BRIDE VALLEY NEWS

online edition

Celebrate the gift of Christmas at one of the Carol Services in the Bride Valley and Chesil Churches



6th December
Portesham 3.00pm
Shipton Gorge 6.30pm
11th December
Langton Herring 6.30pm
13th December
Abbotsbury 4.00pm
Puncknowle 5.00pm
Burton Bradstock 6.30pm
20th December
Long Bredy Live Nativity and Carols 10am
Litton Cheney 6.00pm
21st December
Littlebredy 6.00pm
22nd December
Chilcombe Carols by Candlelight 5.00pm
23rd December
Corton Carols by Candlelight 4.00pm







December 2026

We wish all our friends and neighbours
A Happy Christmas and Best wishes for 2027

Alan, Rosemary & Ruby
All at Norburton Hall
All at the Post Office
Andrew & Eve Bailey
Anne & Derek Thomas
Anne Coombe
Anne Southgate
Barbara from Barrowfield
Barry Pye
Betty Champkins
Carol Houghton
Catherine & Philip Williams
Chris & Gay Sundt
Chrissie & Andrew Bailey
Christine Hynds
Christine Lawrence
Cilla Jones
David & Ethna Jenkins
David & Pauline Woodford
David & Ruth Cullingford
David & Sue @ The Stables
David & Yvette Smith
David & Yvonne Buckland
Elaine Colbert
Elaine Upson, Darby Lane
Gary & Sarah Tabner
Geoff & Sandy Adderley
Geoffrey Fry
Gill Robertson
Graham & Steph Skinner
Hazel Coulter
Helen & John Sinclair
Helen, Andrew, Isobel & Flora Fry
Howard Bongers
Ian & Elizabeth Wigglesworth
Ian & Irene Halsey
Ian and Mary Ibbotson
Jane Stubbs
Janet & Steve Tolputt

We wish all our friends and neighbours
A Happy Christmas and Best wishes for 2027

Jean Ayres
Jenny Conway
Jenny Malyon's Family
John & Jill Harper
John Bowden
John& Annie Grantham
Joyce & Gilbert Roberts
Judy Clarke
Julia Wermig-Morgan
Julian & Irene Piper
Keith & Pat Lewis Badgett
Ken & Sheila Pett
Liz Orza
Liz Slater
Mags & Chue
Marge & Geoff Langwith
Marion, Steve & Hamish
Michael Read
Pat & Peter Broomhead
Pete Toms
Peter & Pauline Tomkins
Rob & Rebecca Bryan
Roger & Linda Ashman
Roy & Gill Perkins
Ryder & Heather, Aaron & Kiera
Sheila Spencer-Smith
Sue & Bryan Brown
Sue Haines & Bob Ponchaud
Susan Paul
The Ostockings
Tim Linford & family
Tom Holmes & Pauline Mackie
Tony & Mo Williams
Trevor Ekins
Val & Richard Ferre
Veda Bull
Vicky & Ernie Thomas
Wendy & Robert Froy
Wynne Hughes

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

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Information for Contributors

January 2027 issue deadlines: Articles, photographs, etc must be sent to the appropriate Village Correspondent (contact details at the head of each village section) by Friday 4th December for the January 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 Nicholas, Abbotsbury
St Peter, Portesham
St Mary: Litton Cheney
St Peter: Long Bredy
St Mary The Blessed Virgin: Puncknowle
Holy Trinity: Swyre
St Peter, Langton Herring
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 a Lay Pastoral Assistant in our team who is available for anyone throughout our community and can respond to any need, great or small, for pastoral care. Please contact Liz on 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,

We're approaching Christmas, and it's a good opportunity to reflect on the last year. How has the last year been for you?

I'm sitting with our Irish Setter puppy 'Rhu' asleep on my lap. It's not a situation I imagined I would be in, as I've never owned a dog, and never thought I would have time for a dog. But what a blessing smashing my right leg to pieces has been in slowing me down and opening new life and new love, with our Irish 'red king' Rhuaraigh. When I checked out of physiotherapy recently, I told my physiotherapist that I wasn't sure that I would want to burn back the clock to before the motorbike crash. The suffering has been a catalyst for deeper mindfulness, a greater appreciation of life, with the pain a deep well that is absorbing my need for adrenaline and converting it into reasons for joy. I may have mentioned before the inspirational writing of the apostle Paul to the church in Rome: 'We rejoice in our suffering, because suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope, because God's love has been poured into our hearts.' (Romans 5).

When I look back on the year 2026, I feel blessed, blessed to be alive, blessed to be loved, blessed to be the Rector of our ten parishes, supported by such faithful, good people. At the end of this year, I do want to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped to keep our parish churches open and welcoming to the community. Thank you to our Benefice Administrator, our Ministry Team, our Parochial Church Councils, our church wardens and all our many volunteers, plus all those who attend services. It's been a good year. We are blessed.

But what about you? How has your year been?

Maybe these questions are not helpful. If we can find reasons to be grateful that would be helpful, but whatever has happened over the last year, we can't turn the clocks back and change it. As we anticipate Christmas, whatever Christmases have been like in the past, we can cherish happy memories, but what good will it do us to ruminate on negatives? The light of God's love shines on us every day, not just on Christmas Day. Love is born every day, not just on Christmas Day. The angels are singing every day, not just on Christmas Day. Look for it; if you open your eyes you'll see it. Open your heart; you'll feel it. Open your ears; you'll hear it. Smile and feel your face glow with the warmth of love. It's the gift of Christ for you today, the cross joining the past to the future. with love. If we live in the past. we'll

remain a prisoner of the past. If we live in the future. we could be a prisoner of anxiety and disappointment.

If you've had a terrible year, I earnestly pray you'll find light and love, joy and peace today. Sing the song: 'One day at a time sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking of you, just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do. Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine. Lord, help me today, show me the way, one day at a time.' If you haven't had a terrible year, I earnestly pray you will find ways to bring light and love, joy and peace to others today.

Be a star. Be an angel. Be the bearer of good news. Bring gifts. Be the peace of the Christ-child. Give birth to love.

Have a wonderful Christmas. You deserve it.

With heartfelt thanks,

Andrew

From the registers

Funerals

9th November Richard Overend of Burton Bradstock (at Weymouth Crematorium)

9th November Jenny Malyon at Burton Bradstock

28th November Penny Pithers at Puncknowle

BRIDE VALLEY CAR SERVICE

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

Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

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

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

Over recent weeks, everyone in the school has been busy creating a new display for outside the main office. The display focuses on our six values - happiness, friendship, hope, love, courage and respect - and all children and staff have had an input.

We enjoyed taking part in Bridport Literary Festival at the beginning of November. Our Owl class went to Colfox with other local schools to listen to the author Anthony McGowan talk about his writing, including his latest book 'Birdlands'.



We also had a visit from Philip Ardagh who spoke to the children about being a writer. Both were very entertaining and very kindly gave books to our school library. The children are all feeling very inspired to produce their own writing!



Kingfisher class took part in a 'Trees in Schools' workshop in our outdoor learning area. They learnt how to work out how old a tree is by measuring; identified different trees and their names; found out about tree habitats and measured the height of trees using a pencil.

We loved being part of the opening of the soft play in the church! Our youngest learners think that it is a wonderful extension of our school facilities.

We are very much looking forward to the Christmas festivities at school, especially our Christmas production which will be held at Freshwater Holiday Park! The Friends have organised lots of events too, including a Christmas film night, Elfridges (an opportunity for children to buy and wrap presents for their loved ones) and a visit from the big man himself - Father Christmas!

From all of us at Burton Bradstock CE Primary School, I would like to send our warmest wishes to every member of our Parish at Christmas time. May your homes be filled with peace and laughter this Christmas and may the coming year bring health and happiness to you and your families.

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

A Merry Christmas from all at Thorner's - it has been lovely to see the children filled with the usual seasonal excitement as we head towards a week of plays, Christmas lunch, carol concerts and church services. We will share all the details of this wonderful time of year in due course - hopefully all the shepherds and sheep will behave themselves and Mary and Joseph find a welcoming Innkeeper!

Merry Christmas from all at Thorner's!

Mike Sitch, Headmaster

Bride Valley Gardening Club

As you may know, the very last meeting of the Bride Valley Gardening Club was in October, when we had a good turn out and a very interesting talk by Steven and Lindsay Lester of The Blooming Wild Nursery. Everyone seemed to enjoy the free drinks and the cakes!

Your membership will continue until March 2027 along with any Gold Club perks which I will email you about as and when. Our Constitution states that any money left in the Club's funds on dissolution of the Club will be given to charity. It has

been agreed that this money will go to garden projects and will be split between Thorners School, Burton Bradstock School, Weldmar Hospice, and The Allington Hillbillies (The Allington Hill, Cooper's Wood and Field Community Group).

If you require further information or wish to comment, please contact Liz on bridevalleygc@gmail.com

Bride Valley Book Club Review

"Raising Hare" by Chloe Dalton

We were in rare unanimous agreement about "Raising Hare". Everyone enjoyed it and admired the writer's achievement in documenting her rescue of an abandoned new-born leveret found on a track close to her rural home. The advice is usually to leave juvenile hares alone as the mother will return to care for it. However, this one had been left for many hours and was at risk of predation. Dalton had retreated to a converted barn during Covid isolating from her busy job as an adviser/speech writer working with The Foreign Office. She is very respectful that this tiny hare is a wild animal - she is careful not to name it or touch it unless she absolutely has to. She provides food and shelter - much of this based on guesswork as there is no manual for raising leverets. Jackie, one of our members, wrote this:

"I found this book remarkable. The author's research is wide ranging and addresses so many facets of the hare's life, mythology, biology and history, but this wealth of information is presented simply and clearly, each part of the story being tied to the reality of the hare itself and the developing relationship with the author, and with the land. No doubt this reflects the author's professional skills. I loved her writing style.

Within this broad scope I found the central focus of place, hare and observer almost meditative in its sense of time and the awareness of minute detail: the effect is very visual and inspiring. The fact that this event happened during the Covid lockdown was significant - I found it easy to relate to that sense of slowing time and a heightened level of observation that many of us experienced during that period.

I also liked the author's honesty about the judgements she made as she learnt how to relate to the hare and her perception of the hare as a product of the place and its wider wildlife system. The book did feel like a journey of discovery for both author and reader. If any book were to have serious impact on the dreadful acts of hare-coursing and shooting this should be the one. Equally the unnecessary damage that industrialised farming does to our wildlife. Let's hope enough people read it!"

Our discussion of this extraordinary book moved on to observing hares in our own valley - memories of illegal hare coursing in other parts of the country (known as 'lamping') - the industrialisation of farming and the importance of field margins - seeing jugged hare on pub menu boards - why the quality of food in the UK seems to be poorer than the rest of Europe - why a 'closed season' does not apply to hares and what more could be done to boost their falling numbers.

Jackie Hunt & Liz Pinfield

Bride Valley WI

For our October meeting 26 excited Bride Valley WI members took a trip to Bridport for a Behind the Scenes tour of the Electric Palace.

Our tour was conducted by Emilie who has worked at the theatre for ten years. It was a really interesting and enjoyable evening, learning about the history, the building, planning of the programme and of course the theatre's ghosts! Emilie was a superb host mixing facts, stories, humour and the tribulations of managing the theatre.

We visited dressing rooms, back stage and looked at the amazing murals. Emilie ensured we gained a most interesting insight into how a small theatre thrives. A very beautiful place and hopefully one that will remain for the community of Bridport in the future.

The WI skittles team continues to meet fortnightly for fun, but confirmation of the skittles league has now been received, so "training" will soon be underway!

Whether we win or lose, we always enjoy the opportunity to visit other teams and their alleys, as well as welcoming fellow WI members to our home alley at The White Horse Pub.

Craft Club continues and we have already started our Xmas Crafting.

Our first Winter walk on Sunday 29th November will begin in Swannery Car park and finish at Abbey Farm Christmas Fayre in the Tithe Barn.

If you wish to join the Bride Valley WI please come and meet us all at Puncknowle Village Hall 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month. Please contact us at bridevalleywi@gmail.com

Our Night Sky in December 2026



Mars will be setting in the West about 1900, while Saturn will be with us throughout the night. Venus will be rising in the East about 0500, followed by Jupiter shortly before Sunrise.

Dark Matter and Xenon/Neon-Like Experiments:

Underground experiments like the LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) dark matter detector—which uses ultra-pure liquid xenon—and space observatories like the newly launched Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope are actively probing particle interactions and cosmic expansion to better understand dark matter and dark energy

Using the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope, astronomers confirmed "Cloud-9," the first-ever detected starless, gas-rich dark matter cloud/failed galaxy relic from the early universe, located 14 million light-years away near Messier 94. It features a neutral hydrogen core with about one million solar masses and an estimated five billion solar masses of dark matter.

Bill Turnill, with thanks to NASA

Portesham Surgery

Portesham Renovation Update

We're pleased to say that our refurbishment project is running largely to schedule if anything slightly ahead, and we hope the dispensary will be able to move back into its newly extended and improved area in mid-December. This will mark the final phase of our extensive surgery refurbishment.

Thank you to all our patients for your patience and support while the work has been taking place. It's been a significant project, and we appreciate the understanding you've shown along the way. We'd also like to thank our fantastic staff, who have adapted brilliantly throughout. Everyone is excited to enjoy the benefits of a bright, refreshed working environment that will help us continue providing the best possible care.

More news from the Surgery including details of opening times can be found in the appendix of our December online edition.

West Dorset Singers 60th Anniversary

www.westdorsetsingers.org

Reg charity No. 1125032.

Celebrate with us!

Christmas Messiah

Highlights from Handel`s masterwork and other Christmas music

With the choir from Ashlands C.o.E. Primary School



Bridport United Church
3pm Saturday 19th December 2026

Tickets £15 (under 18s free)
from the Bridport Music Centre
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wds

BURTON BRADSTOCK PLAYERS
PRESENT

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD

BY KIND PERMISSION OF LIMELIGHT SCRIPTS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY – 7.30pm
FRIDAY 19th FEBRUARY – 7.30pm
SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY – 2.30pm
SATURDAY 20th FEBRUARY – 7.30pm

BURTON BRADSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR MORE MERRY MEN AND GUARDS (SMALL ROLES ONLY), IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN THE FUN AND BE PART OF PANTO 27 OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CAROLE HOUGHTON ON 01308 898521 OR 07764523182

Burton Bradstock

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



Christmas Coffee Mates

This month, on Thursday 10th December from 10.30am-12.00noon, Coffee Mates will be meeting as usual in the church. We will be welcoming the school choir to sing a few carols to us and then help decorate the Christmas tree. All are invited to join us for this festive occasion and enjoy coffee and some Christmassy nibbles and chat! Any enquires please ring Pauline (898327)

Knitting for Ukraine - update

Congratulations to all you eager knitters. What a year it has been! By the time you read this I shall have sent off at least 50 parcels of your beautifully crafted gifts for the babies in Ukraine. More than 20 named individuals, as well as those who have responded as a group have taken part. Folk from most of the Bride Valley villages, from the Community kitchen in Bridport, from Leicester and now from Wales! Well done all of you. Never imagine your contribution is not needed. Only today I heard from the team who take our goods. They are delighted as what they need matches what we send. They are so pleased.

The team have been attaching whistles to lanyards to give to children who may get buried in rubble or lost in the street. Can you imagine how harrowing this situation is for the children and their parents? (Please don't give me whistles. They are being sourced elsewhere.)

After a year's hard work knitting, please do not feel any obligation to carry on, as for some this may have been a real sacrifice. However, if you do wish to continue, I shall be delighted to receive your strips, blankets, baby hats, bootees and mittens and to continue sending them on. We are very grateful to our friends at the Post Office who store the little bags of knitted goods till I am able to pop in and collect them. Thanks so much. Also, a big 'thank you' to those kind friends, who, during the year. have helped with the postage. Much appreciated.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and God bless your busy fingers in the year to come.

Heather (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.

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-12.00noon and all are welcome.

There will be no Wednesday Coffee Morning in December due to the number of other organised activities occurring.

Wed 20th January, Village Hall Trust (Bacon Rolls)

Christmas Market

The Village Hall Trust Christmas Market and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 5th December from 10.00am -12.00noon. There will be a range of stalls selling Christmas craft items including Snowmen, Reindeers and Christmas Trees, decorations, craft items from the Village Society team and many more that make great Christmas presents, plus the normal coffee/tea and cake service. Entry £1 for adults on the door, children free. Proceeds from this Market go to the Village Hall Trust.

Christmas Quiz: The hugely popular Christmas Quiz will be held on Saturday 12th December, with the Quiz prepared and run by Sue and Richard Ferre. Doors will open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start. The ticket price of £13 per head includes a light supper, plus all the normal crackers, party poppers and balloons that add to the festive fun. There will be a sensibly priced bar, raffle and prizes for winners, 2nd and last place. There will be tables of 8 and the central aisle will be kept free. 6 tickets will allow you to reserve a team table in your name, although a table of 8 has a better chance. Tickets went on sale at the Post Office on Wednesday 18th November and will continue, if still available, until 3 days before the quiz. Once you have your team tickets contact Richard Ferre (details below) to confirm your table and any dietary requirements. Individuals or pairs wishing to join in should purchase tickets from the Post Office then contact Richard requesting a team place. We always find places for everybody. There are normally some last-minute places that become available, so if you want to join in and there are no tickets at the Post Office contact Richard whose contact details are rwferre99@gmail.com or 01308 897648.

Thank You: This has been the busiest year for use of the Hall ever. Inevitably the odd confusion arises as we running it are all unpaid volunteers trying our best to provide a professional service to all hall users. I would like to thank both the Village Hall Trust committee who work tirelessly during the year to fund raise, maintain, repair and improve the Hall and all our regular users who make the Hall a vibrant place at the heart of the Village.

Richard Ferre. Chairman, Village Hall Trust.

Burton Bradstock Village Hall "200 Club" November 2026 Draw

Congratulations to the winners:

1st	£32.40	No 70:	Susan Moores
2nd	£16.20	No 14:	Mr Pete Mayo
3rd	£8.10	No 49:	Janet Whittaker

Anyone wanting to become a member in time for the December 2026 draw should telephone Keith Britton on 01308 898008 and let him have £1 – one pound for each monthly draw in the year. There are double prizes in the December draw. WDDC Licence no: SL0080

Burton Bradstock Village Society

As many of us will receive our December BVN in the last week of November it seemed sensible to remind Villagers of the lighting of the Christmas tree on Saturday 28th November. The Hall will open at 5.00pm for a free small glass of mulled wine, soft drinks, stollen cake, and a small present for the children. The Burton Bradstock male voice choir will sing carols before the Rector hosts the lights being turned shortly after 5.30pm, followed by some Christmas Carol singing for all around the Tree.

October Post Office Coffee Morning Fundraiser

This is our first opportunity to thank all the villagers who came to support the coffee morning run by the Society in support of the Post Office. The event raised in the region of £800 which will used to support the Post Office. More importantly though, the event's purpose was to highlight the Post Office's importance to the village and the need for the villagers to use it.

Friday 4th December, Village Hall - Christmas Bingo

Instead of our monthly talk the Society will again be running a light-hearted Christmas Bingo session. There will be prizes for the first line and full house for each game which typically will be a bottle of something and a meat joint from the Post Office Farm Shop. Doors open at 7.00pm and play starts at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are £1.50 for members, which includes one book of bingo games. More bingo game books can be purchased on entry to improve your chance of winning. Mulled wine and Stollen cake will be served in the break and there will be a raffle and wine and beer available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your friends.

Saturday 5th December, 10.00am- 12.00noon, Village Hall Christmas Market

While this is a Village Hall event several of the Society's members will run a table selling bespoke handmade items ideal as Christmas presents or personal use. The money raised will be donated to the Society.

We wish all in the village a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Burton Bradstock Parish Council

20mph Update

We are pleased to inform Parishioners that the introduction of the 20mph speed limit is now scheduled to be delivered in Spring 2027. This is an important step towards improving road safety within our parish and creating a safer environment for residents, pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. The proposed limit aims to encourage drivers to reduce their speed, improve safety for vulnerable road users and make our local roads safer and more pleasant for everyone. The Parish Council welcomes this progress and looks forward to seeing the 20mph speed limit introduced in Spring 2027.

Allotment Plots Available!

Fancy growing your own fruit, vegetables and flowers? Whether you're an experienced gardener or a complete beginner, an allotment is a great opportunity to:

- Grow your own fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise.
- Take up a rewarding new hobby.
- Meet others and become part of the village community.

There is no better time to get growing! Interested in having your own allotment? For further information or to register your interest, please contact the Clerk.

Stay Informed - Sign Up to Dorset Alert!

Residents are encouraged to sign up to Dorset Alert, a free Dorset Police messaging service providing:

- Home Watch messages and crime prevention advice.
- Neighbourhood Policing Team updates.
- Local police station dates and drop-in sessions.
- Community safety alerts and appeals.

Sign up to receive updates relevant to your area: https://dorsetalert.co.uk

The Friends of Burton Bradstock Library

During December the library will be decorated for Christmas so do call in to get in the spirit! There will be Christmas jigsaws available to borrow as well as seasonal books. Christmas cards are available for sale in the Library and the Post Office. Do pop in and buy some, and help us provide a large variety of services through Dorset Libraries.

Saturday Drop-ins for a cup of tea/coffee are continuing until the end of the year and many thanks go to all who have supported these sessions. Extra helpers would be much appreciated so please let the duty volunteers or trustees know if you can assist.

Over the holiday period we will be closed from 24th - 28th December, reopen on 30th and then closed on 31st. Normal opening hours for all our library services are: Monday 2.00 - 4.00pm, Wednesday 10.00am-12.00noon, Thursday & Saturday 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

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

Sue Brown, Chairman

Burton Bradstock WI

Thank you to everyone who supported our Early Christmas Fayre in November, it was lovely to see some many people there.

Burton Bradstock WI will continue it's festive celebrations with a Christmas lunch at the golf club on 2nd December. Our regular meeting will be Tuesday 8th Dec. (2.00pm for a 2.25pm start) and will be a cream tea with an opportunity to chat, play some board games & generally enjoy a couple of hours away from the Xmas chaos!

Once again we are holding our Carol Service in St Mary's on Thursday 10th December at 2.00pm - you are welcome to come and join us and ladies from other Bride Valley WIs singing some of our favourite Carols.
We would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to celebrating Burton Bradstock WI's 110th Anniversary on 2027.

A Visit from Father Christmas!



Father Christmas will be visiting Burton Bradstock on Thursday 17th December from 5.30pm to 8.00pm.

His helpers from Brit Valley Rotary will be knocking on doors requesting donations for local good causes and inviting the children to come out to talk to him.
He is careful with what he promises.

Friends of Burton Bradstock School

The festive season is fast approaching, and the Friends Charity has two wonderful Christmas events planned for December! We would love you to join us for some festive fun, good food and community spirit as we celebrate the season together.

Christmas Curry & Quiz Night – Friday 4th December

Join us at Freshwater from 7.00pm – 10.30pm for a fantastic evening of delicious Christmas incredible Spice & Rice, quizzing and plenty of festive cheer! Gather your friends, get your thinking caps on and enjoy a fun-filled evening. There will also be a Christmas Raffle giving you the chance to win some lovely prizes while supporting a great cause. This event sold out quickly last year, so be sure to book your tickets soon!

Christmas Fete – Sunday 13th December

Come along and get into the Christmas spirit at our Christmas Fete in Burton Bradstock Village Hall, running from 1.00pm – 4.00pm. It's a lovely opportunity to enjoy some festive fun, soak up the Christmas atmosphere and support the Friends Charity. The Fete is free to attend, with a small fee to see Santa in his grotto (pre-booking required via the QR code). We'll have festive crafts, food, mulled wine and entertainment!

Whether you join us for one event or both, we would be delighted to see you there! So, save the dates, spread the word and come along to help make this Christmas extra special. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Friends Charity.
We look forward to celebrating with you! Merry Christmas!

Burton Bradstock Bridge Club

We are a very friendly group who meet 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

Littlebredy

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



The Lads of the Village

Once again, we commemorated the Fallen on a particularly beautiful frosty November morning. Our joint service with Long Bredy was led by Reverend Andrew, and was very well attended. Jackie Cain read a moving tribute to Captain Julian Gribble, VC, and we also remembered with gratitude the many hundreds of American servicemen who lived in the Bride valley in the weeks and months prior to D Day.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have been able to make a substantial donation to the Royal British Legion. Particular thanks to Lee Quincey and his team for cutting the grass in the churchyard, and to all the villagers who cleaned and decorated the church for the occasion.

A Near Miss!

Sydney Brown, who formerly lived at Orchard Cottage, had a remarkable memory for all things Littlebredy. Syd recalled, at the age of 10, watching trees being felled during WW2 for the war effort. A Poplar tree with an 8' diameter trunk was so large that it required a traction engine with a cable drum to tow it up the lane to the valley road.

The cable was wound around a beech tree in the Parsonage Garden, and the traction engine crept slowly upwards. Half-way up the cable broke, and the whole load began to move backwards, watched breathlessly by the wide-eyed spectators. Fortunately, the driver had the presence of mind to jack-knife the traction engine, the tree stuck in the bank, and disaster was averted. Eventually 3 'Matador' lorries came to the rescue, the load was hauled up, and the monster tree headed off to the sawmill.

Wassail!

Season's Greetings to all our friends and relations up and down the valley. Thank you for supporting us during the unsettling times we are living through; and we look forward to welcoming you to our Carols by Candlelight service on 21st December, and of course our Christmas morning service.

Merry Christmas!

Shipton Gorge

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



Village Diary

Search for Shipton Gorge Diary or go directly to https://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/ You'll be able to find out all that's going on in the village from the Village Society, the New Inn / New Inn Support, the Village Hall, Shipton Gorge Heritage, the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, and other event organizers.

St Martin's Church

Floodlight sponsors for November

Janet, Caroline, and Faith Epplestone, in loving memory of John and Bee
Kate and John Kent for Ferne Hobby's birthday on 13th
Linda and Ed Buck
Terry and Christine, thinking of Mick, Doreen and Christine's Mum and Dad this Christmas
Harry and Lily Myers in loving memory of their daughter Beverley
Peter and Jenny, wishing all friends and family a happy festive season and remembering those close to us who passed away this year.
Sue and John Porter, wishing a very Happy Christmas to all on Rockway
Hilary Cunningham for her New Year's Eve birthday

Thank you so much to all our sponsors and to those who have given so generously throughout the year. Your support is very much appreciated by all in the village. Happy Christmas everyone and a Peaceful New Year. If you wish to light up the Church, please contact Phyl: 01308 898657, or push a note through Cuckoo Cottage (Chapel Street) letter box. A suggested donation of £5 is much appreciated.

Community Christmas Tree festival: Saturday 5th–Sunday 13th December

We are very much looking forward to the opening of our Christmas Tree festival on 5th December at 5.00pm. A reminder that groups / individuals who are taking part should go and decorate their tree on Friday 4th December, 4.00pm –6.00pm and/or Saturday 5th December, 10.00am –12.00noon; a set of lights will be provided for each tree.

While the festival is on, the church will be open daily for the public to admire the beautifully decorated trees. Entry is free, but we would appreciate donations towards the 'Fix St Martin's Church' fund. If you are going to the Christmas Market at the Village Hall on Friday 11th December, why not pop into the church as well!

The trees will be taken down on Sunday 13th December. The undecorated trees will then be available for sale to anyone for a minimum donation of £10. For more information, and to purchase one of the trees at the end of the festival, please contact Sue Melvin: 07860 157834. All proceeds will also go towards the 'Fix St Martin's Church' fund.

Carol service: Sunday 6th December, 6.30pm

Come and enjoy some of your favourite Christmas carols, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Blue Christmas service

Monday 7th December, 5.00pm
Christmas always seems to be accompanied by jolly songs, ringing tills, and the expectation that you will have a good time. But that's not how it feels for many people. Maybe your year has been hard for whatever reason (bereavement, illness, estrangement, worry) and Christmas seems to highlight the difficulties. Or maybe, in an over-busy life, you just want space to reflect, recall, regroup. Whatever the reason, whatever the need, come along to this quiet service, where we hope that you will find the space and hope which the Christmas story offers.

Christmas refreshments in church: Saturday 12th December, 2.00pm–4.30pm
Come and enjoy Christmassy refreshments in the church while admiring the trees!

Breakfast church: Sunday 13th December, 9.30am, in the church.

Christmas morning Holy Communion: Friday 25th December, 9.30am
Join Rev'd Andrew for the Christmas Communion service on Christmas Day.

Churchyard clear-up

Thanks to the folks who turned out to work on the autumn clear up in the churchyard at the end of October and particularly to head of operations, Phil Hall. Several shrubs were carefully pruned and the ongoing battle with the ivy resumed. We know that the ivy is important for nature, but there's plenty more. We are trying to find a balance between maintaining ancient churchyard walls and supporting nature! The churchyard is regularly maintained by a group of wonderful volunteers who would be delighted for others to join their group.

Floodlight replacement

Some of you have noticed that we have been down to two floodlights in the churchyard recently and have missed the third light. The PCC have been reviewing the options and will get an electrician to replace the third light soon.

Symondsbury Mummers

St Martin's Church, Shipton Gorge
Wednesday 16th December, 6.00pm
Come along to a performance by the fantastic Symondsbury Mummers. This action-packed traditional seasonal entertainment, full of comedy and lively characters, is absolutely not to be missed!



'Spirit of Christmas' concert

St Martin's Church, Shipton Gorge
Monday 21st December, 5.30pm



Join us for a joyful and uplifting hour or so of **music**, **poetry** and **prose** to celebrate the festive season. Featuring the Shipton Gorge Community Choir, soloists Anya Chomacki (mezzo-soprano), Oliver Hooper (tenor), Ian Bloomfield (baritone), and others…

Entry and refreshments for cash donations.

This concert is in aid of the 'Fix St Martin's Church' fund, to keep our lovely church building in use for our community. Our current target is at least £10,000 for urgent repairs to the windows and porch.

Village Hall 100 Club: November 2026 Draw results

1st 46 £25 Christine Davey, 2nd 153 £10 Graeme Foster, 3rd 70 £5 Bob Simpson

Congratulations to all winners. The money raised via the 100 Club goes towards maintaining the Village Hall for everyone's use. For those who already support us, a huge thank you. We have more numbers available and welcome new supporters. It costs only £10 for the whole year, with the chance to win a cash prize each month and £100 first prize in the December and June draws. Contact Graham Garner: 01308 897357.

Advent windows for Shipton Gorge



It may not be too late for Shipton Gorge residents to join in to create a trail of Advent Windows around the village. Text Kate Chomacki 07789 692338 OR message via the Shipton Gorge Community Facebook page. Kate will allocate you a date if there are any still available. On your allocated date, put up a Christmas-related window, gate, or garden display which includes your number (i.e. the display for 1st December will include the number '1'). Your display can be as simple or as complicated as you like! Look out for the map showing the final locations of the windows, and visit them all as they appear.

Shipton Gorge Christmas Market

Friday 11th December, 4.00pm–7.00pm, Shipton Gorge Village Hall

Handcrafted gifts, including artwork, wooden crafts, candles, jewellery, cards, coasters, prints, paintings, soaps, preserves, Christmas decorations, and more. Mulled wine, cakes, savouries. Meals to 'heat and eat' at home, from Kim's Kitchen. Christmas tombola.

Donations of cakes will be gratefully received from 2.00pm at the Hall on the day of the market. Christmas-themed tombola items can be delivered to East Court, Brook Street until Monday 7th December.

Our chosen charity this year is Nepal Red Cross Society.

For more information, contact Kim Bloomfield: bloomfieldkim5@gmail.com 01308 346007 / 07754 245691.

Shipton Gorge Heritage

Heritage Gin Club Winners of the November draw were Geoff and Jean Wyrill (second time this year). Congratulations again!

Saunders Richardson Wood

We have received our delivery of wildlife-friendly saplings from The Woodland Trust, so we now need to get planting. We have also planned to do another section of hedge laying on Smacombe Lane, therefore, some co-ordination is needed to make sure we don't trample on them. We will let you know when dates can be fixed. In the meantime, the saplings will be heeled in and protected. We

intend to open the wood on Wednesday 16th December, 11.00am–12.00noon, to prepare areas for planting and to build up protection on the existing young trees. 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 apples will all have been picked by now, including the cider ones, which tend to be ready later than the eaters. These were taken to, and welcomed by, Dorset Nectar Cider Farm, for their apple swap. Therefore, the trees can have a well-earned break before David Squirrel comes along to give them a health check and a trim in January. We will be in the Orchard on Monday 7th December 11.00am–12.00noon to do a little winter tidy up. Perhaps take a break from Christmas shopping and come along to help!



Our Apple Day event was very well attended, despite the awful weather, with some stalls being hastily accommodated indoors. Lots of tea and cake were consumed, raffle prizes won, and jams, chutneys and cakes purchased for later. The apple display was amazing considering the growing conditions over the summer and Tomos won our 'longest apple peel' competition. We took around £450 on the day and this will help towards the cost of the hedge laying which is planned this winter. We are sponsoring a Christmas tree for the Tree Festival 5th–13th December in St Martin's church. Please pop in. Also, if you missed out on buying jams and chutneys at the Apple Day, we will be at the Christmas Market in the Village Hall on Friday 11th December. Please come along and have a chat, and if you are not already a member and would like to be, we can sign you up!

If you are interested in supporting the charity in any way, please contact Anne Crowe: 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://shiptongorgediary.co.uk/

Wishing our members and all the readers of the BVN a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Parish Council

As this was written before our meeting on 12th November, please go on to the Parish Council section of the website to see what was discussed and agreed. An advance update on some of the items is below:

Highways was one of the key areas of concern expressed in the suggestions we received at the village fete in August. Discussions have been held with the new Transport and Road Safety Officer with the following result:

– traffic calming measures in Cuckoo Lane: interventions such as the introduction of speed bumps are not possible as there are no street lights, which is one of the requirements.

– mirror at the top of Port Lane to aid traffic visibility on the bend: these are no longer provided, as, ironically, their presence has been cited as a factor in several accidents.

– 20mph speed limit in the village: this is a possibility, with the start of the process being to demonstrate that there are sufficient residents in favour. If you have a view either way, please let Debbie our clerk know: clerk@shiptongorge.org.uk.

The state of the roads themselves is another pressing issue. Thanks to our Dorset Councillor, Sally Holland, we will be meeting with the new Highways Officer in the near future to discuss our concerns.

The repainting of the playing field equipment is nearly complete. The sharp-eyed among you will have noticed that the slide is a new and interesting shade of green. We have now been sent the correct colour, so it will be restored to its former glory shortly.

We have now found a provider for our defibrillator and first aid training. Details and a proposed date will be circulated soon.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas from the Parish Council.

Litton Cheney

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



St Mary's

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas services, starting with the Thorner's School Carol Service at 4.00 pm on Thursday 17th. The church is always packed with parents and the children's singing is wonderful!
There will be Carol Singing round the village from 6.00 pm on Friday 18th, meeting at the Snicket – all ages welcome! Warm clothing and torches required, carol sheets provided. Proceeds to Julia's House. If you're at home, listen out for us and please give generously.

St. Mary's Carol Service by candlelight is on Sunday 20th at 6.00pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Our ever-popular Crib Service is at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve. Then there is a change this year, no late-night service here, but instead a Communion service on Christmas Morning at 10.00am. Come and join us!

Litton Cheney Parish Council – Next Meeting Tuesday 12th January 2027 – 7.00pm

At this meeting, the Parish Precept for 2027/28 will be confirmed alongside the budget for the coming fiscal year.

We welcome John Matthews to our ranks, having been co-opted onto the Parish Council at our November meeting. John has already shown himself to have an avid interest in the functions of the PC, attending several meetings, and voicing his thoughts during democratic time. He has now turned that interest into a more pro-active one. There are still two vacancies on the council. Like John, are you prepared to step up to the plate?

Christmas Tree – This year we are relocating the tree to alongside the Jubilee Hut, and close to The Queen's Bench, all of which will be decorated and lit by a gallant band of elves and helpers. Our grateful thanks to all involved.

Housekeeping – Doing your Civic Duty: Please report the following as directed – Potholes (Dorset Council), HGV's on Whiteway (Parish Council), Fly Tipping (Dorset

Council), Blocked drains (Dorset Council). Check your bin days over the Christmas and New Year period (Dorset Council).

The White Horse

What a year! How can it possibly be nearly Christmas?! Lots going on at the White Horse in December, so not going to list it all here. Keep checking our TV screen for upcoming events and our Facebook page for further details.

Wishing all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and, as always, many thanks for your continued support.

Love and best wishes

Andy and Liz xxx

What's on at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH) in December		
REGULAR EVENTS		
Tuesdays	9.45am -11.00am	Morning Yoga with Jane (07882 527697) janehutchinsyoga@outlook.com
	4.45pm– 5.45pm	Short Mat Bowls (Ron Davidson 482661)
Wednesdays	4.45pm 5.45pm 7.00pm	Table Tennis (Paul Kingston 482162) Yoga with Jane (contact as above)
OTHER EVENTS		
Thursday 3rd	7.00pm	Film Night "The Sheep Detectives" starts 7.30
Friday 4th	Evening	Christmas Bingo Night
Thursday 10th	7.00pm	Alpha Course
Friday 11th	10.00am – 12.00noon	Art Group in meeting room
Saturday 19th Sunday 20th Monday 21st	10.00am– 2.00pm	Flowerdew Farm "Great Christmas Farm Rescue"
January 2027 Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd	10.00 am– 2.00pm	Flowerdew Farm "Great Christmas Farm Rescue"
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 3 DECEMBER – THE SHEEP DETECTIVES *'simply excellent and lots of fun'*

In this witty, new breed of mystery, George is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers. Starring Hugh Jackman and Bryan Cranston. Cert.PG 1hr 50"

We will be continuing to show films on the first Thursday of the month in 2027. Dates: 7thJanuary, 4th February, 4th March and probably 1st April.

Subject to a licence being granted (check the website for confirmation):
THURSDAY 7th JANUARY – PRESSURE *'a gripping, intelligent and emotionally resonant drama'*

In the 72 hours before D-Day, and with the fate of the free world hanging in the balance, General Dwight D. Eisenhower (Brendan Fraser) and Group Captain James Stagg (Andrew Scott) face an impossible choice - launch the largest and most dangerous seaborne invasion in history or risk losing the war altogether. Also starring Kerry Gordon and Damian Lewis. Cert 12+ 1 hr 40

Doors Open: 7.00pm, films start 7.30pm
TICKETS: £6.00 (to include a glass of wine) available on the door.
Look out for details in the BVN or on the website
http://www.littoncheney.org.uk/bridevalleyfilms.htm

Art & Craft Café

First of all, a BIG THANK YOU to all those who visited our very successful Art and Craft Café at LATCH on Saturday 7th November in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. I hope you enjoyed browsing through the large variety of art and craft stalls, supporting the raffle and bottle tombola and eating the delicious breakfast and cakes. Secondly, a BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers who stepped forward to cook, serve, clear tables, run the raffle and cake stalls, and wash up etc. Without you all this would not have been a success. Lastly, a BIG THANK YOU to all the wonderfully talented artists who came to support us. The hall looked lovely with all your creative, colourful and festive works of art and craft. Although at the time of writing I don't have quite the final figure but we have managed to raise around a massive £775 for the Alzheimer's Society. What a result!

Christmas Bingo

On FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER at LATCH, School Lane, Litton Cheney DT2 9AU. Doors open at 6.30pm and eyes down at 7.30pm.

Please come and support our fundraising for ASCape. This is a charity based in Bridport and is specifically for anyone on the Autistic spectrum up to the age of 25 years. ASCape do a lot of socialising events and we probably all know of someone locally who has a child or relative with Autism or one of the many other conditions. We will have great prizes, refreshments, a raffle and the Bucket Draw. Please come wearing your favourite Christmas jumper!

Almost Finally – Thank You! – Throughout 2026 various individuals and groups have contrived to make our lives in Litton a little less traumatic, often bringing a smile to our faces, but most of all helping us get on with our lives and those of others. We will celebrate those people in greater detail in January's BVN when more space permits. Happy Christmas!

Attention Please - A New Plan for the Parish – Announcing Dates for Community Open Forums

A Steering Group of volunteers, independent of the Parish Council, have been tasked to write a new Parish Plan on your behalf. Your ideas, suggestions and comments are important. They will help to shape the future of Litton Cheney.

Everyone who lives or works within the Litton Cheney Parish boundary is invited to attend a Community Open forum to be held on:

Sat 23rd January at LATCH (drop in from 9.30am to 12.30pm)

Tues 26th January at LATCH (drop in from 6.00pm to 8.30pm)

Thurs 28th January at the White Horse (drop in from 6.30pm to 8.30pm)

Please come along to one of the Forums and share your views. This will be OUR plan for OUR village. OUR views. OUR shared future.

For those unable to make the Forums, please post any suggestions or comments in the suggestion boxes located in the Telephone Box Book Exchange, LATCH and the White Horse. If you'd like to join the Steering Group or can spare some time to get involved and help, please contact volunteer-lcparishplan@outlook.com

For more information about the Parish Plan visit www.littoncheney.org.uk

On the following page you will find a comprehensive illustration of how the Plan will be developed and adopted.

Litton Cheney

OUR village • OUR views • OUR shared future

Have your say – make a difference

WHAT? WHY? **HOW?** WHEN?

A step-by-step guide to shaping the future of Litton Cheney



This will be OUR Parish Plan
Share your views
Help shape the future of our village
Litton Cheney Small village Big community

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

Christmas At Puncknowle

Puncknowle Church and the Crown Inn invite you to "Carols at the Crown" on Thursday 17th December at 7.00pm in aid of ALABARE – supporting people to overcome the barriers of homelessness, learning difficulties and mental health. Come and join us for an enjoyable hour of singing carols together in the warmth of the pub.

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

An Invitation to Christmas Tea and Carol Service



You are invited to the Village Hall Christmas tea party on **Sunday 13th December** at 2.30pm. This is a free community event at which refreshments will be provided making it a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours, The Hall will be decorated for Christmas and there will also be artisan stalls and a chance to win a home baked Christmas cake in the raffle.

At 4.30pm all are welcome to join the candle-lit walk to St Mary's for **CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT** and the reading of the Christmas story. This is an interactive service where the children help to create the nativity scene and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

What's on at Puncknowle Village Hall		
Every Monday	2.00pm – 3.00pm	**Pilates** Contact Sarah on 07885 037340 or by email sarah@modified-pilates.co.uk
2nd Monday each month	7.00pm to 9.00pm	**History** Contact: Paul on paul.bullen@me.com
1st Tuesday each month	7.30pm – 10.00pm	**Parish Council Meeting** Open to the Public More information: https://puncknowle-swyre-pc.gov.uk/
3rd Tuesday each month	1.00pm – 2.30pm	**Luncheon Club** Contact David on 01308 898492
Every Wednesday	10.00 am – 12.00noon	**Table Tennis** Contact Brian on 01308 897987
Every Wednesday	7.00pm – 9.00pm	**Table Tennis** Contact John on 07557 963618
1st Thursday each month	2.00pm – 4.00pm	**Craft Club** Contact Brenda on b.oliver@btinternet.com
3rd Thursday each month	7:30pm - 9:30pm	**Bride Valley WI** Contact Bridevalleywi@gmail.com
Last Friday each month	10.00am – 12.30pm	**Art Club** Contact Sally on 01308 897987

Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington Village Hall 100 club

Winners were

August: 1st 22 Meryl Edwards 2nd 39 Sarah Turner

September 1st 53 Brian Bowsher 2nd 51 Jeff Litchfield

October 1st 18 Lee Taylor 2nd 32 Richard Kennelly

Please support our Villages 100 Club! For just £20 a year, you can join our 100 Club and have the chance to win one of our monthly prizes of £15 (1st prize) or £9 (2nd prize). More importantly, your subscription helps fund the upkeep and improvements of our Village Hall, keeping it a welcoming and valuable space for everyone in our community. Every subscription makes a difference, so please consider joining and supporting our village hall. Thank you!

Contact Carol Kennelly for registration form and payment details carolkennelly@btinternet.com

Swyre Churchyard

A number of years ago, due to cost and a declining congregation, the Swyre PCC decided to cut the churchyard grass less often. The result of doing this has been a change in the biodiversity of the churchyard, with over 50 species of flower/plant being recorded as well as over 10 types of grass.

In recent years, Orchids have bloomed in the churchyard, though not every year as many only flower every 4, 7 or 14 years, as part of their natural lifecycle. In the evenings Grey Long-Eared and Pipistrelle bats can be seen flying over the churchyard. The local Barn Owls have used the church tower as a resting spot from their nocturnal activities. The Tawny Owls, that reside in the garden of Swyre House (formally the Old Rectory), have latterly become more dominant so the Barn Owls now cross the coast road to hunt the farmland toward the sea or fly toward Puncknowle.

Butterflies and moths use the churchyard and wasps and bees are often seen on the flowering plants. Slow worms have been found in the grass clippings compost bins. You can occasionally see a fox or badger in the churchyard.

Overall, it has been an interesting change. We await with interest to see how it develops into the future.

Puncknowle Swyre & West Bexington Lunch Club

Incorporates Chilcombe, Long Bredy and Little Bredy

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

8th December: Turkey with trimmings roast vegetables
Dessert to follow
19th January: Chicken and Mushroom Casserole
Dessert to follow

We would like to invite a few happy cooks to join our kitchen team. If you would like to help 2 or 3 times a year with cooking and serving please do get in touch

Please contact David Buckland 07597038141 for more details

Advent Window Trail 2026 Puncknowle, Swyre & Beyond

It's not too late if you would like to join in decorating your windows or outside space for Advent.

The theme this year is The Holly and the Ivy but all Christmas displays will help spread light and goodwill across The Bride Valley.

Do let us know where you are and we will provide you with a laminated number to add to your display.

We'll be making a map available on village Facebook sites and in the local pubs, The Crown and White Horse as well as in Puncknowle and Swyre Churches. This will enable you to follow the trail and view the wonderful displays.

Puncknowle & Swyre Churches

Please contact Sue Lang:
T. 07557 951305
E. sue.lang@hotmail.com

Long Bredy

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



Long Bredy 100 Club Results – October 2026

£25	*No.83*	*S Elliott*
£15	*No.101*	*L Swain*
£5	*No.26*	*D Andrews*

Drawn on 23rd October 2026 at Long Bredy Village Hall during the Come Along Inn

Village News and Updates

I would like to wish all the residents of Long Bredy a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fireworks

Thank you to all the residents who kindly let people know about their planned firework display. This helps everyone put in plans and be prepared for the event as it is known the impact they can have on people and animals.

Long Bredy Defibrillator

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Long Bredy defibrillator training on Wednesday 21st October. It was so lovely to see so many residents from Long Bredy as well as from neighbouring villages. Watch this space for details of our next fundraising event.

Coffee Break

The November Coffee Break saw many local residents come together to raise money for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Breakfast baps, as well as the usual delicious home baked goods were on offer. A cake stall and other gifts were also on sale and a raffle with some very exciting prizes donated by local businesses and residents. At 11.00am attendees went outside to stand by the villages 'Tommy' to remember those of the village and the wider Bride Valley who gave their lives during the two world wars and in subsequent conflict since. Thanks to

Nick Orr who led the Exhortation, two minutes silence and the Kohima Epitaph as well as laying a wreath from the villagers of Long Bredy by the Tommy. This was a lovely moving and humbling reminder of why we have our freedom.

Although the final figure raised for the Poppy Appeal isn't known at the time of writing the Coffee Break raised just over £400.00. Thank you to all who attended and helped raise this fantastic amount.

Come Along Inn

Despite the stormy weather there was a wonderful attendance at the Come Along Inn in October, which created a warm and friendly atmosphere. As always thanks to all those volunteers that make this successful monthly gathering happen.
The Come Along Inn has donated £50 to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

Parish Council Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 25th January 2027 at 7:00pm, in Long Bredy Village Hall. All are welcome.

Christmas Greetings - Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Council would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

High-Visibility Vests for Residents - As part of the ongoing partnership with Ford Farms (the cheese factory), and their commitment to the safety and wellbeing of their staff and the local community, they have kindly gifted the Parish Council a supply of high-visibility vests.
These are primarily intended for Long Bredy residents who use the roads on foot before dawn or after dusk, helping to make them even more visible to passing traffic. If this applies to you and you would like a free high-visibility vest, please contact the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@longbredy.org or the Chair at cllrkinghorn@longbredy.org.

We would like to give a big thank you to Ford Farms for their thoughtful support of our local community.

Future Events

Coffee Break

The Christmas Coffee Break will be Saturday 12th December, 10.30am-12.00noon and will be in aid of St Peter's Church, Long Bredy. As well as the amazing refreshments we have come to expect there will also be a stall selling Christmas gifts and a raffle. Donations for the event are welcome, they can be brought along on the day or please contact Jackie Cain 01308 482379.

Come Along Inn

Friday 18th December will be a festive Come Along Inn, a good way to start your Christmas celebrations. Although no meal will be on offer, complimentary nibbles and good cheer will be served. We look forward to seeing you there, 5:30pm - 9:00pm.

St Peter's Church

Long Bredy's now traditional live nativity will be taking place on Sunday 20th December. The 'Three Kings' will be visiting Mary and the Baby Jesus bringing gifts to celebrate the Gift of Life. Also in attendance will be the donkey and the sheep making it a truly 'Live Nativity'. You can come and meet them all from 9.30am with the church service starting at 10.00am.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

To help the three kings to find their way to St Peter's church perhaps you would like to put a star and some lights in your garden or window. If you need some inspiration or would like help in making a star to either hang at home or in the Church, materials will be available on the craft table in the Church. Additional stars from card/material/knitting /crochet would also be very welcome in helping to decorate the Church for Christmas. This will be our only Christmas service - there will be a service on Christmas Day at St Michael's Littlebredy. Please see the list of services on the back pages of this edition of the BVN for details.

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 absolutely delighted to hear that you are getting a dog. But be careful which variety you choose. First, your dog must be something substantial, but not prone to fighting or making amorous advances towards parishioners' dogs. A mongrel may be all very well for you as a curate, but just think to the future when you are an incumbent. Get a pedigree. It sets a better tone at the Rectory.

It should also be a breed that sheds fur copiously. That will deter your more fastidious parishioners from bothering you at home. If it also drools, that is a bonus. I would recommend you do *not* get a sheepdog. They become very stressed while trying to round everyone up as they roam round your lawn at the annual Summer Fete.

It can be quite useful giving your dog a name that – naturally, by coincidence – is remarkably similar to that of an awkward parishioner. Being able to bawl out commands to 'come', 'sit', and 'stop that', along with the pet's name, can be cathartic to you, salutary to the parishioner concerned and instructive to the rest of your congregation.

Dogs keep every confidence you tell them, are infinitely sympathetic when you moan about the flower arrangers, and they also make an excellent audience when you rehearse your Sunday sermon on them. Just like my parishioners, my Labrador gives me a look of well-meaning incomprehension as I get underway, and within minutes slips into a peaceful doze, which continues until my sermon concludes.

When gentlemen of the road call, before you open the door, make a series of very audible commands that imply you are restraining a ravenous beast. That your ravenous beast is smiling and tail-wagging, is irrelevant. It will make your caller hesitate to ring the bell another time.

Dogs also provide an excellent excuse for terminating endless meetings, overlong phone calls, parish socials and even visits to the bishop. Even the hardest of hearts cannot stop you from dashing home to give your pet a needed walkies, much, of course, as you would like to continue enjoying yourself with whoever it is you are obliged to flee from.

But do not take them to your church council meetings. When difficult decisions have to be made, you can never rely on them voting the way you want. My Labrador will wag her tail and agree with anyone.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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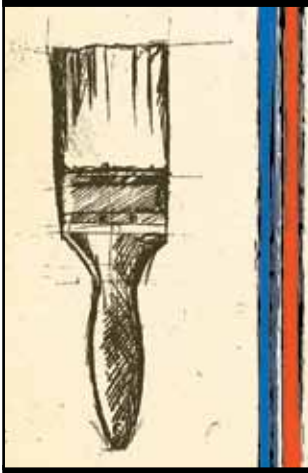
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Benefice Services

Dec 2026	1st Sunday 6th December Advent 2	Fri 11th Dec	2nd Sunday 13th Dec Advent 3	3rd Sunday 20th Dec Advent 4	Tues 22nd Dec	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	4th Sunday 27th Dec First Sunday of Christmas
Burton Bradstock	11.00am Morning Worship		6.30pm Carol Service	11.30am Holy Communion		4.00pm Crib Service	11.00am Christmas Day Communion	
Chilcombe					5.00pm Carols by Candlelight			
Litton Cheney	9.30am Morning Worship		9.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Carol Service		4.00pm Crib Service	10.00am Christmas Day Communion	
Puncknowle			9.30am Holy Communion 5pm Carol Service				11.00am Christmas Praise	11.00am A Benefice Service of Holy Communion
Swyre	11.00am Holy Communion			3.00pm Evening Prayer		9.30pm Early Christmas Communion		
Shipton Gorge	6.30pm Christmas Carol Service		9.30am Breakfast Church				9.30am Christmas Morning Communion	

Benefice Services

Dec 2026	1st Sunday 6th December Advent 2	Fri 11th Dec	2nd Sunday 13th Dec Advent 3	3rd Sunday 20th Dec Advent 4	Monday 21st	Weds 23rd	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Long Bredy	11am Holy Communion			10.00am, Carols and Live Nativity				11.00am Christmas Morning Praise, joint Long Bredy and Littlebredy service, being held at Littlebredy
Littlebredy					Carol Service 6pm			
Portesham	3.00pm Carol Service		11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion			4.30pm Christmas Crib service	11.00am Christmas Day Communion
Corton						4.00pm Christmas Carols by Candlelight		
Abbotsbury	11.00am Holy Communion		4.00pm Carol Service with Sherborne Chamber Choir	10.00am Morning Worship				9.30am Holy Communion
Langton Herring	9.00am BCP	6.30pm Carol Service		9.30am Holy Communion			11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion	
Mid-week Holy Communion 11.30am 2nd December at Burton Bradstock. This is followed by a light lunch.								



Come along to a Christmas Church Service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

Christmas Eve

Crib Services

4.00pm Burton Bradstock and Litton Cheney

4.30pm Portesham

Early Christmas Communion 9.30pm Swyre

Midnight Mass 11.30pm Langton Herring

Christmas Day

Communion

9.30am Shipton Gorge and Abbotsbury

10.00am Litton Cheney

11.00am Portesham and Burton Bradstock

Christmas Morning Praise

9.30am Puncknowle

11.00am Littlebredy

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Online Appendix

Portesham Surgery News

A Big Thank You



Portesham Surgery would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the **Beachcombers Association** for their generous donation of **£500** towards the purchase of a new **FeNO machine**. This valuable piece of equipment measures fractional exhaled nitric oxide in a patient's breath, helping clinicians assess airway inflammation and supporting the diagnosis and monitoring of asthma. We are extremely grateful for this contribution, which will help enhance the care and services we provide to our patients. *Pictured: Kacey, a Team Leader from Portesham Surgery, receiving the donation from Mike Miners on behalf of the Beachcombers Association.*

🎄 **Christmas & New Year Opening Hours Reminder**

Please note that the surgery will be **closed** on the following bank holidays over the festive period:

📅 **Friday 25th December – Closed**

📅 **Monday 28th December – Closed**

📅 **Friday 1st January – Closed Please make sure your prescriptions are ordered well before Christmas** If you require urgent medical assistance when we are closed, please use **NHS 111** online or call **111**. In a medical emergency, please call **999**

December Health Awareness & Staying Well This Winter As we move into the colder months, December is a good time to think about keeping yourself and your family well over winter. Winter can be particularly challenging for older adults, young children and those with long-term health conditions, so taking a few simple steps can make a big difference.

Top tips for staying well this winter:

Get your flu and any recommended seasonal vaccinations. Keep warm at home and dress appropriately when outdoors. Wash your hands regularly to help prevent the spread of winter illnesses. Ensure you have enough regular