



THE YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH 2022

The Parish of Bridport

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The Year in the Life of the Parish of Bridport 2022

- Team Rector's Review
- Communication
- Eco - Church
- Fabric
- Finance
- Mission and Pastoral
- Safeguarding
- The Bridge Magazine
- Church Reports

Four areas of responsibility have been delegated by the PCC to the local sub - committees.

- *Day to day care of the church building and churchyard:*
- *Facilitation and practical preparation for services and occasional offices*
- *Organisation and management of welcome groups and pastoral care at a local level*
- *Maintaining and developing the social aspect of the life of the church*

TEAM RECTOR'S REVIEW OF 2022



We have come through another year marked by change, but hopefully seen some consolidation too.

Our aim to work collaboratively on finance, fabric, pastoral and mission and communications continues.

In some areas we are further ahead than others.

This year we have done some cross-parish work together on missions and pastoral work, for instance, offering a listening course, liaising across the churches to look at pastoral visiting, and setting up an after-school club at St Mary's Primary School (Star Club) and piloting Wild and Messy Church at St Swithun's.

The re-launched re-ordering project at St Swithun's appointed an Architect (Antony Feltham King) with people from across the parish invited to join in the process led by the project steering group.

We are embedding the new pattern of worship successfully. The 8am BCP service at St Mary's attracts a growing congregation. The new Morning Praise services at St Mary's Bridport, St John's West Bay, Holy Trinity Bothenhampton and St Mary's Walditch on Thursdays have been well received and I am grateful for those who lead them.

This year the clergy team and then the PCC took part in a series of Away Days with our facilitator Keith Elford, who challenged us to face up to change and to engage our congregations to be part of the conversation. I led consultations days in all the churches to focus on our strengths, to consider how we can retain our distinctiveness as church congregations, while also working together more closely across the parish. This was a chance for us all to think about our values, and how we serve God and our community. To ask questions like what feeds us spiritually? What is the future we are moving into? To contribute, listen to each other and to God, as we look ahead together.

I asked the parish to try worshipping together throughout Advent and to do new things including eating together, study groups, warm space etc. For some it was positive, particularly worshipping in larger congregations, for others it was a difficult experience. In the final consultation we agreed to move from parish services each 5th Sunday to the 1st Sunday of the month moving around the churches. Though it was a bumpy ride, I sincerely hope we have learned more about each other, about ourselves and God, in risking ourselves in this venture.



This year our ordinand, Maggie Crosbie was ordained Deacon and is serving her title in the Puddletown Benefice. Lorna Johnson was licenced to the parish as an Associate Priest in a wonderful service led by Bishop Karen at St Mary's, Bridport. Philip Ringer celebrated 30 years since his ordination at joyful service at St John's, West Bay and I was installed as a Canon at Salisbury Cathedral, which was an unexpected honour.

Our Team Vicar Pete Stone was appointed to a new post in

Jersey at the end of year (though this was not announced until the new year) and our parish curate entered into her final year, so there will be more change ahead. Our Church Warden Heather Purse has done sterling work with support from many, but we continue to grapple with the difficulty of recruitment for roles of responsibility and this will be an issue into the future.



Looking more widely, in this year the nation celebrated the Platinum Jubilee and just months later the death of Queen Elizabeth. Our churches were a place of sanctuary and reflection for many in the town in the period of mourning. Our work in the community through the schools, Churches Together in Bridport, partnering with the Town Council on hardship initiatives and the continuing support the churches offer to groups like Cupboard Love, the Community Fridge, the Glut Stall, the Clothes Bank, the Great Big Green Week to mention a few, is an important part of our calling.

I pray that we can focus on our service to God and his people in our town, and not simply look inwards. As we go forward together, we do so knowing there is nothing permanent except change and the love of God!

Canon Deb Smith, Team Rector

COMMUNICATION - *Communications & Administration Working Group*

The Administrator signed her new contract at end of 2021, so the next step was to find a volunteer to cover Friday mornings. This voluntary position was advertised in the Bridge but no one came forward. As such we requested approval from the PCC to advertise for a paid part time Administrator. We received a number of applicants for the position and interviewed a total of 4 ladies but none actually met the criteria. However, one of the applicants was a freelance consultant who designs websites, and had designed and maintains the Melbury Team site.

Discussions took place as to whether it would be better to have a new, modern and updated website instead of a Friday person and this was agreed. It was then put to the PCC that we go ahead and get a quotation from the freelance consultant for her to produce a new website.

A budget for this was based on the salary for a Friday person which was agreed by the PCC. A quotation was received and accepted and an initial meeting was held with Emma. It is hoped that the site will be up and running towards the middle of 2023.

The PCC voted unanimously to increase our Administrator's salary as it had remained unchanged for many years. A formal letter was sent advising the Administrator effective January 2023. Annual Reviews are now in place.

Sue Pollock

ECO CHURCH *Group*

Our journey continues...we are making slow progress along this journey; Eco Church is for all of us not just this small enabling group. We all need to integrate caring for God's creation an important part of our lives, it needs to become part of how we live at home, at work, and in our churches - how we pray and worship., how we share God's goodness with others; how we share our understanding and learn from others as we travel.



Some significant milestones have been:

- Participating in the Great Big Green Week, coordinated by The Friends of the Earth – an exhibition in St Mary's Church Bridport and activities and a stall on Millennium Green where children could make bird boxes in collaboration with Bridport Shed.
- Several churches took part in the ARocha Count for Nature
- Three people attended a hedge laying course at the Hilfield Friary sponsored by ARocha our Eco Church partner. A chance to learn not only how to lay hedges but about the importance of them for small mammals and insects.

- Reverend Pete Stone conducted a service for Rogation Sunday
- Linking Christian Aid to Eco Church; how we live our lives affects the lives of others – we have a shared responsibility for caring for creation and each other.
- St Mary's church Bridport are actively looking to prepare an Action Plan to gain the Eco Church Bronze Award; thank you Peter for leading on this.
- Jane, Alan, Janet, Paul and Robin continue to work hard with their supporters to increase bio diversity in our churchyards. Three of them attended a scything course; a scythe has now been purchased and is being used as appropriate at Holy Trinity, Bradpole and St Mary's Bridport.
- We supported the Local Foodbank with our harvest gifts, sharing what we have with others so that everyone has enough.

Let us all together continue to walk joyfully and gently in nature and play our part in our Eco Church journey.

Janet Webster

FABRIC Sub-Committee

The Fabric Committee met bi-monthly throughout 2022. This committee aims to have a representative at each meeting although no member from St Swithun's attended. Our remit is to maintain an overview of all buildings and graveyards belonging to the parish of Bridport, regarding the maintenance and structures in accordance with the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018. There is also a recognised compliance towards Health and Safety.

Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton

Work is required on the roof but this year we have not found a local building contractor willing to undertake the work required. The main problem with completing estimates seems to be the huge scaffolding cost needed to surround the church. A loose standing cross within the old church graveyard has been secured in October. Estimate for collapsed dry stone wall in the graveyard has been accepted. Repair work will start in the spring.

Holy Trinity, Bradpole

John Preston gave a presentation to the fabric sub-committee in February to explain the need for replacement LED lighting. Need for work accepted and motion agreed by the PCC. Application made to the DAC and work is ongoing towards seeking approval of the refit.

Early in the year work to cut back hedges was completed particularly to the area where ashes are interred without a memorial plaque. Part repairs to the church yard wall were also carried out.

Quinquennial inspection completed 28th November.

St John's, West Bay

Gutters have been cleared but rain water is still coming in via the porch window which may be due to wind. We are waiting to see if water ingress to the seaward side has improved. The Guttering is collapsing on the north side of the church. Awaiting estimate for this plus work to an area of roof which is leaking in the Chancel.

St Mary's, Bridport

An Official agreement has been made to allow St Mary's, Beaminster to loan three choir stalls which have been removed from St Mary's Bridport. This agreement is dated until November 2025.

The prematurely closed Bell Tower shutters have caused a damp problem with the bell stays and other wood work. A shutter was removed and it was found that there was a marked change in the noise level experienced on ringing the bells. Therefore, a DAC Faculty application will be required for opening and closing louvres. Work on a List B application is ongoing to remove a large Bush that lies between the church and the Hall.

St Mary's, Walditch

5 Yearly Quinquennial Inspection was carried out on 23rd November. All wood has now been treated for wood worm.

St Swithun's, Allington

At the beginning of the year the parish was notified and encouraged to discuss two fabric projects at St Swithun's – the need to get on with urgent works identified in the Quinquennial Inspection in 2020 and a major re-ordering of the building to be completed to mark the 200th anniversary of St Swithun's.

Primary work has now been completed with the recommendation that the church needs to be re-rendered inside and out to reduce the problem of dampness. Architects have been appointed to work on plans but to date no plans have been requested.

Log books and maintenance spread sheets

All churches had up to date documents in time for the APCM in May 2022.

Health and safety

Risk assessments at all churches and graveyards have been undertaken, adopting a parish wide approach.

Heather Purse

FINANCE Sub-Committee

During 2022 the FinCom group has been chaired by Graham Purse, working with the Parish Treasurer (Janet Shaw), the local church Treasurers (Lesley Hill, Rosemary Russell, Susan Solomon, Philip Sturrock and Sue Wellman-Herold), together with Deb Smith and John Adams (PCC Vice-Chair).

Janet is indebted to the whole team who have enabled her to produce various figures and reports. All of FinCom are also extremely grateful to the other folk who support them in a variety of ways such as checking the collections, banking arrangements, managing fundraising events and entering book-keeping transactions onto spreadsheets!

The FinCom group was formally set up in the second half of 2021, so this is the first full year of operation, during which we have met five times. In addition to setting an annual budget and reviewing the actual church accounts, we have covered a range of topics such as:

- Standardisation of accounts categories and quarterly reviews of progress for PCC Meetings
- New method to supply figures and produce the annual accounts report with Scott Vevers
- Bank account administration including updates and management of Fees Account for funeral and wedding fees
- Use of PCC Account for central expenses such as PCC Office, Warm Spaces, Advent and other Parish services, Star Club and the Ukraine Discretionary Fund
- Consultation and completion of Diocesan surveys regarding Fairer Share payments
- Salary review for the Parish Administrator
- Standardised processes such as expenditure authorisation and expenses evidence and claims
- Comparison of costs such as energy supplies and church insurance

These discussions have helped to bring together and develop relationships between all the members so that we can share experiences and encourage and support each other in various ways. We are ever conscious that we are stewards of the resources that have been donated by parishioners to be used for God's glory in Bridport and surrounds.

Full details of all the 2022 accounts are in the Annual Report, but the headline figures are:

• Opening balance	£1,135,426
• Income in 2022	£372,358
• Expenditure and reduced investments in 2022	£327,971
• Closing balance	£1,179,813
• An overall gain of	£44,387

We are so thankful to all those who have given to the Parish during 2022, so that the voluntary giving total exceeded that of 2021, even during a cost of living crisis. We are also fortunate that the churches in the Parish continue to be creative in the use of their buildings and other assets.

The last page of the report outlines potential costs for the various major or minor works and repairs that have been described in the church quinquennial inspection reports. They total £109,650 for costs expected within 2023.

Fortunately, most of this should be met by funds from recent generous legacies, or external grants, or from restricted fabric funds.

We give thanks to God for all his provision and strength during 2022, and continue to look to Him as we go through 2023. In Matthew 6:31-33 the Lord Jesus tells us not to be anxious, and because our heavenly Father knows our needs, we should seek His Kingdom and righteousness first.

Janet Shaw

MISSION & PASTORAL *Sub-Committee*

Over the year we have worked to co-ordinate what happens across the parish in mission and pastoral work.

The two Tots groups – running at Bradpole Church and St Mary's Hall are both now up and running again and at capacity. Bradpole Brunch led by Martin Whiting and a team from Holy Trinity Bradpole hope to re-start in 2023 and St Mary's, Bridport Sunday school has a small but faithful group of young people who meet weekly.

Life-Line our bereavement support group run by Diana Wright and Philip Ringer has become an established meeting place offering a safe space every month.

Star Club, our after-school group at St Mary's Primary School started up in September and attracts between 8 and 12 families each week. The sessions were offered initially in the playground. We now meet outside for games but also in the school building offering food, crafts, a story, games, a prayer and blessing. Helen Croud has taken a lead in running the sessions and we have a small but able group of volunteers.

In order to Star Club running after Helen has left the parish we need to find a co-ordinator and share out roles and responsibilities. The group is well-appreciated by the school, parents and children. The model for Star Club is now being adopted in other schools in the diocese. We have been well-supported by the Community Hub with invaluable input from Hannah Tarring and Lizzie Whitbread.

Wild and Messy Church was piloted at St Swithun's at the end of the year with the hope it could be offered monthly in future. The first session before Christmas attracted more than 50 young people plus 25 plus adults. Angie & Melissa Williams from St Swithun's supported by Lorna Johnson are building a small team of volunteers and plan to run sessions each month in the new year.

The Walking and Talking group in St Mary's School organised by Lorna Johnson Kevin Payne and Caz Moore from Contemplative Church and a team of volunteers has been a great success, working with small groups of youngsters engaging with the outdoors and silence, asking the big questions. This is now an annual event supporting Year sixes who may struggle with transition to senior school. The school say it has a big positive impact on the wellbeing of this group. A church in Wimborne is copying this model and it has been made into a resource that is shared more widely through the Diocese Children and Young person's team that Lorna works in with Lizzie Whitbread and Hannah Tarring.

Work to return to offer worship and visiting in more of the care homes we used to be in pre-Covid has got underway. Services at Harbour House continued throughout, but we have made renewed links with The Hyde, St James, Sidney Gale and others since then.

Work is underway with those who are interested in being trained as pastoral visitors, as well as current LPAs. Working to build up this ministry through our sub-committee meetings so that we can respond to the needs of those who are unable to come to church and to keep in touch with those who need pastoral care so they know they are valued members of the church.

Hopes to re-start some of the initiatives which were so successful before the pandemic are on-going. During the parish consultations a desire was expressed to have more opportunities to meet socially and to study. The parish-wide study of Sleepers Wake by our former Bishop of Salisbury was a good way for us to engage theologically with the climate emergency across the churches.

The community coffee morning at St Swithun's is still popular and also serves some who come to use the glut stall. A Warm Space is planned in the new year in the hall. A new luncheon club in Bothenhampton Village Hall and regular coffee mornings and other social activities around the parish are a valuable way in which we show hospitality and welcome in the community.

Training: As part of the relaunching of groups refresher safeguarding training is necessary alongside renewal of some DBS clearance levels. Coral Hatton regularly offers training sessions locally. We ensure safer recruitment procedures are followed and other training is offered.

Canon Deb Smith

SAFEGUARDING

Training: We were able to offer the diocese Introduction to Safeguarding training on a monthly basis due to the ongoing local need for this training by new volunteers and / or those who need a Refresher update.

Volunteers: The work of the Parish continues to rely on the many volunteers, who give their valuable time to ensure church functions and new visions are fully staffed. Safeguarding remains the prime ethos for all Parish work and is an ongoing process. All volunteers continue to be recruited under Safer Recruitment requirements using a clear Job / Role Description and Person Specification; DBS check; Task and screening interview and 2 references.

Ongoing Actions: a) Review and updated our Safeguarding Policy annually b) Ensure all six churches have the latest Safeguarding information and contact numbers in poster format on their notice boards, signposting to our Safeguarding Policy c) Check all staff / volunteer DBS checks are current (required every 5 years) d) Scrutiny and updating of ongoing Safeguarding Plans held within the Parish by the Rector / Safeguarding Lead and Salisbury diocese Safeguarding Officer e) Ensure appropriate Safeguarding advice, guidance and support continues to be available when needed.

Coral Hatton

The Bridge Magazine

The first year of full publication since before the Covid pandemic, 2022 saw 10 printed issues of The Bridge produced and delivered around the town.

Alongside the regular church news and features, we published a wealth of secular content about various groups and activities in Bridport. Subjects included Bridport Community Orchard, the Home Library Service, Bridport Tree Planting, Bridport Literary Festival, Read Easy, residents' support for the town's new community of Ukrainian refugees, and local initiatives to build community resilience in the face of climate change.

For our 'In the pod' Q&A slot, I interviewed Cathy Harvey from the Allington Hillbillies; osteopath Liza Adams; school governor Martin Warne; Liz Bryant, manager of West Bay Discovery Centre; Viktoriia Tkachenko, a Ukrainian refugee who has settled in Bridport; the Revd John Yarrien and the Revd Jane Wilson from Bridport United Church; and the Revd Pete Stone on the eve of his departure for his new role in Jersey. As part of our coverage of the Bridport Literary Festival in the November issue, I was also particularly pleased to secure an interview (conducted by email) with author Kit de Waal.

Increased advertising sales allowed us to increase the magazine's size permanently to 24 pages from March 2022, and the September, October, November and December/January issues had 28 pages each, thanks to sales of some full-page adverts. For the third year running, our arrangement with the Bridport Literary Festival was particularly (and mutually) fruitful and I hope it will continue.

Our parish editors continued to strive to produce interesting, lively copy for their columns, as well as keeping their readers informed about local events. We welcomed a new 'partner church', the Beacon Church, which joined Bridport United Church and the Roman Catholic Parish in having a regular column in the Parish Pages alongside the six Parish of Bridport churches. Our partner churches' financial contributions help us to maintain our high production values.

Throughout the year we produced about 6,100 copies of each issue, around 5,700 of which were delivered by our volunteers to residential addresses in the town centre plus Allington, Bradpole, Bothenhampton, Walditch and West Bay. Copies were also available for picking up in Waitrose, the Tourist Information Centre and the Spar in West Bay Road. A few distribution volunteers stepped down, but some others came forward, so the total is roughly constant.

I took over the role of distribution coordinator at St Mary's Bridport from Lesley Hill.

The only disappointing event in the magazine's year was the failure of our young writers' feature competition to generate more interest. Unfortunately, we received only one entry, despite attractive, generous prizes and promotion of the competition at the Sir John Colfox Academy.

Olivia Daly Editor, The Bridge

St Swithun's, Allington

2022 saw the consolidation of the post pandemic recovery. We are not yet back to pre-pandemic levels of attendance, but in this we are not alone; the pandemic has altered many social patterns and norms, and we are as susceptible as any to these changes.

Worship

St Swithun's has continued with a Sunday morning Sung Communion service, then a Thursday said Mass. The Contemplative Church group has continued its successful experiment with a more meditative, inclusive style to attract a different worshipping community that welcomes the less formal format. Centering Prayer has continued with its fortnightly meetings, now face to face in the Hall, after the Zoom meetings during the pandemic.

We will explore different formats as a way to explore our faith, and encourage others who may be making their first, tentative steps upon a faith journey.

Pastoral and Social Events

In March over £1100 was raised for the Ukraine at the community coffee morning. Two very well attended quizzes were held in May and October. In May a Plant and Car Boot Sal, raised over £1000. July saw a very successful Cream Tea, with music from St Swithun's Town Band.

Two very successful Christmas Fayres followed on from the Community Coffee Mornings on 3rd November and 1st December.

Note needs to be made here that these events couldn't run without the dedication, work and organisational skills of a core team of volunteers who give freely of their time and effort.

Music was represented by Bridport Chamber Orchestra in March and June, and by Organ Concerts in October, November and December.

The food glut stall continued every Thursday morning.

Church events



Father Dan Shackell retired in September. As one member of the team left, another was elevated! Rev Deb Smith became "Rev'd Canon Deb Smith" at Salisbury Cathedral in May. Revd Lorna Johnson was licensed as Associate Priest to the Parish of Bridport, in a service at St Mary's Bridport, led by the Bishop of Sherborne, the Rt Rev Karen Gorham.

Work continues on the Repair and Renewal project.

A contactless giving machine has been installed, enabling donations to be made by card. Like many organisations and firms, we have to come to terms with the gradual move to a less cash oriented society.

Hall

During 2022 a wide variety of community groups - education, exercise and support services used the Hall, linking us to the community and provides valuable income for Church Funds. We also 'hosted' one off events like Birthday parties etc.



'Wild and Messy Church' began, which is an offer for the children of the Parish to come together. It has proved its worth and will continue into 2023.

The hall provides a light, warm space suitable for many different activities and is maintained to a high standard. The corridor to the hall has offered 'hanging space' to the Bridport Clothes Bank. The installation of WiFi has further improved

the facilities.

Summary

The notes above are a flavour – not the complete recipe – for all that St Swithun's did across the calendar year 2022. Worship is still vibrant and evolving, whilst our part in the wider community, (music and arts, food glut stall, fundraising) is still strong and growing, rooted as it is in our Christian faith and its values.

Elwyn Walker & Yvonne Welch

Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton

After a couple of unsettled years, a weekly Sunday Service returned at 11am with Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd week, and Morning Praise on the 3rd, Matins on the 4th. The congregation were very happy to return, although it was noted that for many mobility had reduced over recent months, and so we have not used the altar rails for Holy Communion but the sacraments are taken down to the main body of the church.

Also coffee was served and so returned to our usual pattern of socialising, not only for our congregation but for the surrounding population. A monthly coffee morning is well supported with around 60 people enjoying meeting up with friends and stocking up on a supply of cakes. In the first three months of the year we also run a popular soup and sandwich Saturday lunch. Our Fete was in July and local entertainment was well received and a number of tables were hired for sales.

We also had a successful dog show in August and Easter Hunt was enjoyed by local families and a Cream Tea for Ride and Stride event. Our hand-bell ringers have also turned up at many of our social occasions. These events help the church enormously with the everyday running of the building and we are extremely thankful for their support. In October a number of church members set up a monthly Luncheon Club which proved to be a great success.

Our choir continues to be a very dedicated group, although we were sad when our organist, Sue Smith, decided it was time to retire. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find a permanent replacement.

Our church garden has been well maintained by a number of volunteers. We also had our twice yearly Graveyard work group which has continued to keep this area maintained.



Heather Purse

Holy Trinity, Bradpole



Plans to restart Brunch and Tots around spring time in 2023. 'Tuesdays Together' continues along with a 'Monday Fellowship' group and 'Friday Prayer' group. Bell ringing practices have continued weekly attracting visitors from other groups for example training of new bell ringers at Shipton Gorge has taken place. We have enjoyed a Lent course and lunches and an Advent course.

General maintenance is undertaken of the churchyard and building and work needs to be done on the noticeboards. Liaison continues with The Friends and the music group play and sing twice monthly.

Ginny Bowley

St. Mary, Bridport

Recent publicity material for St Mary's recognises that it is a beautiful, historic building situated at the heart of the town of Bridport. It is also a place where as a church family we meet for worship and seek to grow in faith. During 2022 the church had much cause to act as a focus of both civic celebration and corporate remembrance and, as the worshipping community, we sought to support and engage fully with the life of the town.



In the weeks following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, prayer vigils were held in the church on Sunday afternoons. Hugo Grenville, a renowned British contemporary painter, loaned his painting 'Soul by Soul and Silently' to be placed on the altar of the Lady Chapel to act as a focus for meditation. Reflective literature was made available and a candle burned throughout the day.

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine.

In June we held a civic service to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II which featured recorded interviews with parishioners remembering their activities on Coronation Day. Our service was followed by festive tea and cakes, all with a red white and blue theme!

On the morning of September 9th 2022, St Mary's Church, like many other churches across the country, opened a local Book of Condolence, giving people the opportunity to pay tribute and express their thoughts and messages following the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Throughout the coming days there was a steady stream of people who came to be quiet, to pray and light candles. Some 200 people signed the Book of Condolence with many personal messages of gratitude and memories of meetings with the Queen.

Music was another key theme in the life of the church throughout 2022 and our hiring initiative brought concerts from the New Elizabethan Singers, Cantamus Choir and Allington Strings to St Mary's. We continued to think about ways in which we could become a more welcoming church and our monthly Coffee and Cake events on a Saturday morning were specifically focused on extending a welcome to visitors and tourists to our town.





The registration of St Mary's as an Eco Church was an exciting new avenue of development. The work of the gardening group continued and improvements to our churchyard were confirmed by a 'Churches Count on Nature' event in July which noted a growing increase in the biodiversity of the living environment.

Work is now progressing to further increase the Eco

credentials of the church in terms of the management of the building and the lifestyle choices of the members.

St Mary's church continues to be inextricably linked with the lives of so many people in the town; 2022 saw weddings, funerals and baptisms take place as well as regular visits from the children of St Mary's School. Despite dwindling congregations and continuing concerns regarding finance, this 800-year-old church still provides a place to gather for celebration, prayer and peace.

Lesley Hill

St. Mary, Walditch



During the year, a small, but faithful, congregation regularly attended the Thursday morning services of worship. Unfortunately, some did not return to St. Mary's Church, Walditch after the pandemic.

Illness prevented the restoration of several established social events, but Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party went ahead and the harvest service was followed by a "bring and share" lunch in the

Church; a "winter's tea" was held in the Village Hall and Carols round the Village Green (attended by about 50 people on Christmas Eve) were enjoyed. Hyde residents were entertained by an "Ad Hoc Choir" of local carol-singers.

A special service was held in September to commemorate the death of Queen Elizabeth II and to celebrate her life.

Advent services focused on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. It is our hope that more may now be done to spread Christ's message of Love and Service to the People of Walditch.



Revd Ann Ayling

St. John, West Bay

St John's, located overlooking the harbour at West Bay, has a regular congregation of around fifteen people. Some visitors to the area during the Summer months join the congregation for Sunday worship, or visit during the week to see the beauty of the building, which is always open during the day.

Following a new pattern of worship in the Team, one Parish Service at 10.00 am is held on the first Sunday of the month, which moves around the different churches. There is a Eucharist on the second Sunday and on the third and fourth Sundays the congregation meet for coffee before the 11.00 am Service of Morning Praise. Every week, on a Monday morning a Service of Morning Prayer is held at 10.00 am and on the fourth Saturday of the month a Wholeness and Healing Service takes place at 6.00 pm.

The West Dorset Community Orchestra held their very popular annual Concert at St John's in July. St John's hosted the annual Service of the Royal Air Force Association in September to mark the Battle of Britain and the Royal Naval Association in October to mark Trafalgar Day.

A Eucharist was held in the evening on Tuesday, 4 October to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Revd Philip Ringer's priesting.



Harvest Festival was celebrated in October, after which the congregation enjoyed a sit-down lunch in the church.

In December the West Bay Christmas Tree was erected on the green outside St John's.

A Carol Service was held, followed by further carol singing around the tree.

After several years the Boxing Day swim took place at the Bay, followed by the very popular carol singing organised by Churches Together

Rosemary Russell