

ZOOM CHRISTINGLE



Christingle

today at 4pm

A fun, interactive ONLINE family service with singalong carols. Make your own Christingles (using the goodie bags you received) and enjoy an interactive story led by Revd Helen Croud. Let's shine a little light across Bridport this Christmas.

THANK YOU

I want to say a big thank you for all your prayers, cards, emails, messages, and gifts over the last couple of months while I have been off work. These have been very heart-warming and much appreciated. Like British Rail, "I'm getting there!" and hope to return to parish duties when fully fit. While it is the time of Christmas cards and greetings, we hope you understand, but Anne & I won't be sending any Christmas Cards this year, so may I take this opportunity to wish you all a hopeful Advent, a peaceful Christmas, and a blessed New Year. God Bless. Pete.

SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/bridportchurches/>

If you don't use Facebook, just search using Google or another search engine for 'Bridport Team Ministry Facebook'

NEED FOOD or OTHER HELP?

FOOD BANK Cupboard Love is remaining open. Any issues contact 07443 596096 or cupboardlove.bridport@gmail.com

Need help with shopping call this number 07552 312594

Volunteers can help if you are self-isolating. Look at this link of local businesses: <https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

9pm SERVICE OF COMPLINE

9pm LIVE ZOOM Compline (night prayer) Sun, Tues & Thurs Email for link: maggiecrosbie@hotmail.com



See you in church!



Greetings from the worshipping community of Bridport!

Sunday 20th December 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

After the pain and uncertainty of this last year perhaps we feel the need more keenly to find comfort at Christmas.

And then we remember that this is the story of God in the form of a tiny, new born baby entering into the world for us. He didn't even have a bed – but slept in the place the animals ate from. He was born into poverty, far from his parents' home and was soon to be a refugee.

Who is this God who came into our world in such a way? Who came into a world of risk, need and uncertainty? The Christmas story tells of a God who comes into the mess and insecurity and strangeness of the world to come alongside us – a God who does not leave us on our own, a God who *knows* what we go through – from the darkest times, the frightening things of life and the heart-breaking things, to the joy and wonder and beauty of life. Sometimes people say Christmas is for children – I don't agree – Christmas is for us all, but perhaps it is when we look with the eyes and the heart and the sense of wonder and expectation of a child, that the miracle of Christmas comes into focus.

Christ still comes into this world. Christmas still happens. Even in a time of pandemic, even when we have to celebrate differently. It didn't just happen once, it happens all the time. God knocks at our doors and we are asked if there is room at the inn. And sometimes we close the door and say "there's no place for you here." But sometimes, even when we're not sure we want to open that door up, we do so anyway. And *that* matters. Because Christmas may be about the story that we read, it may be about Mary and Joseph and the baby and the manger and no room at the inn. But that story teaches us about more than just an event that happened centuries ago. When the tree is put away, when Christmas dinner has been eaten, when the nativity sets go back into their boxes, the ultimate test of how well we have celebrated Christmas will not be in what was under the tree or anything like that. It will be in how well we opened our hearts, and let that Christmas message in.

Revd Deb Smith

ST SWITHUN'S
BRIDPORT-WALDITCH-BOTHENHAMPTON-BRADPOLE-ALLINGTON-WEST BAY
ST JOHN'S
HOLY TRINITY
ST MARY'S

Online: Midnight Mass Service *should be available to watch at 11.30pm* Facebook & via our BTM website

God Bless You!

5 SERVICES

On both Christmas Eve + Christmas Day

MP=Morning Prayer; SOW=Service of the Word; EUC=Eucharist

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----|------------------------------|
| Mon 21st | 10 am | MP | St John's West Bay |
| Tue 22nd | 2.30 pm | SOW | St Mary's, South St Bridport |
| Wed 23rd | 10 am | MP | Holy Trinity, Bradpole |

*** Christmas Eve ***

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Thu 24th | 10 am | SOW | St Mary's, Walditch |
| | 6 pm | EUC | St Swithun's, Allington |
| | 8 pm | EUC | Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton |
| | 10 pm | EUC | Holy Trinity, Bradpole |
| | 11.30 pm | EUC | St Mary's, Bridport |

*** Christmas Day ***

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Fri 25th | 10 am | EUC | St Mary's, Walditch |
| | 10 am | EUC | St John's, West Bay |
| | 10 am | EUC | St Mary's Bridport |
| | 10 am | SOW | Holy Trinity, Bradpole |
| | 10 am | SOW | Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton |

Sun 27th 9.30am EUC St Swithun's, Allington
(This is a TEAM Service, *there will be no pewsheets*)

If you cannot attend in person, a Christmas Eve Midnight Mass should be available to watch from home (online) at 11.30pm (see Facebook and our website. **One of our Christmas Day 10am Services may also be livestreamed.** For details nearer the time, please visit our website: www.bridport-team-ministry.org



TODAY'S READINGS

Romans 16 : 25 to end

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Luke 1 : 26 - 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Additional reading at St Swithun's Church, Allington
2 Samuel 7 : 1 – 11, 16

TODAY'S COLLECT

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are sick. Those who have died and the families and friends who mourn them. Also, please pray for anyone else you know who needs or would appreciate your prayers.

Please note: There will be NO pewsheets prepared for 27 December's TEAM Service. However, the BIBLE readings for 27/12 are available as a separate sheet – see website.