

BRIDE VALLEY NEWS



July 2024

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

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August 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 July for the July issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley should be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy should be delivered to village correspondents well before the deadline. Please contact bvctc@outlook.com for information on advertising in the BVN. Articles, notices and advertisements in this magazine may not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Editor or the people and organisations funding and supporting the BVN. Copies of the BVN, in colour, can be found at bvnl.org.uk or on the Bride Valley village websites.

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

Cover Picture: British blue cow, first time mum, with calf (a Simmental x) born in late May on Maydown Farm. The father is a Simmental bull. With many thanks to Pete & Gill Mayo for the photograph.

The Bride Valley News is delivered to every home in the valley and is entirely produced and distributed by volunteers. Donations to help us continue to provide the magazine would be welcome and if you feel able to contribute - please make a BACS payment to:
**Account: 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council', Sort code 30-91-21
 Account number 00074071.....and please quote BVN.**

The Bride Valley & Chesil Churches

St Mary The Virgin: Burton Bradstock
St Mary: Litton Cheney
St Michael & All Angels: Littlebredy
St Peter: Long Bredy
Chilcombe (dedication unknown)
St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle
St Martin: Shipton Gorge
Holy Trinity: Swyre
St Nicholas, Abbotsbury
St Peter's, Portesham
St Peter's, Langton Herring

Rev'd Margaret Preuss-Higham (01305) 873978

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

Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs)

Within the Bride Valley Churches there is a small team of Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's) who are available for anybody throughout our community, responding to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. If you need help please contact the Churchwardens, Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator (01308 897260) or one of the Lay Pastoral Assistants who are: *Cathryn Johnson 01308 897169, 01308 898327, Pauline Woodford (Burton Bradstock only) 01308 898327, Jenny Malyon 01308 898768 and Liz Orza 01308 897451.*

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



You are invited to the Institution
by the Bishop of Salisbury
and the Induction and Installation
by the Archdeacon of Sherborne
of **The Rev'd Andrew Rawding**
as Rector of the Benefice of the Bride Valley and Chesil
on Sunday 14th July at 11am
at St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock.
The service will take place within the context of the Eucharist.

Please note, only people with limited mobility should park in the village due to the numbers expected at the service. Please can others park at Manor Farm, entrance via Barr Lane.

A 'Bring and Share' picnic will take place in the Rectory Garden after the service (or the Village Hall if wet.)

RSVP Helen Fry, Higher Sturthill Farm, Icen Lane, Shipton Gorge DT6 4PP
or email: bvchurchesta@outlook.com by **July 1st.**

If you are attending the induction and installation, please, if at all possible, car share. Cars should be parked at Manor Farm – but if you are less mobile, then please let Helen know and we will do our best to accommodate you close to the church. For parking at Manor Farm:-

- 1. The entry to the farm is off Barr Lane - DT6 4PY.*
- 2. Please park where directed by a parking marshal.*
- 3. Anyone choosing to park at Manor Farm does so ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK.*
- 4. The route to the church is uneven in places. There is a lane around the perimeter of the farm which is the most suitable way.*
- 5. Anyone parking at Manor Farm should leave as soon as the festivities are over.*
- 6. Maximum speed of just 10 mph. Anyone exceeding this limit will be asked to leave.*
- 7. Crossing the High Street from the pedestrian farm entrance can be awkward if cars/motorcycles are speeding through this section. Please be careful that there are no moving vehicles/motorcycles before you cross at your will.*

Safeguarding

Les Keatley is the Benefice Safeguarding Officer. If you have any concerns that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, or you need to speak to someone, or you are a victim of domestic or sexual abuse or you need Survivor care and support contact Les. Email: Les@keatley.me.uk or phone 07833545450

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

July Holidays

Having a Staycation? Enjoy Keswick in your lounge by logging on free to You Tube and Keswick Convention 2024 - Resurrection - for 3 weeks of Morning Bible studies at 9.20am and Evening Celebrations 7.15pm Live 13th-19th July, 20th-26th July, & 27th July - 2nd August. Enjoy what 1,000s have experienced over its 150yrs history.

Any problems please contact me at (01308) 897780.

Ryder

From the Registers

Funerals:

Saundra Heaver, 8th June at Puncknowle

Bryan Shaw, 13th June at Shipton Gorge

Marigold Christian, 21st June at Shipton Gorge

Sheila Body, 2nd July Swyre

Baptism:

Olivia Hurley 30th June at Shipton Gorge



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

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

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

As we start our final half term of this academic year, the children have lots to look forward to. Owl class have their activities week including a school sleepover, Kingfishers are having an Egyptian Day, Robins are making beach huts and visiting the beaches near school and The Nest are off to Axe Valley Wildlife Park! We also have our annual sports day and summer sporting events and also our careers events. To end the year, we say goodbye to our current Y6 pupils with a leavers' service at the Village Hall.

At the end of last term, our Year 6 children received their leavers' hoodies. These were handed out in celebration worship after they had completed



their SATs tests. A huge thank you to the Friends for their generous donation which halved the cost of these for our families.

If you have walked past our school recently, you may have noticed the planters, hanging baskets and flower beds all coming into bloom. We were blown away by the generosity of our community after we put out a call for bedding plants. Thank you to all



the families who dropped off plants or spoke to local companies. The children in the Nest have been busy gardening and our playground looks so beautiful. A special thank you to Morrison's Bridport for their donation of new pots and teddy bear planters and Groves for their selection of plants too.

On Thursday 6th June, the children reflected on the events of 80 years ago. Children across the school took part in class workshops and discussions and our school lunch on the 6th was fish and chips, linked to the code words used by soldiers on the beaches of Normandy. During the week, Owl class visited the Tank Museum as part of their topic 'Britain at War'. Children in Kingfishers also visited the Community Library and as part of this they talked about the role that Burton Bradstock played in the D-Day landings.

If you would like to visit our friendly village school, please contact our school office via email: office@burtonbradstock.dorset.sch.uk

Adam Gough
Headteacher



Thorners CE VA School

The last half of the summer term has started brilliantly with an action-packed week for the children. We had a Fossil themed week with a Theatre Production from As One Theatre, looking at the incredible story of Mary Anning - covering everything from being struck by lightning as a child up to her battle to win recognition from the scientific community for her discoveries - the children were in no doubt afterwards how hard a life Mary had been through and how difficult it was for her as a woman to gain the plaudits and respect her incredible work and discoveries clearly merited. After the whole-school performance, Bredy and Eggardon also took part in a drama workshop where they themselves took to the boards to explore and convey the incredible discoveries Mary made at that time.

On Friday we also took the older children to Lyme Regis for the Fossil Festival organised across the weekend. There was an incredible range of speakers and presentations from organisations such as The Natural History Museum, Bristol University, The British Antarctic Survey, Steve Etches and Lyme Regis Museum. The children loved all the activities and talks and the experts were impressed with how much the children knew about evolution and the dinosaurs that lay under their feet!

On Wednesday we started our Forest School sessions with Rachel Ellman in our wildlife area - with each class building on their skills from last year when they also worked with Rachel. We are most grateful to Rachel for her sessions and knowledge about the Discovery Area as well as to Sian Hennessy for his contribution of woodchip to school for the paths in that area. We look forward to more sessions such as cooking and forest art as the weeks continue. We also continued with our whole class Violin lessons and the children are working towards a concert for parents at the end of this term. Lastly, on Wednesday we are delighted to report that the children were victorious in the Bridport Kwik Cricket tournament - winning all their matches. The children played brilliantly and also enjoyed the chance to compete against other schools after such a wet start to the summer.

The swimming pool also opened this week and the children are having lessons from both staff and Dan Drew, our local swim teacher, who is coming in on Mondays to work on the children's confidence and strokes. Thanks again to parents, the TSA, Cresta Leisure and Nick Bowring for all their help and support in getting the pool ready for the swimming this

summer. Our sailing series after school on Mondays also starts this week and we are taking approximately 20 children to Portland Harbour for sailing for the next 6 weeks - so we hope for some sunshine and a gentle breeze or two as we learn the ropes (sheets)!

Mike Sitch
Headmaster

Our Night Sky in July 2024

Saturn will be rising in the East at about 0130 and Mars at 0300. Jupiter is still lost in the morning Sunrise. Cygnus, the Swan and the Milky Way will be readily visible overhead.



Using the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), astronomers have seen the first-ever look at the light of ancient stars shining around some of the biggest, brightest and oldest black holes in the universe. Quasars - galactic cores containing active supermassive black holes - are among the most ancient things in the universe. As dust and gas accelerate toward the quasar's central black hole, the quasar emits such bright radiation - typically a thousand times brighter than the entire Milky Way - that astronomers have a hard time observing the fainter light of stars in the quasar's galaxy. This makes it challenging to study the galaxy's shape and mass, but for the first time, researchers at MIT have managed to unpick this mixture of signals and detect the faint stellar light from stars in galaxies around some of the oldest quasars in the universe. Their results, published on 6th May in *The Astrophysical Journal*, reveal that, relative to their host galaxies, these ancient supermassive black holes are around 100 times bigger than their counterparts in the nearby universe.

These results were possible thanks to JWST's superior sharpness and resolution. Over 120 hours of telescope time, the team observed six quasars, all estimated to be around 13 billion years old – some of the oldest objects in the universe.

Bill Turnill

The Bride Valley WI

Our meeting for May was an inspiration and an education for us all. Mark from Groves demonstrated how to plant the perfect hanging basket. He impressed us with a plant ball which he constructed with professional ease.

Our Thursday evening walk took us to Eype where a large group of members enjoyed the beautiful scenery that surrounds us in our wonderful county of Dorset. Portland and Golden Cap stood proud in the early evening light and Colmers Hill surprised us by appearing in the distance framed by foliage.



Remember we meet every third Thursday at Puncknowle Village Hall at 7:30.

Skittles also continues at the White Horse, Litton Cheney on alternate Tuesdays.

Email. bridevalleyWI@gmail.com

Bride Valley Book Club - Book Review

When God Was a Rabbit, by Sarah Winman

We enjoyed reading “When God was a Rabbit” despite some misgivings. For a first novel it did the usual thing of trying to cover too much ground within the span of just one book. The story follows the lives of an unconventional family and their friends from London to Cornwall with later interludes in New York. The early childhood sections were especially good with laugh out loud vignettes such as an hilarious school nativity play. This is a novel about the love and enduring affection which binds family and friends. Ellie’s family are quirky



characters and all the more interesting because of this. The book falls into two halves - the childhood and early adolescence of Ellie and later with a gap of almost 20 years - Ellie's life as a young woman. There were instances of "creative writing project" discernible at times and a feeling of possibly genuine memories being embellished. Winman uses many real historical "markers" to punctuate her narrative and given that the main character's life span roughly coincides with our own - we recognised the resonance of these - the Silver Jubilee street parties, Diana's death, 9/11, and quite a few more.

We had mixed views about this - some of us felt that these associative events were overcooked by the author - notably the brutal Beirut kidnapping of a friend and the trauma of 9/11 when Ellie's older brother, Joe, is believed lost forever. More interesting was the hint that Ellie herself had been prey to sinister grooming by an elderly neighbour. Much later in the novel this is explained in more detail and we felt it begged questions about both perpetrator and victim - about which the writer leaves us to make up our own minds.

There were fascinating characters created in this book - off beat bohemian individuals about whom we wanted to know more. Most heart-breaking was the childhood friend, Jenny Penny, a neglected and misunderstood girl destined for a dysfunctional adult life. We tended to agree that the novel's ending was a bit "all tied up in a neat bow" - Joe's unlikely resurfacing as an amnesiac months after 9/11, a dear elderly family friend regaining his sight after being hit on the head by a coconut (yes!) - and Jenny Penny's reincarnation as a writer after release from prison. Overall - a refreshing and original book.

Liz Pinfield

A Library for the whole of the Bride Valley

Burton Bradstock Community Library was recently hired by a visiting book group and when I went to welcome them, it was a little surprising that some of them had never been into the building. Do you have a library card? Do you have children or grandchildren who might like to borrow books? Do you want to know more? A library card is free and you only have to fill in a form and present some form of ID. Then you are off! There are lots of online facilities - books, magazines, access to an extensive catalogue, all provided by the Libraries West Consortium. We have an everchanging stock of fiction, non-fiction, large print books, biographies and beautiful children's books covering board and picture books for the younger children and reading books for

various levels of reading ability. There are also public access computers – perhaps you might want to do some family history research through Ancestry? Our jigsaw collection is being added to all the time - just consult our catalogue of new puzzles. We look forward to seeing you soon at our Library for the Bride Valley.

Our library opening times are:

Monday 2.00pm-4.00pm, Wednesday 10.00am-12noon
Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm-4.00pm

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library
01308 897563

Sue Brown
Chair

Events in the Bride Valley

Artsreach Entertains the whole family in one day

Save the date! Three shows in one day from Artsreach!

THURSDAY 8th AUGUST, AT LATCH in Litton Cheney



11.00am: Children's show (4+ years), first sitting: 'The Indian Story Den'.

3.00pm: Children's show (4+ years), second sitting: 'The Indian Story Den' with colourful myths and music inside a bell-shaped tent.

Book now, places limited! Under-18s, £5; adults, £7; families, £20.

7.30pm: Adults' show: 'HOLY COW!' Heroes, mothers and tenderness are found in stories of a world held up by elephants. Bursting with humour, dance, occasional bubbles and unpredictable watermelons.

Featuring Emily Hennessey and Sheema Mukherjee (sitar). Tickets £12 from www.artsreach.co.uk or Patricia on 01308 482 514.

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2024 is a special year for the villages of Portesham and Abbotsbury. Plans are in place to celebrate that 1000 years ago in 1024 King Canute wrote a charter giving the area known as Porteshamme to his manservant Orc. This original charter is stored in Dorset History Centre and this is the first written record that defines the area now known as Portesham. Abbotsbury will also celebrate its Millennium this year, however, the written record

has been lost. There is evidence of humans inhabiting this area since Neolithic times but this document is the first written record. To mark this important milestone both villages will hold a number of events throughout the year and some have already taken place. Bunting including our logo is already on display. June, July and August will be the time of a series of events where we hope good weather will shine on us. For a list of events see www.MAP24.org These events are open to all.

Artsreach Promoter for Burton Bradstock

I have been spurred into action after attending a wonderful Artsreach folk music event in a village north of Bridport the evening before penning this piece. It showed what Artsreach is all about – a warm welcome, reasonably priced tickets, internationally acclaimed performers, sell-out audience, bar – what more could you want in a village hall in Dorset?

My husband and I have helped run Artsreach events for over 20 years, in our previous village and in Burton Bradstock. We have met some fascinating performers and experienced a wide variety of music, theatre, comedy, children's puppetry, etc. Audiences travel from all over Dorset, Devon and beyond and really appreciate Burton Bradstock Village Hall for its size,



welcome and bar! It would be a great shame if the village stopped providing a venue for Artsreach and I have already been asked what our next event might be.

Bryan stepped down in 2023 and Alex very enthusiastically took on the baton, but due to other commitments she feels unable to continue. It is now time for fresh enthusiasm and new a promoter(s) to be appointed. As with quite a few Dorset village halls, promoters do not have to be linked to other organisations such as the Village Hall, WI or whatever. They can be a small independent group. We are happy to help with advice. If you would like to have a chat with either Bryan or myself to find out what is involved, call us on 01308 897421. It is a fun way to experience the arts and bring a lot of enjoyment to audiences from across the county.

Sue Brown

Bride Valley Gardening Club

Summer flowers should by now be revelling in the hot sun and blooming profusely by the time you read this. All the hard work and imagination put into our flower beds and containers will have been worthwhile. Having waited so long for their impact it's easy to overlook the shade loving plants that not only fill those difficult spots in the garden but positively thrive with a leafy canopy or in a north facing site. The bluebells needing dappled shade provided by trees coming into leaf; the foxgloves on the edge of woodlands; epimediums, aruncus, many hardy geraniums and lilies, aconitum - my list is endless. Not alone in having a preference for shade and woodland plants I'm in good company with the next speaker for the club. On Monday July 22nd we welcome back Saul Walker, Head Gardener of Stonelands House - and one-time Chelsea Show Manager - when he will give a talk on *his* favourite plant group entitled 'The Art of Growing in The Shade'. Do come and join us then for a glass of wine and an excellent talk when he will no doubt introduce us to many unfamiliar plants. I must end with sincere thanks to an anonymous benefactor who recently made a donation to the Club. This was very generous.



Next meeting: Monday July 22nd in the Litton Cheney Village Hall, (LATCH). Doors open at 7.00pm for drinks, plant sales and chat. Talk starts at 7.30pm. Visitors most welcome (£2). Regrettably, the Flower and Produce Show scheduled for July will not now take place.

Ali Halliday (balletboots@live.com)

Shipton Gorge

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



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

SHIPTON GORGE
VILLAGE DIARY

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

St Martin's Church

Floodlight Sponsors for July:

*Jane & Tony Mallet remembering Sidney Ramsden
Terry & Christine in Memory of Doreen and Mick*

Thank you to our floodlight sponsors. We are very low on sponsorship for the months ahead and we do appreciate our sponsors, especially during these hard times for St Martin's. If you have an occasion coming up, for a suggested donation of £5 you can light up the church and have your occasion mentioned in the BVN. Please contact Phyl Webster on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage post-box.

Breakfast Church in the Village Hall. 14th July at 9.30am
Holy Communion 26th May at 11.00am

Shipton Gorge Village Fete

Shipton Gorge Fete is to be held on Saturday 27th July and the church will be manning the cake stall. If you can help by baking a cake for us to sell, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please **contact Helen on 897260 or email bvchurchesTA@outlook.com**. It should be a great afternoon out with lots going on and the church tower will be open again this year.

Village Hall

June 2024 100 Club Super Draw results

1st 117 £100 Andrew Haydon
2nd 70 £25 Bob Simpson
3rd 163 £20 Michael Bradley
4th 102 £15 Darren & Claire Belcher
5th 146 £10 Lucy Dunstan Beasley

Congratulations to all winners.

What's on at the New Inn

5th July, England continue in the Euros. TBC.

9th July, Euros semifinal 1. 10th July, Euros semifinal 2

13th July, Stomping Dave with Earl & Lucy. From 5.00pm

14th July, Euros final

25th July Quiz night. Plus buffet from 6.00pm

At the time of publication, we still have a few tickets left for our Summer Blues Night with local legends Stomping Dave, Earl & Lucy.

It will be another great night of musical entertainment & tickets are available for only £10 by contacting Simon on 0778 720390. Please call, WhatsApp or text Simon to secure your ticket.

The night starts at 5.00pm with a BBQ & salad available for purchase on the night. Music from 7.30pm till close.

Finally, we still have limited summer availability on our two lovely bed & breakfast en-suite rooms. If you have a special event planned & need extra accommodation for family or friends in a comfortable village room then please call the pub on 01308 897302 to check for availability. Or alternatively call into the pub to book in person.

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club – The winner in the June draw was David Gould – a bottle of gin has been delivered. Congratulations David. For info, tickets for the year starting in August will be on sale very soon – if interested, please let us know.



Saunders Richardson Wood

The resident wildlife in the wood has been left in peace recently. Just occasional walk throughs to check all ok and to feed the fertiliser with fresh nettles and give the brew a good stir. Will let you know when it is ready for sale – it proved very popular last year, so get your orders in quick. No open dates planned in July currently but look out for posters around the village or on the village Facebook page in case something gets arranged.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

Most of the apple blossom has now died back and thanks to the good work by the various industrious pollinators we are now seeing small fruits starting to develop. The borders have had a bit of a tidy and a few more pollinator friendly plants have been added. We thought we had lost a few trees due to rabbit damage, however, some now seem to have leaves growing - so fingers crossed. As you know from your own gardens, the grass is growing like mad. We will be keeping the grass short on the paths, leaving areas around the trees a bit longer. The low-key maintenance days are currently planned for Monday 1st and 15th July 11.00am-12.00noon. If you would like to help, please do come along!



We will be at the Village Show on 27th July if you want to come and meet us, see what we have been up to, and if not already a member, we will very happily sign you up! We will be running the Tombola this year; therefore, any donations of bottles will be very much appreciated – just let me know and we can arrange collection.

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>

Drop-in Café at the Village Hall

The last of the four planned cafes took place in June when a good number of villagers took the opportunity to meet and chat. Many thanks to the Parish Council for instigating and funding these events.

If you'd like to see the Café continue, we need to hear from you. Your thoughts and ideas about how it can develop will be most welcome, and if you wish to be involved, even better! Simply have a word with Graham Garner, Mary Boughton or Richard Hewlett.

With your help we'll look forward to reopening the Drop-in Café in the autumn.

Village Society.....Urgent Request

Can you help? Where we have our marquees stored, this space will very soon become unavailable. We are looking for storage space for two trailers within the village, even if it is for a short term.

Please contact me if you think you can help.

Graham Garner

Village Society

01308 897357

Litton Cheney

Village Correspondent: John Firrell

jjfirrell20@gmail.com Tel: 01308 482313

Village web-site www.littoncheney.org.uk



St Mary's Church

St. Mary's will be hosting a Grand Village Café at LATCH on Saturday 6th July to raise funds for the church. As well as the usual Café goodies, there will be local art and crafts for sale, cakes and produce, tombola, the Grand Prize Draw and games for the children. Tickets for the Grand Prize Draw are now on sale around the village and on the day. Please come along and help us raise lots of money to maintain our lovely church - this is the main fundraiser this year and every little helps! Please come.

Our new Rector, Rev'd Andrew Rawding, will be installed at 11.00am on Sunday 14th July in St. Mary's Burton Bradstock. We very much look forward to welcoming him to the Benefice, together with his wife Loveday and their children. His first service at St. Mary's will be Morning Worship on Sunday July 28th at 9.30am.

Litton Cheney Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9th July, at LATCH. Residents are actively encouraged to attend. Democratic time allows for local points and concerns to be brought to the attention of the council at the meeting.

Our thanks to David Hearn and Gwen Kinghorn for their assistance in providing detailed information on the part played by Litton, Long Bredy and the Bride Valley in the lead up to the D-Day Landings in 1944. Lest we forget.

At Thorner's School, Local Food Links laid on a D-Day Lunch on 6th June for the school children commemorating the 80th Anniversary, and Headmaster Mike held a special Assembly ensuring the children were aware of the happenings on that day and why we should never forget.

Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH)

Weekly:

Mondays: 3.30pm - 4.30pm Big Q Church (Term time only)

Tuesdays: 6.00pm – Pilates (johanna@larkpilates.com) 07920 421783)

Wednesdays: 4.45pm - Table Tennis (Ron Davidson 01308 482661)

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

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

Fridays: 10.00am – 12.00noon: Art Class in meeting room (5th and 12th)

Special:

Thursday 4th: General Election Polling Station in Meeting Room

Saturday 6th: Grand Village Café in aid of St. Mary's 10.00am – 12.30pm.

Tuesday 9th: Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

Friday 26th: Bingo Night

Note: The hall will be unavailable from 29th July to 2nd August for floor maintenance.

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

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

Save the date! Three shows in one day from Artsreach!

THURSDAY 8th AUGUST, AT LATCH – see *Valley Notes* for further details.

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>



Thanksgiving for Sandra Heaver

On Friday 7th June the church was full for the beautiful Thanksgiving Service for Sandra Heaver. The service had many personal accounts of Sandra's life, interspersed with hymns, music by Canteloube, Chopin, Vivaldi, Debussy and Bach. It was a fitting tribute to a beautiful and well-loved lady. Afterwards her internment took place in the cemetery. Our thoughts are with Derek her husband. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Fate of the Fete

Since the fete was announced in the June edition of the Bride Valley News, for various reasons, it has been decided not to hold Puncknowle Fete this year.

However.....The Crown Inn will be holding a

Summer Garden Party

on Saturday 27th July, 2.00pm-4.00pm, with Afternoon Teas in aid of Breast Cancer research (please pre-book on 01308 897711). Live Music, Cream Teas, various stalls and games in aid of Puncknowle Church.

Come along for a fun afternoon and give your support to these causes.

Puncknowle 100 Club

Here are the draw results for May:

1st Prize: Kim Neill 2nd Prize: Carol Kennelly

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in July		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Mondays	10.00am - 11:00am	Tripudio, Contact Ali on 07968 370485
Mondays	1:30pm - 4:00pm	Pilates Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
Wednesdays	10:00am - 12:00noon	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Wednesdays	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Table Tennis Contact Brian on 01308 897987
OTHER EVENTS		
Monday 1st	5.00pm	Planning Steering Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Monday 1st	7.15pm	Tripudio Contact Ali on 07968 370485 or by email ali.russell@hotmail.com
Thursday 4th	All day	Polling Day
Monday 8th	6.00pm	Tripudio Contact Ali on 07968370485
Saturday 13th	9.15am	Tai Chi
Monday 15th	6.00pm	Tripudio Contact Ali on 07968370485
Tuesday 16th	10.00am - 3.00pm	Lunch Club Contact David on 01308 898492
Thursday 18th	7.00pm	In case it rains
Monday 22nd	6.00pm	Tripudio Contact Ali on 07968370485
Monday 22nd	7.00pm - 10.00pm	Benefice Contact Helen Fry 01308 897260
Friday 26th	10.00am - 12.30pm	Art Club Contact Sally on 01308 897987

**Puncknowle, Swyre, West Bexington, Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy
Lunch Club 2024**

in Puncknowle village hall at 1.00pm

July 16th: Ham or Beef with salad, new potatoes and Coleslaw
August: No lunch
Next lunch: September 17th

Lunches cost £6.00. All meals include fruit juice, cheese and biscuits, tea or coffee
Enquiries - please contact David Buckland, 01308 898492 for more details

**IF TIMES ARE HARD, CAN WE HELP?
THE NAPPER CHARITY TRUST
Invites Applications for Grants**

The Napper Charity Trust raises a small fund each year to be used
for the
Benefit of Residents of Puncknowle*

We can help with such things as school uniforms, school trips and
can consider other requests that would benefit residents in need.
Awards are available on application – either in the form of grants to
individuals or to groups. (The full terms of the Charity are available
on request - see below.)

Any person or group from Puncknowle can make an application for a
share of these funds.

Please apply in confidence to:

The Clerk of Puncknowle & Swyre Parish Council (Sally Bowsher)
- Telephone 01308-897987 - email puncknowle@dorset-aptc.gov.uk
OR contact any of the Parish Councillors for further details.

ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.

**The Parish of Puncknowle includes Swyre and West Bexington*

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club May Results

£30.00	No. 44	J. Peretz
£15.00	No. 49	A. Bailey
£5.00	No. 9	A. Bailey

Church News

Rev'd Andrew Rawding will be licensed on Sunday, 14th July 2024 at 11.00am in Burton Bradstock Church. Members of the community will represent our valley. We have a local farmer from Long Bredy representing the farming community.

Rev'd Andrew will be holding his first service with us on Sunday, 21st July at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to come and meet him - there will be refreshments afterwards.

Parish councils amongst other organisations will also be represented to welcome him. He will be living at the Rectory in Burton Bradstock with his family. A keen cyclist he will be out and about through the valley. We hope he will be very happy here.

The Churchyard has looked stunning over the past few weeks and we have had many compliments. Thank you to all those who volunteer with its care. This month we are having a 'big tidy up' and everyone is invited to come with some shears/clippers - even for only an hour to help. We would be very grateful. Refreshments will be served. The date will be announced on Facebook/community network as we will have to look at the weather before we decide.

Long Bredy Duck Race and Summer Party

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Duck Race and Summer Party in support of our village hall on Sunday, June 9th, 2024. We were blessed with wonderful weather, and a great time was had by all.

The Archaeology at Bottle Knapp Cottage

In the Village Hall on Tuesday 11th June, over 50 people attended a presentation by Martin Papworth from the National Trust, who discussed the findings from the 2019 excavation at Bottle Knapp.

The presentation included videos showcasing the excavation process, the discoveries made, and the subsequent research, which encompassed carbon dating and DNA analysis. Three sets of bones were discovered, consistent with teenagers aged



13-18, as indicated by their unfused bones.

The limbs were found in unusual positions.

The skeletons were identified as two females and one male. Carbon dating placed the



bones between 750 500 BC, during the early Iron Age. These findings are unique, with no comparable records available. The DNA analysis has been integrated into international research, and the Bottle Knapp findings are frequently referenced due to their rarity. Isotope analysis suggested that the teenagers were likely local, with ancestors who had probably migrated across the Channel. The excavation was featured on the series "Digging for Britain".

May Coffee Break and Plant Sale

This event raised £673.50 in aid of church funds. Thank you to everyone who supported us by donating and buying plants, tools and refreshments.

Coming up in July...

Coffee Break

The Coffee Break will take place on Saturday, 13th July 2024 from 10.30am-12:00noon in the village hall. Join neighbours and friends to catch up and enjoy some refreshments. All are welcome!

Come Along Inn

We shall be opening our doors again on Friday, 19th July 2024 at Long Bredy village hall 5.30pm - 9.00pm. All the usual selection of drinks and food will be available. Looking forward to seeing you all. Cheers for now.

Recipe Corner

When space permits, we'll be sharing a recipe that you can easily try at home. If there are any recipes you'd like to share with the community, please email them to Rebecca or post it through the door at No. 5 Bedford Terrace.

This month's recipe is... an 'Epic Summer Salad'

Ingredients:

400g black beans, drained

2 large handfuls baby spinach leaves,
roughly chopped

500g heritage tomatoes, chopped into
large chunks

½ cucumber, halved lengthways, seeds scooped out and sliced on an angle

1 mango, peeled and chopped into chunks

1 large red onion, halved and finely sliced

6-8 radishes, sliced

2 avocados, peeled and sliced

100g feta, crumbled

handful of herbs (reserved from the dressing)

For the dressing

large bunch mint

small bunch coriander

small bunch basil

1 fat green chilli, deseeded and chopped

1 small garlic clove

100ml extra virgin olive oil or rapeseed oil

2 limes, zested and juiced

2 tbsp white wine vinegar

2 tsp honey

Instructions:

STEP 1

Make the dressing by blending all of the ingredients in a food processor (or very finely chop them), saving a few herb leaves for the salad. You can make the dressing up to 24 hrs before serving.

STEP 2

Scatter the beans and spinach over a large platter. Arrange the tomatoes, cucumber, mango, onion and radishes on top and gently toss together with your hands. Top the salad with the avocados, feta and herbs, and serve the dressing on the side.

Bon Appetit!



Burton Bradstock

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



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

The theme for our summer Songs of Praise service on Sunday July 7th at 11.00am is 'An exploration of the hymns of Timothy Dudley-Smith' which will be led by the Reverend Philip Ringer.



With five uplifting hymns and some readings and reflections based around this theme this is an informal service to which all residents and visitors are warmly invited. It lasts just under one hour and refreshments are served afterwards.

Everyone will be welcome to join us for these inspiring services!

St Mary's Church Annual Fete Thursday 1 August

We are looking forward to all the usual activities, stalls and games at our annual fete on Thursday 1st August in the Rectory Garden from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. We will have live music and, especially for the children, another great magic show from Chris Howat! As usual, proceeds from this summer's event will go towards the worthwhile cause of enhancing St Mary's as a community space for everyone.

As ever, any contributions for any of the stalls, cakes (of course!), or sponsorships would be most welcome. Jayne would be pleased to hear from you if you have something to donate which could be included in the Grand Draw (always a highlight of the day) as a prize, or perhaps to put into a hamper of assorted items. The Plants and Garden Produce Stall would welcome donations of plants, etc that would be suitable for sale. Please contact Pat Broomhead on 897408 or pwbroomhead@gmail.com. The Village Hall will be open from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Wednesday 31st July, where you can drop off donations for any of the stalls, particularly books

and items for the White Elephant stall. We also need donations of (full!) bottles of any kind, for the Bottle Tombola, any children's toys, games, books for the Children's stall and especially teddy bears who might need adopting! Can you help? We'd love to hear from volunteers to help during the Fete and if you are available on the Wednesday from 5.00pm and then on the Thursday from 8.30am, we would be delighted to have your assistance in setting up marquees and gazebos for the stalls and games (and taking down and clearing up at around 5.00pm).

Here are our contacts:

Co-ordinator Peter Tompkins 01308 897043

Games – Mel Glazer 0770 2074534, email mj.glazer@gmail.com

Stalls – Carol and George Higho 07394 957191
email carol.higho@yahoo.com

Grand Draw – Jayne Glazer, email jayne.glazer@gmail.com

Finally, please put Thursday 1st August on your calendar, come along, have fun, and support the Fete!

The Church Fete Team

Tots' Time

In case you wondered, the cress seeds grew well in their eggshells and on two Fridays we enjoyed eating egg and cress sandwiches. The Tots had fun making scrambled egg with Liz's help, cutting and washing the cress and producing square or triangular sandwiches to eat and to hand out to the adults to share.

We have found meeting weekly rather than monthly so much better for all concerned. We have been doing this for 3 years now. However, we have another problem and would welcome your suggestions. In total, 7 babies have been to Tots' Time over the last year or so, but now cannot come or come with difficulty to our 2.00pm to 3.00pm sessions. That is the time most little ones aged 6 months to 2 years or so take their afternoon nap, which is essential for their well-being. Tiny babies or children of 2 years or more come along quite happily. Please give your ideas and suggestions to Audrey (897227), Heather (897780) or contact Helen on BVchurchesTA@outlook.com

The last Tots' Time session will be on July 12th, and will restart, D.V., on September 13th. But in the meantime - Happy Holidays - and God bless!

Burton Coffee Mates

Burton Coffee Mates meet in the church on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30pm-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. If you would like more information please call Pauline on 898327.

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.

Burton Bradstock Films

We now take a break until September, when we hope to have a list of entertaining films for the Autumn/Winter season. Full details will be in the BVN nearer the time.

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.

Wednesday 10th July - W.I.

No coffee morning in August

Wednesday 11th September - Friends of the Library

General Information

As the summer holidays approach, regular activities take place in the Hall until the schools break up. During the summer break look for the Arts Festival in the Hall for high quality Art and Crafts.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall “200 Club”

June 2024 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1 st	£34.60	No 89:	Mr Rob Bryan
2 nd	£17.30	No 121:	Mr Howard Bongers
3 rd	£8.65	No 98:	Mrs Christine Clarke

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the July 2024 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £6 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year.

There are double prizes in the December draw.

WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock WI



We had a very heart-warming talk at our last meeting, when the speakers were Liz See and Lesley Platt from the Linus Project. For this extremely worthwhile charity, volunteers make dozens of quilts to give to sick children in hospital or to a variety of other good causes.

The project is named after the character in the “Peanuts” cartoons, who loved his security blanket. We were shown an array of beautiful quilts with a variety patchwork designs, one of which was made by member Val Ferré, a newcomer to the project and then several more by member Pauline Tompkins who has made a great number over the past few years. The photo shows Pauline proudly showing her handmade quilt based on a Noah’s Ark theme.



At our 9th July meeting we are not having a speaker, but instead a more informal social evening where we can have a good chat with each other before we have a break for the Summer. There will be a quiz along with some light refreshments, of course, to keep us going.

We shall also be holding our Art and Crafts competitions on this evening with categories for Watercolours, Art work in any other medium, Knitting, any other Crafts and Photography. The following morning, on 10th July, we shall be hosting the Village Coffee Morning and so will be leaving the competition entries out for all to see and admire. Do come along and join us between 10.00am and 12.00noon - there will be lots of homemade cakes to tempt you.

Janet Pearson

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

By the time you read this we should have got used to our somewhat delayed new library computer system and thank you all for bearing with us during our library closure. Lots of changes, all happening at once!

The Children's Summer Reading Challenge kicks off on 6th July on the theme of 'Marvellous Makers' and we hope that many of the pupils at Burton Bradstock School will be signed up to take part. The graph of library issues might have an interesting spike in July!

For information on our other services, please read our entry in the opening pages of this magazine.

burtonbradstocklibrary@gmail.com
www.burtonbradstockvillage.org/library
01308 897563

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Annual Meeting

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Annual Parish Meeting. Thank you for helping make the evening a great success!

Village Survey Results

The results of the recent survey of the village on issues including road safety will be presented at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 3rd July at 7.30pm in the Reading Room. Any residents who are interested in seeing the presentation of the results are invited to attend the meeting.

Allotments

Interested in having an allotment plot? We currently have plots available. Please contact clerk@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk for further information.

Road Safety

The newly elected Burton Bradstock Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 5th June to re-establish the Burton Bradstock Road Safety Working Group. The Parish Council invites any residents who would like to join the Group, and have skills and knowledge relevant to the Group's work, to contact Bob Ward in the first instance on b.ward@burtonbradstock-pc.gov.uk or 07811-320346 by Monday 17th June.

We have submitted a formal application to Dorset Council for a pedestrian crossing across the B3157 at Common Lane, near Burton Garage, but they are likely to take some time to consider the application. Residents who would like to express their support for the application are encouraged to contact Lloyd Squibb at Dorset Council on lloyd.squibb@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Fibre Update

Openreach, BT's network arm, has recently released their updated December 2026 roadmap, and — good news — Burton Bradstock is now on their upgrade plans. What will fibre bring? Over 20 times faster download speeds, lower latency (for video and audio calls), higher reliability whilst doing so at a lower cost than their existing network.

The December 2026 roadmap is "not final" and to ensure:

- 1) we remain on this list
- 2) we are prioritised within the next 32 months

We encourage you to register your interest with Openreach. This should take two to three minutes.

How?

- 1) Go to [Openreach.com](https://openreach.com)
- 2) Enter your postcode and select your address, click "Check Availability"
- 3) In the "Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband", click "Keep me updated"
- 4) Enter your details to be contacted by Openreach when plans progress

Burton Bradstock Festival of Music and Art 2024

Wonderful music – and so much more!

We are delighted that this year's Festival is shaping up to be the best yet! Beginning on Saturday 10th August, Burton Bradstock Village Hall is the venue for the ever-popular, high quality art exhibition which always proves a draw for both artists and visitors.

Exhibiting artists are selected and paintings are hung by a professional team. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase affordable art of a standard normally found in private galleries.

Original paintings, ceramics, wood crafts and greeting cards by West Country artists will be on show and for sale. As paintings are sold, they are replaced by new work which makes for an ever-changing exhibition. So, it's well worth

visiting several times during the nine-day event, which ends on Sunday 18th August – admission is free!

The music begins on Sunday 11th August with live performances at the now traditional Tea Party in the Rectory Gardens at 3.00pm and a Festival Evensong at 6.00pm in St Mary's Church.

Artistic Director David Juritz has again done us proud by putting together a terrific concert programme across six days. With something for everyone, there will be the fiery music of the Balkans, cool Brazilian sounds, waltzes and polkas, the music of Gabriel Fauré and, the grand finale on Friday 16 August - the Gala Concert. Featuring star turns from our renowned musicians, it will include a Bach triple concerto, a seldom-heard version of Mozart's early masterpiece, his *Sinfonia Concertante*, and Dvorak's *Rondo* for cello and orchestra.

Tickets for all concerts will be on sale from 1st July from Bridport Tourist Information Centre, and can be bought in person, by post, by telephoning 01308 424901, or online using the QR code on the right, or going to www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk/tickets/

You can see the full programme and download the Festival brochure at www.burtonbradstockfestival.com
We look forward to seeing you next month!
Jenny Malyon,
Chair of the Festival Committee



Littlebredy

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



It may seem strange to welcome Ed McFadden to Littlebredy, after he and Christine have already lived at Church Walk for 20 years. But he and his top-quality joinery business are now the new occupiers of the Old Forge, next to “Phil Hallett’s workshop” in the estate yard at the foot of White Hill. His enterprise follows those of a clock mender, computer programmer, furniture restorer, artist’s studio and upholsterer’s school in the premises, and we trust it will flourish following Ed’s move from elsewhere in the valley.

The eightieth anniversary of D-Day on the 6th June was marked with many formal commemorations in towns and cities nationwide and also of course in Normandy. Smaller communities like ours were encouraged to participate in one or both of two ways: by lighting a beacon and/or by ringing Church bells for half an hour. Plans for a beacon here, sadly, did not come to fruition, but a team of volunteers in the village duly tolled, chimed or pealed the Church bells between 6.30pm and 7.00pm, then raised a glass in the churchyard to the many servicemen and women who contributed to D-Day in whatever form, and especially to those who did not return.

There is a case to be made that D-Day was the single most significant date of the twentieth century, right up there with that of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914. Had the seaborne invasion of France from the ports of southern England in 1944 failed, then the entire continent of Europe, including Great Britain, would almost certainly have fallen, and then remained, under the monstrous tyrannies of Hitler’s Nazi, or Stalin’s communist, regimes. Fortunately for us all, and despite the immense loss of life involved, it did not fail, and the liberties we continue to enjoy have been preserved, thanks to the heroism of all involved - worth reflecting on as a democratic General Election draws near.

That is a digression, but I mention it because it is a matter of record that more Allied troops of three countries, Canada, Great Britain and the United States, embarked from Weymouth and Portland than from any of the larger

centres of Plymouth, Southampton or Portsmouth. And in particular, without knowing the numbers involved or what proportion of the whole they represented, the soldiers of the U.S. 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, after training further west, marched to their ships in Weymouth, bound for Omaha Beach, from Transit Camps D10 and D11, which were situated here in Littlebredy.

The remains of Camp D10 in Wellbottom Wood are still clearly evident: about a dozen concrete bases of buildings and a few windowless walls still standing. D11 was in Bigwood, but of that no trace survives, perhaps because it may have been tented rather than built. The late Marshallsay brothers, who lived in Bigwood Lodge from 1938 till comparatively recently, held it that even in the times of shared endeavour in 1944, black American servicemen were segregated from their white comrades in arms in the camps, and that the more basic D11 had been theirs. They also held that the clump of trees not far from the road on the left at the top of White Hill, just beyond the entrance to Tom Foot's two farm tracks, had been planted over the site of an ammunition dump well away from both camps, to avoid an accidental detonation of any forgotten armaments caused by farm livestock or machinery afterwards. Be that as it may, Littlebredy can most definitely claim a share, however small, in supporting the mighty effort which led to the liberation of Europe and the destruction of the Nazi regime in 1944 and 1945.

But these resultant freedoms need defending, and until that Promised Day "when sin shall be no more", they must still be defended by our armed services, among whom is now numbered Flying Officer Josh Wilkinson, son of Glenn and Amanda in No. 1, Yew Tree Cottage. Having succeeded in his officer training and exams, Josh passed out at R.A.F. Cranwell on the 30th May, and his parents, grandparents and others in his family attended the formal Parade, Church Service and formal Ball to mark the transition. Many congratulations to him, and we trust that his R.A.F. career will go from strength to strength.

The Rev'd Andrew Salmon: 1930 – 2024

A few members of our Church congregations in the Valley joined many others of Andrew's family and old friends for his funeral in Wareham's Priory Church of Lady St. Mary on the 3rd June. Born into a clerical family in Jerusalem, his Christianity had been shaped into an evangelical form at Cambridge University in the 1950s, along with many others who possibly went on to attain greater eminence in the Church (but probably not on the golf course,

hockey pitch or cricket field). His pastoral gifts lay in chaplaincy, and most of his career was spent first at Monkton Combe School near Bath, and then at Milton Abbey School, here in Dorset. It was from there that he came to devote the last few years of his ministry to live in Litton Cheney as Team Vicar of what was then called the Bride Valley Team.

Andrew was always an individualist on whom formality lay light. PCC Meetings for him were a burden to be endured (the fewer and shorter the better), but if cancelled for any reason, then better still. In his services, anecdotes, jokes and puns which had gone down well from the pulpit among teenage public-school boys were often recycled (sometimes to our bemusement) to more staid and mature village congregations in the valley. But behind an air of apparent insouciance from time to time, there lay a steelier faith, and when a wider issue or an individual parishioner's concerns merited a seriousness of approach, Andrew would not be found wanting and he could bring to bear a depth of sympathy and consideration, based on both scripture and experience.

In his time here, he was mightily supported and assisted by Monica, who pre-deceased him by only a few months after a period of ill health. She joined and encouraged many local organisations, especially those involving the schools and upbringing of children, and the memory of both of them should continue to be cherished in our community. To their four children, numerous grandchildren, and at least one great-grandchild, we send all sympathy and a shared sense of loss of two of life's great originals. Their example and their memories will not easily be forgotten. R.I.P.

The Duck Race by Quentin Blacke

Episode 3 – The End is in Sight One Way or Another!

Our two intrepid heroes, Frank and Ida Down, drifted on downstream, contented now that they had been reunited by their new friend, Dave, the Heron.



They sailed past the pumping station, under Chick Bridge and across the meadows, past Modbury Farm.

The river began to flow much faster now, boosted by the rains of the last few days and the waters of the numerous waterways that flowed into it.

By the time they reached Burton Bradstock, it had turned into a raging torrent and the two plastic ducks shot under the bridge like two white water rafters!

'Whahey!' thought Frank, 'this is fun,' but he was unaware that they were heading straight for Freshwater Bay, where the stormy waters of the English Channel were crashing mercilessly against the beach. Where sea met river, the water was like a washing machine; a maelstrom of relentless churning in which the ducks would stand no chance. Frank and Ida reached the final bend in the river. The roar of the storm ahead filling the air. They were helpless! Will the two survive? Is their bid for freedom over? Will there be yet more plastic waste on the beaches of Dorset?

Find out in the final episode of The Duck Race, in August's edition of the Bride Valley News!

More pictures of life at Maydown Farm from Gill & Pete Mayo



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



My dear Nephew Darren,

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave - which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever *you* do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch - when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be *nothing of the sort*. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven - provided your sermon is short.

So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Wordsearch for Sea Sunday

Find 25 words connected with Sea Sunday and the Sea. Answers next month! Words may be in any direction.

14th July brings us **Sea Sunday**, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite



literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck. To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries.

Important note to all contributors to the BVN

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 to your Village Correspondent set to A5 format, with pictures and illustrations set to 'wrap text square' (if using Word). Our font is Franklin Gothic Book 10.5pt for the main text (14pt for headings) and if you can use these settings the editing job will be easier!

For consistent presentation we do not use headings which consist of all capital letters, and you may have noticed that any such headings are revised accordingly! If you can, please set all gaps between paragraphs at 6.5pt as this saves space.

Also, we only use one space following full stops!

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


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