

The Rectory  
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course 'Taking Responsibility for your Church' among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and it has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives.

Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning - although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church - we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks - if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea. But it was the group which decided to "beautify" the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears - although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off - probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

**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!

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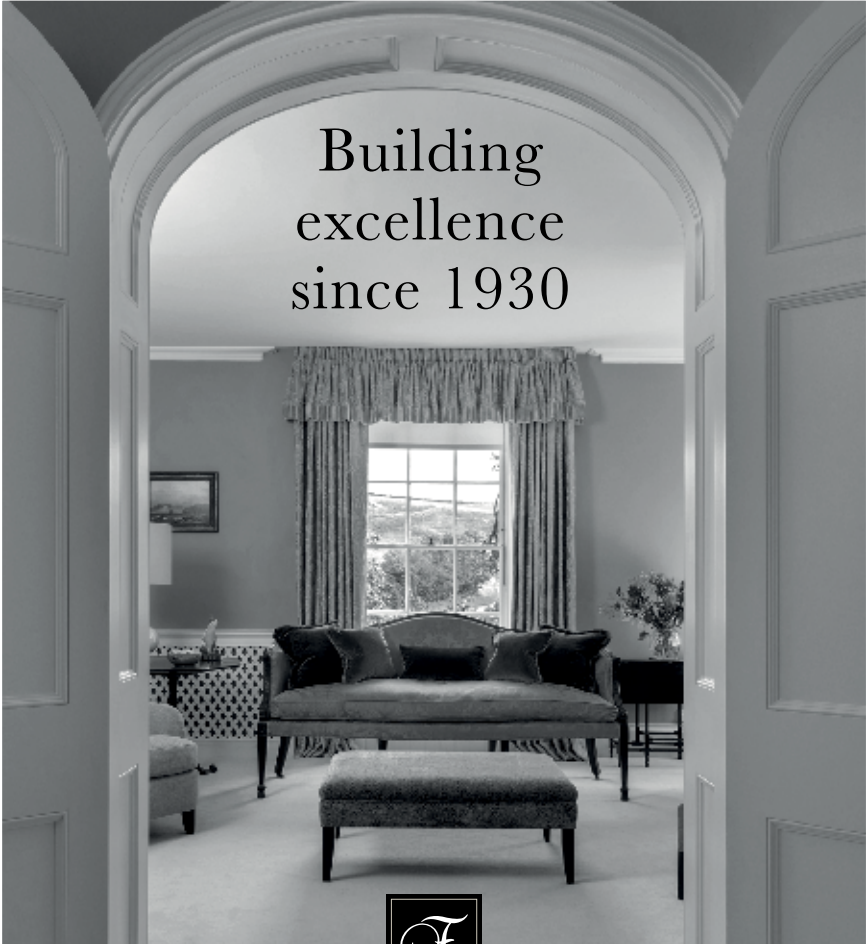
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## Benefice Services

Benefice Services April 2025	First Sunday April 6 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Second Sunday April 13 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday	Mon, Tues and Weds 14, 15, 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Maundy Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Third Sunday Easter Day April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Sunday April 27 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter
Burton Bradstock	11am Morning Worship	11am Holy Communion	<p>Join Zoom Meeting  <a href="https://us05web.zoom.us/j/9855578567?pwd=Xl9LZkVlO9raumykbP3wnXoxXVa.1">https://us05web.zoom.us/j/9855578567?pwd=Xl9LZkVlO9raumykbP3wnXoxXVa.1</a>                      Meeting ID: 898 5557 8567 Passcode: 3nsldw</p>		Proclamation of the Cross 6.30pm	11am Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion
Chilcombe		5.30pm Evening prayer					
Litton Cheney	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Matins			Pilgrimage of peace for Good Friday: Swyre, Puncknowle, Litton Cheney and back. Join for any part of the walk or all of it. Further details listed separately.	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship
Puncknowle	Morning Praise 11am	9.30am Holy Communion				Easter Praise 10am	11am Café Church
Swyre	6pm Evening Prayer Heather					11am Holy Communion	
Long Bredy	11am Holy Communion					9.30am Easter Sunday Communion	

## Benefice Services

Benefice Services April 2025 cont.	First Sunday April 6 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	Second Sunday April 13 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Third Sunday Easter Day April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Sunday April 27 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter
Shipton Gorge		9.30am Breakfast Church		Litany BCP 10.00am Vicky	Easter Sunrise and Song - meet at church at 5.30am to walk to Shipton Hill for sunrise	11.00am Holy Communion
Littlebredy		11.00am Holy Communion		Litany BCP 10.00am		11.00am Morning Worship Vicky
Portesham		10.15am Palm Sunday procession starting at The Green and service at the Methodist Church	6.30pm Holy Communion and foot washing	11.00am Good Friday Reflections	9.00am Holy Communion	9.00am BCP Holy Communion
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am Holy Communion 2.30pm Pilgrimage of Peace		1.00pm Good Friday Reflections	6.00am Sunrise service in the churchyard	10.00am Family Praise
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	11.00am Holy Communion		3.00pm Good Friday Reflections	11.00am Easter Communion	
Midweek Holy Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 11.30am St Mary's, Burton Bradstock, followed by a light lunch						

# Holy Week Special Services

7.30pm Holy Week Compline, Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and  
Wednesday 16th via zoom:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89855578567?pwd=Xl9tLZAXVj09ammyckbPSwXoxXVYd>

Meeting ID: 898 5557 8567 Passcode: Snsidw

6.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and foot washing at  
Portesham

10am Good Friday Litany at Shipton Gorge

10am Good Friday Litany at Littlebredy

10am Pilgrimage of Peace - a 'there and back' walk starting at  
Swyre and visiting Puncknowle (approx 10.30am) and Litton  
Cheney (approx 11.30am). More details inside.

11am Good Friday Reflections at Portesham

1pm Good Friday Reflections at Abbotsbury

3pm Good Friday Reflections at Langton Herring

6.30pm Proclamation of the Cross at Burton Bradstock

