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Front Cover Photos: Magazine volunteer distributors at a tea & cake "thank you" event.

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I would, but I can't...

I've just come across a story from the 1920s about a rather wayward curate. He wrote a grumpy letter to the local paper, moaning about the positioning of house numbers in certain streets in Andover, where he lived. These houses had long front gardens, and his gripe was that the house numbers were not at the garden gate at the entrance to the property, but attached to the front door where they couldn't be seen from the street. In his view this caused a needless and hazardous trek up 'circuitous' garden paths - only to discover once at the front door - that he was at the wrong house. It made evening visits especially difficult, so he declared he would no longer visit houses in these particular streets.

Now I do have some sympathy. Finding house numbers in the dark can still be frustrating; I have often walked or driven past the very house I was looking for, but even so it's a poor excuse for giving up visiting altogether..

I may not use such excuses to get out of my work, but I do have a good line in them when it comes to other areas of my life, most notably the domestic and horticultural!

On a more serious note, I wonder what opportunities and experiences we miss out on in life, because the excuses in our head outweigh the positive voices that say "Go for it".

Summer is often a season of change, especially for young people - leaving school or university, starting new jobs, travelling, or moving to new places. It reminds me of times in my own life when I let opportunities pass me by - not because I didn't want them, but because I lacked the confidence to step forward.

Change is often uncomfortable. Stepping into something new can feel daunting. But life is always offering us the gift of new beginnings. What matters is whether we're willing to step past our excuses, listen to the voice of courage, and take that first step.

But life is always full of the gift of new opportunities.

Sometimes they come disguised as challenges or arrive at inconvenient moments. Often, they ask something of us — our time, our trust, our willingness to move beyond what feels safe. But if we always wait until we feel completely ready, we may never move at all.

The good news is that we don't have to have it all figured out. In moments of change or uncertainty, God walks with us — not pushing us from behind but gently leading us forward. Faith doesn't always remove our excuses, but it can give us the courage to look past them.

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So perhaps this summer, the invitation is simply to stay open—to try something new, to reconnect with someone, to take that small step you’ve been putting off. You never know what blessing might be waiting just a little way up the path.

With best wishes,
Sarah

St Mary’s Puddletown		
Intercessors		Scripture Readers
6th July	Bob Todd	Paul Fleetwood
13th July	Puddletown Praise Team	
20th July	Dawn Loveless	Pat Lindsay
27th July	Cynthia Metcalfe	Mara Wingrove & TBA
Charitable Giving 2025		
Lent		Dorchester Poverty Action
Mothering Sunday		Mosaic
Easter Day		The Salvation Army (Homeless)
Harvest		Water Aid
Christmas		The Children’s Society

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D. 11th May Sheila May Miller Puddletown
Aged 91



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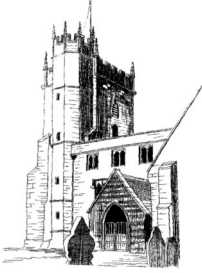
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St. Mary's Church Events - July

Pop-in Coffee Mornings in the Church Room are every Thursday from 10am to 12noon. Everyone (of any age) is welcome. Good coffee and delicious cakes and/or biscuits are always on offer. Come and join us for a sociable hour or two.

Rosemary's cards will be available at coffee pop-in on Thursday July 17th

Prayer Group This continues to meet in the church room on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 until 11.30am. All are welcome

The Craft Group are taking a break through the summer.

A Summer Family Fun Day will take place on Saturday July 5th from 10 – 12noon. Do come and join us for fun and frolics.

The Village Lunch will be on Monday July 14th at 12noon. We shall be serving Quiche with salad and new potatoes, followed by the usual delicious puds. A vegetarian dish will also be served. These must be booked in advance. If you haven't yet booked your place then please contact Sheila on 849193 or Jean on 848211.

Wimbledon Afternoon Teas will be served on the afternoons of Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July followed by screening of the Singles Final Matches.

Jumble Sale.

Puddletown Village Hall.

Saturday 26th July 2025.

2pm

Any donations please contact Hazel Barrett: 01305 848588 for collection or drop off at 16a Mill Street, Puddletown.

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Tower News

Puddletown, Dorset - St Mary the Virgin
Saturday, 24 May 2025 in 49m (16–1–18 in E)

1260 Doubles (5m/v)

120 Clifford's Pleasure, 120 April Day, 300 Grandsire, 360 Reverse Canterbury
& 360 Plain Bob

1	Janet M Collins	2	Timothy F Collins	3	Robin J Mears
4	Ian D Tucker	5	Nick Baker (C)	6	Robert Newton

Rung for the Golden Wedding Anniversary today of Robin & Heather Mears,
Robin is Tower Master of Puddletown & lived in the village all his life.

Milborne St Andrew, Dorset - St Andrew
Saturday, 24 May 2025 in 47m (8–3–18 in A)

1260 Doubles (3m)

360 Reverse Canterbury, 360 Grandsire & 540 Plain Bob

1	Janet M Collins	2	Paul Cottingham	3	Robin J Mears
4	Philip Board	5	Ian D Tucker (C)	6	Robert Newton

Rung for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Today of Robin & Heather Mears,
Married in this church May 24th 1975,
Philip Board was Best Man.

Also 36th Wedding Anniversary of Ian & Diane Tucker May 20th,
Birthday compliment to Heather Mears May 10th & Diane Tucker May 23rd,





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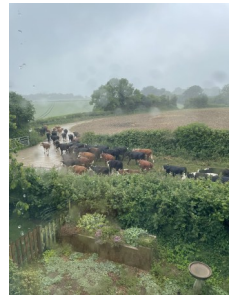
Month on the Farm



The rain at last arrived and with the warmer temperatures the grass growth is picking up again, albeit that some patches on the gravel had already gone brown and died. We have made some round bales of silage to build up the winter stocks but the yields are down on usual, which I put down to the cold nights and long dry period we have just been through. Hopefully by cutting some fields again we can get a good cut and make up for lower yields. Some of the grazing fields have been tidied up with the topper to take off the seed heads and get the grass and herbs growing with a new lease of life. All the fields that can have some fertilizer have had a light

coating of nitrogen and sulphur mix and will soon have their requirements of phosphate and potash to replace any of the nutrients that have been used up or removed in the cutting/grazing practices.

The last couple of weeks has seen our 6 monthly TB Test done over four days and in spite of some large lumps (reactions to the injections), the whole herd is clear. We were able to fly spray some of the cattle as they went through the race on one day but on the next it was wet, so we were only able to drench some of the younger cattle against worms which can be a problem in the first grazing season, but by the second the cattle's natural processes have cut in so they do not need a treatment until the end of the season.



The ewes and rams were all shorn on the last Sunday in May and fortunately we had shut them in the barn for the night as we had a shower of rain which would have messed up the plan, as although the sheep can be shorn the wool cannot be rolled up and packed in the wool sacks if it is wet. The two shearers and one roller made quick work of the job and were on their way again by mid morning and the flock were turned out to grass with the ewes looking much smaller without their fleeces.

The maize is growing very unevenly again due to the dry weather but should now all grow away well since the rain and the plant roots getting down well into the ground to pick up the nutrients from the muck and cover crop residue, we have been through with a weed killer to tidy up any unwanted plants that will compete with the maize. The winter barley and wheat are well and into ear with the barley just changing colour slightly as it grows through the ripening



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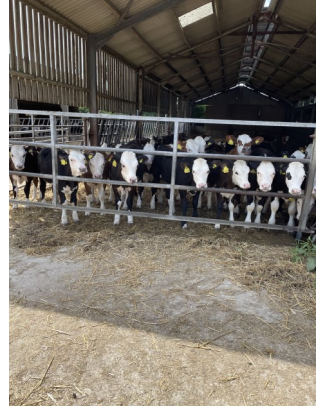
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process. The spring barley's awns are now fully out with the fields looking a picture as the wind blows through them.

This month sees us being host to some school visits and at the end of the month hosting a Health and Safety Training morning for all the farmers, their families and workers in Dorset to try to raise awareness of the many dangers that can be encountered in their daily lives.

Wakely Cox

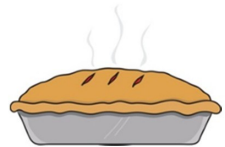
12th June 2025



Puddletown Village Lunch



Monday 14th July
Served at 12.00noon
Puddletown Village Hall



This month's special is quiche with salad & new potatoes
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As we work towards the final month of another school year, the sun is shining and our swimming pool is once again open for PE lessons! It must be summer when the PE staff uncover our open-air pool and offer swimming lessons to the students. It is also great to be able to welcome our first schools to St Mary's to use the pool too.

Year 5 pupils have just returned from a fabulous experience of scintillating science at the Winchester Science Centre, where they got to dress up as astronauts, learn about the chemistry behind crazy slime and, best of all, lie back and be amazed by the wonders of the universe in the planetarium.



No sooner than they had returned from Winchester, Year 5 students had their tastebuds tantalised during our annual Sikh Langar day. In langar tradition, the children prepared and cooked a vegetable curry and dal for the whole of the year group, as well as for some hungry staff! The food that the children created with the help of our wonderful Food Tech

teacher, Mrs Evans, was absolutely delicious and appreciated by everyone.



Year 5 have also been joined recently by some extremely cute, feathered visitors! Mrs Monro, one of our Year 5 teachers who lives on a farm, brought in a very squeaky, lively group of ducklings which the year 5 children have been looking after. As you can image, the little Muscovy ducks are attracting plenty of attention and are being very well cared for by the children!





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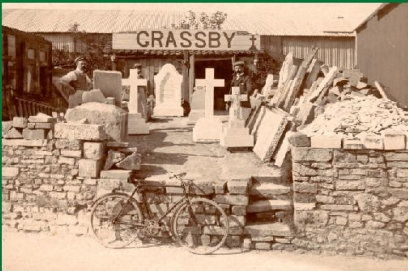
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Continuing the avian theme, Year 6 students were recently entertained by visitors from Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Rescue Centre. The children learned about the animals and the work of the centre before being treated to a flying display by hawks, eagles and falcons.



The children in Years 5 and 6 don't get all the fun! Years 7 and 8 were recently treated to a fascinating talk and series of demonstrations during a STEM Artificial Intelligence roadshow with BAE Systems. The team from BAE explained the growing role and potential of AI in the defence and technology industries and enthralled the students with some amazing demonstrations of the capability of cutting-edge AI robots. Our conclusion is that AI robot dogs are extremely clever if not very cuddly!

CONTACTS

**For further information, admission details or to arrange a visit,
please contact the school office**

Head of School: Tim Ennion

Chair of Governors: Caleb Brown

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The Puddletown Society

Wednesday 9 July 2025

A HARDY WALK AROUND PUDDLETOWN

with

Alban O'Brien

Tour Guide and Thomas Hardy specialist

Approx. 45 minutes (2 miles) finishing at St Mary's Church

followed by tea/coffee in the Church Room

stout shoes recommended

Meet on Druce Lane near the Blue Vinny for 6.30pm

Members: Free Visitors: £5.00

There is no meeting in August

Wednesday 10 September 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OPEN FORUM

St Mary's Church Room

7.30pm

For details of the society contact the Secretary: Janet Ranger-Dennis

tel: 07752 634773 e-mail: janet.ranger@yahoo.co.uk

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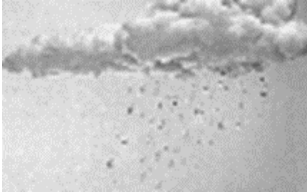


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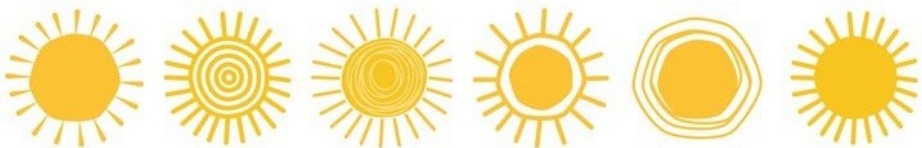


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Puddletown Weather - May 2025

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

May 2025		
	Rainfall for the month	14.10mm
	Cumulative for the year	297.30mm
	2024 Rainfall for the month	56.40 mm
	2024 Cumulative for the year	444.60 mm
	Temperatures	Max. 27.20° C Min. 3.80° C
	2024	Max. 25.60° C Min. 4.10° C
	Maximum wind speed	13.60 mph
	2024	16.80 mph





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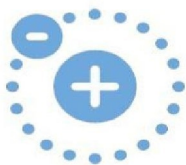
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CLERGY	The Revd Sarah Hillman (Vicar)	07350 414483
	sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com	
LICENSED LAY MINISTER	Margaret Rickard	01305 849332
CHURCHWARDENS	Vacancy (Puddletown)	
	Dawn Loveless (Puddletown)	01305 849 534
	Hilly Cobban (Tolpuddle)	07817 557367
	Jayne Brayshaw (Tolpuddle)	01305 849 314
	Vacancy (Milborne St Andrew)	
	Tony Fox (Milborne St Andrew)	07368 145 584
	Sue Britton (Dewlish)	01258 837 218
	Jim Burg (Dewlish)	01258 837 466
BENEFICE OFFICE	Emma Hughes	
(www.puddletownbenefice.org)	puddletownbenefice@outlook.com	
PUDDLETOWN CONTACTS		
Alcoholics Anonymous		
Area Parish Council		
Area Parish Clerk	Michelle Harrington clerk@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk	01202 670105
Bell Ringers	Robin Mears	01305 848 021
Children's Society		
Church Room	Jane Stanley	01305 848494 07871 169014
COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Run & financed by volunteers	01305 848 506
	puddletownlibrary@gmail.com	
Opening Hours:-	Wednesday: 3.00pm to 5.00pm Friday: 10.00am to 12.00noon Saturday: 10.00am to 12.00noon	
County Councillor	Emma Parker	
Cricket Club	David Stevens	07720 411 952
Cubs, Scouts & Beavers	Barry Thomas www.puddletownscouts.org.uk	01305 852314
Flood Warden	Cllr Richard Green clrrgreen@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Flower Rota	Heather Mears	01305 848 021
Football Club	Steve Brown	07789 821 408
Footpaths & Rights of Way	Michelle Harrington clerk@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk	01202 670105

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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
Friends of Puddletown Church	Jill Temple friendsofpuddletownchurch@gmail.com	
Friends of Puddletown Library	Paul Poser	01305 848 176
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Gym	Dan Weiss coachdan26@gmail.com	07547 713675
Exercise Classes For All	Sylvia Salcedo sylvia.a.salcedo@gmail.com	07788 101075
Handbells	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Mini-Soccer/Youth Football	Jon Palmer	07891 173 999
Neighbourhood Plan	Clerk to PAPC	
PCC Secretary	Emma Hughes	
PCC Treasurer	David Elliott	07776 256537
Pilates (at First School)	Kathy Ashdown	07967 655159
Puddletown CPPP	www.facebook.com/puddletownplaypark	
Pumpkins Toddler Group	Find us on Facebook or Instagram @puddletownpumpkins	
Puddletown Society	Janet Ranger-Dennis	07752 634773
Puddletown Ukulele Group	Bob Watson bobwatson55@hotmail.com	07725 684 400
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 puddletownrnf@hotmail.com	07966 412 467
SCHOOLS		
Pre-school	Sharon Brown www.puddletownpreschool.co.uk	01305 849 533
First School (Head of School)	Mrs A Seal www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk	01305 848 206
St Mary's CE Middle School	Mr Tim Ennion	01305 848 293

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Short Mat Bowls	Mervyn Harris	07794 787588 (Mervyn) 01305 849 049 (Sue) mervynharris981@btinternet.com
Tree Warden	Cllr John Ridout cllrjridout@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Village Hall Caretaker/Bookings	Kevin Smith (puddletownvh@gmail.com)	07706 798271
Village Hall Committee Secretary	Amy Knight	01305 848602
Young Farmers (Dorset)		01305 263 947
TOLPUDDLE CONTACTS		
Defibrillator (outside Martyrs Inn)	Clare & Roger Angus	07720 059035 or 01305 848286
Orchard Meadow	Clerk to PAPC	
PCC Secretary	Heather Saunders	
PCC Treasurer	John Taylor	01305 848 552
Physio-Led Pilates	Sam Buxton	samjbuxton31@gmail.com
Pilates	Kathy Ashdown	07967 655159
Tolpuddle Events Committee	Ian Cray	
Tolpuddle Home Group	Shirley & Richard Woolford	01305 849539
Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust		info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org
Tolpuddle Toddler Group	Maria Palmer	07717 506020
Tolpuddle Village Meeting	Tyra Nozaic Goosen, Clerk.	tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com
Tolpuddle Village Show	Jo Austwick	austwickjoanne@gmail.com.
Tolpuddle & Southover Village Website	www.tolpuddlevillage.co.uk	tolpuddlevillagewebsite@gmail.com
Village Hall Bookings Sec.	Jo Austwick	tolpuddlevhinfo@gmail.com
Village Hall Chairman	Peter Walton pdwalton@btinternet.com	01305 848 034
Yoga (Iyengar)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
USEFUL & EMERGENCY NUMBERS		
Benefit Enquiry Line		0800 88 22 00
Dorset Community Action	info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk	
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 & PSCO Alison Donnison 6500	101 or "Contact Us" section on Dorset Police Website

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DEWLISH CONTACTS		
Cricket	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837 696
Ladies Group	Judith Bridgen	01258 837 157
Parish Council	Chris Udens (Chair)	07973 167117
Parish Clerk	Amanda Crocker dewlish@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
Village Hall (Chair)	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296
Village Hall (Sec)	Alex Carter	01258 837 312
MILBORNE ST ANDREW CONTACTS		
Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837 661
Archery	Mike Healy	01300 342 134
Bellringers	Robin Mears	01305 848 021
Busy Bees Group (Under 5s)	Claire Tudge	07970 734 162
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837 089
Food & Wine Club	Steve O'Neill	07490 691 121
Gardening Club	Bill Love	01258 837 677
Ladybirds Playgroup	Samantha Mercer	07767 450967
Milborne First School	Michelle Cheeseman (Head)	01258 837 362
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793 319
Nightsabre Dog Training Group	Natasja Lewis	07896 275 357
Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470 333
Parish Council	Richard MacNair (Chair)	07774 081 551
	Wayne Lewin (Clerk)	07419 136 735
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	07983 013 781
Pilates (at First School)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Scout Group	Sam Elliott	07873 762 035
Sports Club	Philip Smith (& Bookings)	07776 561 105
Tap Dancing (Adults)	Kevin Selby	01305 250 386
Tennis - Member's Secretary	Rich Hawker	07983 013 781
Village Hall	Linsey O'Neill (Chair) chair.msavh@gmail.com	07798 720 812
	Susan Poet (Bookings)	07866 313 999
Wednesday Social Club	Josie Wright	01258 839 090
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471 732
Yoga—at Milborne Sports Pavilion	Sue Chapman (Iyengar yoga)	01305 848 053
Yoga—at Village Hall	Angela Johnson	01258 839 060



St John's Church Tolpuddle July 2025

I hope some of you were able to come to our coffee morning in the middle of June, where we enjoyed delicious cakes, refreshments, a chance for a chat and to see the exhibition of village history in the church.

This event has also raised some much needed funds for St John's coffers.

Morten's team have been hard at work during June to keep the area spick and span in line with the "living churchyard" ethos. Anyone who would like to offer their help for the future will be gladly welcomed. Please contact either of the churchwardens, Hilly (07817 557367) or Jayne (07739100181) for Morten's details.

Very soon, we will be getting together again to welcome the TUC to the village for their weekend of celebration and commemoration of the lives of the pioneers of trade unions. There will be requests for help for this somewhere in this magazine - it is always a case of all hands to the pumps - and of course a great way to get involved in village life. Bishop Karen will be celebrating at a special service at St John's church on Sunday 20th July.

Meanwhile life carries on - the exam season has finished and children are winding down at school ready for the summer holidays, many families looking forward to a few weeks of freedom while others are happy behind their desks. Wimbledon is back in action for tennis devotees and church services continue. We keep hoping that the numbers of congregation will improve to ensure that our church remains viable- we really do need it not only for regular worship but also for special occasions - local weddings, christenings and Farewells. More importantly we are so lucky to have the church open every day for anyone to sit quietly and contemplate life. For those who enjoy the peace and calm of the church environment, why not try our **Reflective Service** - held on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 5.30pm. Alternatively our **Go Fourth** service at 10am on the 4th Sunday is a chance to sing-along with our friendly local band and as always a good fix of regular, familiar services on the other two Sundays.

However we will finish this report on a positive note, as summer approaches and the vegetable gardens are beginning to produce goodies. We see many visitors wandering around our lovely village and they all say how fortunate we are to live here- and so we are.

Hilly and Jayne

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Smile Lines

Day trip?

A north country choirmaster was rehearsing the hymns for Sunday, telling the choir the hymns they were to sing, and the tunes to which they were to sing them. He concluded the list and said, "Now then, 'Come ye that love the Lord', to Southport!"

A moment later a voice called out, "Where are you tekking t'rest of us then?"

Church Notices that didn't quite 'make it'...

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

Baptism

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

Vote carried

The vicar was ill in hospital and so the churchwarden went to visit. Trying to cheer him up, the churchwarden said: "We missed you at PCC last night. We even put forward a resolution to wish you a speedy recovery. It was passed by 14 votes to 12."

Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect she's studying for her final exams," came the reply.

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

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It's cool

I was at summer scout camp where the final service was to be taken by a bishop. It was a very hot, humid day and the clergy from local churches were slowly melting in their various heavy robes. Finally, one snapped: "When is that flipping bishop going to turn up?"

Whereupon a man close by, dressed in Scouts shirt, tie and short trousers, said mildly: "I'm already here."

No worries

A 102-year-old lady was asked if she had any worries about the future. She replied: "Not since I got my eldest son into an old people's home."

Vatican

Once asked how many people worked in the Vatican, Pope John XXIII replied: "Oh, about half."

Open wide

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'

What exactly is 'a lie'?

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote: "A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble."

Come in

The choir was practising the anthem. The choirmaster said to the trebles: "Now don't forget, when the tenors reach 'The Gates of Hell', you come in."

Preaching hazards

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. "When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation."

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Fighting Back Against Scam Mail

In an age where internet scams dominate headlines, it's easy to forget that traditional postal scams still pose a serious threat, especially to people more reliant on letters through the post. That's why the return of the SCAMnesty campaign by the Friends Against Scams, and National Trading Standards Scams Teams, is both timely and vital.

SCAMnesty invites people across the UK to send in any unwanted scam or nuisance mail, completely free of charge, to help investigators disrupt fraud. The process is simple: just drop the mail into an envelope and send it to NTSST, FREEPOST, MAIL MARSHALS. No stamp is required.

This campaign will be running throughout the Summer, but you can send post to the Freepost address at any time.

Postal scams come in many forms: fake lotteries, bogus health cures, clairvoyant promises, and investment traps. They often use official-looking seals, urgent deadlines, and personal touches to manipulate recipients. The goal? To extract money through deception, often targeting older or isolated people.

What's most alarming is that only 5% of these crimes are reported. Victims often feel ashamed or unsure of where to turn. But the truth is, these fraudsters are professionals. Falling victim to their tactics is not a sign of weakness, it's a reflection of how sophisticated these scams have become.

By participating in SCAMnesty, you're not just clearing out your junk mail, you're contributing to a national effort to protect others. Every piece of scam mail sent in helps the National Trading Standards Scams Team build cases, shut down operations, and prevent future harm.

If you are affected by scam mail, perhaps you have lost money to a scam and would like advice on what to do, then visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/ consumer or phone the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. Trusted advice will be provided. Citizens Advice will also identify people who may require more support, and a referral will be made to Dorset Council Trading Standards.





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Don't Step on a Bee Day – 10th July

Have you ever wanted to step on a bee? Hopefully most of us haven't – but the eye-catching name of this annual event aims to remind people of how important bees are in our ecosystem, and of the need to promote their protection.

Don't Step on a Bee Day highlights the crucial role bees play in pollination, and also that their populations are declining, because of habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change.

If you want to help the bees, here is what you can do:

Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers: Grow a variety of flowers in your garden that attract and support bees, such as lavender, sunflowers, and marigolds.

Avoid Using Pesticides: Reduce or eliminate these in your garden, to create a safer environment for bees.

Support Local Beekeepers: Purchase honey from local beekeepers, to help support sustainable beekeeping practices.

Create a Bee Bath: Place a shallow dish of water with stones in your garden to provide bees with a safe place to drink.

Educate Others: Share information about the importance of bees and how you protect them with friends, family, and on social media.



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 11.30am.

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

Do come and join us.

Prayer Requests

If anyone has any prayer requests for the Benefice Prayer Group, please contact:

Sue Turner - 01305 849030 or
Janet Voke - 01258 837550



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PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL

As the warm days of summer unfold across our countryside, we're pleased to share the latest updates from the June Parish Council meeting held at Tolpuddle Village Hall. With decisions made on community safety, park improvements, building maintenance, and planning, we continue to make progress on the matters that keep our parish safe, vibrant, and welcoming for all. Here's a look at what's been happening in your local area.

Road Safety: The Council continues its work to improve road safety across the parish. Speeding has remained a concern, particularly in Puddletown, and with one of our Speed Indicator Devices (SID) currently broken, councillors agreed to purchase a replacement at a cost of £2,695 plus VAT. Alongside this, Cllr Hood will lead an initiative to revive the Community Speed Watch programme. If four volunteers can be found, the Clerk will organise training and help get the group up and running again. It's a valuable opportunity for residents to help tackle local speeding and make our roads safer for everyone.

Puddletown Recreation Ground and Play Park: At Puddletown Recreation Ground, a recent audit of the existing seating highlighted the need for a refresh. Councillors approved the purchase of two new picnic benches and two flat seats with backs, including the necessary ground anchor bolts, at a cost of £1,840 plus VAT. These additions will improve comfort and accessibility for all visitors to the play park and recreation area, offering families and residents more space to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Work also continues to maintain and protect the PRIDE building, which serves as a vital community resource. Following damage to a shutter, councillors voted to approve repairs and a full servicing of the remaining shutters. Wessex Industrial Doors will carry out the works at a total cost of £2,758 plus VAT, ensuring that the building remains secure and fully functional.

Parish Safety: Playground safety and emergency equipment checks are carried out regularly by the Council. Weekly internal inspections of the Butt Close, Orchard Meadow, and Puddletown Rec play areas revealed no new concerns. Both defibrillators across the parish were also checked, with no issues to report. In Tolpuddle, we're excited to confirm that the Martyrs' Museum has granted permission for the installation of a defibrillator on their building. The Clerk will monitor the British Heart Foundation's grant funding programme and apply if it reopens shortly. If not, the Council will proceed to purchase the equipment at an estimated cost of £1,335 plus VAT, including cabinet and installation.

Youth Council: The Youth Council project continues to go from strength to strength. Councillors received a verbal update highlighting the strong turnout of young people and their passion for shaping the future of their community. It's heartening to see this level of engagement from the next generation, and we remain committed to supporting their initiatives and ideas. *Empowering tomorrow's voices, today.*



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Planning & Licensing: Application: Application No. P/

HOU/2025/02851, **Location:** The Lodge, Southover Farm, Tolpuddle.

Proposal: To erect a flat-roof porch and a new first-floor window. **Comment:** Councillors had no comment to make on the application.

Full details for all planning applications and outcomes can be found on the Dorset Council website, <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning>

Governance: In a move to continue updating our governance, the Council adopted the latest version of the National Association of Local Councils' Financial Regulations. The policy will now be published on our website and helps ensure our financial processes remain clear, compliant, and up to date.

Finally, we'd like to remind everyone that our next Council meeting is provisionally scheduled for Tuesday 15th July 2025 at 7:00 PM in Puddletown Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and take part in shaping the future of our parish.

That's all for this month's update. Thank you for continuing to stay informed and involved. As always, your ideas and feedback are welcome—please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Next Council Meeting: Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between Puddletown Village Hall and Tolpuddle Village Hall. Our next meeting is Tuesday 15th July 2025, at 7pm in the Puddletown Village Hall. Please come and join us and have your say.

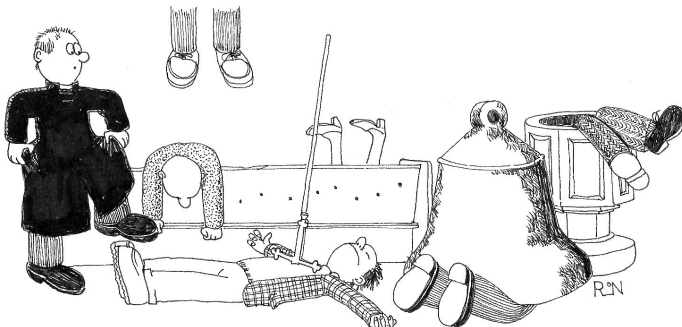
Parish Council contact details: (Please remember to give permission for your details to be shared with Councillors, but note your details will NOT be shared with anyone else)

Clerk: Michelle Harrington, Telephone: 01202 670105,

Email: clerk@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk, Write: 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PuddletownAPC/>,

Website: <http://www.puddletownareaparishcouncil.co.uk>

That's all for this month's update. Thank you for continuing to stay involved. As always, your ideas and feedback are welcome, and please don't hesitate to get in touch.



It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church

Canzonetta

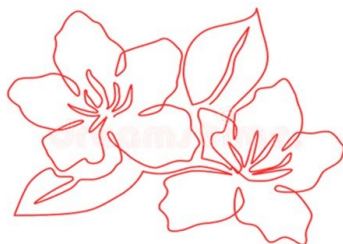
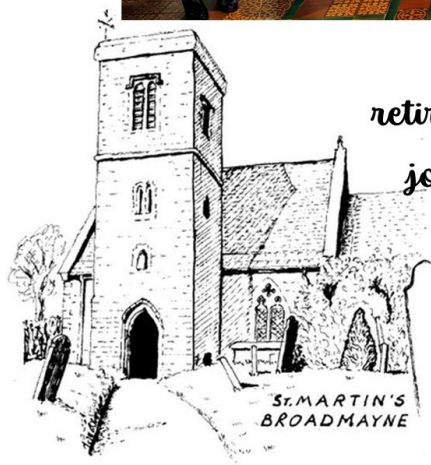
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join us for tea and cake afterwards





Notes from St Andrew's

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held jointly with All Saints', Dewlish, at the end of May. A well-attended Eucharist at All Saints was followed by meetings to elect Churchwardens and other officers for the coming year and to receive reports on various aspects of church life during the past year.

After 11 years or so, Pam had decided to step back from her churchwarden role, although she will continue as a PCC member and as our Deanery Synod Rep. So, Tony was re-elected as Churchwarden for Milborne and Jim Burg and Sue Britton for All Saints. Pam was presented with a bouquet of flowers and gifts to mark her retirement and thanked for all she has done for St Andrew's (and will continue to do so, "in retirement"!)

Sarah was presented with flowers for all she does in the Benefice, particularly her work at St Andrew's and All Saints'. Emma received flowers for her work as Treasurer this past year. At the short business meeting following the APCM, Angela was appointed Secretary to the PCC, and Penny Pearce was appointed our Treasurer. We are grateful to Penny for volunteering her services. Her expertise in all things financial will be a great asset.

Our Milborne Praise at the beginning of June was held on June 1st, "Dorset Day", so we celebrated two local saints – St Aldhelm, and St Wite (or Candida). Aldhelm was a very talented man and was the first Bishop of the newly created See of Sherborne in 705 AD. St Wite was a 9th-century Saxon lady from west Dorset, whose Shrine is still a place of pilgrimage in the Church of St Wite and the Holy Cross at Whitchurch Canonichorum. She is said to have been murdered by marauding Danish Vikings invading Charmouth in 831 AD. Think of her the next time you go for a paddle or a fossil hunt.

Our Eucharist for Pentecost/Whitsunday was celebrated by the Reverend Heidi Merrett, assistant Priest in the Dorchester team Ministry, who also preached. Her address reminded us that the Holy Spirit is available to all. The Church looked splendid, decked in red, with many candles and the chandeliers lit. It was good to welcome visitors, who helped make up a larger-than-usual congregation. Thanks to Lin for ensuring there were splashes of Pentecostal red in the flower arrangements. At the end of the Service, Tony presented June with a bouquet to mark her birthday the preceding Friday – 21 again, June?? A particularly rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday to you" was followed by applause. Our good wishes go to Ernst Wagner, as he celebrated a "significant" birthday that weekend - Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag!, Ernst. In the evening, the Paschal Candle was moved from the Sanctuary, marking the end of the Easter Season. The Candle will be lit at Baptisms and Funerals, reminding us that the Risen Christ is present with us from birth to death and beyond.

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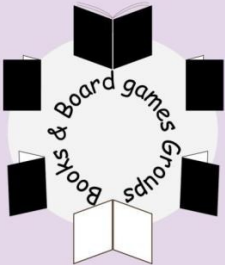
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The library welcomes
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LIBRARY HOURS:

Wednesday 3pm-5pm

Friday 10am-12pm

Saturday 10am-12pm

95% of the Hassocks given in memory of the late John Corrigan and worked by members of John's family and many villagers, have succumbed to damp, mould and infestation. Each will now be photographed, and the dedications and names of those who worked the cross-stitch will be recorded and kept in the church archives. Unfortunately, the hassocks themselves will need to be disposed of. The two larger ones for the priests' and curate's Stalls are still in good condition and will be retained. Sheila Price and Margaret Daniels worked on them. Reading the names of those who had undertaken the cross-stitch was a trip down memory lane; many people associated with St Andrew's and are now "gone before".

As we look forward to the summer sunshine, I recall words from a favourite hymn, written by William Walsham How, author of "For All the Saints", and the first Bishop of Wakefield:

*"Summer suns are glowing
Over land and sea....
Light of light shine o'er us
On our pilgrim way;
Go, thou still before us
To the endless day."*

Tony (Churchwarden)

Puddletown Area Parish Council

ROAD SWEEP V WEEDS

Did you know:

Dorset Council uses road sweepers to regularly clear gutters and remove debris that can lead to weed growth. This reduces the need for chemical treatments.

You can help by reporting areas with significant weed growth or debris build-up.

Please report issues via the Dorset Council website: 📍 www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk





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"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"



Pottery classes

Tolpuddle Old Chapel evening classes

19th June, 24th July, 14th Aug, 11th Sept, 9th Oct, 13th Nov 2025

7pm to 9pm, pre booking only, includes clay and kiln firing

Book at www.creativeclayforall.co.uk/shop

Dorset Craft Workshops, Durngate Street, Dorchester – 6 week course

Begins 11th September 9.30am to 11.30am.

In this 6 week course you will learn a variety of making techniques, makes include plates, mug and a butter dish. You will explore surface decoration including transfers and pottery crayons.

pre booking only, includes clay and kiln firing

Milborne Movies – July Film Night

Join us on Thursday 18th July for a fantastic evening of film and fun at Milborne Movies!

This Month's Feature: Mr Burton

A heartwarming tale that's sure to entertain!

Tickets are just £6.50, including a drink or ice cream! Doors and bar open at 7pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm.

Come along for a relaxed night out with friends, great cinema, and a treat on us.

See you there!

In partnership with Artsreach, Milborne St Andrew Village Hall presents:

Taff Rapids - Blŵgras From Wales
Wed 23 July, 7:30pm. Tickets: £12.50, £6 u18s, £35 famo

Cardiff's bluegrass sensation, Taff Rapids, is taking the international stage by storm. Comprised of seasoned musicians Darren Eedens, Siôn Russell Jones, David Grubb, and Clem Saynor, Taff Rapids brings a fresh perspective to the bluegrass genre, infusing traditional American classics and captivating originals with Welsh-language elements for a unique global appeal.

Their engaging live performances, rich harmonies, and instrumental mastery continue to attract audiences across the UK, Europe and Canada, whilst regular airtime on BBC Radio has solidified their reputation as an exciting new force in bluegrass. 2025 promises to be a landmark year with the highly anticipated release of their debut album, Blŵgras, and an extensive live schedule, including a return tour to Canada alongside tours and festival appearances across the UK and Europe.

With electrifying performances, rich harmonies, and unmatched instrumental prowess, Taff Rapids is set to become a powerhouse in bluegrass and beyond - don't miss them playing live in Dorset, touring in partnership with Artsreach, the county's rural arts charity!

For tickets, visit www.artsreach.co.uk or call 07798 720812.



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Dewlish Church Notes

WE HAVE just held our church's AGM, along with members of Milborne Church, where all current Dewlish members were re-elected. Sarah thanked all helpers – Aidan for playing the organ, flower arrangers and cleaners, grass cutter and the church members who work tirelessly to keep our church going.

It is an uphill struggle with such a small congregation and ever-increasing expenses. The treasurer reported that there was likely to be a large deficit in the finance this year due to stagnant income and big increases in Parish Share and Insurance.

Nine people attended our Ascension Day service, and it was good to welcome members from other churches in the benefice. Although the weather was slightly damp, we were able to get shelter from our yew trees! Thank you, Sarah, for taking the service and arranging the music.

Finally, a note for your diary: on Monday 25th August (Bank Holiday) we are raising funds for our church by holding a **Pop-up Market Stall** and refreshments at the Village Hall, 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Please do come and join us!

In addition, Sue is hosting the **Annual Farm Service** at Parsonage Farm on Sunday 31st August at 11.00am. Always a lovely service and venue!

Daphne Burg

Summer Serenade is the first concert to be given by Wessex Voices, Dorset's newest choir, on 5th July in Briantspuddle Village Hall. Lasting from 7.30-8.30pm the choir will sing some familiar and less familiar Spirituals and Folk Songs with piano solos by Neil Sissons.

The choir's director, David Greenwood, has been running choral workshops in Briantspuddle for three years and Wessex Voices is made up of singers who come to these workshops and other local singers looking for something a bit different.

The evening promises to be a celebration of beautiful music. Tickets, which cost £10, can be bought on the door or in advance by emailing David at casterbridge.music.uk@gmail.com





Milborne St Andrew First School

We nurture and celebrate every unique child



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Butterflies!

As part of our reception class's learning, Miss Ross bought some caterpillars for the Buttercups to care for and they did a brilliant job. Over a couple of weeks, they looked after them and watched in amazement as the caterpillars transformed into beautiful butterflies!

Every child in our school watched as they were released onto our school field. It was a really special moment. Well done Buttercups!





Bikeability

Last week our Year 4 children all had the opportunity to take part in Bikeability. The weather was dreadful, but this didn't stop our year 4's, who wiped off their saddles and peddled in the puddles!

Bikeability teaches our children road safety, and we are very pleased to announce that all of the children passed with flying colours.

Wessex Water Visit

This week, Tim from Wessex Water popped by to visit our children and teach them all about the process of cleaning water.

All classes were involved and spent the morning experimenting.

Buttercups and Bluebells had the challenge of turning muddy water clear whilst our

Honeysuckle Class had the delightful task of cleaning toilet water! All children had so much fun and we are looking forward to welcoming Tim back in the future.



Puddletown Pumpkins

Puddletown Village Hall, High Street, Puddletown, Dorchester, DT2 8RX

every Thursday 9:30am-11:30am during term time

come and join our friendly baby and toddler group!

play, activities, snacks and rhyme time for the littles, and for the bigs -

enjoy a cuppa and a chat!



Just £3 per family!

Join us on Facebook and Instagram

@puddletownpumpkins



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)

Services in the Benefice

6th July - Trinity 3

Psalm 66.1-8; Galatians 6.7-16; Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30am	Milborne Praise	Milborne
11.00am	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00am	BCP Morning Prayer	Dewlish

13th July - Trinity 4

Psalm 25.1-10; Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00am	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown
11.00am	Parish Communion	Dewlish
5.30pm	Sunday Reflections	Tolpuddle

20th July - Trinity 5

Psalm 15; Colossians 1.15-28; Luke 10.38-42

9.30am	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00am	Martyrs Festival Songs of Praise	Tolpuddle
11.00am	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00am	Family Service	Dewlish

27th July - Trinity 6

Psalm 138; Colossians 2.6-15; Luke 11.1-13

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
10.00am	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00am	BCP Matins	Puddletown
11.00am	Parish Communion	Dewlish

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Join us for a fabulous tour visiting Claude Monet's house and gardens as well as the Palace of Versailles. Today Claude Monet's house and gardens, made famous by his painting of the water lilies, have been restored to Monet's original design. His gardens stretching from the house down to the river, provided the inspiration for many of his famous paintings. You will also get time to explore Rouen on your own, Palace of Versailles spreads over 800 hectares and you will get the whole day to explore here. The Palace, whose origins date back to the seventeenth century, was successively a hunting lodge, a seat of power and from the nineteenth century, a museum. We will be staying in 4-star Mercure Paris Velizy hotel on the outskirts of Paris allowing you easy access into central Paris.

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