

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



January 2024

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

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February 2024 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 12th January for the February 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 on 15th January please.

Please contact bvctc@outlook.com for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, can be found on the Bride Valley village websites.

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

The Bride Valley News is delivered to every home in the valley and carries news of local church services, local 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 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
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

Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)

Within the Bride Valley Churches there is a small team of Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's) who are available for anybody throughout our community. responding to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. If you need help please contact the Churchwardens, Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator (01308897260) or one of the Lay Pastoral Assistants who are:
Cathryn Johnson 01308 897169, Pauline Woodford (Burton Bradstock only) 01308 898327, Jenny Malyon 01308 898768 or Liz Orza 01308 897451

From the Rectory

New year, new adventures

The new year for the church began with Advent Sunday 2023, the tax year runs from April and the school new year begins in September. The new year comes with expectations, will it be a better year for the weather, will inflation drop, will the world come together as one and will global warming balance out. All things to concern us and the words of John Lennon come to mind from his song. We can all imagine, and we can all do something to making the world a better place to inhabit in our intuitive way.



A new adventure began for the churches of the Bride Valley and churches of Abbotsbury, Langton Herring and Portesham on November 1st 2023 when we came together to form the Benefice of Bride Valley and Chesil. The first major task we needed to undertake together was to prepare a document that will attract a new rector. This has been a long journey, but we are there, and it has proved to be a good exercise in getting to know one another.

Change is difficult, we all prefer to be in a comfortable place but sometimes it is necessary to move forward and secure the future.

For me it has been a joy getting to know those who serve the Bride Valley churches during this time of change. We move forward safe in the knowledge that God walks with us each and every day. This gives me hope for the future for this benefice and I know there is someone out there who will be perfect to take the churches into the future, building on what is already here.

Wishing you a blessing filled New Year,

Margaret
(Rev'd Margaret Preuss-Higham)

A little bit about Margaret

I came to the priesthood late in life and following training at Sarum College was ordained at Salisbury Cathedral in 2010. I worked as self-supporting associate priest in the Bridport team ministry leaving in 2015 when I took up the post of house for duty for the churches of Abbotsbury, Portesham and Langton Herring. Born in Bridport, I worked as a hairdresser until March 2020 when I took up the diocesan post as the rural field officer in Sherborne Archdeaconry, a role which involved engagement with rural churches, assisting them in exploring new ways of engaging with the wider community and wider use of the building.

I have a passion for rural churches, understand the difficulties they experience and enjoy exploring new ways to reach out and engage in the communities where they are. Photography is my hobby and I love nothing better than a wander in the Dorset countryside.

Margaret

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

BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

The BVCS is a volunteer scheme offering residents of the Bride Valley transport to and from medical appointments when they are unable to drive themselves or be driven by relatives or friends.

Clients are charged a mileage fee (currently 50p per mile) plus a standard charge (currently £2.00 per journey). Because the service depends on the availability of volunteer drivers, clients are asked to give as much notice as possible – we are unlikely to be able to respond to requests within 48 hours of an appointment.

To book a journey please call our voluntary co-ordinator on 07393 607025 (note new number) between Monday and Friday.

Calls cannot be taken at weekends.

From the Julian Group

Julian Prayer meetings in the Bride Valley were started by the Rev'd Jean Thorn and came to Holy Trinity at the end of 2013. Julian meetings are a national organisation, and more information can be found on their website at julianmeetings.net. Each meeting includes 20-30 minutes of silent prayer, commencing and ending with a reading and or music.

Initially Jean opened and closed the silence, but there is no formal leadership or set formula in opening and closing the silence now. We meet one morning a month from about 10.00 - 11.30am and use the circle of chairs by the font. A candle is lit, and there is usually time for coffee and conversation before we all depart. Starting from January 2024 we plan to meet on the third Wednesday each month; and so next year's dates are as follows:

January 17th, February 21st, March 20th, April 17th, May 15th
June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, October 16th, November 20th. There is no meeting in December.

You are most welcome to join us! Meetings take place at Holy Trinity Church, Swyre. Please contact Sue on (01308) 898523 for further information.



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

The last few weeks of term were very busy at Burton Bradstock Primary! We have taken part in a number of different sporting events such as Football, Netball and Cross Country and also been out and about in the local area! One of our favourite places to visit is the village library. Each week, it opens especially for us and the children love this special time to browse books and renew their class bookshelves. Thank you to the volunteers for giving their time so generously.

Our school choir sang carols at our local Morrisons on Saturday 25th November to raise money with our Friends of School. During our stint, we raised an incredible £429 which is going towards funding our school trips this year and upgrading our EYFS/KS1 outside areas.



We also sang at the Bridport Christmas Cheer which was really well supported by our children and staff alike. As part of the Christmas Cheer, there is a Christmas Tree festival in the Bridport United Church. The theme for our tree is our class names which are birds; Owls, Kingfishers, Robins and Wagtails.



As I write this, we are preparing for our Christmas Fair. Our woodworking club are very much looking forward to



selling the wooden snowmen that they have been making and our raffle is always a great hit too. There is so much planned and I know the whole community are looking forward to this popular event.

Thank you as always to our Friends of school who give up lots of their time behind the scenes to pull these events together.

Happy New Year from all at Burton Bradstock Primary!

Adam Gough
Headteacher



Thorners CE VA School

We will start the new year and new term with our traditional Church service and it will be lovely to see many parents join us for this event.

This term promises to be very busy with deep water swimming at Bridport Leisure Centre for years 5/6. Many thanks to the TSA for helping towards the cost of this vital life-saving training. Our dance teacher Amy Parker is also in this term helping Bredy (years 3/4) get ready for their Dance Festival at Freshwater in February. The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares, a local collective of authors, writers and artists, are in during the first week to inspire the children with several creative writing workshops.

For the staff, the West Dorset Collaboration of Small Schools hosted a superb day's training and a series of SEND workshops to improve our teaching and support of those children with a special education need. The support of Dorset Council was much appreciated in putting this training day together for all teachers and TAs.

We continue to welcome in our Literacy Hub Phonics specialist in the coming weeks to offer further training and guidance on how best to get our youngest children reading fluently and thanks again to all our teachers and governors for all their work over the past year on all aspects of reading across the school.

As well as the usual mix of cross-country runs and football matches, we also look forward to a whole school Panto trip to Bridport at the start of February - oh yes we do!

Happy New Year to all in the valley.

*Mike Sitch
Headmaster
Thorner's, Litton Cheney*

Our Night Sky in January 2023

Venus will be setting in the west about 1800 followed by Saturn in the west about midnight. Jupiter rises in the East about 1700 and Mars at 2100. So we have all the major planets gracing the winter skies as well as faithful Orion.



ESA, (The European Space Agency) has just released 3 stunning images taken by the Euclid space telescope which have enormously improve on Hubble's images which themselves were brilliant and still are.

Euclid is designed to explore the evolution of the dark Universe. It will make a 3D-map of the Universe (with time as the third dimension) by observing billions of galaxies out to 10 billion light-years, across more than a third of the sky.

While dark energy accelerates the expansion of the Universe and dark matter governs the growth of cosmic structures, scientists remain unsure about what dark energy and dark matter actually are.

By observing the Universe evolving over the past 10 billion years, Euclid will reveal how it has expanded and how structure has formed over cosmic history – and from this, astronomers can infer the properties of dark energy, dark matter and gravity, to reveal more about their precise nature.

Euclid will take images in optical and near-infrared light; these images will eventually cover more than one-third of the extragalactic sky outside the Milky Way, and depict billions of cosmic targets out to a distance where light has taken up to 10 billion years to reach us. Euclid's image quality will be at least four times sharper than that achieved by ground-based sky surveys. In addition, Euclid will perform near-infrared spectroscopy of hundreds of millions of galaxies and stars over the same sky. This will allow scientists to investigate the chemical and kinematical properties of many targets in detail.

I hope to reveal some of the findings later.

Bill Turnill

Bride Valley WI

The Bride Valley Women's Institute enjoyed an industrious and hilarious evening for their November 'carousel of crafts'. Pipe cleaner wreaths, padded material Christmas trees along with origami stars were the result of our endeavours. Great fun was had by all.

January as always will start with an active evening. 2024's activity will require a little more space so come and join us at The Latch for "Belly Dancing" on 18th January at 7:30pm. Your first visit to WI is free so come and meet the members and experience a fun evening dancing those January blues away.

The November walk was led by Higgy and Charlotte and the end result of a wet Sunday morning stroll from Litton Cheney to Long Bredy was certainly worth it. Who doesn't love a little donkey therapy?



The skittles team have now finished their league games and "skittles for fun" evenings for 2023. Thank you to Andy and Liz at The White Horse, Litton Cheney for being our home alley and keeping us well fed after each game.

Book Review: Bride Valley Book Group - December 2023: "Klara and the Sun" by Kazuo Ishiguru

We had a wide-ranging discussion on "Klara and the Sun" - some of us were familiar with Ishiguru's work and his dystopian themes. Most of us were intrigued by the plot and we agreed that Ishiguru does leave some of the background unexplained - the reader is left to fill in the gaps. Some of us felt sympathy for Klara but not all of us were emotionally engaged.

Klara, the narrator, is a synthetic human, manufactured to be an "artificial friend" for lonely teenagers who need emotional support and reassurance. She is solar powered and is designed to be extraordinarily observant and to assimilate this into her "emotional learning" about human behaviour. Her model has already been superseded by the next by the more sophisticated version so we know that she will become obsolete at some point. Klara is purchased by the mother of Josie who has been "lifted" via genetic

enhancement to be intellectually gifted and thereby gain access to the privileged and elitist strata of society. This genetic intervention is socially acceptable but also very risky - Josie's sister has died as a result of this "lifting" process.

This novel is essentially about the impact of artificial intelligence on our future lives and it raises so many questions. Where will AI lead us? Can a robot ever be sentient? What does it mean to be human and could this change in the future? Might we reach a point where it is possible to "enhance" your child's life chances - and if so - would you take the risk? We reminded ourselves that some parents already intervene to improve their child's life chances. What will happen to sections of our skilled workforce as AI takes over their jobs? Our discussion ranged widely over the implications of these troubling issues - from the technical to the philosophical.

Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley Car Service

There may well come a day for many of us when we are no longer able to drive.

This is the moment when getting to any medical appointment becomes a challenging experience, not just for physical reasons, but logistically, too. Friends or family members may be unavailable to help - and this is the day when a call to the Bride Valley Car Service can solve your predicament.

As stated monthly in the BVN, we operate thanks to our wonderful team of volunteer drivers who live in the Bride Valley. We are always looking for extra drivers, so if you feel that you might be able to help us as a driver, please give our chairman, Diana Cheater, a call on 01308 482223. We try to ensure that we ask our drivers to do just two drives a month, so the task is not onerous, but is always greatly appreciated. However, if you would prefer not to drive, but would like to act as a coordinator on occasions, we would very much like to hear from you, too.

Compton Valence Snowdrops Village Hall Lunches and Teas Saturday 3rd February - Sunday 11th February 2024

COME and WALK/DRIVE through our beautiful village and see the stunning white drifts of snowdrops. (The village hall is below the church)

OPEN (WEATHER PERMITTING): 11.00am-3.30pm daily

To book please ring or email so we can cater accordingly:
Tessa Russell Tel: 01308 482227 or email: tessa@cvfarms.co.uk
or Pippa James 01305 889338 m 07880882985 email:
enquiries@dovehousedorset.co.uk. Pre-booked guests will take priority as the hall is small. In bad/icy weather we may not be open. Please be considerate of our village/verges etc when parking or ring us to discuss your needs so we can advise you where to go. We very much look forward to seeing you. CASH PLEASE

Christmas Greetings – Apology

Unfortunately, Irene Smith was omitted from the list of Christmas Greetings in the printed December edition. Her name was added to the on-line edition but the apologies of the Christmas Greetings team to her are offered sincerely.

Why not write for the BVN?

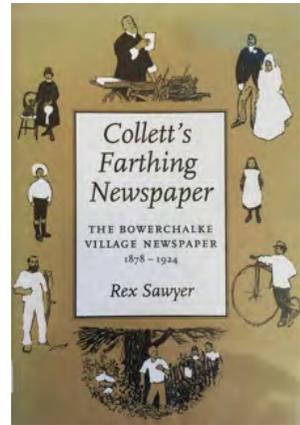
The Bride Valley News welcomes contributions, and in addition to the monthly items from regular correspondents in each village there is a desire to widen our scope so that we provide news and information which is of interest to the residents of the valley.

Perhaps you could consider submitting something? We need to cover more general matters such as farming, the landscape, environmental issues, local history and recreation. Please submit articles to your village correspondent. If possible, please limit your writing to about 250 words, pictures are welcome as well! We look forward to receiving your articles!

Book Review: Collett's Farthing Newspaper

The Bowerchalke Village Newspaper, 1878 -1924, by Rex Sawyer

Readers of the BVN in previous months during 2023 may have noted the interest in the history of the BVN and its predecessors serving the Bride Valley Parishes. Just by chance recently, while browsing in Dorchester Library, the Editor came across this really interesting local history of what is probably a unique Parish Newspaper, a work which was of dedication to the village and perhaps a lesson in local historical source material.



Bowerchalke (historically written also as Bower Chalke) is a small Wiltshire village on the northern rim of Cranborne Chase, in the Ebble Valley. This book tells the story of its weekly Parish Newspaper, which was not only written but actually printed by its remarkable vicar, Rev'd Edward Collett, who had a small printing press in the vicarage! Collett recorded the minutiae of daily life in the village, much of the information being printed in this weekly newspaper which he sold in the village, and eventually far beyond, at the price of one farthing per copy! An almost complete set survives in the Bodleian Library in Oxford, as well as in some local collections in Wiltshire.



The Rev'd Collett was said by the Salisbury Times in 1910 to be 'the proprietor, editor, manager, publisher, printer, sub-editor, chief reporter, machinist etc', rather more jobs than required by the present editor of the BVN I am glad to say! He typeset the paper every week on a proper small printing press. It started with a circulation of 85, but this grew to over four hundred copies weekly, many being sent to

Rev'd Collett at his printing press in the Rectory in 1918

villagers who had migrated to Canada, Australia India and elsewhere, and to soldiers serving in the forces, especially during the First World War.

This book is more than a history of the newspaper, but also an extremely well researched local history covering the later nineteenth and early twentieth century, and makes for a fascinating read. You can order a copy to borrow from the County Library, and if you have any difficulty in doing this then please call into Burton Bradstock Community Library where the volunteer librarians will be pleased to assist!

The Editor

An edition from 1918



Littlebredy

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



There is no specific village news of which I'm aware at present, but by the time this is read there will have been several Christmas-related events here, and this is really to say a collective congratulations and thank you to everyone in Littlebredy who has helped to organise these or has attended them, and also all the other events which have taken place in the village in 2023.

Let us hope for similar continued community spirit in 2024, and in the meanwhile, this comes to wish everyone in, or associated in any way with, Littlebredy a very happy, fulfilled and prosperous New Year.

Shipton Gorge

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



St Martin's Church

January 2024 Flood light sponsors

Anne Crowe in memory of her mum and Dad

*Blessings for our family and extended family for 2024
from Yvette and David*

Henrietta Hoya Miller

Andrew George in memory of Mary

Anne & Terry for their January birthdays

Thank you to all our sponsors for lighting up St Martin's. You are very much appreciated. We are, however, very short of sponsors for the months ahead. If you would like to help keep the floodlights shining over the village, 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. If you wish for your name to be published in the BVN, please let me have your sponsorship request in plenty of time. The cut-off date is in the front of the BVN but should you miss the date, your name will still appear on the posters. A big thank you to Kate & David who very generously provided St Martin's with the Christmas tree and also to the team for decorating it. It looked lovely. Thank you so much to our talented flower arrangers who always make the church look beautiful but particularly at Christmas time.

It has been great to hear the bells ringing out before services. Well done to the team.

Breakfast Church in the Village Hall on Sunday 14th January at 9.30am.
Everyone is welcome.

Holy Communion, Sunday 28th January at 11.00am.

Welcome to our village diary

SHIPTON GORGE 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.

Village Hall

Hall improvement project

The proposal to provide *Access for All* to the village hall has now culminated in a design selected by hall trustees.

The drawings will be displayed in the hall on Sunday 7th January from 10.00am to 12.00noon and will remain on display for users of the hall to view until the evening of the following Sunday. Hall Trustees will be present on the 7th and will welcome your comments and support for the project.

The drawings can also be accessed on the hall's page of the village website.

December 100 Club Super Draw results:

1 st	50	£100	Tye Love
2 nd	133	£25	Geoff Wyrill
3 rd	54	£20	Robert Bradshaw
4 th	17	£15	Linda Simpson
5 th	160	£10	Geoff and Caroline Hall

Congratulations to all winners.

Artsreach
presents Luke
Wright's *Silver
Jubilee*



Thursday 1st February, Shipton Gorge Village Hall
7:30pm

Luke Wright is one of Britain's most popular live poets. In his most confessional show to date, drawing on the discovery of his birth mother on Facebook, Wright navigates his audience through a warm and honest hour of poems and stand-up. With some wild experiments in form, a nervous kitten called Sir John Betjeman and a healthy smattering of drum n bass, Wright manages to navigate some heart-wrenching material and keep the laughs



coming. This show debuted to a packed arena at Latitude Festival before a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe where it was the toast of the critics.

Expect humour, rage and passion. Don't miss it!

Tickets £12, £5 (u18s), **Suitable 14+**. Tickets available online at www.artsreach.co.uk / 01308 897407

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Hope you all had a good Christmas – and we wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the December draw was David Smith. A bottle of Conker Gin has been delivered and hopefully enjoyed with friends over the Christmas period. Congratulations David.



Saunders Richardson Wood

The Hedge laying workshop took place in mid-November and if you walk along Smacombe Lane, you will see a freshly laid section of hedge. We will probably try to arrange a further session in early 2024 – please look out for notices. As part of National Tree Planting Week, we held a tree



planting session in the wood in early December. It was a very cold morning but thanks to the team who came along, we managed to plant up a number of trees, including oak, sorbus, horse chestnut, maple, etc.

Please note that the open wood sessions this month will be on Sundays, 7, 14, 21 & 28 January, 11.00am-12noon. 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

If you wander through the Orchard, you might spot the two new fruit trees which have been planted up. On Monday 15th January 10.30am-11.30am we will be running a fruit tree pruning session – with David Squirrel passing on some of his wealth of knowledge. This is a hands-on workshop where we will also learn to take scions in readiness for a grafting workshop to be held in March – details nearer the time. If the weather is appalling, then it will be the following Monday, 22nd January at the same time. All Shipton Gorge residents are welcome to come along.

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>

Litton Cheney

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



St Mary's Church – for January

Writing this well before Christmas makes it difficult to report on events; that the church looked splendid and the music was wonderful are beyond question. A big thank you to everyone who decorated the church, prepared the services, provided warming refreshments and floodlit the church for many nights over the holiday period.

There will not be a coffee morning this month, but we hope to resume on the first Monday of February (the 5th) at the slightly later time of 10.00am, when there will be a warm welcome to all with a hot drink, home-made goodies and lots of chat. All are welcome. Do hope you can come along!

Litton Cheney Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th January, 7.30pm in the Meeting room of LATCH. Residents are cordially invited to attend, perhaps with a view to later in 2024 (May) standing for election to the council.

Sadly, Maggie Walsh, our Parish Clerk will be standing down at the beginning of March. Maggie has given the parish council and the village numerous years of valiant service, and we are so lucky to have benefited from her wisdom and knowledge during an often-difficult period of time. More about Maggie next month, and news of her successor.

The Parish Council wishes Litton and Bride Valley residents a Happy New Year and good fortune for the days and months ahead.

Community Infrastructure Levy

In your quieter moments, have you ever given thought to ideas and projects that if sufficient funding could be found it would bring considerable joy and purpose to village residents who choose to embrace those ideas and put the equipment to good use.

The Parish Council is holding around £17K of Community Infrastructure Levy funding which could be put to bringing your inspirations and ideas to life. So come on residents of Litton Cheney, put brain in gear and inspire. Your legacy awaits!

Please contact Parish Council members with your inspired thoughts – contact details can be found on the village website littoncheney.org.uk

Events at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall – for January

Weekly:

Mondays: 3.30 - 4.30pm Big Q Church (8th onwards)

Tuesdays: 4.45 - 5.45pm Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 01308 482661)
6.15pm – Pilates (johanna@larkpilates.com 07920 421783)

Wednesdays: 4.45pm - Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 01308 482661)
7.00pm – Mindful Movement with Jane Hutchins (07882 527697)

Special:

Sunday 7th – Afternoon Gong Bath and Yoga with Nadiya Wynn
(nadiyasime@hotmail.com)

Tuesday 9th – 7.30pm Parish Council meeting

Thursday 18th – Evening Bride Valley W.I. (warrenphyllis@rocketmail.com)

Saturday 20th – 9.30am Tai Chi (Andrew Howard 07912 107950)
(bamboogtc@tutanota.com)

Coming up....

Thursday 1st February – 7.30pm Film Night “Barbie”

Friday 2nd February – 3.45pm Matinee film show “Matilda, the Musical”

Thursday 8th – 7.30pm Special film show “Matilda, the Musical”

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

No films at Litton Cheney Village Hall in January, but a bonanza follows in February!

Thursday 1 February, 7.30pm, Barbie: 'clever, funny, and poignant with a great overall message' starring **Margot Robbie** and **Ryan Gosling**. To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken. One of the best films of the year in cinematographic terms, probably the best comedy that we have seen in a long time, and an extraordinarily entertaining product that promotes the value of searching for a more cohesive society.
Cert. PG-13, 2hrs.

Friday 2 February at 3.45pm. Tickets: Adults £3, Children £2

Matilda The Musical 'a spirited adaptation of the book and stage musical' Matilda Wormwood (**Alisha Weir**) is a little girl with big curiosity, a sharp mind and a vivid imagination - and the worst parents in the world (**Stephen Graham** and **Andrea Riseborough**). On meeting her inspirational teacher, Miss Honey (**Lashana Lynch**), Matilda is encouraged and begins conjuring her own fantastical tales. Excited to attend Crunchem Hall, Matilda is surprised to find the school is an ominous and oppressive place led by the huge and villainous Miss Trunchbull (**Emma Thompson**). As well as kind Miss Honey, the bright lights among the meanness are story-loving librarian, Mrs. Phelps (**Sindhu Vee**), and Matilda's newfound school friends. Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical is an inspirational musical tale of an extraordinary girl who discovers her superpower and summons the remarkable courage to help others change their stories, and take charge of her own destiny.
Cert.PG 2hrs.

Evening screening of Matilda the Musical on Thursday 8th February
Doors Open: 7.00pm, film starts 7.30pm. Tickets: £5.00 (to include a glass of wine), in advance from: Sally Dyke 482752, Elizabeth Kingston 482162, Bella Spurrier 482367 or on the door. (All nos. 01308).

These films will be shown at Litton Cheney only.

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

The White Horse: Well, what a ball we had in December, Casino, Mummers, Christmas Carols sing-a-long, quiz, meat draws, Christmas draw, charity bingo and so many more events. We'll be closed from the 8th to the 22nd January inclusive for our well-earned (we think!) annual break but straight back into it with Burns' Night celebrations on the 27th. Our great friend Fergus the piper will be joining us to pipe us in and recite some of Burns' works. We'll have award winning haggis, tatties and neeps and a wee dram. This is a must book event.



Andy, Liz and the entire team at The White Horse would like to wish all our family, friends and customers old and new, a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Andy and Liz xx

As we start the New Year - Thank you All

As we enter a new year perhaps it is the time to give those in the village who made life easier and better for all of us by their deeds and efforts during 2023, giving up their own time to do so. People like David Hearn who keeps us fully informed by ensuring the village website is up to date, Beverly and Pete Dennis who maintain the well-used village exchange and keep it looking bright and inviting, to Nick Lunn who in his spare moments cuts the grass around the Jubilee Hut and Queen's Bench, Paul and Elizabeth Kingston who donated this year's village Christmas tree and the Premier Crew who respond enthusiastically to a call to arms when clean up jobs around the village are required, plus helped put up and decorate the Christmas tree. Thank you also to Flood Warden Dave Ingram for keeping a weather eye on matters meteorological.

To Mike Sitch, his fellow teachers, and staff at Thorner's for helping to give our children and grandchildren a great start in life. To Claire and Laura who run the Toddler Group and those who manage LATCH, maintain and administer our lovely village church, look after our playing field and playground, and to the farming community and our parish councillors. We thank unseen residents who quietly put something right that has gone awry in the village, update notice boards or clear a drain. Undoubtedly there will be several deserving souls not mentioned here and they are all included in the term "deserving

souls”, coupled with a huge thank you from all of us. And, let’s not forget those who will deliver this message via the BVN.

Did you hear that noise? That is the sound of a huge round of applause. Thank you!

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>



Candlemas at Puncknowle Church

Come and join us for a quiet candle lit service of meditation to celebrate “Christ the light of the world”.

There will be a buffet provided at the Crown Inn afterwards.

Tea and Carol Service in Puncknowle

After an enjoyable and scrumptious tea in the hall there was a candle lit walk to the beautifully decorated church for the candle lit service. Everyone sang heartedly and then heartedly enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. The new knitted nativity, made by many people in the village, was on show and looked magnificent. It will adorn the Church porch. Thank you to everyone who make this such an enjoyable occasion.

Puncknowle 100 Club

Here are the draw results for November:

1st Prize Flo Rawes

2nd Prize. Matt Bunce

Puncknowle and Swyre Parish Council

Invitation To Make Grant Applications

The Council operates a S137 grant aid policy, under which certain groups may apply every year to be considered for a grant payment. The deadline for this year is 4th February 2024. For information please read the Council's Grant Award Policy which can be found on the Puncknowle.net website, or email the clerk for a copy: puncknowle@dorset-aptc.gov.uk or telephone 07762711785

Puncknowle Playing Field Grass Cutting Contract -Interested Parties Are Welcome to Apply

Tenders are invited for the contract to maintain the grassed areas of Puncknowle Playing Field.

The contract will run for 3 years commencing 1 April 2024. Puncknowle Playing Field was established in 1987 at the bottom of Clay Lane, Puncknowle, and is owned and operated by Puncknowle & Swyre Parish Council. Full details of the contract responsibilities and administration can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Please submit your tender in writing by 4th February 2024 to:

The Clerk, Puncknowle and Swyre Parish Council, Fivepenny Farm, Wootton Fitzpaine, DT6 6DF email: puncknowle@dorset-aptc.gov.uk tel 07762711785

3 Villages Neighbourhood Plan

The 3 Villages Plan for Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington is making progress. Drop-in sessions were held in each village on 2nd and 3rd November, attracting a reasonable turn-out despite the best efforts of Storm Ciaran! You can find a link to the full report on the parish website at <https://puncknowle.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Drop-in-Feedback-2023.pdf> Residents supported the plan development and the main issues raised broadly echoed those given in earlier engagement sessions: residents generally like the mix of housing in our villages and would like any new build to be affordable housing for villagers. They also were concerned to protect the natural environment and sustain the feel and distinct character of the 3 villages. The steering group are now producing aims for the Plan that reflects these priorities. We would welcome your support and involvement as we develop our policies. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Brian Bowsher (01308 897987). Next steering group meetings are: Wednesday 17th January at 7.00pm at The Manor Hotel, West Bexington. These are open meetings.

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall:

REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	10.00-11.00 am	Tripudio Contact Ali on 07968 370485 or by email ali.russell@hotmail.com
Mondays	1.30-4.00 pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
Wednesdays	10.00-12.00 am	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
OTHER EVENTS		
Tuesday 2 nd	7.30-10.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting Open to the Public
Thursday 11 th	7.00-10.30 pm	Whist Drive Contact Jenny on 01308 897863
Tuesday 16 th	1.00-2.30pm	Luncheon Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Friday 26 th	10.00-12.30 pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987
Monday 29 th	7.00-9.00 pm	Benefice Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

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 submission deadlines, which are normally set out on the inside front cover, and also keep your entries as succinct as possible. If you can, please submit articles set to A5 format, with pictures and illustrations set to 'wrap text square' (if using Word). Our font is Franklin Gothic Book 10.5 for the main text (14pt for headings) and if you can use those settings the editing job will be easier!

Your help on this will be appreciated by the Village Correspondents and the Editor!

Thank you

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club November Results

£30.00	No. 42	V. Cain
£15.00	No. 110.	B. Cornish
£5.00	No. 59	B. Peppiatt

Don't forget: To be in the draw in 2024, Ruth Cullingford will need your membership money and details early in January.

New bell chiming system at St Peter's Church

A new bell chiming system has been installed in the church tower. This is a set of five electromagnetically operated chiming hammers, one against each bell and connected to a control box in the ringing chamber. At a press of a button we can have a vast range of options including pealing bells, a calling bell and a funeral bell.

The bells can still be rung by the ringers but in the future, it means that if we are unable to ring, the bells, which are such an integral part of the community, will always be heard.



If you would like to try your hand at ringing, please do come along and have a go. Please contact Gwen 01308 482270.

Christmas Coffee Break

A big thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Christmas Coffee Break on 9th December. It was a lovely Christmas gathering and over £500.00 was raised for St Peter's.

Coming up this January

Coffee Break

The January Coffee Break will take place on **Saturday 13th January from 10.30am – 12:00pm** in the Village Hall, the well-attended monthly coffee breaks raised £1789.71 for specific causes including the Turkey/Syria Earthquake appeal, the Poppy Appeal, Parish Council for the village and church. With the remaining money raised, we can donate £200.00 each to 'Read Easy', an adult literacy charity, the 'Bride Valley Car Service' and 'The Living Tree' cancer support group – all local charities.

As a thank you the January Coffee Break will be "on the house". No donations. Come for a catch up by the fire and enjoy coffee and refreshments. Coffee Breaks are for anyone/any group to run either for a particular charity or because you would like to help with this particular village event. Please contact Ruth Cullingford.

Come Along Inn

The Come Along Inn will open its doors at the Village Hall on **Friday 19th January from 5.30pm – 9.00pm**. A warm welcome to the new year awaits and this will be accompanied by a winter warming dish available from the kitchen. We look forward to seeing all our friends old and new. Make a date in your diary.

A brief roundup of 2023

For technical reasons the December entry was not included in the December edition here is the full version for the January edition plus the January notes:

December notes:

A new year is starting and it's the 'quiet after the storm' now that all the Christmas and New Year's celebrations are over. Let's take this quiet time to look back on some of the wonderful things that happened in our lovely community in 2023:

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.

Lots of Come Along Inns and Coffee Breaks

The Come Along Inn opened its doors a total of 13 times last year, with a special edition for the King's Coronation. A bar was also provided for the 'Race Night' fundraiser for the defibrillator.

The Coffee Break took place 12 times last year on every second Saturday of the month. Both events are a wonderful opportunity for neighbours and friends to catch up, chat and enjoy some company. Thank you to everyone who makes it possible!

A new BVN correspondent for Long Bredy after 9 years

Sue Dyer was the BVN correspondent for 9 years, ensuring that Long Bredy's news and updates appeared in every month's edition and has handed over to Rebecca last year. A big thank you to Sue for her commitment to the BVN over the years!

Volunteering at the churchyard

St Peter's churchyard is a beautiful place with many visitors enjoying the wildflowers and surroundings throughout the seasons. Thank you to everyone who helps look after it voluntarily, it is appreciated by all and, if interested, extra help would always be very welcome.

Happy New Year

Wishing all Long Bredy residents a very happy 2023. Here's to a wonderful 2024 in Long Bredy.

Burton Bradstock

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



Songs of Praise

Songs of Praise services at Burton Bradstock have been a much-loved part of the service plan ably organised by David Woodford with various leaders and readers. We would like to record our thanks for all his work now that he is handing over to others.



In the New Year, on January 7th at 11am, we have **Hymns and Carols for Epiphany** – this will feature readings and reflections interspersed amongst Epiphany hymns and carols to be sung by all the congregation and arranged by celebrant Alastair Wheeler with organist Stephen Beardshall. Do come along - everyone is welcome.

Tots Time

"Unpredictable but fun" aptly described Tots' Time recently. One week we had three little people, the next week, nine, and all with unique personalities and preferences. Some like to crawl in tunnels or hide in tents, while some achieve incredible speeds with push-chairs or 'cars'. (Endless risk assessment in place!)

The snowdrops planted in November are doing really well, but the iced shortbread stars with chocolate sprinkles disappeared very quickly! Hopefully the 'angels', drowned in glue and glitter, have survived, hanging from various Christmas tree branches over the Christmas season. We are grateful to our 'heavy-lifting gang', our staff team and all the parents/grandparents for their encouragement and practical support, and we welcome Cathryn on to the team.

Tots' Time re-commences on Friday, January 12th at 2.00pm. We welcome all bumps, babies, toddlers and pre-school children with parents/carers. Ask

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

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all, and "God bless us, everyone".

Burton Coffee Mates

Burton Coffee Mates meet in the church on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30am -12noon. 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 and if you would like more information please call Pauline. (898327)

Supper Club

Wishing all members a very happy and healthy New Year. Our first supper club of the new year is on Monday 22nd January. For enquiries, please ring Mags Chue on 01308 897543

Burton Bradstock Village Hall

Village Hall Bookings

Should you wish to use the Hall at any time, the booking officer can be contacted via email at bbvht.bookings@gmail.com or by phone on 01308 897648.

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 18th Jan Village Hall Trust (Bacon Rolls month)

Wed 22nd Feb Village Society

Burton Bradstock Films

Films return to the Village Hall on **Friday 27 January 2023** with the long-awaited sequel to Top Gun. The new dynamic **TOP GUN: MAVERICK** is acknowledged to surpass its predecessor with Tom Cruise, cinemas ageless fighter pilot, returning with nail biting aerodynamics and adrenaline packed flying. Described as thrilling as blockbusters can get, if you saw the original 30

years ago you won't want to miss this one. This is your opportunity to see one of the best films of 2022.

Tickets will be on sale at Burton Bradstock Post Office from 3 January 2023 at the new price of £6 but will still include a large glass of wine or a soft drink. See posters in village for full details

Film Date for Your Diary

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris Friday 24 February 2023 in Burton Bradstock Village Hall.

Christmas Round Up

The Trust Committee members and helpers are relaxing after a busy month of seasonal activities. Both the Christmas Market and Quiz were well supported, great fun and made significant contributions to the Hall funds. Many thanks to those who attended and those who set up and ran the activities.

General

Our AGM this year will be on March 2nd, more details in the Feb BVN.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall "200 Club December 2023 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

£68.40	No 169	Mr Chris Mealing
£34.20	No 121	Mrs Sue Ouseley
£17.10	No 154	Mrs Margaret Woodcock

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the whole 2024 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £12 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SL0080

THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY 7.30pm
FRIDAY 16th FEBRUARY 7.30pm
SATURDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Fancy dress competition for children

Goldilocks and the three bears

Refreshments

ADULTS £10
 UNDER 16'S £5

Raffle

Pantomime presented by Burton Bradstock Players
 By kind permission of Limelight Scripts
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TICKETS ON SALE FROM 3rd JANUARY 2024
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Village Society

January Society Talk

After a festive-filled Christmas events the Society is returning to the Friday talk programme. Please join us to hear John Stockley, who was featured in a Channel 4 documentary last year, and talks with great humour about "My Life in West Dorset". Some snippets from his life: he is the son of an African American GI and a Weymouth woman, and was persuaded to join the family chimney sweep business and has been a very successful businessman. It will be on **Friday 12th January** in the Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members and £5 for non-members. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be a raffle and wine available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your friends.

Village Society Fundraiser for the Post Office

The Post Office coffee morning fundraiser in November raised over £700 towards a new 'chiller'. The turnout of supportive villagers filled the village hall to capacity. A heartfelt thank you to everyone that attended and volunteered on the day.

Report back on festive events

The traditional turning on of the village's Christmas tree lights took place in early December. Volunteers turned out to raise and decorate the tree with sponsored decorations. Villagers, young and old, came out on a beautiful dry and chilly evening to watch the lights come on while being warmed by mulled wine (the adults that is!), and mince pies. A keenly fought bingo evening took place in early December and again we saw villagers of all ages enjoy the beautifully decorated village hall and refreshments prepared by volunteers. Great fund was had by all.

Burton Bradstock WI

The December WI report never reached the printing stage, for which the editorial team apologises, so here is the missing December report followed by that for January.



December report.....

There isn't much to report this month as the deadline for articles is before we have actually done anything! However, by the time you read this we will hopefully have raised a lot of money at our Early Christmas Coffee Morning and Market and have also enjoyed an illustrated talk by Brian Pettit on the Natural World. We did have a planned session of Tenpin Bowling arranged at Freshwater Holiday Park in November but this had to be cancelled due to the unfortunate flooding that they experienced. Our thoughts went out to them as they worked hard to clear up after the storm. We look forward to rearranging the session in the not-too-distant future.

In December we are really looking forward to our Christmas meal at The Ivy House in Groves Garden Centre. Memories of last year's meal there have already got our taste buds working and 45 members are excited to repeat the experience.

At our December meeting on 12th at 2.15pm we shall be welcoming Alan Hooley from the village who will be giving us "A Musical Christmas" afternoon

alongside some mulled wine and mince pies. We shall also be collecting food items to be donated to the Cupboard Love Food Bank in Bridport. Lastly, we shall be running a stall of Craft items at the Village Christmas Market on Saturday, 9th December. Do come and support us there. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

On to January's report.....

I can now confirm that we made over a £780 at our Christmas Market and that we very much enjoyed Brian Pettit's beautifully illustrated and informative talk on butterflies, birds, small animals and reptiles in November.

Furthermore, I can report that 50 people thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas Lunch at the Ivy House, all the more so because two days before we were due to go Groves was completely flooded after the heavy rain. We appreciated the efforts of the staff to get everything shipshape again and thank them for providing us with such a memorable meal and social occasion. At our January meeting Jane Silver-Corren will be giving a talk entitled "My Jewish Home" and we will be voting for the Resolution that we would like to see the National Federation of the WI take forward to work on in the forthcoming year. It just remains to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and successful 2024.

Janet Pearson

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

Happy New Year to all Library Users! Hopefully you called in to admire Christine and John Lewis' beautiful Christmas decorations, and to warm yourself by the fire! We are so grateful to them for another super display.

With chillier days ahead, why not come in and browse our stock and get yourself some fireside reading? Or perhaps borrow one of our jigsaws? Check the catalogue of Libraries West and order books to be collected in Burton Bradstock Library.



Perhaps you received a new device for Christmas – phone, laptop, tablet? Would you like extra help in getting the most from them? Call the Digital Helpline on 01305 221048 (mornings) and book a free tuition session with our Digital Champion Louis.

Library Cleaners Wanted!

Christine Lewis would like a few extra library cleaners to join the rota please. If you would like to know more, call Christine on 01308 897304.

Normal library opening times are:

Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am-12noon

Thursday & Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com

www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library

01308 897563

Sue Brown, Chair

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

It was lovely to see such a great turn out at our last meeting of the year, a big thank you to all the residents that attended and then stayed on to enjoy refreshments. Residents are invited to attend all meetings to share any concerns and issues.

Online Survey

There is still time to take part in our village survey. We are seeking views from all of our parish members & people who live and work in the village.

Go to the online survey link below:

https://thursday.surveyto.com/collect/bbpc__october?caseid=

- Choose “I am completing this online” as your “enumerator field” in the first question.
- Please answer the questions.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas & best wishes for 2024

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

I am sure I had warned you about church bells. They are simply not to everyone's taste. And the idea of switching on your recorded bells - no matter how digitally enhanced - at midnight for an hour, in order to welcome in the New Year, may have seemed inspired at the time, but considering that most of your inner-city parish is Moslem, that you are surrounded on one side by a hospital and another by a care home for the elderly, it is not too surprising that the joyful sound was not well received. But to be fair, we too had a small misjudgement on New Year's Eve. Our bell-ringers, who practise the art of campanology, and don't use electronic equipment, have always been something of a trial. They ring with great enthusiasm for half an hour before our services each week, but then as we are singing the first hymn, they emerge from the church tower, putting on hats and coats while loudly discussing who made the error in the middle of that morning's grandsire triples.

This New Year's Eve they met in the bell tower at 11.00pm to have some champagne, and then a period of ringing before further refreshment became necessary. By midnight, the champagne had so refreshed them that they somewhat exceeded their accuracy, and the village heard the New Year being joyfully welcomed by a set of eight bells being rung in an entirely random order. I still managed to drift off to sleep, only to be woken three hours later by one bell being mournfully but persistently tolled. Finally, I felt obliged to go and find out why. I discovered Colonel Bradshaw alone in the bell tower. When the party had ended and the ringers trooped out, the Colonel had dashed back in to retrieve his hat. The others, ignorant of his absence, then locked the church and went home to their beds. That lone bell was his way of announcing his predicament. At least I was able to reassure him that his six-hour vigil in the church tower partially made up for his absence from Mattins for the previous 12 months.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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Burton Bradstock	11.00am A service of Hymns and Carols for Epiphany	11.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 9:30 Café Church	
Litton Cheney	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	9:30 am Matins (BCP)	9:30am Morning Worship
Swyre	3.00pm Evening Prayer	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	
Puncknowle		9.30 Holy Communion		11.00am Café Church
Shipton Gorge		9.30am Breakfast Church		11.00am Holy Communion
Long Bredy	11.00am Holy Communion		9.30 am Morning Worship	
Littlebredy		11am Holy Communion 11am		11.00am Morning Worship
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy communion	9.00am BCP		10.00am Family Praise
Portesham		10.00am Family praise	11.00am Holy Communion	9.00am BCP
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	11.00am Holy communion	10.00am Family Praise	
Midweek Holy Communion at St Mary's Burton Bradstock 3 rd Jan 2024 11.30am (to be followed by a light lunch)				