

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

December 2023



Christmas Eve Services

- 4pm Crib Service at Burton Bradstock
- 4pm Crib Service at Litton Cheney
- 9:30pm Early Christmas Communion at Holy Trinity, Swyre
- 11:30pm Midnight Communion at Litton Cheney

Christmas Day

- 9:30am Holy Communion at Shipton Gorge
- 11am Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock
- 11am Christmas Praise at Puncknowle
- 11am Family Communion at Littlebredy

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

*We wish all our friends & neighbours
A Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2024*



Alan, Rosemary & Ruby
All at the Post Office
Andrew & Eve Bailey
Anne & Derek Thomas
Anne Combe
Anne Rees
Anne Southgate
Betty Champkins
Bob & Christine Hynds
Bob & Jean Ayers
Bob Ponchaud & Sue Haines
Carol Houghton
Catherine & Philip Williams
Chris & Gaye Sundt
Chrissie & Andrew Bailey
Cilla & Trevor Jones
Clare Viney
Coleen Ringrose & John
Bowden
Colin & Myra Gardiner
Daphne & Trevor Ekins
David & Pauline Woodford
David & Yvette Smith
David & Yvonne Buckland
David and Ethna Jenkins
Elaine @ Lerrett Cottage
Elaine Colbert
Elaine Tame
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
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
John, Nola and Debs Eaton
Joyce and Gill Roberts
Judy Clarke
Julia Wermig-Morgan
Julian & Irene Piper
Kate & John Kent
Keith & Pat Lewis Badgett
Ken & Sheila Pett
Liz Orza
Mags and Chue
Malcolm & Christine Lawrence
Margaret Harding
Mary and Bill Turnill
Michael Read
Pat & Peter Broomhead
Peter & Pauline Tompkins
Richard & Marion Overend
Richard, Claire & the
girls @ Norburton Hall
Rob & Rebecca Bryan
Roger & Linda Ashman
Roy & Gill Perkins
Ryder, Heather & Aaron
Sheila & Geoffrey
Spencer-Smith
Steve & Lesley Dove
Steve Smith & Marion
Stewart-Smith
Sue and Bryan Brown
Susan & David @ The Stable
Susan Paul
Tim Linford and Family
Tom Holmes and Pauline Mackie
Tony & Mo Williams
Val & Richard Ferre
Veda Bull
Wynne Hughes and Ilva



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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
St Nicholas, Abbotsbury
St Peter's, Portesham
St Peter's, Langton Herring

Rev'd Margaret Preuss-Higham (01305) 873978
Reader: James Webster (01308) 898657

To enquire about Baptism, Marriage and Funeral arrangements in the Bride Valley Churches please contact Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator, on 01308 897260 (email BVchurchesTA@outlook.com) or for the Chesil Churches please contact Rev'd Margaret at the number above or email revmph@gmail.com

Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil

On November 1st, the Benefice of Bride Valley and Benefice of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring came together to form a new benefice, 'The Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil'. Each church will still be a parish and responsible for its every day running. One of the first tasks the new benefice will undertake together will be to appoint a new Rector following the departure of Rev'd Jane Williams. To do this, a profile for the new Benefice has been prepared which will be available to all priests who express an interest in the post. The interview for the new Rector will hopefully take place in the New Year.

In the new Benefice, there are new colleagues to get to know and work with, including Reverend Margaret Preuss-Higham. She lives at Portesham and works part-time - on *Tuesday, Thursdays and Sunday services*. Margaret says; 'I trained at Sarum College, was ordained priest in 2011 and was associate priest NSM with pastoral care for Holy Trinity at Bothenhampton before I came to be House for Duty for Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring in January 2015. I was Rural Field Officer for 2 years and I sit on the Sherborne Mission Oversight group. Rural ministry is my passion'.

The Chesil churches also have two retired clergy and a Lay Worship Leader.

For the moment, all enquiries about Baptisms, Marriage and Funerals should come to the Bride Valley administrator Helen Fry for the Bride Valley Churches and Reverend Margaret Preuss-Higham for the Chesil churches. However, Margaret and Helen will be in regular contact as we work out how we move forwards together as a new Benefice.

Margaret's contact details

are: revmph@gmail.com Telephone: 01305873978

Helen Fry

Benefice Administrator

Contact telephone: 01308 897260

Pastoral Assistants & Prayers for The Sick

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

Church Floodlighting

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

From the Lodge at Othona

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to write a short piece for this month's BVN. I am Liz Howlett, an Associate Priest in the Benefice and I live and work at the Othona Community, on the Coast Road between Burton Bradstock and Swyre. Othona has been based here for 58 years and is a Retreat Centre, offering family holidays, quiet weeks, retreats of different sorts and day events. Othona is rooted in the Christian tradition and open and, we hope, inclusive of people of all faiths and none. Do have a look at our website if you are not familiar with who we are and what we offer: <https://www.othonawestdorset.org.uk>

I wonder what you would say if someone asked you the following question: What is Christmas for? Here are some of my reflections on this...

At Christmas, God's heart was opened to the whole world, wonderful and troubled as it is.

May we take time to open our hearts to those around us and those far away. At Christmas, God became human in the most helpless and vulnerable form.

May we acknowledge our own vulnerabilities and be thankful for all those who cared for and cherish us, in the past and in the present.

At Christmas, the holy family had to rely on the kindness of strangers.

May we grow in kindness in the face of others' need. At Christmas, the shepherds were surprised by angels and filled with awe, wonder and joy.

May we make space in our lives to be surprised by God this Christmas and as we set out into a new year, living in faith, hope and love.

*Liz Howlett
The Othona Community*

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Hardship or distress can come at any time but the closer we get to Christmas the more the darkening days might cause those feeling more vulnerable to sink further into need for some support. The Lay Pastoral Assistants in our benefice (LPAs) are here for anyone who needs that support which might be long or short term. We all have a time to be helped and a time to help.

We are: Cathryn Johnson (07823332460), Jenny Malyon (01308898768), Liz Orza (01308 897451) and Pauline Woodford (01308 898327)

We can also be reached by contacting Helen Fry, our Benefice Administrator on 01308897260 BVchurchesTA@outlook.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 (note new number) between Monday and Friday.

VRI Traditional Welsh Folk Music LITTON CHENEY COMMUNITY HALL 7.30pm, FRIDAY DECEMBER 15TH

VRI offers a joyous celebration of Welsh identity and a contemporary rediscovery of lost traditions. Be prepared for a lively evening with this award-winning Welsh trio playing foot-stomping tunes and traditional music with three-part harmonies.



Tickets available from Artsreach.co.uk or Patricia Tel: 01308 482514

Adults £12.00, U18's £5.00, Family £30.00

Cash bar with doors opening 7.00pm



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

The run up to Christmas is always exciting in a Primary School. We have lots of

different events planned before we break up on the 14th December. Our Christmas Fair is always a great event that is well supported. This year, it will be held on Saturday 9th December; please look out for posters around the village advertising it. Our Christmas Carol concert is being held on Monday 4th December and we are carol singing at Morrisons on Saturday 25th November. If you see us there, please do come and say hello! Alongside these events, in school we will be having a Christmas lunch, class parties and a Christingle Service, all of which the children are really looking forward to.

In the local area, there is a wide range of sporting competitions for the children to take part in. So far this year, children from Burton have competed in netball, tag rugby and cross country with football, hockey, futsal, handball and other sports still to come. This gives all children who want to compete the opportunity to represent our school.

Tuesdays is a favourite day for the children of Burton because Mikey the reading dog visits. Owned by one of our families, Mikey has been assessed by Canine Concern who pair reading/therapy dogs with appropriate schools. On a Tuesday afternoon, the children love reading with Mikey (and his owner Mandy) in our library or in their classroom. At the end of the day, Mikey joins us in Singing Worship!

Happy Christmas from all at Burton Bradstock School.

Adam Gough
Headteacher





Thorners CE VA School

Thorners have had the usual whirlwind end to term as Christmas well and truly took over the school! Children have helter-skeltered around the corridors dressed as chimney sweeps, ghosts and other Victorian figures as they attempt to wrench grouchy old Ebenezer from his humbug.

Alongside the decorations, the children have made for the school and the props for the play, they have also worked hard on a range of carols and songs for our end of term service in the Church. Huge thanks to Claire Shaw, our singing teacher, and Becci Taylor our violin, cello and flute teacher, for all their help with carols and helping the children perform for the school at the end of term. Mr White and Mrs Biggins made sure that the school production went brilliantly and we were especially pleased to see how wonderfully Litton class performed their amazing version of the Nativity.

As well as enjoying acting out the Christmas story in our Open the Book assemblies, we also all enjoyed using our online assembly platform (LYFTA) to "take" the children to places around the world and see how others celebrate at this time of year. As part of that vision, many thanks again to parents and the TSA for organising the Bag2School collection which ensured a huge amount of clothing and other useful items were sent to those in need. Likewise, well done to all the children for raising money for Children in Need earlier in the month as they dressed up to raise funds for projects both at home and abroad.

On the sports field, children took part in the Colmer's Hill Run and got thoroughly muddy and exhausted as they made their way round the course and several of our older children also took part in the Young Sports Leaders event and training at Beaminster Secondary School. Lastly, our Netball Team did us all proud as they took part in the Bridport Netball Tournament and Won!

Term has ended very early in December and the children now have a long, exciting run up to Christmas to enjoy (endure?!) before the big day. We hope all the children enjoy this magical time of year with their families.

Merry Christmas from all at Thorners.

Mike Sitch
Headmaster

Bride Valley Gardening Club

Too much to do

There always seems to be something more urgent to be done when my boxes of bulbs arrive, or so I convince myself. Quite often the bulb catalogues begin to arrive soon after the Chelsea Flower Show and although I know I should, I cannot begin to contemplate spring bulbs just as summer fast approaches. This means of course that I only revisit choosing bulbs as the autumn is upon us and even then I'm often slow to order.



If you haven't yet discovered the wholesale department of Parkers (www.dutchbulbs.co.uk) do have a look. Minimum quantities apply, often starting at 25 but prove excellent value so worth considering combining an order with a friend.

I lift in the weighty box that is delivered and sit it on my gardening table where it is quickly forgotten. Later, wrenching apart the heavy staples holding the box together and daring to peek inside I'm immediately daunted by the sight of many perforated or brown paper bags inside - and wonder at my own foolishness: 25 large firm narcissus, each requiring a good size hole; 100 little scilla bifolia, smaller holes but so many to do; 100 muscari, yet more small holes and how they do add up, no wonder I put off planting! I push the box around in the garage and play for time, revisiting my planting plans, but getting started requires great motivation and it is a good thing to live in a relatively mild part of the country which helpfully extends the window of opportunity. In theory daffodils should have a long season to establish meaning planting in September but my late efforts still seem to yield good flowers in the spring. An even later order, this time mostly for tulips, means I pay the price for my tardiness and first choices are often unavailable. Never mind, I can be even slower getting these into the ground and pots as they really prefer a cold winter planting and I've been known to keep this chilly task as a reward after the Christmas and New Year festivities are over. These orders always include an element of 'topping up' favourites to ensure some interest from early February. Crocus, Iris reticulata, scilla and muscari get the new season off to a good start, followed by the usual favourites well into May when the alliums burst out like fireworks. No mention of snowdrops I hear you say - but that's another story!

Ali Halliday

Our Night Sky in November 2023

Saturn will be setting at about 22.30 followed by Jupiter at about 04.30. Both will have given us great pleasure throughout the winter evenings. As always, Orion will travel across the night sky during Winter.



Last month, I told you about the recovery of the spacecraft that brought back samples from the Asteroid Beppo. It has now been opened and the scientists were amazed and delighted with the quantity of dust and rock which it had gathered. Initial sample analysis revealed indications of water-based compounds and also carbon rich material. All these compounds are essential for life on Earth, so this is the first time that there is evidence that these materials now found on this planet, could have originated in the asteroid bombardment that took place in the early history of the Solar System. Meanwhile, NASA has launched a spacecraft to the metal-rich asteroid Psyche, and I will try to keep you informed of how that has gone.

My best wishes for Christmas and the New Year for all my readers.

Bill Turnill

The Bride Valley WI

The October meeting of the Bride Valley WI took us to Dorchester Prison for a 'lights out' very atmospheric tour of the prison and its grounds. The talk presented by Ed was peppered with ghostly goings on and some interesting history. The prison was built in 1795 and the last hanging of a woman took place in 1856. The prison closed in 2014 and is often used by film makers now while decisions are made about the location's future.

October's walk began on a crisp sunny Sunday morning in Puncknowle. From there we walked along to the coast path, with wonderful views out over the sea from Portland around to Lyme Regis and beyond. We made our way down into West Bexington and then meandered back to Puncknowle for a well-deserved hot drink at The Crown. Many thanks to Marion for leading us. Our next walk will start at the White Horse in Litton Cheney at 10am on Sunday 25th November.

The skittles team have now completed their league matches so wait patiently to find out if they are through to the next stage...fingers crossed. We have returned to our fortnightly skittles for fun evenings so if anyone would like to come along then please let Charlotte know.

Please come and join us and see what varied events we have on offer on the 3rd Thursday of every month in Puncknowle Village Hall.

Bride Valley Book Club Review

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

This is a long and multilayered novel with five narrators and set over a range of time periods from the sacking of Constantinople in 1453 to a voyage into space in the future. Doerr is trying to recreate for our own times the lost novel of Ancient Greek writer Antonius Diogenes 'Wonders beyond Thule' - 24 tales of world travel known only through a later plot summary. In it Aethon a shepherd is on a quest to find the fabled paradise in the sky and during his adventures is transformed into a donkey, a fish and a crow. All the narrators finds solace in this book in Doerr's story. Each chapter plunges the reader straight into the action and the characters are vividly portrayed. Along the way, we encounter a gay Korean War veteran and POW, an autistic boy, a teenager in space and a farm boy conscripted with his oxen to join a besieging army. The descriptive writing is excellent and although long, this novel is richly rewarding. Doerr says that one of his aims was to produce a book about the love of reading and libraries and in this he certainly succeeds. Several book group members are now keen to read his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "All the light we cannot see" - currently being dramatised on Netflix.

Michele Vassar

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NCI STATION ON HIVE BEACH

**CAKES, COFFEE, BOOKS, DVDs on sale to help the vital work
of**

NCI LYME BAY

SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER

BRIDPORT WI HALL, NORTH STREET, DT6 3JH

10:00 – 12:00

Come and meet the NCI Lyme Bay volunteer watchkeepers and help support their vital work assisting the Coastguard and the RNLI

National Coastwatch Institution

Registered Charity No. 1159975



Litton Cheney

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



St Mary's Church

Carol Singing: Paul Cheater and members of the choir will be singing carols round the village on **Friday 22nd**, weather permitting. Everyone is welcome and this is always a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Meet up at 6.00pm dressed warmly and with a torch. Carol sheets will be provided.

We hope many of you will join us for our Christmas Services. The **Carol Service** is on **Sunday 17^h at 6.00pm** – our traditional candlelit service with readings and carols 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.

Light up the Church this Christmas - 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 fandspicer@gmail.com

The Golden Cockerel

It is hoped St Mary's will be adorned by the new weather vane by Christmas but delivery might slip to the New Year. Still time therefore to add to your Christmas gift list and join those meeting the cost; please do so either by cheque to PCC St Mary's Litton Cheney (deliver to the Treasurer, 8 Garden Close) or give online to the PCC's account, sort code 30-92-69 No. 00397579 quoting reference Rooster. Thank you.

We remember Letizia Longland and Stacy Marking who have recently died. Our thoughts are with their family and friends at this sad time.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January, 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at LATCH. Local residents are invited to attend. Concerns and issues can be raised during democratic time. Local elections are due in May

and you may wish to consider standing for election, details for which can be found online and from Parish Clerk Maggie Walsh (01308 281561), or chat to one of your present parish councillors whose face and contact details can be found on the village website.

Litton Cheney Parish Councils sends Christmas Greetings to all Bride Valley residents, and the hope that 2024 will be all that we collectively would wish it to be.

Village Carol Singing – See also St Mary’s above

On Friday 22nd December, St Mary’s church choir augmented by those wishing to join them will walk the village, brave the elements and sing carols along the way. We hope that those who hear the songs of Christmas will venture from the warmth of their homes, show their support and contribute funds towards children’s hospice, Julia’s House. If you wish to join the carol singers, please gather at a (to be confirmed) meeting point at 6pm on the Friday (22nd) before Christmas. The more singers, the merrier. Please be generous – it’s a wonderful cause.

Village Christmas Tree

In early December, Ron Davidson and his merry band of helpers will erect and adorn our village Christmas tree with decorations and lights at the Triangle. Contrary to popular belief this act does not magically happen overnight and we thank Ron & Co for their annual effort in bringing Christmas into our midst.

Easter Duck Race Proceeds: The annual Village Easter Duck Race produced proceeds of £736. Distribution of the proceeds has been as follows: - Julia’s House £250, EIRR Commemorative Plaque £300, Village Map/Display £110, Heather Plants for Triangle £65, Christmas Tree Decorations £11 +. Our grateful thanks to Sam and Ralph Daubeney, their assistants and Liz and Andy at The White Horse for organising the selling of the ducks and the race itself allowing the above to be funded as a result.

Magna Green Bench: Grateful thanks to Russell and Chris Randall for refurbishing the bench that was previously located at the bus shelter, and is now to be found on Magna Green offering views over the village to those who wish to dwell a pause or sit awhile.

80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

D Day holds particular significance for Dorset as the county was in the front line of the build-up to the invasion of Europe. Soldiers from America, Canada, and France, as well as British troops were stationed across Dorset, with many

areas becoming militarised zones. Litton Cheney, together many communities along and near the coast, were very much involved.

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

Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Events at LATCH – for December

Mondays	3.30– 4.30pm	Big Q Church (4 th and 11 th)
Tuesdays	4.4– 5.45pm	Short Mat Bowls Ron Davidson 01308 482661) Dates t.b.c.
Wednesdays	4.45pm	Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 01308 482661) Dates t.b.c.
	7.00pm	Mindful Movement with Jane Hutchins (07882 527697) Dates t.b.c.
Fridays	10.00am	12.00pm Art Class in Meeting Room (1 st , 8 th , 15 th)
Saturday 2 nd		Village Cafe with local art (in aid of Breast Cancer)
Thursday 14 th		School Production
Friday 15 th	7.30pm	Artsreach – VRI – Traditional Welsh Folk Music
Sunday 17 th		Morning Yoga with Nadiya Wynn

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

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

Bride Valley Films: November films at Litton Cheney Village Hall.

Thank you for the great turnout (especially given the weather), for our screening of “Where the Crawdads Sing”. Numbers are particularly important when we show a film individually rather than sharing the licence with others.

Reminder...

Thursday 30 November, LIVING, ‘a quirky, beautifully observed film’

The story of an ordinary man, reduced by years of oppressive office routine to a shadow existence, who at the eleventh hour makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into something wonderful – into one he can say has been lived to the full. In 1953 a London shattered by WWII is still recovering. Williams (**Bill Nighy**), a veteran civil servant, is an important cog within the city’s bureaucracy as it struggles to rebuild. A best career performance from Bill Nighy; also starring **Tom Burke, Aimee Lou Wood** and **Alex Sharp**. Cert 12
Doors Open: 7.00 p.m. Film starts 7.30 p.m. TICKETS: £5.00 (to include a glass of wine) Tickets in advance from: Sally Dyke 482752, Elizabeth Kingston 482162, Bella Spurrier 482367 or on the door. (All numbers – 01308) This film will be shown at Litton Cheney only.

If a licence is available we will be showing “**Matilda the Musical**” late afternoon one day in January. Next evening film will be on Thursday 1 February 2024.

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

The White Horse

So here we are, the festive season is upon us and here’s some dates and times for your diaries.

Saturday 2nd Christmas Casino 7.00pm – tickets for sale £30 each to include White Horse currency/chips, a drink and cheeseboard.

Sunday 3rd Christmas Dinner 12noon-2.30pm

Tuesday 5th – Steak Night

Saturday 9th Mummers Play 7.30pm

Sunday 10th Christmas Dinner 12noon-2.30pm

Tuesday 12th Basilico Pizzas

Saturday 16th – Singalong Carols with Paul Cheater

Sunday 17th Christmas Dinner 12noon-2.30pm

Sunday 17th Christmas Quiz 5pm followed by Christmas Draw at about 6.30pm

Tuesday 19th Steak Night

Friday 22nd Grand Christmas Meat & Cheese Draw

Saturday 23rd Normal opening from midday

Sunday 24th – Roast Beef 12noon-2.30pm

Monday 25th Christmas Day open 12noon-2.00pm Drinks only
Tuesday 26th Boxing Day – Walk/Lunchtime Snacks tbc
Wednesday 27th Closed for family day
Thursday 28th Christmas Charity Bingo – Eyes down 7.30pm
Sunday 31st Roast Pork 12noon-2.30pm – low key evening
Monday 1st January 2024 – open 12noon-6.00pm with basket meals
12noon-2.00pm

Tuesday 2nd – Closed

Wednesday 3rd Back to normal

Monday 8th to 22nd CLOSED – for a rest!

Tuesday 23rd Open as usual

Saturday 27th Burns Night with piper – Booking essential

Andy and Liz and the team at The White Horse would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

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

**Account: 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council', Sort code 30-91-21
Account number 00074071.....and quote BVN.**

Important note to all contributors to the BVN

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

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington

Village Correspondents:

Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)

liz@ruddle.org.uk Tel: 01308 897751

Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)

Jill.neill@live.co.uk Tel 01308 897479

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



St Mary's Church Puncknowle

On 24th September a PET SERVICE was held in Puncknowle Church with 12 dogs and 21 well behaved humans. Thank you James for leading such a fun service.

On 15th October we held our Harvest Festival. The Church was beautifully decorated by so many people. Thank you for your help and to Ryder and Heather for leading the service. A magnificent Harvest Lunch followed at the Village Hall which was enjoyed by all. It was a very happy occasion.

Christmas At Puncknowle

Puncknowle Church and the Crown Inn invite you to "Carols at the Crown" on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm. Come and join us for an enjoyable hour of singing carols together in the warmth of the pub.

On Christmas Day there will be a service of Christmas Praise at 11.00am. Come and join us in the informal service to celebrate Christmas, followed by coffee at the Crown Inn afterwards.

An Invitation to Christmas Tea and Carol Service

You are invited to the Village Hall Christmas tea party on **Sunday 10th 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 CANDLE LIGHT** and the reading of the Christmas story. This is an interactive service where the children help to create the nativity scene and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Puncknowle 100 Club

Here are the draw results for October

1 st Prize	John Holker
2 nd Prize	Kathy Murton

Grand Christmas Whist Drive

All are welcome to this special event at Puncknowle Hall on Thursday 7th December at 7.30pm. The entrance fee is £3 and there will be a raffle at the interval. For more details contact Jenny on 01308 897863

**PUNCKNOWLE, SWYRE, WEST BEXINGTON,
CHILCOMBE, LONG BREDY and LITTLE
BREDY**

.....LUNCH CLUB.....

PUNCKNOWLE VILLAGE HALL – 1.00pm

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

LUNCHESES COST £6.00

December 12th

Roast Turkey Roll with trimmings and roast
potatoes. Christmas pudding & custard

FUTURE DATES

January 16th 2024 Chicken Tagine/Rice.

Key Lime Pie

February 20th 2024

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

Romans, Religion and Royalty

And much, much more. My many finds from the past 4 years.

Trenton Oliver gives a talk on 11th December @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall Puncknowle. Mince Pies and Refreshments provided. Donations Requested

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in December

Mondays	10.00–11:00am	Tripudio: contact Ali on 07968 370485
Mondays	1.30–4.00 pm	Pilates: contact Sarah on 07885 03734
Wednesdays	10.00–12.00am	Table Tennis: contact Brian on 01308 897987
Other events:		
Tuesday 5th	7.30–10.00pm	Parish Council Meeting open to the public
Wed 6th	6.45–9.15 pm	Yoga
Thursday 7th	2.00–4.00 pm	Craft Club: contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
Thursday 7th	7.00–10.30pm	Whist Drive: contact Jenny on 01308 897863
Sunday 10 th	2.30–4.30pm	Xmas Fayre, Free event with raffle, stalls and tea
Monday 11th	7.00–9.00pm	History Group: contact Debbie on deborahlegge2@gmail.com
Tuesday 12th	1.00–2.30 pm	Luncheon Club contact David on 01308 898492
Wed 13th	7.00–9.30 pm	Ladybirds

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton
patgraston43@gmail.com Tel: 01308 898264
Village web-site: www.burtonbradstockvillage.org.



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

Our last Songs of Praise service in 2023 is on December 3rd at 11.00am, which is Advent Sunday, the start of the Christian year and a season of expectation as the Church looks forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. As usual there are two short Reflections, with six Advent hymns, several readings and a musical interlude. Lasting just under one hour this is a service to which all residents and visitors are warmly invited. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



Come and join us for these inspiring services!

Burton Coffee Mates

Coffee Mates will be meeting on the 14th December from 10.30 -12 in the Church. All are welcome to come and join us in festive nibbles, some carol singing and coffee. Enquiries Pauline 898327

Tots' Time

Don't be too alarmed if your children or grand-children tell you they like the taste of cement. Tots heard the story Jesus told about two builders, one building on rock and the other on sand. So, our 'builders' stuck together their flapjackish bricks with chocolate cement. What a messy time we had! There were also two splendid houses built with mega-blocks (large Lego).

On November 10th Audrey and Ro helped the children to make beautiful poppy wreaths using scrunched up red tissue paper on a cardboard wreath shape. See one hanging up in the Burton church. Thanks, Frances, for such a good idea.

We know Christmas is a very busy time for everyone, but by 4.00pm on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th, all the shopping and preparations will probably be done. Do come along to the Crib service at Burton Bradstock church where former and current Tots will be taking part in a play. Come early, dressed as a shepherd, wise man/woman, angel, Mary, Joseph or a sheep (if you are prepared to crawl) and join in. It will be a very relaxed, informal service and all are welcome, dressed-up or not.

The last Tots' Time this year will be Friday, December 8th, and we re-commence on Friday, January 12th (D.V.). Thank you for reading this item. All at Tots' Time wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For more details, ask Audrey (897227), Heather (897780) or Helen on BVchurchesTA@outlook.com

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 10:00 to 12:00 and all are welcome. The December event will be on Wednesday 13th Dec and is organised by St Mary's Church.

Burton Bradstock Films

Films in the Village Hall take a break over Christmas and will be back Friday 26 January 2024. Following the regrettable cancelation of the November film *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* due to late release of the DVD, it is hoped to show this film in January. Full information will be in the January BVN.

Christmas activities

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

Christmas Market

The Christmas Market and coffee morning will be held on Sat 9th December 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. There will be a wide range of Christmas craft products for sale which make interesting and unique presents. Entrance will be £1 for adults, children under 16 free. Tea, Coffee and cakes available to purchase in the coffee area. At the time of going to press, all tables are booked.

Christmas Quiz

The hugely popular Christmas Quiz will be held on Sat 16th December, with Quiz prepared and run by Richard Ferre. Doors will open at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start. The ticket price of £12 per head to include a light supper, plus all the normal crackers, party poppers, balloons and odd Christmas carol that add to the festive fun. There will be a sensibly priced bar, raffle and prizes for winners and last place. There will be teams of 6 per table to reduce crowding and the central aisle will be kept free. Tickets went on sale at the Post Office in blocks of 6 on Wednesday 22nd November on a first come first served basis, so may well be all gone by now. If still interested, contact Richard Ferre, on email: rwferre99@gmail.com telephone: (01308) 897648.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club” November 2023 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£34.20	No 16:	Mrs Gill Mayo
2 nd	£17.10	No 108:	Mrs Linda Bongers
3 rd	£8.55	No 29:	Mrs Jan Clark

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the December 2023 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

Mischievous
Theatre

A co-production with
BUMBLEFLY
Theatre

forestforge
theatre company

THE
MERRY ADVENTURES OF

ROBIN HOOD

A swashbuckling tale, of derring-do
and ridiculousness, fresh from the
travelling players suitcase

BURTON BRADSTOCK HALL
Saturday 9 December, 6pm

£10, £5 (u18s), £25 (family of 4) in advance from

Alex: 07821 363316 or online: artsreach.co.uk

Bar / Soft Drinks & Snacks available (cash)

Supported by Dorset Council & Arts Council England

Artsreach

www.bumbleflytheatre.co.uk www.mischievoustheatre.co.uk www.forestforgetheatre.co.uk

Charity No. 259244

Burton Bradstock Village Society

Saturday December 2nd, 4:30-6pm. Christmas tree 'switch on'

To celebrate the advent of Christmas and 50th anniversary of the Village Society we are holding a get together in the Village Hall and on the green. There will be a free glass of mulled wine (further glasses at 50p), stollen cake, mince pies, soft drinks and a toy and light up bracelet for the children.

Everyone in the village and families of children at the school are invited and we hope to make it a magical event to remember with switch on at about 5:30pm.

Friday December 8th, 7:30pm. Christmas Bingo

As a change from our regular talk, the Society is holding an evening of Bingo with great Festive prizes, raffle, bar and mulled wine, stollen and mince pies at the Village Hall. £1:50 for members, £ 4:50 non-members. Last year was great fun, come and join us - there's no need to buy tickets or book in advance.

Hold the date: Friday January 12th. Society talk programme resumes

Please join us to hear John Stockley, who was featured in a Channel 4 documentary last year, talk with great humour about "My Life in West Dorset". Doors open at 7.00pm in the Village Hall and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and only £5 for non-members. You are welcome to bring friends. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase.

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Many thanks to everyone who came to our Friends' Luncheon in November. Christine Lewis and all her helpers worked very hard before and during the day, and there were kind comments made about the new format and the meal. We were all appreciative of the variety of puddings which were provided by a number of Friends. The book stall and the raffle did a good trade so well done one and all!

Christine and John are preparing to decorate the Library for Christmas so do pop in to see the display. We will be selling Christmas cards and there will be festive jigsaws and children's books to borrow.

Our last opening before Christmas will be on Saturday 23rd December and we will reopen on Wednesday 3rd January. Remember to order your Christmas reading material in time.

Normal opening times are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

Contact us at:

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com

www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

Sue Brown

Chair

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Defibrillator

Great news! We are pleased to announce that by the end of the month we will have another community defibrillator installed in Annings Lane. It is fully automatic and when opened for use gives verbal, step-by-step instructions. For anyone who is interested in becoming familiar with the defibrillator, we will be offering training sessions on Saturday 6th January at 10am & 11.30am at the Village Hall. To register your interest please email clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk

What3words is a simple way for the emergency services to know exactly where you are in case of an emergency. What3words has divided the entire world into 3m squares and given each square a unique identifier made from three words. The 3 words associated with the new defibrillator are: best, avoid, baseless. Download the free @what3words app to start using.

Village Surveys

The village surveys are still ongoing, and we will be sharing some results with you soon.

Allotments

We have had some allotment plots become available, to register your interest please email clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk

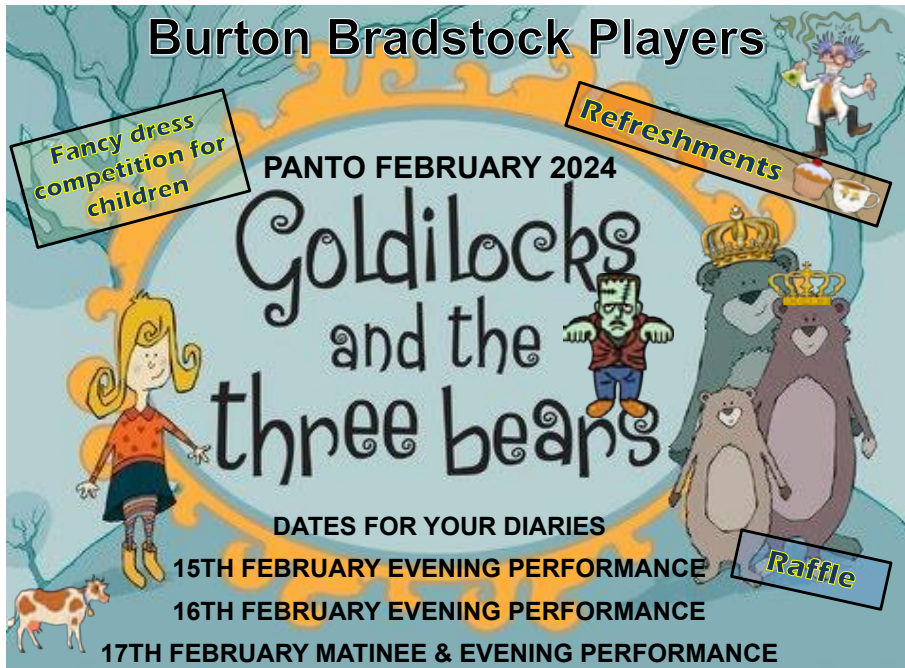
Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the church on Wednesday 6th December at 6.30pm. As always, residents are cordially invited to attend and welcome to join us for refreshments after.

Leanne Way, Clerk

Prepare for the Panto!

A date for your diaries...Burton Bradstock Players are presenting Goldilocks next February, so mark the date in your new 2024 diaries!



Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Philip Williams
pw@bridehead.com Tel: 01305 482232
Village website: <http://www.littlebredy.com>



The vagaries of the summer 2023 weather have been well illustrated by the waterfall recently. In mid-October there was barely a trickle going over it (though the river continued to flow much as usual), but within a fortnight the aquifers all round the head of the valley must have filled up and the surge of water crashing over the fall (and with the adjacent liquid amber tree in full autumn colour too) has made an exceptionally spectacular sight to behold.

We shall be seeing less of Josh Wilkinson in the village from now on. In November he departed to begin his RAF training in cyberspace communications, and in two years' time should pass out as a Flight Officer. We wish him well in this new career.

It is Littlebredy's turn to host the shared **Carol Service** with Longbredy this year, and the plans are for the traditional candlelit service **in Church here at 6.00pm on Thursday 21st December**, to which of course everybody from both villages is very welcome. The service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine or soft drinks in Church.

There will be no service here on the fourth Sunday in the month, which is Christmas Eve, but we have an **11.00am service on Christmas Day**, to which we welcome a visiting parson, as well, we hope, as a good congregation.

As far as is known as I write (in mid-November), the village celebrations will continue with the annual **Boxing Day Duck Race** from the waterfall to the Riverside Cottages bridge, but no details about timings, etc., are available yet. No doubt these will become known in the meanwhile.

It seems early to be typing it, but of course a very happy Christmas period (and 2024) to everyone in or connected with the village, past or present.

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club September Results

£30.00	No. 118	C. Macey
£15.00	No. 48	B. Peppiatt
£5.00	No. 69	L. Downton

Defibrillator

Long Bredy now has a long-awaited defibrillator. A special thank you to Charlotte and Ruth for organising the defibrillator training on 5th October, to Gwen for serving the refreshments and to Hannah from South West Ambulance service for the excellent, informative training. There will be training every year, which is thoroughly recommended.

St Peter's Church Ringers

On Saturday 28th October St Peter's Church welcomed a band of ringers to ring a quarter peal as part of the Salisbury Guild of Ringers Quarter Peal Week. The quarter peal took 41 minutes and included 1260 changes of Doubles plus Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Herefordshire, Nottinghamshire, Plain, St Simons, St Martins, Reverse Canterbury, and Grandsire.



1. Paul Cottingham
2. Sas Watson
3. Ian D Tucker
4. Ashley F E Monck
5. Tim E Rose (Conductor)

Quarter peal was also rung in memory of Francis Monck, Grandfather of Ashley, who passed away recently. A date not to be missed in your 2024 calendar will be **Saturday evening, 9th March**, when the Monks of St Peter's Church will once again invite you to share supper with them at the church.

Remembrance Coffee Break and Raffle in aid of the Royal British Legion

The November Coffee Break, on Saturday 11th November was held in aid of the Royal British Legion to recognise the centrality and importance of Remembrance Day to our Nation. Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day owing to the tradition of wearing a remembrance poppy) is a Memorial Day observed in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War in 1919 to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty in both World Wars and all conflicts since. We will Remember Them.



In addition to the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am, including the exhortation and a minute of silence, there was a raffle in aid of the Royal British Legion (RBL). The Coffee Break, including donations, the raffle and the 'bring and buy' raised a total of £612.20 - an impressive total. Thank you very much to all who generously supported the Coffee Break and our wonderful group of ladies who produce the great array of tea, coffee, cakes, and biscuits.

A big thank you to Angus and Julia Handoll, Ashley Chase Farm, Groves Garden Centre, Modbury Farm Shop, Rise Bakery and The White Horse for generously giving prizes for the raffle.

Coming up this December

Christmas Coffee Break

The Christmas Coffee Break will take place on **Saturday 9th December from 10.30am - 12.00pm**. There will be a Christmas raffle, bakes, and opportunities to buy gifts. If you're unable to attend but would still like some raffle tickets, please purchase them from Jackie or Ruth.

(the Long Bredy entry continues on page 32)

Services in December

DECEMBER 2023	1st Sunday 3rd Dec Advent Sunday	2nd Sunday 10th Dec Advent 2	Friday 15th Dec	3rd Sunday 17th Dec Advent 3
Burton Bradstock	11.00am Songs of Praise	11.00 Holy Communion		8.00am Holy Communion 6:30pm Carol Service
Shipton Gorge		9.30am Breakfast Church		6.00pm Carol Service
Swyre	3pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Holy Communion		11.00am Morning Worship
Puncknowle	9.30 Holy Communion	6.00pm Carol Service		11.00am All Age Holy Communion
Litton Cheney	Choral Evensong Darkness to Light 6.00pm	9:30am Holy Communion		6.00pm Carol Service
Long Bredy	11.00 Holy Communion			9.30 Live Nativity, Carols and refreshments
Littlebredy		11.00am Holy Communion		
Abbotsbury	11.00am Parish Communion	9.00am Holy Communion BCP		7.00pm Carol service
Portesham	3.30pm Christingle	4.00pm Carol service		11.00am Parish communion
Langton Herring		11.00am Parish communion	6.30pm Carol Service	
St Catherine's Chapel				

Midweek Holy Communion at Burton Bradstock Dec 6th at 11:30am

DECEMBER 2023	Thurs 21st Dec	Christmas Eve Sunday 24 Dec Advent 4	Christmas Day Monday 25th Dec	New Year's Eve 31st Dec Christmas 1
Burton Bradstock		4.00pm Crib Service	11.00am Holy Communion	
Shipton Gorge			9.30am Holy Communion	
Swyre		9.30pm Early Christmas Communion		
Puncknowle			11.00am Christmas Day Praise	
Litton Cheney		4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion		
Long Bredy				Bride Valley Holy Communion Service 10.00am.
Littlebredy	Carols by candlelight 6.00pm		11.00am Family Communion	
Abbotsbury			10.30am Parish Communion	
Portesham		Crib service 4.30pm	10.30am Parish Communion	11.00am Parish Communion
Langton Herring		11.30am First Communion of Christmas		
St Catherine's Chapel				3.30pm New Year's Eve Service



Live Nativity and church service

You are invited to a special morning at St Peter's Church on **Sunday 17th December**. At 9.30am there will be a 'Live Nativity' featuring the Holy Family and friendly animals, including donkeys. A church service, including carol singing, will start at 10.00am and refreshments will be available. You are warmly welcome to attend either or both events.

Come Along Inn

We are pleased to announce that you will be able to start your Christmas celebrations by joining your friends and family at Long Bredy village hall on **Friday 20th December**. The **Come Along Inn** will be open from 5.30 – 9.00pm serving a selection of drinks including beers, cider, wine, and soft drinks. What for us is becoming a tradition we will not be serving a meal but will be offering a selection of party foods.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. From the organising group may we wish all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

New Year's Eve service

On Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve) the United Valley Service at St Peter's Church will take place at 10.00am.

A brief roundup of 2023

The year is coming to an end, a new one is about to start. Let's take some time to reflect on the wonderful things that happened in our lovely community this year...

Coronation celebrations

We enjoyed lovely celebrations for the King's Coronation back in May. The Come Along Inn opened its doors for neighbours and friends to raise a glass to the occasion together, a boat race was organised with some very fancy vessels travelled down the stream. Pimm's and paper airplane flying was enjoyed at St Peter's Church, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

New defibrillator for the village

Long Bredy now has a long-awaited defibrillator, which is situated by the phone box. Thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraising events for this.

Shipton Gorge

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



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

<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.

SHIPTON GORGE
VILLAGE DIARY

St Martin's Church

December Flood light sponsors:

David & Rosemary Greasby

Jerry & Jackie

Andrew, in memory of Mary George

Henrietta Hoyer Miller

Harry & Lily Myers, in loving memory of their daughter Beverley

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

Thank you so much to all our generous sponsors throughout the year and those who wish to stay anonymous. You are very much appreciated.

If you would like to light up St Martin's for a special occasion in January or any other time in the New Year, a suggested donation of £5 would be gratefully accepted. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box. To ensure your name is published in the BVN, please let me have your sponsorship request in plenty of time. The cut-off date is in the BVN.

Sunday 10th December: Breakfast Church 9.30am in the Village Hall.
Everyone is welcome.

Look out for The Mummers who are visiting St Martin's Church, Saturday 16th December at 5.30pm.

Carol Service: Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm.
Followed by mulled wine and mince pies!

Christmas Day Family Communion at 9.30am.

Village Hall

We are seeking a new **Artsreach**
Promoter for Shipton Gorge



Shipton Gorge takes part in **Artsreach**
(<https://artsreach.co.uk/>), a charity which
enables participating villages in Dorset to put on affordable professional
theatre and music events for the benefit of their communities, and to raise
funds for their Village Halls.

As the Shipton Gorge promoter, you will work alongside the Village Hall
Committee and be supported by the central Artsreach office in Dorchester.
Your role will include:

- choosing one or two events per year from a central menu
- publicizing the events
- dealing with online and direct ticket sales
- confirming arrangements with performers for your shows
- running the events on the night with the assistance of Hall trustees

The job is stimulating, flexible, not especially time-consuming, and a really
great way to get to know local people. No previous experience is needed. You
would work alongside the current promoter for the autumn 23 and spring 24
shows, with a view to taking over the role by summer 2024.

If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with:

Kate Chomacki, (01308) 897407 or email: katechomacki@gmail.com

October 2023 100 Club Draw results

1st 142 £25 Ian & Elizabeth Ferguson
2nd 57 £10 Tony Rogers
3rd 141 £5 Patsy & Rob Jacobs

Congratulations to all winners

Graham Garner

Village Society

The Big Switch On

The town crier will count us down to the lighting of the Xmas Tree on 8th December, 6.00pm at the New Inn. All village children attending this event will be handed a goody bag at the same time.

The pub will open at 5.00pm, with burgers/hotdogs, BBQ chicken on offer at £7 with veggie options, from Andrea.

Come along and get into the Xmas spirit.

Parish Council

You may or may not have noticed that the roundabout has been removed from the playing field. This is because it was looped sided and not running smoothly. It has transpired that the central metal post has bent and needs to be replaced. Regrettably the most likely cause of this happening is through misuse of the roundabout. As the central mechanism is being replaced, this will give us a chance to replace and paint some of the missing and/or broken panels and to sand and re-stain the hard wood areas. Hopefully this work will be completed by spring. The basketball post should be mended shortly; the delay has been because the post is being difficult, or impossible to remove by using human force. A team of strong volunteers lead by John Porter could not budge the post. One of our councillors has volunteered to provide mechanical assistance with this task, and so it is hoped to have the basketball post back in action shortly.

I would like to remind you all that the Parish Council is short of two Councillors. Several councillors have indicated that they will not be standing for election in the forthcoming elections next year and so Shipton Gorge will need volunteers to become Councillors. If you are interested in serving your community in a positive way, please contact the Clerk to the Council, Lucy Beasley (email: clerk@shiptongorge.org.uk and telephone number 07429065155) or me, Hilary Cunningham (897928)

Hilary Cunningham
Councillor

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winners in the November draw were Hilary and Richard Cunningham, a bottle of Palmers Gin has been delivered. Congratulations to both of you.



Saunders Richardson Wood

There was a little window between the worst of the stormy weather, and we managed to hold our Bonfire and Marshmallow party. This was very well attended, and it would seem the attraction of toasting marshmallows is not limited to just the young ones. Everyone enjoyed themselves and mulled cider and GF flapjacks were a hit.



Please note that the open wood sessions in December will be on Wednesday 6th, 13th & 20th December, 10.30 to 11.30am. Any changes to this, we will advise via village Facebook and email. Members only, but we can sign you up on the day.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

The grass has now been scythed and mown, with some areas deliberately left untouched – the plan going forward is to rotate these areas to allow wildflowers to get established. Two new trees are due to be planted, an Old Greengage and the wonderfully named Strawberry Norman – a rare cider apple variety which is also good eaten fresh.

Apple Day Produce Sale in October was a success, and a good time was had by all. There were lots of entries for the Best Dorset Apple Cake competition, a very difficult thing to judge, however Jo Warren's creation won the prize. The village had the opportunity to purchase a huge variety of homemade jams, preserves and baked goods and to have a lovely catch up with friends and neighbours over tea and cake. The younger ones also got to make bird feeders etc. from hazel twigs and leaves, and tucked into some delicious toffee apples. We took around £400 which is a great result. Thank you to everyone who came along and to all who donated produce, plants etc. It was very much appreciated.

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*

*The Rectory
St James the Least of All*



*My dear Nephew Darren,
Carol singing is not what it used to be. My fond memories
of a group of choristers, muffled in scarves and overcoats,
carrying lanterns, and walking from door to door in the
snow, as they sang 'While shepherds watched ...' had to be
suddenly revised when I saw your own music group, in T-
shirts inscribed with 'Jesus loves You', singing 'Little
donkey', in your shopping centre. I suspect any money you
raised would just about have paid for the electricity used
to power your banks of electronic equipment. Singing in
the main square of the Centre next to the fountain may
have looked good, but it seemed to mean that the
choirmen were obliged to make constant trips to the
lavatory.*

*Here at St James the Least of All, carol singing is regarded
as a staff perk for the choir; the year when the Boys'*

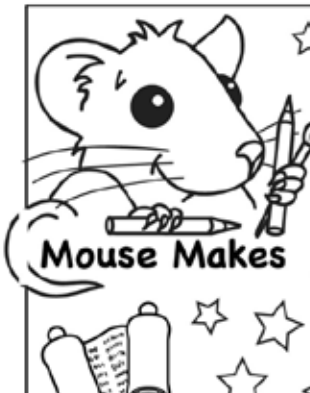
Brigade tried to break their monopoly was suppressed with a ruthlessness that would have impressed Genghis Kahn. Our annual carol-singing route involves months of meticulous planning. We find that a transparent collection box is vital, so that donors can see what earlier patrons have given. This means that those who are bound to put in notes must be visited first - 'pour encourager les autres'. It also needs a detachable base, so that if coppers are given, they can be removed from sight before the next call.

Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bedtime, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols (unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.


The choir always finishes its evening at the local pub - but again, the timing must be carefully managed. Too early and there will only be the landlord, his wife, and their Labrador to listen; too late and people will be so full of Christmas cheer that any carols will be hi-jacked and become the equivalent of back-of-the bus rugby songs.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace




Mouse Makes




ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



GOD'S PROMISE
Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD




AN ANGEL MESSENGER
Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
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A LONG JOURNEY
Luke 2:1-20

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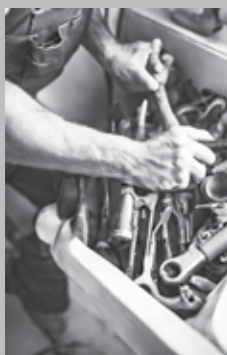
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Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 8th December for the January issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com



Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline please! Correspondents are asked to send copy to the Editor by 9.00am Monday 11th December please.

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



The editor would like to thank our volunteer village correspondents and delivery teams, without whom the BVN would not be produced and delivered to your door. The BVN is also grateful for all those who have made generous donations during the past year to help us cover our costs, and of course to our advertisers for their continuing support. A very Peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!



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