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DECEMBER 2021

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This month's cover photo:

St Mary's church, awaiting Christmas.

Photograph by Emma Hughes.



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Oh no it's not . . .

We all know those traditional pantomime responses that assist audiences to be involved in the performance before them as it unfolds on the stage: "He's behind you", "Boo", "Hiss", "Oh no he's not"; "Oh yes she is".

Our media and politicians have been encouraging their own to-and-fro call and response phrases this year. Headlines in our papers and on social media, as far back as August, were proclaiming "Christmas is cancelled", while the politicians retorted that that could never happen. In the words of the Transport Secretary Grant Shapps to *Times Radio* on 15th October: "Christmas will go ahead. We'll be able to see our friends and families. There will be food, there will be gifts."

It's a strange old world. In 2020 we were being told Christmas would be cancelled because we wouldn't be able to spend it with loved ones as usual; this year we're being told Christmas is at risk of cancellation because essentials like turkey, Barbie dolls/accessories and Paw Patrol might be unavailable.

It makes me want to ask – what is Christmas all about? What are the essentials and what are the add-ons? Why is it so important to share with family and friends, to eat traditional food and to replenish one's stock of gadgets, toys and novelty slippers?

Love is the answer. We want to be with family because we love them. We buy or make gifts to bring happiness to our loved ones. We eat together because that is one of the best ways known to humankind to celebrate and share life's good things. We long for Christmas to be a joy-filled experience.

The love that means most, however, is that of being together – that is why it was so hard last year when people couldn't gather as usual because of the covid restrictions.

Christmas can be hard for those who live alone. I remember my final year as an assistant curate some twenty years ago; weeping alone in an empty church building on Christmas morning after services were over and everyone else had gone home to family, friends and Christmas dinners is a poignant memory. What awaited me was an empty house.

I was wrong – my house wasn't empty, for I had forgotten the heart of that Christmas message I'd been preaching that morning, that we are never truly alone, for God is with us. That Christ-child in the manger in church had come home with me in my heart.

Continued on Page 7

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God’s love is transforming, but never forced upon us. God’s arrival in our world in human form was about showing everyone it was in reach of us all, young and old, poor and rich, broken-hearted and joyful, alone or surrounded by those whom we love.

Christmas isn’t just for those with lots of family and friends with whom to celebrate, and nor is God. Christmas isn’t only for those with money to spend on full tables and generous presents. God isn’t either.

Christmas and its message of love is for every person who has ever arrived in this world as a new-born baby. No one is excluded, for in taking the form of a human being, God identifies with us all.

Cancel culture has become a thing in 2021 as people are ostracised, shamed or ridiculed for holding certain views; God doesn’t do cancel-culture. All of us are valued, loved and treasured.

Perhaps next time we hear or read that Christmas is cancelled, we will join together in heart and mind to declare “Oh no, it’s not”. For love cannot be cancelled, and the heart of Christmas is love.

May God bless you all.

With best wishes
Sarah

BENEFACTORS

Baptism

17th October	Bertie Joseph Newton	Puddletown
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Marriage Blessing

9th October	Peter Whitty & Gina Corbin	Tolpuddle
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St Mary's Puddletown—December 2021

Intercessors		Scripture Readers
5th	Cynthia Metcalfe	Pat Sparkes
12th	Puddletown Praise	Team
19th	Carol Service	TBA
24th	Crib Service	-
24th MM	Bob Todd	Pat Bishop
25th	TBA	Geoff Hawkins
26th	Sue Turner	Dawn Loveless

PCC Charity Donations

Please give prayerfully and generously

Lent	Bishop's Fund for Sudan
Mothering Sunday	Mosaic
Easter Day	The Salvation Army (Homeless)
Harvest	R.A.B.I . And Water Aid
Christmas	The Children's Society

'PUG'**Puddletown Ukulele Group, seeking new members.**

If you are a beginner or an experienced player? All are welcome. Support will be given. If you play other instruments or sing, give us a call. We just want to enjoy making music.

We meet at the 'Church Room' Puddletown once a week on Tuesdays from 5.00-7.00pm at the moment. A small charge towards the room hire is all you need to contribute.

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Prayer for the Month

Our prayer for the month in December comes from someone who has a double celebration on the 25th December. As well as joining in with Christmas festivities, Margaret Bridle will be marking her 91st birthday.

She says: "I came to Puddletown at the age of 15 to work for the Cox family. I joined St Mary's choir on my second week in the village, and I've been a member of the church ever since. As well as singing in the choir, I was a sidesperson and laundered all the altar linen for a long time. I can no longer come to church because I am housebound, but I receive my communion at home each month. The prayer I love, I learned in Sunday school, and it has been my favourite ever since. It is the blessing used at the end of a service."

*The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.*



To contribute to this column, please send details of your prayer with a few sentences about why it's important to you, to Sarah Hillman (sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com). If you're not on-line, we'd still love you to participate so snail mail is also great!

BENEFICE PRAYER GROUP

Janet Voke and Sue Turner warmly invite you to join them for a time of friendship and prayer for all of us in the benefice.

It will be in the Church Room, Puddletown on Tuesdays from 10.30 until 12.00 noon.

There will be coffee and conversation from 10.30 and prayers will begin at 11.00.

Do come and join us.



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St. Mary's Church Events - December

Messy Church will take place in Milborne at 4 pm on Sunday 5th December. There will be activities, crafts, songs, games, bible story and prayers followed by tea. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pop-in Coffee Mornings will take place on Thursdays 2nd, 9th and 16th December in the Church Room from 10 am to 12 noon. They will restart again after

Christmas on Thursday 6th January. Everyone is welcome to join us for good coffee and cakes/biscuits.

St Mary's Church Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 11th December from 10 am to 12 noon in Puddletown Village Hall. We have many tempting stalls booked, Christmas wreaths for sale and a raffle. Come and do some Christmas shopping!

The **Village Christmas Lunch** will take place on Wednesday 15th December in Puddletown Village Hall, 12 noon for 12.30 pm. St Mary's Middle School pupils will be providing the entertainment. By the time this article is printed places for this event will already be booked but we'll report back in the next magazine.

Monthly Lunches return on January 10th. Please contact Jean on 848211 or Sheila on 849193 to book your place.

The Flower Team will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 18th December.

The Crib Service is a lovely family occasion with angels and shepherds helping to tell the Christmas story. Do join us at 5 pm in St Mary's Church on Christmas Eve, 24th December.

Carol Service this will take place on 19th December at 6.00pm

Details of all the Christmas Services may be found at the end of the Magazine.

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BENNETT BULLETIN FROM TORONTO

Here in Toronto we have celebrated Canadian Thanksgiving on the second weekend in October, and Halloween at the end of October so now everyone's thoughts are turning to Christmas and New Year.

It has been another strange year thanks to COVID19, and the outlook is still very unsettled. I am thankful that all my family and friends have been COVID free and we have all been double vaxxed. It is commonplace now for people to greet each other with news about their vaccine experience and whether or not they had a reaction.

We had our first in-person church service on Thanksgiving Sunday, with a very small number, all masked and socially distanced. We are hoping that we can continue to do this, particularly with Christmas services to look forward to, but there are still many people who do not feel comfortable gathering together and all the services will continue to be recorded and available on line. Throughout this year a group of us have been doing 'installations' in the pine trees outside the church, marking each of the seasons, so that the church is still seen to be active.

Another disturbing feature of 2021 has been the effects of climate change with a very hot summer and wildfires. The worst of the heat and the fires was out west, with devastating results. There were also wildfires in Northern Ontario, a long way from Toronto, but we still experienced the haze associated with the smoke. However, this winter we are being promised the heaviest snowfall in over 20 years. Something to look forward to!

I am in the process of applying for my Canadian passport, along with my neighbour who is also a new citizen. Not sure just when I will be able to travel abroad but I would like to be prepared. The family and I might try to make a flying visit to the Turks & Caicos in the new year but nothing is planned yet.

Cookie soldiers on, she will be 17 in February. Her joints are a bit creaky, her eyesight is poor, but her sense of smell is still 100% in working order.

I hope to visit Puddletown again one day, and in the meantime I look forward to receiving the magazine each month which keeps me up to date on all the news.

A very happy Christmas to everyone, and blessings for 2022.

Diana



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120 Plain Bob Doubles

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3 William Bishop 4 Robert Newton

5 Robin J Mears (C) 6 Emma Hughes

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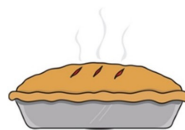
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Puddletown Village Lunch



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Puddletown Weather

Site location (GPS): N 50° 44.937' W 2° 20.862' altitude 88.39 metres (somewhat sheltered from easterly winds)

October 2021		
	Rainfall for the month	146.30 mm
	Cumulative for the year	678.20 mm
	2020 Rainfall for the month	167.10 mm
	2020 Cumulative for the year	777.30 mm
	Temperatures	Max 21.20° C Min 2.40° C
	2020	Max 19.90° C Min 3.70° C
	Maximum wind speed	20.60 mph
	2020	20.60 mph

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



A Month on the Farm

Early November and the first frosts of winter came about at the same time as the first group of cattle were housed in one of the barns on a straw bed with a diet of round bale silage, straw, rolled barley with some rape meal and minerals added until turnout next spring. Others are still out on either mustard or turnips where they will remain until the fields have finished being grazed over the winter months. One group is still on a large stretch of water meadows but with the recent rains and grass growth slowing down they are shortly to come off and graze some drier fields of grass.

Recently, though we experienced one of the local problems of our water meadows where some cattle inadvertently managed to find some deadly water hemlock roots from the river's edges: this is seriously deadly and within an hour or so killed five animals: - a couple of others seemed not well for a few days but recovered. A very quick removal from the field of all the remaining cattle was undertaken, and a post mortem was done rapidly by the vet to confirm our worst fears.

Winter corn sowing has continued on all our fields around the home farm, Cheselbourne, Tincleton and outlying farms, where we are contracted in to help do some of the work. The mustard cover crops which have been grazed off by the cattle were direct drilled straight into the mustard stubble using a 'no tillage' method: this prevents less soil disturbance and carbon release. Some of the fields that were not grazed had a tall crop of green cover to drill through which caused some problems with the drill blocking up with plant material, so we had to borrow another drill, worth in excess of a staggering eighty thousand pounds! Other fields have been spread with a good coating of well rotted farmyard manure, a good source of fertilizer – nitrogen, phosphate, potash and other goodies.



Work on a new barn for storage of straw and hay as well as some machinery is coming along well, with everyone busy. The roof has just been completed, though we saw a delay in the delivery of roofing sheets as well as inputs such as fertilizers and sprays, most of which have gone up in price, if they can even be sourced

Wakely Cox

6th November 2021



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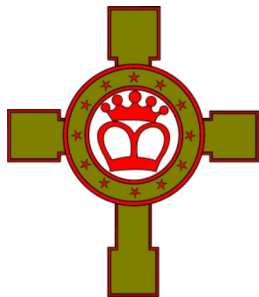
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St Mary's Middle School

What amazing fun was had by Year 5 in October as they came into school dressed in all sorts of wonderful rainforest themed outfits. This year's costumes followed themes: we had a pandemonium of parrots, a leap of leopards and an



expedition of explorers. Thank you so much to the parents and guardians for their support and imagination in creating such fab looks. During the day, the children moved between different exciting workshops where they learnt jungle drumming skills; explored creative rainforest drama; designed wonderful artistic animals and learnt about the origins of chocolate whilst designing their own. This was rounded off by gathering together and sharing in some of our impressive work. It was a great day for both adults and children alike. For the adults, it was so lovely to hear all the children engaged and enthused in their tasks. For the children, it was a treat that was well deserved after such a marvellous start to Year 5.



An absolutely tremendous effort was made by the students in raising so much money for Breast Cancer NOW! The 5p challenge result was absolutely overwhelming. A total of £1,245.15 in 5ps was paid into the bank in 8 rucksacks! Mr Bingham's two Year 8 cooking groups also baked up a storm in the food room, then ran a cake sale in their lunch break raising a phenomenal £239! And finally, we Fabulously Wore It Pink and raised a further £331.80. Our current grand total for 2021 is £1,834.95.



Our vision statement at St Mary's is, 'Inspire today to shape tomorrow' and so, in a class Collective Worship, we thought about the Nobel Prize awards after they were announced. The pupils learnt how Alfred Noble, a Swedish scientist, had a vision of a better world and left money to fund a set of prizes to reward people whose work had the greatest benefit to humankind. Who knows: maybe one of our St Mary's pupils will be a future Noble Prize winner!

Have a peaceful, happy and healthy Christmas!

Darren Ayling

Head Teacher



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CLERGY	The Revd Sarah Hillman (Vicar)	01305 848 784
	Sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com	
RETIRED CLERGY		
	The Revd Sue Turner	07775 710 429
CHURCHWARDENS	Cynthia Metcalfe (Puddletown)	01305 848 043
	Dawn Loveless (Puddletown)	01305 849 534
	Hilly Cobban (Tolpuddle)	01305 848 552
	Jayne Brayshaw (Tolpuddle)	01305 849 314
	Pam Shults (Milborne St Andrew)	01258 837 203
	Vacancy	
	Sue Britton (Dewlish)	01258 837 218
	Jim Burg (Dewlish)	01258 837 466
BENEFICE OFFICE	Emma Hughes	01305 849 039
(www.puddletownbenefice.org)	puddletownbenefice@outlook.com	
PUDDLETOWN CONTACTS		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Alcoholics Anonymous	
Area Parish Council	Alan Sheppard Email:alan.sheppard@oldpuddletown.co.uk	07771 98 8574
Area Parish Clerk	Mrs A Bendall puddletown@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	01305 849 596
Bell Ringers	Robin Mears	01305 848 021
Carer's Association		
Children's Society	Dawn Loveless	01305 849534
Church Room	David Jeffreys	01305 848 211
COMMUNITY LIBRARY - Run & financed by volunteers. 01305 848 506		
	info@communitylibrarypuddletown.org	
Opening Hours:-	Wednesday: 3.30pm to 5.30pm Friday: 10.00am to 12.00pm Saturday: 10.00am to 12.00noon	
County Councillor	Emma Parker	
Cricket Club	David Stevens	07720 411 952
Cubs, Scouts & Beavers	Alf Justin	01258 839 080
Football Club	Steve Brown	07789 821 408
Flower Rota	Heather Mears	01305 848 021
Footpaths & Rights of Way	Julian Hubbuck julian.hubbuck@gmail.com	07881 678 126
Friends of Puddletown Church	Ursula Pomeroy	01305 264 516
Friends of Puddletown Library	Paul Poser	01305 848 176

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DOCTORS		
Puddletown Surgery Dr J Griffiths, Dr C Burnham & Dr J Bond		01305 848 333
Puddletown Surgery (Dispensary)		01305 849 329
Out of hours medical advice & NHS Direct	Out of hours medical advice & NHS Direct	111
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Guides, Brownies & Rainbows	Amy Knight	01305 848 602
Handbells	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Mini-Soccer/Youth Football	Jon Palmer	07891 173 999
Neighbourhood Plan	Anna Bendall	01305 849 596
PCC Secretary	Emma Hughes	01305 849039
PCC Treasurer	David Elliott	01305 259236
Pilates (at First School)	Kathy Ashdown	07967 655159
Puddletown Countrywoman's Club	Sylvia Hanby	01305 849 562
Puddletown CPPP	www.facebook.com/puddletownplaypark	
Puddletown Pumpkins Toddler Group	Kelly	07786 916515.
Puddletown Society	John Ridout	01305 848 940
Recreational Multi Games Area	David Knight	07890 260 320
Recreation Ground Pavilion	Liz Knight	01305 848 380
Royal British Legion (RBL)	S Ridout	01305 848 940
Rugby Club	Ray Stephens puddletownrhc@hotmail.com	07966 412 467
SCHOOLS		
Pre-school	Sharon Brown www.puddletownpreschool.co.uk	01305 849 533
Pre –school	Laura Evans	
First School (Head Teacher)	Mr D Hunwick www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk	01305 848 206
St Mary's CE Middle School	Darren Ayling—Head Teacher	01305 848 293
Short Mat Bowls		
Sunday Church Creche	Vacancy	
Sunday Seekers	Lynda Skinner	01305 849 485
Village Hall Caretaker/Bookings	Kevin Smith (puddletownvh@gmail.com)	07706 798271
Village Hall Committee Secretary	Amy Knight	01305 848602
Yoga	Mandy Cooper	07713 477737

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Young Farmers (Dorset)	01305 263 947
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TOLPUDDLE CONTACTS

Craft Club	Teresa Turner	01305 849 060
Defibrillator (outside Martyrs Inn)	Clare & Roger Angus	07720 059035 or 01305 848286
Orchard Meadow	Anna Bendall—Clerk to PACC	01305 849596
PCC Secretary	Jayne Brayshaw	01305 849 314
PCC Treasurer	John Taylor	01305 848 552
Pilates	Kathy Ashdown	07967 655159
Streetfair	Annette Pitman	01305 848 219
Tolpuddle Home Group	Simon Dodd	01305 848 171
Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust	tolpud-dlectrust@btinternet.com	tolpuddlectrust@btinternet.com
Tolpuddle Toddler Group	Maria Palmer	07717 506020
Tolpuddle Village Meeting	Julia Johnstone, Clerk.	tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com
Tolpuddle Village Show	Jo Austwick	austwickjoanne@gmail.com.
Village Hall Bookings Sec.	Julie Batchelor & Jo Austwick	Topuddlevhinfo@gmail.com
Village Hall Chairman	Peter Walton - pdwal-ton@btinternet.com	01305 848 034
Whist Drive	Diana Foreman	01305 848 419
Yoga (Iyengar)	Sue Chapman	01305 848 053

USEFUL & EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Dorset County Hospital	01305 251 150
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Gas Leak or a smell of gas	0800 111 999
POLICE—Local Officers	PC Moore 0229 & PCSO Alison Donnison 6500 101 or "Contact Us" section on Dorset Police Website

DEWLISH CONTACTS

Cricket	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837 696
Ladies Group	Judith Bridgen	01258 837 157
Parish Council	Andrew Booth (Chair)	01258 837 284
Village Hall (Chair)	Bernie Cosgrove,	01258 837 152
Village Hall (Sec)	Alex Carter	01258 837 312

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MILBORNE ST ANDREW CONTACTS		
Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837 661
Archery	Sheila Ryall	01258 837 504
Athletics (Information)	David Pearson	01258 837 057
Badminton	Bruce Dyer	01258 839 117
Bellringers	Pip Howell	01258 837 329
Busy Bees Group (Under 5s)	Claire Tudge	07970 734 162
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837 089
Food & Wine Club	Rose Frost	01258 837 921
Football (Youths)	Andy Brown	07427 503 373
Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837 061
Ladybirds Playgroup	Liz Dyer	01258 839 117
Milborne First School	Sharon Hunt (Head Teacher)	01258 837 362
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837 033
Nightsabre Dog Training Group	Natasja Lewis	07896 275 357
Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470 333
Parish Council	Richard MacNair	01258 837 912
	Wayne Lewin (Clerk)	07419 136 735
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	01258 880 229
Pilates (at First School)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880 044
Scout Group	Sam Elliott	07873 762 035
Sports Club	Richard Lock (& Bookings)	01258 837 929
Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880 601
Tai Chi	Brian Burton	01258 839 033
Tap Dancing (Adults)	Kevin Selby	01305 250 386
Tennis - Member's Secretary	Richard Hawker	07383 309 037
Village Hall	Sarah Ryan (Chair)	01258 839 230
	Alison Riddle (Bookings)	01258 837 148
Wednesday Social Club	Sheila Burton	01258 839 033
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471 732
Yoga –at First School (Iyengar)	Sue Chapman	01305 848 053
Yoga—at Village Hall	Sarah Ryan	01258 839 230
Youth Club (8-13 years)	Joanne Miller	01258 881 496



St John's Church Tolpuddle—December 2021

Oh my word – Christmas is upon us and we are definitely hoping that it will be a little more normal, though of course there will still be some restraints- particularly in regard to

our awareness of climate change and to hold back from plastic and wasteful goodies. Of course, there needs to be a balance and for children it will still be magical, whatever we do.

Our festive period will start with the Carol Service in the church on Sunday 12th at 5pm. Do try to join us there to share in some of the traditional readings and carols.

On Saturday 18th December there is a Children's Party in the Village Hall from 3-5 - all the children in the village will receive their own invitation and will have a lot of fun. This is to be followed by Carol Singing around the village, when we will take a collection for the Children's Society. We welcome one and all to join us for this and then afterwards in the Village Hall for a party with a bar, food, music and dancing. There will be a Hamper Raffle – we hope that many of you will be able to help by offering Christmas nibbles or an offering for the hamper. Then on Christmas Eve there will be a Crib Service in the church at 3:30pm in which the children will be invited to participate.

As we go into the New Year we can look back on another strange year- starting with another Lockdown, then the introduction of the vaccinations, the excitement as the pub was sold- brought to an unhappy conclusion as it is now back on the market- the children in and out of school, and the inauguration of the Tolpuddle Events Committee and its first big function of the Summer Sizzle, closely followed by a boat ride with Fish and Chips. We have held a Bonfire Party which was attended by at least 500 people and this time the rain held off.

We have been able to give a decent sum to charity as well as covering the church expenses. This latter has been helped considerably by a very successful season of church campers, and we are so very grateful to the team of Fi, Marion, Mandy and Jayne who worked so hard with this. In November there was a presentation by the Arts Society of a Children's Trail - do call in and follow the trail as it points out some of the treasures the church holds.

There are many unsung heroes who work so hard to keep the church afloat- those working in the churchyard, clean the church, use wild flowers to brighten up the pedestal, lock and unlock the church daily- and of course keep the services going, although the congregations are now very small- some of our regular congregation preferring now to watch a service on Zoom. We will be reviewing services through 2022, carrying out research into how to appeal to everyone.



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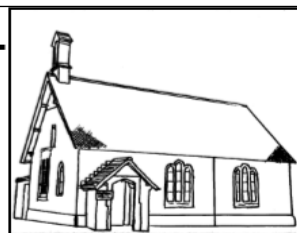
Sadly two weddings booked for this last summer had to be postponed but we have had one Marriage Blessing in October. There have not been any funerals and we are very grateful that Covid has been controlled. We now look forward to 2022 with cautious optimism.

Happy Christmas to one and all.

Hilly and Jayne

TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Registered Charity No. 257403



150 Club 2021—Draw

In aid of the Tolpuddle Village Hall Development Fund

The new 150 club is now underway and the first draw has taken place. It is drawn live on the Tolpuddle Facebook Community page with results published here as well.

2021	1st (£20)	2nd (£15)	3rd (£10)
October	Fran Cambrook	Julie Bonner	Nicki Brunt

SCOUT POST is back.

COVID prevented us from running Scout Post in 2020 but this year our Yellow Post Boxes will be open from Saturday 4th December to Saturday 18th December. The cost per card is 30p.

Some changes have been made to the delivery areas so please check before your card goes into the box that we are servicing the delivery area you need. The necessary information will be on or nearby the Scout Post Box and on flyers.

Scout Post is manned by volunteers and all proceeds go directly to support Scouting in our District.





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Call: Stephen on 01258 881524 or Pat on 01258 880601

Eyes to the Sky at Tolpuddle

What a wonderful evening was had by over 600 people on 5th November at the Tolpuddle Bonfire and Fireworks evening. Residents from Tolpuddle, local villages and further afield gathered on the Martyrs' Field to enjoy a brilliant evening of entertainment, hot pumpkin soup (we now all know what to do with the pumpkins from Halloween!), a BBQ and bar not forgetting, of course, the pièce de résistance, the magnificent bonfire and fireworks.

Live music was provided by local band Claude and the Cats. Guys - traditional and comic—were brought along, judged and then dispatched on the bonfire, cheered on by those present.

It was a great event with an excitement and buzz from all present. We were blessed with perfect weather: - a windless, not too cold evening.

Massive thanks to all those who contributed in any way, too many to mention by name, but who have spent so much time preparing beforehand, helping on the day and clearing up the following day. A big thank you too of course to our many very generous sponsors and huge thanks to Tom and the TUC for the use of the barn and field – a wonderful venue for such an event.

Lastly, thank you to all of you who attended. We hope you had a wonderful evening and will join us again next November, and hopefully before that, at one of the many forthcoming Tolpuddle events.



Tolpuddle Light Up

It's time again for the Tolpuddle Light Up! So dust off your lights and get them up on your houses for..... Tolpuddle Christmas Lights Competition! Everyone in the village can be included and give out some Christmas cheer in the form of lights!

Villagers can vote for their favourite by putting a note into a box with the number displayed on the house. This number will be given to you to display when we have your entry details (and £5 entry fee) register with your name and address. Fiona at Judes Cottage, DT2 7FE will have the voting box on her doorstep.



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TOLPUDDLE REMEMBRANCE CHRISTMAS TREE

The church at St. John's will have a Christmas tree, in the grounds, where this year you can put a message onto the tree for your loved ones.



Labels will be inside the church porch as we want to make everything biodegradable (donations for this will be gratefully received at Fiona's house, in an envelope please.)

We hope that everyone will get into the spirit for two great causes which will benefit from your generosity—DCH Maternity Bereavement Suite and the Church itself.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE, MILBORNE AND DEWLISH

St Mary's, Puddletown

Sunday 19 th	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service (no morning service)
Christmas Eve	5.00 p.m.	Crib Service
	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	11.15 a.m.	Christmas Praise

St John's, Tolpuddle

Sunday 12 th	5.00 p.m.	United Carol Service (no morning service)
Christmas Eve	3.30 p.m.	Crib Service
Christmas Day	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Holy Communion

St Andrew's, Milborne

Saturday 18 th	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	10.00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10.15 a.m.	Christmas Celebration

All Saints', Dewlish

Sunday 19 th	3.00 p.m.	Carol Service (no morning service)
Christmas Day	9.00 a.m.	Christmas Holy Communion

Other Sunday services continue as usual, except as listed above





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Do you have holiday accommodation in Tolpuddle?

We are adding an additional page to the village website (www.tolpuddlevillage.co.uk) as this is a busy holiday area with little accommodation available.

It is hoped that this will bring more business to the local area and enable more holidaymakers to enjoy our beautiful countryside.

Please email Tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com if you have any comments or suggestions.

Julia Johnstone

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Milborne St Andrew's Church News

Christmas is coming

As I write this, I have started to think about all the arrangements needed for Christmas. Not only are there all the domestic things such as thinking about and buying family gifts, but also planning of menus to feed the family, decorations, etc, etc. Advent (the lead up to Christmas) and Christmas is also a very busy time in the church. Sarah starts planning service rotas months before but it is the 'flesh on the bones' that takes so much time. Other Christian Christmas events include organising carol singing round the tree, the school Christmas service, readers for several services, the Christmas Market, decorating the church, making sure there are enough candles for the Carols by Candlelight, creating the Advent ring and so on.

But I am not grumbling as I find Christmas services meaningful and inspiring. For me Christmas wouldn't be the same without being in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. After all it is about celebrating the birth of Jesus and the start of Christianity.

Pam Shults
Churchwarden



Sunday 5th December 2021

4.00pm

Milborne Village Hall

Activities, crafts, songs, games, bible story and prayers

followed by tea

Worship for all ages in a creative and messy way

Children must be accompanied by an adult

For more details contact Sarah

sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

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Future Dates:

Sunday 2nd January - St Mary's Church, Puddletown

Sunday 6th February - Dewlish Village Hall

Sunday 6th March - Tolpuddle Village Hall



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Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club ...

Steeptonbill Farm Shop

Now and again, if you're lucky, you'll find yourself listening to a speaker who is truly inspirational. On 28th October, members were able to listen to Steve Gould from Steeptonbill Farm Shop in Milton Abbas. Steve gave his thoughts on growing vegetables and a background to the creation and growth of his business. It's rare to find someone who has spent his working life helping and serving people by growing vegetables and educating others to grow vegetables. His enthusiasm for his work remains undiminished. Some interesting facts:



Supermarkets require vegetable suppliers to grow varieties that have a long shelf life. These varieties will often be chemically treated, low in natural sugars and low in taste. Home growers are able to select varieties that are high in natural sugars and have a great taste. Steeptonbill Farm grown vegetables are not sprayed with chemicals and are grown for their taste, which is why Steve supplies many restaurants as well as the public.

During lockdown, when panic buyers were causing extreme shortages of many essential items, Steve was able to secure supplies and help many local people. At one point he was helping six hundred people every day!

This business is a local gem, providing great tasting vegetables, homegrown meats, other supplies and employment for local people (six at the time of our talk). We're lucky to have it and it deserves our support.

PS. Steve didn't pay me to write this ... I'm just really impressed with his business!

In November, members met at the Milborne Village Hall for a social event and AGM. The gardening club takes a break in December but will meet again at the village hall on Thursday 20th January 2022, starting 7.30pm, when we'll be learning about garden design.

Needless to say, we'll be following government COVID guidelines to ensure our use of the village hall is as safe as possible.

Mark Johnson

email: manda.johnson@outlook.com



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“The staff have gone above & beyond, Mum is very happy here.”
Daughter of Maiden Castle House resident

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Milborne First School

On Tuesday our Raccoons class took a trip to the Newly Refurbished Dorset Museum in Dorchester to learn about and see all the Roman artifacts that have been uncovered in and around Durnovaria (the Roman name for Dorchester). We then walked up to the Roman Town House and were lucky enough to be able to go inside and touch and feel the mosaics uncovered and see up close all the intricate designs of the mosaic pieces still in place. Thank you as always to our parent helpers on the day, your support is always appreciated.



On Sunday some of our pupils helped commemorate our fallen heroes during the Remembrance Service. One of our Year 3 pupils, Lyra K. wrote a poem which she read out during the service.

Poppy, Poppy, Red and Bright - By Lyra Kendle

Poppy, poppy, red and bright
Shining brightly through the night
Giving hope, love and care
Knowing that the people are there

Through the war dark and grim
Poppies sprout reddening
Helping them find their hope
Buried deep, their memories forever to keep

People send love and care
Giving their lives to wars everywhere
Wishing war is finally over
And remembering those who sacrificed themselves

Now always remember poppy day
And respect the people who put the country first





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Unit 37, Enterprise Park
Piddhinton DT2 7UA

Pottery hand building classes for adults at Puddletown village hall

10am to 12noon Friday
17th September 2021

- Green man inspired by
Elizabeth Frink

Tuesday 5th October 2021

- Beach huts

Friday 12th November 2021

- Porcelain Paper clay

Please email

creativeclayforall@yahoo.co.uk for more info
and to book.

www.creativeclayforall.co.uk





Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

Autumn fun

With the beautiful weather recently, we have been making the most of playing outside. Our new mud kitchen finally arrived; ordered in April and expected in June. Transport delays and supplier shortages caused the delays. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing with it and hopefully will for many years to come. A big thank you goes out to Paul Stockley who raised the money needed with his sponsored bike ride. We also thank the community for supporting our Halloween coffee morning. The money raised for this will provide a children's entertainer for the Christmas party.

Autumn is a wonderful colourful time. Ladybirds have played with the fallen leaves, talked about the colours, sizes and made collages. We have experimented with mixing paints to change colours. The painting experiences continued with firework pictures. Many of our children are sensory learners so hand painting, shaving foam, lentil filling and pouring, and painting using toilet rolls and balls in trays have all been included to make firework art.

Firework day means learning about keeping safe and we talked about making sure the animals were safe too. This all led to the old playhouse being used by the 'firefighters'. This house has been used so many times over the years, the children are able to fit it together themselves using the large screws and need to cooperate to hold and join pieces. If anyone has one of these houses they no longer need we would be very interested as ours is definitely getting to the end of its life. We have seen brilliant imaginative play outside where the tyres were arranged to make a fire engine, crates were 'on fire' and small lengths of garden hose used to put the fire out. The tyres then became a car which went off on many adventures.

By the time I write the next report it will almost be Christmas and we will let you know what exciting things the child have enjoyed about this magical time. Don't forget to let us know if you would like to join us in 2022.



Liz Dyer (Leader)



01258 839117 or 07771 512427

Kelly Haggett (Secretary)

secretary@milborneladybirds.com

www.milborneladybirds.org.uk

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The Friends of Puddletown Library 200 Club.

Draw winners October 2021

1st. £40	Ticket 60	Ellie Hawkins
2nd £20	Ticket 121	Bob Sackley
3rd £10	Ticket 76	Brenda Downton

Please note the library is now open

3.30pm-5.30pm on Wednesday

10am-12noon Friday & Saturday

Orchard Meadow news



It's not all serious hard graft!

We had an excellent response to the first of our regular work parties on 17th October following the 20-month enforced covid-19 break. Fifteen dedicated local volunteers worked to restore control over the overgrown shrubberies and hedges, providing much needed breathing space for the old variety apple trees. The swale was also cleared of the year's growth of reed and willow and the frontage of Orchard Meadow was given a much-needed tidy-up. It wasn't all hard graft when we had a well-earned break for coffee, home-made cake and cheery chatter.

A big thank you to all those who attended.

There is still much more to do over this winter and work parties are planned for 9th December and 13th February, so please do come and join in on the fun if you can.

Rob Brunt



Battling with the scrub.

Orchard Meadow - Winter Work Parties

5th December 2021 & 13th February 2022, 10 am – 12 noon



- **Get some fresh air and exercise**
- **Meet new people**
- **Eat cake**
- **Help maintain Tolpuddle's beautiful Orchard Meadow!**

Just wear suitable shoes/boots, bring gardening gloves if you have them and we'll provide tools as well as hot drinks, squash and homemade cake. No experience needed.

See you there!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Orchard Meadow is maintained by village volunteers with only the grass cutting undertaken by a local contractor. Regular work parties have taken place since Orchard Meadow's opening in 2009.

Why not come along and help look after **your** local park and meet friends.

For further information contact Rob Brunt on 01305 848383



Tolpuddle Toddlers

Every Monday
During term time

Friendly group for under 5's

10am-12pm

Tolpuddle village hall

£1.50 per family

Crafts | Singing | Snacks | Play

Cafe



Sunday 5th December

CHRISTMAS CAFÉ

10am – 2pm in the Village
Hall

Join us for coffee, tea, bacon sandwiches, cakes, and local stalls. Or just come for a chat! Our last café of the year is a get place to get into the festive spirit.

We'd love cake makers and stall holders. If you can help, send us a message, or email us at puddcommcafe@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/PuddletownCommunityCafe

E-mail puddcommcafe@gmail.com





Canzonetta at **Christmas**

An hour of seasonal songs and carols

Emma Estridge *flute*
William Bishop *organ*



Sunday 12 December 2021



**Priory Church of Lady St. Mary
Wareham**

BH20 4NA

3pm

Free admission

Retiring collection for the Church



www.canzonettadorset.com

St Mary's Church
CHRISTMAS FAIR & COFFEE MORNING
10am to 12 noon
Saturday 11th December
in
Puddletown Village Hall



Entrance £2 to include Coffee & Biscuits

Homemade Cakes, Christmas Wreaths
Church Mouse cards & Puddle Ducks aprons
Free Mini Messy Church activity for Children

Craft Stalls including Jewellery, Flamingo Paperie,
The Body Shop, Books by Local Authors,
Tombola, Raffle & Lot More!

Live Music by the Puddletown Ukulele Group



Puddletown Cricket Club

BINGO NIGHT

Saturday 4th December

At

Puddletown Village Hall

DOORS OPEN 6pm
EYES DOWN 7:30PM

Join us for a fun filled evening with sweets,
savouries, drinks & more!

Our prize raffles will be drawn on the night.





Dewlish Church Notes

WE ARE holding our **Christmas Bazaar** on **Saturday 4th December** at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Stalls will include New items, Christmas decorations, cakes and produce, toys and books, and a raffle. Teas and mince pies will also be served. We would be very grateful for any donations, especially cakes and raffle prizes. Please come and support us; we look forward to seeing you and enjoying your company once

again.

The **Carol Service** is on **Sunday 19th December** starting at 3.00pm. We are hoping for the children to do the Nativity this year, though it may have to be a slightly different presentation. Everything is so dependent on the Covid situation at that time but at least we are looking forward to being able to sing the carols this year! The collection will be donated to the Children's Society.

Please note that our **Christmas Day Holy Communion** service starts at 9.00am. This is so that Sarah will be able to take three services that morning.

A very happy Christmas to all our friends, both in Dewlish and the other parishes!

Daphne Burg

Church Mouse Stock

Piddle Duck APRON (blue or pink) £15

River Piddle & Duck TEA TOWEL £4.50

Picture of St Mary's Church £2

Duck cards (pack of 4) £5

Single cards £1.40

Flower notelets (pack of 4) £3

Please contact Caroline Cox on 01305 848514 if you wish to purchase any items.

Dorchester Choral Society

Winter Concert

GLORIA

**Vivaldi
Chilcott
Rutter**

with "A Winter's Night" by Cecilia McDowall

Conductor: Colin Howard
Soprano: Amy Carson
Soprano: Alison Hill
Alto: Stephanie Franklin

730 pm Saturday
4th December 2021
St Mary's Church
Edward Road, Dorchester

Face coverings are required throughout.

Tickets £18 or £14 (plus booking fee).

From Harmony Music or www.DorchesterChoralSociety.org

Doors open 6.30pm. Disabled access 01305 260458. Charity No. 285911



Quiz

- Which building in Puddletown is probably the oldest ?
- Which building in Puddletown is visited by people from around the world?
- Which building is furnished with wood that was growing in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I?
- Which building has bells whose joyous sound can be heard from miles away?
- Which building hosts more medieval tombs than any other parish church in the south west?
- Which building is open daily, for free, so that you can appreciate its history and the calm and serenity of its atmosphere?
- Which building is still there after all this time for life's milestones - christenings, weddings, funerals? And for our Christmas carol services, festivals, concerts,
- Which building deserves our support for its care and maintenance?

Join the Friends of Puddletown Church!

Subscription forms with more information are available at the Church and Library

email: friendsofpuddletownchurch@gmail.com



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listed on Page 3 for more details.

MORNING PRAYERS (Mon. – Thurs. 8.30 a.m.; Sat. 9.00 a.m.) On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman (sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com) for the link (Please note that the calendar of services may be subject to change)

26th December – St Stephen

Psalm 119.161-168, Acts 7.51-end, Matthew 10.17-22

10.30am

United Benefice Holy Communion

Puddletown

Services in the Benefice December 2021

5th December – Advent 2

Canticle Luke 1.68-79, Philippians 1.3-11, Luke 3.1-6

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30am	Celebrate	Milborne St Andrew
11.00am	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00am	BCP Morning Prayer	Dewlish
4.00pm	Messy Church	Tolpuddle

12th December – Advent 3

Psalm 146.4-end, Philippians 4.4-7, Luke 3.7-18

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne St Andrew
11.00am	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown
11.00am	Parish Communion	Dewlish
5.00pm	United Carol Service	Tolpuddle

18th December - Saturday

6.00pm	Carol Service	Milborne
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19th December – Advent 4

Psalm 80.1-8, Micah 5.2-5a, Luke 1.39-55

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30am	Worship in Stillness	Milborne St Andrew
3.00pm	Carol Service	Dewlish
6.00pm	Carol Service	Puddletown

24th December - Christmas Eve

Psalm 97, Isaiah 62.6-end, Luke 2.1-20

3.30pm	Crib Service	Tolpuddle
5.00pm	Crib Service	Puddletown
10.00pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion	Milborne
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Puddletown

25th December - Christmas Day

Psalm 98, Isaiah 52.7-10, John 1.1-14

9.00am	Christmas Holy Communion	Dewlish
9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion	Tolpuddle
10.15am	Christmas Celebration	Milborne
11.15am	Christmas Praise	Puddletown

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