BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

online edition



October 2026

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

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Information for Contributors

November 2026 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 16th October for the November issue. Contributions from outside the Bride Valley can be emailed to bvnburton@gmail.com. Handwritten or typed copy must 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, often with additional items which could not be fitted into the printed version, can be found at bvn.org.uk or via links on Bride Valley village websites.
Note*: Contributors are asked to note that space in the BVN is strictly limited and the Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions and cannot guarantee that items will be included.*

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

The Bride Valley & Chesil Churches

St Mary The Virgin: Burton Bradstock
St Michael & All Angels: Littlebredy
Chilcombe (dedication unknown)
St Martin: Shipton Gorge
St Mary: Litton Cheney
St Peter: Long Bredy
St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle
Holy Trinity: Swyre
St Bartholomew: Corton

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Rawding

To enquire about Baptisms, Marriages or Funeral arrangements in the Bride Valley & Chesil Benefice Churches please contact Rev'd Rawding by email: rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

We have 2 Lay Pastoral Assistants in our team and they are available for anyone throughout our community and can respond to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. The team are: Jenny: 07932192908, and Liz: 01308 897451 alternatively you can get in touch with your churchwarden, or Helen Fry, Benefice Administrator, on 01308 897260.

Home communion is available by arrangement.

If you would like to become an LPA, please have a look at the Diocese of Salisbury webpage:

https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/news/is-god-calling-you-to-be-a-lay-pastoral-assistant-, and then chat with Rector Andrew.

Safeguarding

The Churches of this Benefice have adopted the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and are 'Promoting Safer Churches'. The Benefice Churches have an open door to all survivors.

For further information or support please contact our Safeguarding Officer: - Les Keatley. Tel: - 07833545450 email: - Les@Keatley.me.uk

From the Rectory

Dear friends,

How many times should we forgive a person who has wronged us?

This was a question raised recently in our Bible reading in our churches, where someone asked Jesus this question. I made clear in my talk that I disagreed with a literal reading of Jesus' answer to the above question. Forgiveness is a complex issue, and there are no easy, one-size-fits-all approaches to it. Thinking about the possibility of forgiveness, a better starting point might be to ask:

Why should I forgive another person who has wronged me? or
How can I forgive another person who has wronged me? or
What is forgiveness?

We should never be told that we must forgive another person, even though there are places in the Bible where it seems to state that, and this might be considered the 'Christian' thing to do. f someone is being abused or continually harmed it would be wrong to just tell the victim to forgive the other person. The harm needs to stop; there needs to be justice and a change in behaviour. The victim must be kept safe, physically, psychologically and spiritually, not just be told to 'turn the other cheek' and forgive. Forgiveness is not about forgetting. Forgiveness is not about excusing or condoning wrong behaviour. Forgiveness is not always about reconciliation and people having to restore relationships. Some relationships are harmful. Safety and security are the priority and not forgiveness.

However, forgiveness can help us move forward to break the chains of victimhood, or move beyond negative and harmful feelings like bitterness and resentment or ongoing anger and rage. Forgiveness can be a release and a way of letting go which is good for us. For example, forgiveness may lead to healthier relationships, improved mental health, less anxiety, stress and hostility, fewer symptoms of depression, lower blood pressure, a stronger immune system, improved heart health and greater self-esteem. Hardness of heart can literally harden the arteries. Always being angry can lead to an over-production of cortisol and over stress our bodies. We may need to practise forgiveness to help ourselves find peace, in body, mind and spirit.

Forgiveness is a process, and rarely an event. It can take time and very often it is something we do in our own head. The person who harmed us may be dead. The

person who harmed us may be completely unapproachable or not safe to approach. Jesus's answer to the how many times should I forgive question was 'seventy times seven'. If I wanted to forgive someone who harmed me in the past, just to deal with the negative feelings in my own head then it might take me 490 times to really let go and not be always holding it against that person. If I'm constantly holding it against them then I am not free; I keep myself as a victim. It might take me nine years or more if I was to try and forgive that person in my head once a week. That process needs to involve confronting the pain, not hiding from it. That process involves working through the anger and rage, but in a safe way, finding a new outlet and creating positive energy and change. That process will involve grieving the loss of what was lost or taken from me. That process will involve practising kindness and self-compassion towards myself, empathising with myself and maybe forgiving myself and any guilt and shame I was made to feel. I may be able to empathise with the person who harmed me or I may just need to literally smile in my own mind and make clear they have no hold over me. I am going to live my best life.

Forgiveness may work differently for you. It's your choice. It's your journey. Revenge can often seem sweeter, but in the end, it just causes more pain. I take a lot of comfort from the words of the crucified Jesus, hanging on the cross: 'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.' Forgiveness isn't easy. Even Jesus struggled with it. He asked God to help him. You can pray: 'God please help me to forgive.' You can also pray: 'God, please forgive me.'

Peace be with you,

Andrew

From the Registers

Funerals:
Jill Parsons, 2nd September, Shipton Gorge
Margaret Oldridge, 7th September, Burton Bradstock

Wedding:
Joshua Baker and Mirthe Dijkema 12th September, Burton Bradstock

Christmas Greetings in the BVN



Now is the time to place your Christmas greetings to local friends and neighbours via the BVN. Names will appear on dedicated pages in the December issue. There is no fixed fee, and you are invited to make an appropriate donation of your choice. The donations will be shared between the BVN and this year's charity chosen by the Benefice which is The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance provides life-saving, pre-hospital critical care to those in urgent need across Dorset and Somerset. As your local air ambulance charity, it is a vital part of the community and relies on your support to be there for critically ill and injured people when every second counts.

The team's specialist skills, advanced equipment and rapid response capabilities can make a life-saving difference.

2,738	*missions by air and road in the last year*
£3,500	*average cost per mission*
£30,100	*daily operating cost*

Donations for your Christmas Greeting should if possible be paid directly into the Benefice bank account: sort code 30-91-21, account number 00074071. It is essential however, that these payments are referenced 'XG', and that the name or names for the dedication are included so that these are included in the magazine! If you prefer to pay by cheque (made payable to 'Bride Valley Churches Team Council'), or cash, these should be in clearly marked envelopes which can be handed to Churchwardens, or delivered to Liz Orza (2 Bindbarrow, Burton Bradstock, DT6 4RG). Please make sure you include the name(s) for the dedication.

Please ensure that your instructions are received no later than Monday 9th November, in order to meet the printing deadline for the December edition.

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.

A message from our headteacher

It has been wonderful to see the children back at school this term, full of chatter, excitement and enthusiasm for their learning. Our new reception children have settled in really well, as have children who have joined us in other year groups too. It has been lovely to watch children catch up with their friends and make new friends too.

We have welcomed Mr Baines and Miss Ives to our staff who both bring a rich range of experience and fresh perspectives that will add immense value to our school community.

Our value this half term is 'Hope'. The new school year has brought a sense of hope, offering a fresh start full of possibilities. We hope that this year will be full of new opportunities and experiences.

We have spaces available in our reception class and in our preschool for children who turned 3 before August 31st 2026. If you would like to visit our happy and friendly village school, please contact the school office to arrange a tour: 01308 897369 or office@burtonbradstockprimary.org. We also welcome visits from families looking for school and preschool places from September 2027.
To stay up-to-date with all our news and events please follow our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/BurtonBradstockPrimarySchool.

Holly Varndell-Paulley, Acting Headteacher

Thorners CE VA School

School has got off to a great start and the new Reception class have settled in brilliantly. The usual mix of activities and trips are now underway with Forest School, Archery and Football coaching all starting this week alongside a new venture for us as a school; windsurfing! After a taster session in the summer for the older ones, I and a hardy bunch of 8-11 year olds, are venturing out onto the water at Portland for 6 lessons in how to windsurf. This it is hoped will

complement the summer sailing series we already undertake in the last half term at Portland and give everyone a new way to get out on the water! Many thanks to Tris Best and OTC at Portland for arranging this 6-week series for the children. In class we are tackling topics ranging from Mountains and Volcanoes, WW1 to Ancient Egypt as well as the usual diet of fractions, times tables, spellings and handwriting! Trips and activities include an upcoming visit from an Egyptian specialist, a trip to Winchester to watch Michael Morpurgo's Private Peaceful and lots of class cooking for everyone.

After half term we will receive, thanks to support from Salisbury Diocese, a new set of 20 IPADs for the children which will enable us to extend their learning into new areas of computing such as animation, green screen films as well as music recording and editing which the children are very excited about!

Mike Sitch, Headmaster

BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

The BVCS is a volunteer scheme offering residents of the Bride Valley transport to and from medical appointments when they are unable to drive themselves or be driven by relatives or friends. Clients are charged a mileage fee (currently 50p per mile) plus a standard charge (currently £2.00 per journey). Because the service depends on the availability of volunteer drivers, clients are asked to give as much notice as possible – we are unlikely to be able to respond to requests within 48 hours of an appointment.
To book a journey please call our voluntary co-ordinator on
07393 607025
We always welcome new drivers.

Bride Valley Book Club

The Black Angels by Maria Smilios

Most of us enjoyed The Black Angels by Maria Smilios, which tells the story of black nurses who were recruited, mainly from the southern Jim Crow states of America, to care for patients with tuberculosis in the middle decades of the 20thC. These arduous and dangerous jobs had been rejected by white nurses resulting in a staffing crisis - and it was the lower status and poorly paid black nurses who answered the call. The hospital where they worked was Seaview on Staten Island, New York. It should be remembered that TB, the disease of poverty, reached epidemic proportions until a cure was found in the early 1950's. In the first half of the 20thC alone 5.6 million died of TB in America.

This book is painstakingly researched, its acknowledgements, footnotes and index stretch to over 70 pages. The author, who has a biomedical background, used extensive oral testimony from nurses, survivors and their families. Smilios tells this story against a wider socio-economic background of systemic and institutional racism, public health policy in the face of an emergency and the study of disease and the vaccines which sought to control it. The nurses made an heroic contribution (and sacrifice in many cases) in America's medical history - but so few people know about what they did. Everyone who had completed the book was admiring of the author's purpose - to tell the story and celebrate the black women who had done so much and been appreciated so little. Some of us thought it very well written but there were a few misgivings about the style adopted by the writer who personalised her characters and added non-essential details to bring them alive. We speculated on whether it should have been written as a straightforward social history - and agreed to disagree on this point. Some of us had stories to tell of friends and past family who had been affected by tuberculosis - this was an educational and enlightening read.

Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley WI

Although Bride Valley WI's monthly meeting does not take place in August our group was still busy. The Melplash show featured an entry from us in 'The Crafting Together' category.

The theme was Top of the Pops and our team of crafters produced a magnificent, winning display. Freddie Mercury, The Spice Girls and all the other exhibits ensured the blue rosette and Trophy were ours for the third year running. Well done everyone.



The great weather continued throughout August and our Thursday evening walk, although a little windy, took place on a

beautiful sunny evening where we visited Maiden Castle. We walked the ramparts and enjoyed the views of this 47-acre Iron Age hill fort. Construction began over 2,400 years ago and Maiden Castle is one of the most complex and largest of its kind in Europe. History, views, warm weather, friends, Blue, the Labrador and of course sheep ensured a pleasant walk for us all in our delightful Dorset countryside.

Skittles for fun continues every other Tuesday at the White Horse, Litton Cheney.

If you wish to join the Bride Valley Women's Institute please come and meet us all. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month in Puncknowle Village Hall at 7.30pm. Should you wish to contact us our email is bridevalleywi@gmail.com

Bride Valley Gardening Club

This is a very sad and difficult magazine piece to write as our meeting on 19th October will be the last meeting of the Bride Valley Gardening Club, which has been running for many decades. Unfortunately, we have not had any volunteers come forward to continue the work of the committee and we cannot run the club with so few committee members.

Please come and support this final meeting where we will not only have the usual drinks on offer but cakes as well. Our speakers for this meeting will be Steven and Lindsay Lester, owners of The Blooming Wild Plant Nursery in rural Somerset which has been featured in the RHS magazine. They are going to talk to us about "blending wildflower planting into your outdoor space". This is something we might all want to hear about so that hopefully we can inject some colour into the garden during the current predicted hot and dry summers.

We really have enjoyed some fascinating speakers this year and thanks goes to Ali for her efforts organising the programme.

Although this has had to be written before our September meeting has taken place, I know that too is going to be an enjoyable and interesting talk by Joy Michaud of Sea Spring Seeds in West Bexington about the hard work that goes into preparing for Chelsea Flower Show and the rewards when winning Gold.

Thank you to all the Committee members past and present who have worked so hard to keep the club going and to give us all an enjoyable evening each month. Also, thanks to all the members who support the meetings and in particular those who help with the clearing up at the end of the meetings.

If you have any questions or thoughts please contact Liz, bridevalleygc@gmail.com

Portesham Surgery

Portesham Renovation Update

At the time of writing, we are about to complete the second phase of our surgery renovation. This means that we now have a new reception area, an extra consulting room, and a dedicated nurse store. Phase 3 will involve expanding the dispensary and administration area. During this stage, our dispensary has been temporarily relocated to the new consulting room to allow the work to proceed. The logistics of remaining fully operational while major building work is taking place is no mean feat. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all of our patients and staff for their patience, understanding, and support over the past few months.

October is Stoptober



Let's quit smoking together this Stoptober. There's no need to go it alone. It's much easier to stop smoking when you get the right support, and there are lots of options to choose from. Millions of people have quit smoking with Stoptober. Join thousands of other people committing to quit smoking this October.
Quitting smoking is the best thing you can do for your health. When you stop you'll experience health benefits almost immediately. Stop smoking for the 28 days of Stoptober and you're five times more likely to quit for good. It's never too late to quit smoking. Even if you've tried quitting before, give it another go this Stoptober.

Website: www.princeofwalessurgery.co.uk
Facebook: Prince of Wales Surgery and Portesham Patient News

Our Night Sky in September 2026



Saturn will be rising in the East, and a telescope will now show it's famous rings turned towards us in their full glory. Orion will wake from his slumber rising in the east about 11.00pm and will become a familiar sight in the winter skies. Mars and Jupiter will rise in the East about 2.00am and will be a prominent sight until dawn. Venus continues to hide behind the glare of Sunrise.
In what could be a ground-breaking discovery, scientists report they may have detected the first direct evidence of dark matter. The potential detection came from the LUX-ZEPLIN experiment, in the form of a single suspected interaction between a Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP), one of the leading hypothetical particle candidates for dark matter, and an everyday particle.

Dark matter has been a headache for scientists because, despite accounting for 85% of the mass in the universe, scientists have no idea what it is. The only way we know it is there is by its gravitational effect on matter in the Universe. Dark Energy continues to be a headache for astronomers, who hope for a similar ground breaking discovery.

Bill Turnill, with thanks to NASA

Events in the Bride Valley

St Luke's Pilgrimage of Peace (PoP!) - 18th October.



Join Rector Andrew on the next PoP, on St Luke's Day, walking from Puncknowle to St Luke's, Chapel in the Woods and back. Meet at Puncknowle Church at 1.00pm for a walk lasting around 2½ hours. Dogs on leads are welcome and this is suitable for children too. Please dress appropriately for the weather conditions, including potentially muddy footpaths.

As well as walking, PoPs include pauses for poems, readings, prayers and reflection, linked to the landscape and the Saint that is remembered - on this PoP, that's St Luke and often interesting history too. You don't have to be religious to come along as there is much to be gained from simply being out and about in this beautiful part of the world!

Some of you will know that the Bride Valley and Chesil Churches have been working on a pilgrimage project and now have pilgrimage stamps for each of the churches. So, if you have a pilgrim passport, bring yours along to collect a beautiful Puncknowle stamp at the start of the PoP and if you don't own a passport yet, but would like one, please bring along £5 to buy one on the day.

Contact bvchurchesta@outlook.com with any queries. Telephone 01308 897260

Artsreach

Following a successful 2025/26 season the Dorset Artsreach team have worked hard to come up with a portfolio of new events for the 2026/27 season, across the spectrum of the performing arts. Their full programme will be published shortly on the Artsreach website www.artsreach.co.uk and will also be available from the Bridport Tourist Information office.
Meanwhile we wanted to highlight the events which are coming specifically to the Bride Valley and nearby between now and December. These are as follows:

Burton Bradstock

Sunday 18th October, 7.00pm. Sarah Moody & Hugh Lupton, acclaimed cellist and master storyteller, present tales which underpin our culture from Christian, Jewish and Islamic sources.

Told with vigour and humour, inspired by the music of all three Abrahamic traditions.



Saturday 21st November, 7.30pm. Amelia Armande and Joshua Crisp of the award-winning Ropetackle Storytellers present the story of the Gothic thriller Jekyll & Hyde, blending the original text with sinuous physicality, puppetry and dark humour.

Shipton Gorge

Sunday 15th November, 3.30pm. Hailing from Prince Edward Island, Canada, Inn Echo present a high-energy Celtic sound blending fierce fiddle, grooving guitar and soaring cello. Their music captures the spirit of their journeys touring festivals on three continents, earning several awards and nominations along the way.

Litton Cheney

There will be no performances at Litton Cheney village hall this year. After a long period of hard work for Artsreach in the village, Patricia Scholfield has stepped down and as yet no replacement to take over from her has been found.

Portesham

Saturday 12th December, 7.30pm at St. Peter's Church. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra 8-piece wind ensemble presents Music for Wind, a virtuoso performance of a broad classical repertoire, showcasing the beauty of wind instruments in an intimate church setting.

As a reminder we place posters and other promotional material around the villages as we get closer to each event.

All tickets will be available via the Artsreach website from September.
We look forward to seeing you at our events.
David Witham – Burton Bradstock 01308 897403
Mark Sexton – Shipton Gorge 01308 897649
Julie Mason – Portesham 01305 871117

Shipton Gorge

Village Correspondent: Richard Hewlett
Email: richardhewlett419@gmail.com 01308 897278
Village web-site: www.shiptongorge.org.uk

Welcome to our village diary. Just search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/ where you will be able to find out all that's going on in the village.

St Martin's Church

Floodlight sponsors for October

Sally Parker and family for Steve on 14th "4 years since you left us "
Jane & Tony for Edi & Sidney Ramsden

Thank you to our sponsors. We have lots of spaces for the winter months ahead, November and December. If you would like to light up St Martin's Church, please contact Phyl on 01308 898657 or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage, (Chapel Street), letter box. A suggested donation of £5 is very much appreciated.
October 11th at 9.30am, Breakfast Church with Tish from Heart Response.



Please come along to celebrate the Harvest Festival on 11th October at 5.30pm. To follow, there will be a "Bring & Share Supper" in the Village Hall at around 6.15pm – special invitation to our farming families; we would love to welcome you. The Community Choir will be coming along to sing at this service too!

October 25th at 11.00am, Holy Communion with Reverend Andrew.

Retirement – thank you - and a volunteering opportunity!

We'd like to say thank you to Linda Buck for her many years of volunteering at St Martin's. She has turned her hand to many tasks including making cakes, serving breakfast and washing up - and to cleaning our lovely church. Now that she is retiring from that role, we are in need to some new helpers to join the volunteer group. If you are able to offer an hour of your time once a month or once every couple of months to keep our church clean, we'd be delighted to hear from you! Please get in touch with Helen Fry on 01308897260 or email bvchurchesta@outlook.com.

We are also planning a little pre-harvest cleaning blitz on October 9th at 10.00am for one hour, when we will be rehoming spiders and woodlice (for the brave amongst us!), sweeping up, hoovering and polishing before Harvest Festival! Cake and coffee will be provided.

Looking Ahead

We are busily planning a Christmas Tree Festival at St Martin's and really hope that the community will enjoy all that we have planned - but mainly, we are now trying to get organised with trees. So, if your family or organisation would like a tree to decorate at church and bring some Christmas cheer, please get in touch with Sue Melvin for more information! Telephone 01308 897260.

Parish Council

We are delighted to welcome two new councillors, Marina Hamilton and Di Dowling, taking our number up to five. Their help will be invaluable and will enable the Council to cover more issues in greater depth.

By the time you read this we will have held our September meeting where we will have discussed the various suggestions made at the village fete, along with our regular updates. There will be more information on these in the next edition of the BVN.

Do come along to our next meeting is on Thursday 12th November at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Village Hall

Would you like to become a member of the Village Hall 100 Club? It costs only £10 and that covers the whole year. Our new year starts 1st October. Not only will you then have a chance of winning a monthly cash prize, but you will be helping us to maintain the Village Hall. Please contact me on 897357 (Graham Garner) if you wish to become a member.

<u>September 100 Club Draw results</u>

1st	*164*	*£25*	*Sue Thomson*
2nd	*70*	*£10*	*Bob Simpson*
3rd	*130*	*£5*	*Ashley Harrow*

Congratulations to all winners

Community Choir

The Shipton Gorge Community Choir will be restarting on Thursday 8th October. Our first 'airing' will be swift on Sunday 11th October at the Harvest Festival at St Martin's Church at 5.30pm.
New members welcome. No auditions. We meet at Shipton Gorge Village Hall on Thursdays 2.30pm-4.00pm, £5.00 per session. Refreshments included.
Further information: Kim Bloomfield,
bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com 07754 245691/01308 346007

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club –All tickets sold – good luck to everyone who has supported us by buying them. The winners in the August draw were Phil and Sheena - and the September one, Milo and Fiona – congratulations all!

Saunders Richardson Wood



We had a small issue with the new footpath steps, but a quick response from Dorset Council means they are now back in action. We intend to open the wood on **Wednesday 28th October 11.00am to midday**. We now have ideal conditions for fungi in the wood – we will be on the lookout among the dead branches and leaf litter. If you would like to come along and either help or have a walk round, that would be great. We will need to check on how our saplings have fared over the summer and clear some of the paths ready for any work we need to do in November. This is a members' only event but we can sign you up on the day and there is no charge to join.

Shipton Gorge Orchard

The break in the weather has been welcomed by all of us – and the grass in the Orchard has started to recover. Two varieties of apples which should be ready to pick in October are Adams Pearmain (Dessert) and Blenheim Orange (Cooker). Please feel free to pick them. We will be in the Orchard on **Monday 5th and 12th October 11.00am to midday,** to prepare areas where we want to put wild flower seed down and to pick apples for our Apple Day Produce Sale. Everyone welcome.

We had a successful day out at the Village Fete which was enjoyed by all who attended. Lots of Tombola prizes were won and a good quantity of nettle fertiliser was purchased.

We encouraged you to take part in the Butterfly Count in July/August – one of our trustees spotted Large White, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Comma and Common Blue – plus many others which flew past far too quick to identify!

Apple Day Produce Sale

This is our main fundraising event of the year, and will be held in the Village Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 24th October. Homemade jams, chutneys and cakes etc will be available. A display and tasting of the various heritage apple varieties, children's activities, apple pressing, and longest peel competition, plants & garden bric-a-brac and nettle fertiliser. Details still to be finalised, but will include Top Edge – mobile sharpening services, Tamarisk Farm and a Weaving demonstration. Look out for posters for more details. If you have been busy over the last few months and have any spare jars of jams, preserves etc – or would like to bake a cake, donations for the produce stall and for refreshments would be very much appreciated. Please come along and support us.

Another date to note, we will be holding our AGM on 18th November in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Pre-Christmas Village Get Together

Sunday 29th November 12.00noon – 2.00pm in Shipton Gorge Village Hall

It's going to be here sooner that you think! Shipton Gorge Bell Ringers invite all villagers to this popular community event. Just bring a bottle and a plate of food to share (sweet or savoury finger food) and come and meet new villagers or catch up with long established friendships. Please join us, everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you and getting into the festive spirit.



Litton Cheney

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



St Mary's

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 4th October at 11.00am. The church will be beautifully decorated and the service will be a joyful celebration of the harvest, with gifts being donated to the Bridport Food Bank. There will be a "Bring & Share" lunch in the church after the service to which all are invited. Do come along, bring your children and your gifts, and celebrate with us.

Litton Cheney Parish Council –

Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November 7.00pm

Interested in local democracy? Come along to our meeting and immerse yourself in the cut and thrust of local politics. Want even more? Be co-opted as a parish councillor and really get involved. Your village needs you!

Weight Limit signs – Once upon a time, fed up with the number of heavy vehicles transiting Whiteway, a road deemed totally unsuitable for such vehicles, it was decided to campaign for a weight limit restriction. Heading up this cause was Andrew Price – we all looked forward to a speedy conclusion. Despite gargantuan efforts by Andrew, Dorset Highways, MP's and eventually National Highways, it has taken until now for the weight limit to be put in place and signs erected. That it has happened at all is due in the main to the utter perseverance of Andrew who kept up the pressure on the authorities who held the purse strings and made the final decision. Our considerable thanks to Andrew for staying the course, even after stepping down from the parish council in 2025.

In addition to the signs, Sat Nav companies will now be required to amend their platforms indicating that Whiteway is a no-go area for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes. Vehicle drivers who ignore the signs leave themselves and their company liable to prosecution.

Litton and Thorner's Community Hall is, as the name suggests, a community facility shared by the village and school. Since its inception in 2009, the two entities have worked in concert to such an extent that it could perhaps now be termed, "A marriage made in heaven". This is your hall, and should you have constructive thoughts on how it may be even better, the LATCH trustees would like to hear from you. See village website for contact details.

What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in October

REGULAR EVENTS

Tuesdays	9.45 -11.00	Morning Yoga with Jane (07882 527697) janehutchinsyoga@outlook.com
	4.45 – 5.45	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)
Wednesdays	4.45 – 5.45	Table Tennis (Paul Kingston 482162)
	7.00	Yoga with Jane (contact as above)
Fridays	10.00 – 12.00	Art Group in meeting room Fortnightly: 9th and23rd

OTHER EVENTS

Thursday 1st	From 7.00	Film Night returns! "Mothers Pride" starts 7.30
Monday 5th	6.00	BV Car Service AGM
Thursday 8th	6.45	W.I. Craft evening in meeting room
Sunday 11th	12.30 for 1.00	Harvest Lunch in aid of Pancreatic Cancer UK Tickets: AKing44634@aol.com
Monday 19th	7.00	Garden Club meeting (LAST ONE)
Thursday 22nd	7.00	NEW: Benefice ALPHA COURSE starts (also 29th)
Friday 23rd	Time tbc	NCI AGM
Sunday 25th	10.00	Restorative Yoga with Nadiya
Tuesday 27th	From 9.30	Portesham Surgery Flu Clinic (book in advance)

Village Cafés: The hall is available for hire **free of charge** on Saturday mornings for a Café to raise funds for any group. It's a good social event for the community and always popular.
Hall Bookings/viewings: Wendy Firrell 01308 482532

BRIDE VALLEY FILMS at Litton Cheney Village Hall

Reminder…THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER – "MOTHER'S PRIDE" *'charming British movie with a great cast and gentle humour'*

From the team behind 'Finding Your Feet' and 'Fisherman's Friends', Mother's Pride follows a grieving family whose fortunes begin to change when they start brewing their own beer and enter the Great British Beer Awards to save their pub. What begins as an act of survival becomes a journey of renewal – bringing together neighbours, mending old wounds and restoring pride where it's been lost. Starring Martin Clunes, James Buckley and Luke Treadaway. Cert. 12+ 1hr 30"

THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER – H IS FOR HAWK *'a beautifully shot fact-based drama'*

When Helen's father passes away, she is overtaken by grief and loses herself in memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together. She becomes obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk, and so she brings

the fearsome bird Mabel home to her life as a graduate fellow at Cambridge. As she labours to teach Mabel how to hunt and fly free on her own, Helen uncovers how neglected her own emotions and life have become. Starring Claire Foy, it is a soaring journey of the connection between people and nature, and how it might be possible to reconcile loss through love. Based on a true story. Cert. 12+ I hr 40"

Doors Open: 7.00pm. Films start 7.30pm. TICKETS: £6.00 (to include a glass of wine) available on the door.

Next film on Thursday 3rd December. Look out for details in the **BVN** or on the website **http://www.littoncheney.org.uk/bridevalleyfilms.htm**

Bingo

On behalf of The Bride Valley Bingo Fundraising Group, we wish to thank everyone who came and supported the bingo at LATCH on Friday 11th September which was to raise money for the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance. We are delighted to have raised £1050.00 and hope everyone enjoyed it.

As always, I wish to thank the Fundraising Group for their support and hard work. They are always a pleasure to work with and their enthusiasm is infectious. Please keep your diaries free for the Christmas bingo on Friday 4th December - chosen charity to be announced. Jackie Horsley

The White Horse

Wow! What an amazing summer! So hot, so busy! Sad it's over but there are compensations - the Quiz is back, alternate Tuesdays at 7.00pm from 15th September, and the Meat Draw is back on Friday nights, 8.15pm (with Fish 'n Chips 5.30pm-7.30pm and Happy Hour at 6.30pm as usual). Music continues Sunday afternoons at 4.00pm until mid-November and cosy log burner nights are on their way, although we are still hoping for some more warm sunny days. We're working on an Autumn menu, planning a charity race night on Saturday 21st November, and the Christmas Draw board is up already, so still a lot going on at the White Horse. Look forward to seeing you whenever you can!

Andy and Liz x

Christmas Greetings – May we remind readers that they can place Christmas greetings in the December edition as in previous years. This year the chosen charity is the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, for which we believe there will be a high level of support. As previously, all the money received will be divided between the charity and the BVN, and any support will be very much appreciated. The BVN do not charge for entries, but ask that a donation. For more details, please see page 6.

Puncknowle, Swyre & West Bexington



Village Correspondents:
Elizabeth Slater (Puncknowle)
Puncknowle. mail: liz@ruddle.org.uk 01308 897751



Jill Neill (Swyre & West Bexington)
email: Jill.neill@live.co.uk 01308 897479

Village websites: www.https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk
www.swyre.org.uk www.westbexington.org.uk

Puncknowle Church

4th October, Puncknowle Pet Service

Calling all creatures great and small. There will be a Pet Service in St Mary's Church on Sunday 6th September at 3.00pm. All are welcome to this informal service where we give thanks for the animals in our lives. There will be refreshments afterwards at the Crown.

Monthly Whist Drives – Puncknowle and Swyre Village Hall

The next Whist Drive will be held on Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm. Entrance fee £3 and there will be a Raffle. All are very welcome – newcomers would be most welcome. For more details contact Carolyn (Buckland) on 07741470591

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall in October		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Every Monday	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	**Pilates** Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
2nd Monday each month	19:00 to 21:00	**History** Contact: Paul on paul.bullen@me.com
1st Tuesday each month	7:30 pm – 10:00 pm	**Parish Council Meeting** Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/
3rd Tuesday each month	1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Luncheon Club** Contact David on 01308 898492
Every Wednesday	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Table Tennis** Contact Brian on 01308 897987

Every Wednesday	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	**Table Tennis** Contact John on 07557 963618
1st Thursday each month	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	**Craft Club** Contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
3rd Thursday each month	19:30 to 21:30	**Bride Valley WI** Contact Bridevalleywi@gmail.com
Last Friday each month	10:00 pm – 12:30 pm	**Art Club** Contact Sally on 01308 897987

Puncknowle Playing Field Tidy Up, 10th October at 11.00am

Anyone able to spare an hour or so to help us maintain our playing field for our children and grandchildren to enjoy? Your help would be greatly appreciated
Please remember your gloves, suitable clothing and any tools e.g., secateurs, rake etc



Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club
Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy

Puncknowle Village Hall 12.30pm for 1.00pm, Lunches cost £6

20th October: Sausages, mashed potatoes, gravy
Dessert to follow

17th November: Beef Bourguignon, roast vegetables
Dessert to follow

please contact David Buckland on 07597038141 for more details

Long Bredy

Village Correspondent: Helen Horsley
Email: bvn@longbredy.org.uk 01308 482586
Village website: https://longbredy.org.uk/



Long Bredy 100 Club Results – August

£5 No.155 Emma Orr
£15 No. 52 David Bailey
£5 No. 33 Sue Dyer

Drawn on the 28th August at the Come Along Inn, Long Bredy Village Hall

Village News and Updates

Coffee Break

September's Coffee Break was well attended with people enjoying the sausage rolls, tiramisu cake and the always very popular coffee and walnut cake as well as many other savoury and sweet things to tempt your fancy. Thank you to those serving for making everyone feel so welcome and sorry we don't always finish on time, there is always so much to chat about when meeting up with neighbours!

Come Along Inn

August Come Along Inn saw a change in the weather, after the hot dry weeks the wind blew and the rain threatened. Despite this a good number of hardy souls turned out to make a really enjoyable evening. Thank you all and special thanks to all the hard working volunteers who made it happen, with a special thanks to Charlotte, Sean/Spud and Dave who kept the BBQ going outside.

St Peter's Church

Thank you to whoever left this beautifully painted rock next to the footpath near the Church.



It's very up lifting.

Future Events

Coffee Break

October's coffee break will take place on Saturday 10th October 10.30am-12.00noon. As autumn is well and truly upon us, with mornings and evenings getting darker why not come and meet your neighbours, have a warm drink and enjoy some excellent refreshments.

November Coffee Morning/Coffee Break

(Please note change of date time and start time)
To raise funds for the 'Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal' there will be a 'Coffee Morning' on Saturday 7th November, 10.00am – 12.00noon in Long Bredy Village Hall. As well as excellent refreshments we shall have a cake and produce stall along with a raffle. Do come and support this worthy cause. Cakes to sell would be most appreciated.

Just before 11.00am we shall have the Exhortation and then a two minutes silence followed by the Kohima Epitaph.

Poppies will be available at the coffee morning and also in St Peter's Church and at the White Horse.

Come Along Inn

This month's Come Along Inn will be on Friday 23rd October 5.30pm - 9.00pm. As always you will receive a warm welcome and don't forget any surplus funds from the year all go to local charities. Did you realise that attending this popular monthly event is also helping people in our local community.

November's Come Along Inn is traditionally the month when the local charities that will be benefitting from those surplus funds made through the year will be announced.

St Peter's Church

New crafts are now available in the church for the autumn season - decorate a card/wreath with autumn trimmings. Or you could make a Bat to join the many that live in the Church! Either hang it on the tree in the Church or take it home to live with your Bats. There will be drinks and snacks to enjoy while you craft.

There will be another POP (Pilgrimage of Peace) walk for St Luke's Day on Sunday 18th October and will include a visit to the Chapel in the Woods, dedicated to St Luke. You don't have to be religious to come along as there is much to be gained from simply being out and about in this beautiful part of the world! More details can be found on page 12 of this issue, on the Long Bredy community page and the Church website/Facebook pages.

For November, once again the bell rope covered in poppies will be on display around the church door welcoming you into St Peter's Church which will be decorated for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Do take time for a visit.

Parish Council

Long Bredy's next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th October at 7:00pm in Long Bredy Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Annual Defibrillator Training

The village annual defibrillator training will be on Wednesday 21st October, 7.00 pm in Long Bredy Village Hall.

Anyone can use the defibrillator, you do not need training, but if you want to feel more confident using it and/or have any questions then the training sessions is a perfect opportunity for this. No need to book, just come along!

Harvest Lunch

Reminder: Harvest Lunch raising funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK, on Sunday 11th October, 12.30pm at LATCH (Litton Cheney). Tickets will be £20 per person available from any member of the Kinghorn family, 7 Bedford Terrace, Long Bredy, tel 01308 482270 or email: aking44634@aol.com and Sean, Bride Valley Exterior Cleaning, tel 07787 597871 or email: charlottekinghorn@hotmail.com Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate children under 14 years of age.
If you are unable to come and join us at the lunch there is a GoFundMe Wadhams Walkabout page where you can make a donation to this worthy charity. Every donation, big or small, will make a difference.

Burton Bradstock

Village Correspondent: Pat Grafton
Email: patgrafton43@gmail.com 01308 898264
Village website: http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org



The Life Group

The Life Group are planning a day of prayer for Saturday, 17th October. All are welcome to join in, praying quietly at home or in a church, and/or as a group together from 10.00am to 11.00 am. at 25, Bindbarrow and/or from 3.00pm to 4.00pm at the Manafossen Barn, Shadrach, both in Burton Bradstock. We will be praying for God to revive our churches, communities, nation and the world. We will be praying for God's blessing on our Rector and his family, and on all who have responsibilities in our churches. There will be times of silence when we can listen to God. There will be no refreshments, no chat, just prayer! People will be free to quietly come and go from the group times as they wish. See future Source to Sea editions for any further details.

Knitting for Ukraine - update

If you have watched or read the news, you will be aware that this winter is likely to be a very tough one for Ukrainian families, so they need all the help they can get. The W.I. made a magnificent effort last winter, producing at least 180 strips and other items. Thanks so much. Now they have other projects.

However, there are many other knitters who have steadily produced strips, blankets, baby hats etc, and all these are very gratefully received. If anyone asks, "Do you still need knitted strips?", the answer is a very definite, "Yes, please".

Barbara James also continues to collect toiletries and medical supplies of every kind to give to Nick Tait (see March and April BVN issues) for his regular trips to Ukraine. Recently we gave him our old, not smart but functional, tents which went out immediately, and were put to good use. Even a tent will help when your house has been bombed. If you have camping equipment you no longer need please contact Barbara (01308 898165, 31 Barrowfield Close) or me, Heather, on 01308 897780.

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.
Please be aware that the Hall is extremely busy and not all requests can be accommodated, however we will always try.

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 12noon and all are welcome

Wednesday 7th October Bride Valley Drivers.
Wednesday 11th November Burton Bradstock School

Improvements

Towards the end of the summer break, the Hall Trust organised and completed the replacement of the kitchen flooring with new, industrial strength material and the same week had the storage shed that houses chairs completely reroofed with new boards and felt. The kitchen flooring was a planned project, the shed roof due to water ingress being spotted. Hopefully both works will last us a long time.

Diary Dates

For those who plan a long way ahead the following are the dates of key Village Hall Trust organised activities;

Saturday 5th December - Christmas Market & Coffee Morning
Saturday 12th December - Christmas Quiz

Full details in next month's BVN.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall "200 Club" September 2026 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1st	£32.00	No 94:	Mrs Vee Fraser
2nd	£16.00	No 98:	Mrs Pauline Tompkins
3rd	£8.00	No 127:	Mr John Worsley

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the October 2026 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £3 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw.
WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock Village Society

Next Event

The next presentation evening will be on Friday 9th October. The Speaker will be Sally Pinhey, one of Britain's foremost botanical illustrators who will be talking about her "Himalayan Journey". Expect stunning pictures about a fascinating subject. Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Village Society members £1.50 entry, non-members £5 or join the Society on the night for £5 for the year.

Post Office Coffee Morning Saturday 10th October

The Village Society has in recent years run a Coffee Morning at this time of year, the proceeds of which are used to raise awareness of its importance to the Village and assist in any programmes that help the Post Office. The plan is to hold it on Saturday 10th October, with fresh bacon rolls from the Post Office on the menu as well as the usual tea, coffee & cakes.

Having a Post Office is a huge benefit to the Village and anything we can do to keep it going is a positive step. Please come along and support it.

Diary dates

For those who plan well ahead, we hope to hold the Christmas Tree switch on event on Saturday 28th November. Full details of this very popular event will be in next month's BVN, including how to sponsor a bauble on the tree.

Committee members

The Village Society is currently two Committee members down. We are looking for people interested in getting involved in Village activities to join us and help with the running of the various Village Society activities. We only meet as a committee about four times a year, not an onerous workload, so it is more about helping with our various activities. If you are interested and willing to help, please contact Richard Ferre on rwferre99@gmail.com or 01308897648 to find out more.

Village Society Secretary

If you need to contact the Village Society for any reason such as wanting to join, finding out more about our activities or what the Village Society does please email the secretary Hutch Curry at bbvillagesociety@gmail.com

Burton Bradstock WI

September, Sipping & Sherborne!

Burton Bradstock WI have had a smashing start to September when we embraced the 'Season of mists & mellow fruitfulness' with a talk (and taste) on running a vineyard. Mellow fruit makes for very tasty wine! Many thanks to Tanya Alcock for a very informative evening.

Our lunch outing was to Sherborne, with something to keep us all happy no matter what the weather. Some indulged in a bit of retail therapy, others were culture vultures exploring the Abbey and there was also the art gallery at The Sherborne, where we all enjoyed lunch, too.

Our October meeting in the Village Hall will be at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start when Kate Jackson will be talking on Perfect Pearls, all ladies are welcome to come & join us.

Looking ahead, we are going to the Exeter Christmas Market on Thursday 19th November. This event is open to anyone who would like to join us!

We are planning to hire a 32 seater coach. Pick up will be from outside the Three Horseshoes at 8.30am and the coach will drop us on the High Street in Exeter. You will then be free to enjoy the market/shops/sights & sounds of Exeter. The coach will bring us back to the 'Shoes' for 5.00 - 5.30pm, there might even be mince pies & sherry!

If you would like to join us, the cost per person is £15. Please contact me (carol.higho@yahoo.com or telephone me 07806898361) to book your place and pay the £5 deposit. Should be a brilliant day out, so please get in touch if you're interested.

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

It has been quite a busy summer in the library and, despite the hot weather, we have welcomed more children than usual borrowing plenty of reading matter. Our Saturday afternoon 'Drop In' sessions have been popular with friends and visitors coming for tea and chat, doing some of the jigsaw and even taking books home! Many thanks to Brenda and Chris for organising matters and offering to continue to the end of October. Offers of help would be appreciated.

The Trustees are in the midst of applying for permissions to repair our main windows and to provide handrails to the front door for those who want a bit more security. Please consider making a donation to this work by buying Christmas cards and notelets, or topping up our new chained library donations box. A new larger model library is in production and we will be asking everyone to sponsor tiny

books to stock the shelves (the children's books will be free). Look out for the launch poster!

Subscriptions to the Friends of the Library are due from 1st October. If you would like to become a Friend, application forms are available in the Library, and subs are a minimum of £5.

Finally, our next Lego morning will be on Tuesday 27th October from 10.00am to 12.00noon. There is no need to book but all children must be accompanied by an adult. The more the merrier!

Opening hours for all our library services 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, Chairman

Burton Coffee Mates

Coffee! Cakes! Chat!

Come and join us in the Church from 10.30am - 12.00noon on the second Thursday of the month for Coffee Mates. Catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Transport is available. For more information contact Pauline 898327.

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

Roadside Boundary Hedges

Over time, a number of roadside hedges have gradually extended beyond boundary walls and banks into the highway. During the past 18 months, we have received several complaints that these overgrown hedges are restricting motorists' forward visibility, creating a potential danger for pedestrians as well as other road users. We would therefore like to ask all residents to check their roadside hedges and, where necessary, cut them back so that they remain within their property boundaries.

The areas of greatest concern at present are the lower part of Shipton Lane and both sides of Annings Lane as far as Northover Close.

At this stage, we are not contacting individual residents regarding specific hedges. Instead, we are relying on the goodwill of everyone in the village to recognise the

importance of maintaining clear sightlines. Cutting back overgrown hedges not only improves safety for pedestrians and motorists but also provides better visibility for residents when entering or leaving their own properties.

Your support in helping to keep our roads clear and our village safer for everyone will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation.

🍎 A Fun Afternoon for All the Family! 🍏

The Annual Community Apple Pressing

Saturday, October 3rd 2026.

From 2:00pm in the Burton Bradstock Rectory Garden
(By kind permission of the Rector, Rev'd Andrew Rawding)

Come along and join in the fun as we press fresh apples the traditional way! Enjoy a relaxed afternoon with activities for all ages, seasonal treats, and great company.

Organised in conjunction with **Friends of the School.**

Any offer of apples will be appreciated and collected/picked one evening before.
Bring your own bottles for the juice!

Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

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

Supper Club

This month's very popular evening is on Monday 12th October.

If you would like any more information, please phone Mags Chue on 07790 81190.

Littlebredy

Village Correspondent: Tim Laycock
Email: t.laycock70@gmail.com 01308 482443
Village website: http://www.littlebredy.com

Ride And Stride 2026

This year, in addition to adult cyclists going from church to church, we introduced our own junior version of the popular fund-raising scheme for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. Mill Lane, decked with bunting and flags, was the venue for a number of cyclists, scooterists, horse riders and Go-Kart riders, working



seamlessly as a team. Over 320 laps were completed, covering a distance of 28 miles. Hydration breaks were taken, cake was eaten, and a good time was had by all. Well done to all concerned!

Welcome

After all the recent departures, it's very good to be able to welcome Carole and Dave Smart to Yew Tree Cottage, and Henry Hughes-Young to the Old Parsonage. We hope they will all enjoy their new homes, and life in the village.

R.I.P

We send our condolences and sympathy to the Shackleton family, Jo, Eddie and Domino, following the sad loss of Jasper 'Spin' Shackleton.

Buzz Off!

Normally, the Walled Garden Café extends a warm welcome to villagers and visitors alike, but not in the case of a swarm of Asian Hornets, who built a nest high up in a tall tree overlooking their target, and proceeded to conduct deadly sorties on the beehives to the west of the Café. Fortunately, help was at hand in the form of experts from DEFRA and the Dorset bee-keeping community. The nest was located and destroyed, and hopefully the Littlebredy bees can now rest easier in their hives, and go about their vital business unmolested.

Sporting Laurels

Congratulations to Josh Wilkinson on completing a half Iron Man cycle/swim/run in Vichy, France; and to Richard & Sarah Burt on bringing the Littlebredy cricket field back to life, and hosting two matches at the end of the season. Hopefully 2027 will see more games played on this beautiful pitch at the top end of the Bride Valley.

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 afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute exposition on the theology of St Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you. But as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern

among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early?

Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say "and finally" is another.

Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon. But when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute proof that it is time to stop. There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately, one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. And at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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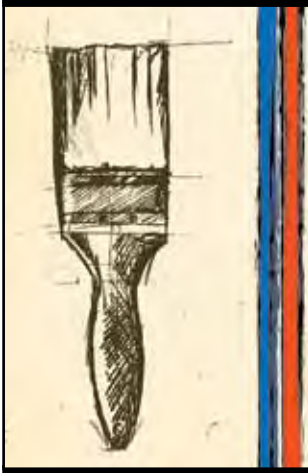
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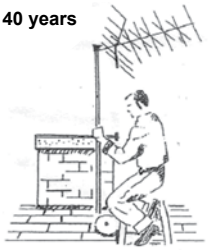
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Oct 2026	1st Sunday October 4th Trinity 18	2nd Sunday October 11th Trinity 19	3rd Sunday October 18th Luke the Apostle	4th Sunday October 25th Bible Sunday
Burton Bradstock	11.00am Harvest	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Café Church	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Breakfast Church
Chilcombe			4.00pm Harvest Festival	
Litton Cheney	11.00am Harvest Festival. To be followed by harvest lunch	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	
Puncknowle	3.00pm Pet Service	9.30am Holy Communion	1.00pm Pilgrimage of Peace for St Luke's Day	11.00am Café Church
Swyre			6pm Evening Prayer	
Shipton Gorge		9.30am Breakfast Church with Tish from Heart Response 5.30pm Harvest Festival To be followed by Bring and Share Supper in VH		11.00am Holy Communion
Long Bredy	11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Worship	
Littlebredy				11.00am Holy Communion
Portesham		11.00am Harvest Festival	11.00am Holy Communion	
Corton				3.00pm Harvest Festival
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion		10.00am Morning Worship	
Langton Herring	9a.00m BCP	11.00am Harvest Festival	9.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Outdoor service.
Mid-week Holy Communion	Burton Bradstock 11.30am Weds Oct 7th to be followed by a light lunch Portesham 11.30am 1st Oct and 29th October to be followed by a light lunch			

Stop Press….additional event in October

Burton Bradstock Harvest Lunch

To be held on Saturday 17th October in the Village Hall at 12.30pm, please save the date for a slap-up meal with village friends. More details to follow.