

Parish Magazine

Serving the Church Communities of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne St Andrew
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DECEMBER 2020

80p





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This month's cover photo: The Advent wreath in Puddletown Church. Photo by Emma Hughes.

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Christmas – but not as we know it

What a year it's been! This time last year, I don't think any of us could have predicted that 2020 would turn out to be the one of lockdown, uncertainty, fear, isolation and separation from those we love.

As I write a week into November, I have no idea what Christmas this year will be like. Our churches are planning for socially distanced carol and crib services (please see elsewhere in the magazine for details of these), but we don't know yet whether we will be able

to hold them.

At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. In the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, he is referred to (using words found in the book of the prophet Isaiah) as "Emmanuel". The meaning of this title is "God with us." And the heart of the Christian story of Christmas is just that – God is with us.

God is with us whatever may befall. God is with us through good times and bad times, through times of security and times of uncertainty, through times of joy and of sadness. It may not always feel like it to us but that doesn't mean it's not the case. We know the sun exists even when it is hidden by clouds.

Mary and Joseph knew what it was to have an unknown future and to live in a time of uncertainty. The political situation in first century Palestine was one of tension. People were divided. Power was held in the hands of a few. Resources were tight for many. Even religion seemed to have become exclusive rather than for everyone. Sounds familiar?

How different God's way was from that of human beings! Emmanuel – God with us – didn't come just for the powerful and certain, the rich and the religious, but for everyone. And God doesn't run out on us when things get tough but carries us in loving arms and stays with us in every circumstance. We just have to grab that outstretched hand.

God offers hope, but also comfort for the tough times. The Christ-child smiles when we do, but also weeps when we weep.

A poem by Wendy Cope reflects on this eloquently:

A Christmas Song

*Why is the baby crying
On this, his special day,
When we have brought him lovely gifts
And laid them on the hay?*

Continued on Page 7

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He's crying for the people
Who greet this day with dread
Because somebody dear to them
Is far away or dead,

For all the men and women
Whose love affairs went wrong,
Who try their best at merriment
When Christmas comes along,

For separated parents
Whose turn it is to grieve
While children hang their stockings up
Elsewhere on Christmas Eve,

For everyone whose burden
Carried through the year,
Is heavier at Christmastime,
The season of good cheer.

That's why the baby's crying
There in the cattle stall:
He's crying for those people.
He's crying for them all.

There have been some fantastic and wonderful things this year – a new appreciation of nature, vast outpourings of care, volunteers in their thousands, creativity in homes and businesses, new relationships forged, the dedication of those who work in the NHS, care homes, hospices and so on. When we have eyes to see these joys, we realise that hope is still possible even in the darkest times.

None of us know what the future holds. I hope and pray that we will all experience some joy, while never forgetting that Emmanuel is with us for all the ups and the downs of life.

A peaceful and blessed Advent and a happy Christmas to you all

With best wishes
Sarah

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PUDDLETOWN ADVENT WINDOWS

On each day of December from 1st to 24th, a window or windows will be revealed in the village marking our journey through Advent. Launch time each day is 4 p.m.

Why not use your daily walk to spot them? Or catch up each weekend when you've more time? A map will be available from Sarah (sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com; 01305 848784)

We are enormously thankful to everyone who is joining in with this and using their creativity to brighten up our village and remind us of that first Christmas.

The maps will be issued freely, but if you enjoy the trail, why not think about giving a donation to the church, so we can carry on serving our community for many more Christmasses?



St Mary's Puddletown—December 2020		
Intercessors		Scripture Readers
6th	Cynthia Metcalfe	Pat Sparks
13th	Puddletown Praise Team	
20th	Carol Service	TBA
24th	Crib Service	
24th	Bob Todd	Paul Fleetwood
25th	Dawn Loveless	Judy Bumby
27th	Jean Jeffreys	Margaret Rickard
PCC Charity Donations		
<i>Please give prayerfully and generously</i>		
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

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PUDDLETOWN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In line with Government regulations, Puddletown Community Library has been closed from Thursday 5 November. It should reopen on Wednesday 2 December.

In the meantime, the Order and Collect service has been continuing. Books may be ordered by phoning 01305 228400 or online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries. The orders can be collected from Puddletown Community Library, by appointment only, on Saturdays between 10am and 12pm.

If lockdown finishes on 2 December, Puddletown Community Library will open as usual on Saturday 5 December between 10am and 12pm.



The last day the library will be open before Christmas is **Saturday 19 December**.
It will reopen on **Saturday 9 January**.

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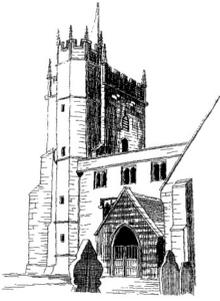
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St. Mary's Church Events

December

How wonderful to have something to report on for our Parish Magazine. Of course by the time this is distributed the situation may well have changed yet again but we can live in hope!

Wreath Festival. This is planned to take place on 5th December from 11.00am to 5.00pm. The church will be decorated with wreaths of all sorts, shapes and sizes and all are invited to come and enjoy them. The wreaths will be left in place for 10 days for further viewing. Sadly we shall be unable to offer you any refreshments but we do hope to have some stalls in the churchyard to assist you with your Christmas shopping. There will be no toilet facilities available.

Hands, face and space restrictions will, of course, apply.

Children's Society

Due to lockdown the boxes were unable to be collected in November. I am hoping that early December will be a possibility. Please can box holders with an email address get in touch with me to arrange a suitable collection arrangement. My email address is: dloveless6013@yahoo.com Tel 01305849534 or 07980828776.

Kind regards

Dawn Loveless

(Children's Society Co-Ordinator)

Wanted!

Stories and anecdotes about church porches

We are compiling a small booklet and would like to include people's memories and tales of things that happened in church porches, however weird and wonderful!

Thank you in advance.

Please email or call Gini Astley: 01300 320695 or vaastley@gmail.com

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Regular readers will know that we run advertisements for local businesses which we hope helps them and our readership, and those advertisements in return, help to fund this magazine and keep it in existence.

With only one exception, all of the roles which work together to create this magazine each month are taken on by volunteers who live in the villages it serves, and that includes the person who takes care of the advertising within.

If you have an interest in people and effective communicating skills, alongside being able to offer a little of your time, please get in touch. Our small, enthusiastic group works hard to bring this publication to around 350 purchasers every month - and we will happily tell you what that commitment involves and answer any query you may have.

We may not be able to pay you, but volunteering has its own rewards!

*Contact Clare Campbell of the Parish Magazine Working Group on
01305 849295*

Why the world was ready for Christmas

Ever wonder why Jesus was born when He was? The Bible tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son...” The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the ‘time had fully come’ for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire’s sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into ‘enemy territory’ or needing a ‘passport’.

For the first time ever, it was possible for ‘common’ people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages - Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv) and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So, the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years. After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19th century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of Him to be able to travel, had indeed ‘fully come’.

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Stay better connected during lockdown with Dorset's Digital Hotline

A team of dedicated volunteers is on hand to help hundreds of Dorset residents stay connected during lockdown.

Dorset Council's Digital Champions, who used to hold regular surgeries in libraries, have continued offering their expertise throughout the Coronavirus crisis via the Digital Hotline.

Now with another lockdown underway and winter just around the corner, the Digital Champions are again urging people to contact them if they need help getting online.

From setting up Zoom meetings to FaceTiming friends and family on their smartphones, the Champions are there to assist with any digital enquiry.

Dorset Council's deputy leader, Cllr Peter Wharf, said: "One of the most important things that helped get us through the last lockdown was the ability to digitally stay in touch with our loved ones.

"Our digital world also enabled people to work from home, helped businesses stay alive and allowed children to keep up with their education.

"Technology can make a huge difference to people's lives and help them feel less isolated.

"We would urge anyone who needs help with any aspect of digital technology to call our hotline and benefit from the expertise of our wonderful Digital Champions."

Since the Digital Hotline was launched in March, more than 450 people have called in for assistance.

Enquiries have ranged from ordering groceries online to setting up virtual Tai Chi sessions and accessing NHS website services to solving more technical problems with a laptop.

Digital Champion, Andy Penney, said: "We would urge people to call us with whatever digital issue they may have, however big or small the problem may seem.

"A lockdown during the winter is likely to be a particularly difficult period for many people but technology can really help by keeping everyone better connected while making life easier."

Fellow Champion, Mike Watson, added: "Our aim is to help people get over any hurdle that might be preventing them from enjoying and making the most of digital technology.

"Wherever you are in Dorset we are here, ready and waiting to help with any technical enquiry you may have."

Anyone can call the Dorset Digital Hotline with a digital question on 01305 221048 weekdays from 10am to 12noon.

When calling outside those times people can leave a message and a Digital Champion will get back to them.

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24th December: Christmas Eve

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

Puddletown Weather

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

October 2020		
	Rainfall for the month	167.10 mm
	Cumulative for the year	777.30 mm
	2019 Rainfall for the month	202.80 mm
	2019 Cumulative for the year	828.30 mm
	Temperatures	Max. 19.90° C Min. 3.70° C
	2019	Max 19.90° C Min 1.40° C
	Maximum wind speed	20.60 mph
	2019	15.90 mph

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MEMORIAL MASONRY

A Month on the Farm – November

All the cattle are now off the Water meadows with some in their winter quarters in the barn bedded down on straw, while others are out in the fields on turnips. The heavy rain showers recently had made moving fencing daily a slow and muddy affair, but the cattle with their winter coats seem contented with the new daily bite supplemented by straw.

Those in the barns are given fresh straw bedding every other day, and fed a mix with our own home grown rolled barley, rape meal (what is left after the oil has been extracted), minerals and vitamins, silage and hay, depending on their size as recently weaned calves have a different ration. Calves which are bought in regularly over the last few months are doing well, considering the wet, wind and ice we have had. These are fed milk and a calf nuts for their first six weeks here before being wean and moved into large sheds in groups.



The arable crops are growing well and over recent weeks all fields are walked to check on possible slug damage, and on the new grass leys any possible problem with leatherjackets (daddy long legs larvae) also our agronomist checks the growth and health of each field recommending any spraying which might need doing to control any pest or weeds. The oil seed rape seems to be doing well, having sown it much later than usual, but only time will tell if the flea beetle managed to find its way into the growing crop to do its damage as it did so drastically this time last year.

Out in three arable fields in Cheselbourne which over the winter are growing turnips, but have no fencing, new wooden posts have been put in all round the fields with plastic insulators screwed into them for the electric fence to be secured around the field boundaries.

The rams have now been in with the ewes for their allotted time and are now back in their fields lazing around until next year! The ewes having been grazing the downland pulling out the old grass so that the flowers can flourish next summer.

And as another Lockdown causes headache and heartache for a vast swathes of the population, here on the farm as in the spring we continue farming, feeding cattle and sheep and attending to the many jobs that need doing on a daily basis!!

Wakely Cox

5th November 2020



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BENNETT BULLETIN FROM TORONTO

I suppose it goes without saying that 2020 is a year none of us will forget – even if we might wish to. It will go down in the history books as the Year of the COVID pandemic. Who would have thought last March that eight months on we would all be wearing masks in public, and likely to go on doing so for sometime to come.

Here in Toronto we have all got used to social distancing, although there will always be people who think the regulations don't apply to them, and that it is acceptable to drop your mask in the road when you take it off.

My family in Toronto and in The Turks & Caicos Islands have all remained well. The schools have re-opened but the situation seems to change from day to day as the numbers have begun to climb again. Working from home has become the norm, and for some of my neighbours that is likely to go on for some time.

Very early on in the lockdown (in April) my immediate neighbours (about 6 households) began to gather outside at 7pm to bang pots and generally 'make music' to thank the frontline workers. Several young children, all under school age, looked forward to this every day, and there were tears if, for some reason, they were not able to join us. One of the positive things about the Pandemic is that we have all got to know our neighbours really well and we are all very supportive of each other.

The church has been closed for months but we are blessed with members who are trained in film making and media and every week we have been able to see a short recorded service, followed by a virtual coffee hour on Zoom. On October 4th we held our first in-person service (total of 17 people in church, all masked). This was something of an experiment and we have to decide how often to do this. Despite all the problems, we were thrilled to be able to see everyone in person. Sadly, no singing, but our soloist and organist did us proud.

Of course, 2020 is also the year of the US Presidential election. I am writing this Bulletin on 4th November and we still don't know who will be the next President. I won't speculate or comment at this stage, but it will be interesting to see what changes happen in the next few weeks and months south of the border.

As Christmas approaches I wish you all the blessings of the season, and pray that 2021 will be a better year for everyone.

Diana Bennett



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QUICK AND EASY RECIPES FROM AROUND THE BENEFICE

Mincemeat & Pecan Palmiers

These are lighter than the traditional mince pie and simple to make!

Ingredients:

200g mincemeat
Handful of pecan nuts
1 tsp ground cinnamon
3 tbs maple syrup
Plain flour for dusting
250g ready rolled puff pastry
Icing sugar to serve



Method:

Mix the mincemeat, nuts, cinnamon and maple syrup together.

Lightly flour surface and roll out pastry to measure 40 x 30cm

Position the pastry with one of the long edges facing you. Spread two-thirds of the mincemeat mix over the pastry. Then fold the two shorter edges over to meet in the middle. Spread the remaining mincemeat over the folded pastry and bring the outside edges over again to join in the centre.

Turn the roll over, put onto a non-stick baking sheet, gently squeeze it to make an even-shaped log with tight folds. Chill in the freezer for 10-30 minutes. Heat oven to 220C/200C Fan/gas 7

Remove from freezer. Cut into 1cm slices (approx 20 slices) and arrange on baking sheet, spaced well apart.

Cook for 15 minutes until well risen and golden brown.

Cool on a wire rack and serve dusted with icing sugar. Enjoy!

To make ahead: Wrap the filled pastry in cling film and freeze for up to 1 month. Slice while frozen and bake at the same temperature for an extra 5-10 minutes

The Puddletown Wreath Festival



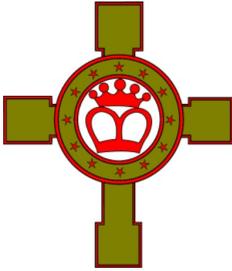
Saturday 5th December

11am - 5pm

St Mary's Church

Wreaths will be on display until 15th December

There will be COVID compliant one-way system in church on the Saturday.



St Mary's Middle School

I want to start by thanking all of the school community (whether that is staff, parents, carers, pupils, governors or volunteers) for adapting so well to the current situation and for allowing St Mary's to get back to the energetic and productive school it should be.

What amazing fun was had by Year 5 in October when they came into

school dressed in all sorts of wonderful rainforest themed outfits. This was one of the most creative years so far in its range of costumes; we were awed by environmental protesters, indigenous people, stick insects, poisonous frogs and many more. 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 investigated the leap of a frog. This



was rounded off by gathering together and sharing in some of our impressive work and also by considering the future of the rainforest through a David Attenborough film. We felt it was important to underline our incredible day with some real messages about the pressures on the environment caused by rainforest destruction.



Year 6 had a fabulous launch to our exciting, new Russia reading unit. Pupils looked wonderful dressed in traditional Russian attire or as animal characters

from a classic tale – we even had a Russian cosmonaut! The drama workshop, where pupils acted out the story of Peter & the Wolf, was a big hit, and pupils loved creating their own versions of St Basil's Cathedral and Russian dolls.

I was extremely grateful for the overwhelming response to our Harvest Festival appeal. As a school community, we always rise to a challenge and we have had more food donated this year than ever before, despite not having an actual assembly to celebrate the event. I know just how much this will mean to the local food bank services at a time when they are more stretched than ever.

Finally, this just leaves me to say that I hope you all have a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Keep safe.

Darren Ayling
Head Teacher





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	Sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com	
RETIRED CLERGY	Rosie Coldwell	01258 839 214
	The Revd Sue Turner	07775 710 429
CHURCHWARDENS	Vacancy (Puddletown)	
	Vacancy (Puddletown)	
	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	Peter Churchill	01305 849292
	Email:peter.churchill.gooner@gmail.com	07407 235798
Area Parish Clerk	Mrs A Bendall	01305 849 596
	puddletown@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
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		
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	Wednesday: 3.00pm to 5.00pm	
	Friday: 3.00pm to 5.00pm	
	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	Phil Drake	01305 848560
Friends of Puddletown Church	Ursula Pomeroy	01305 264 516
Friends of Puddletown Library	Mary Berry	01305 848 557

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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	07921 334258
Organist		
PCC Secretary	Emma Hughes	01305 849039
PCC Treasurer	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
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 puddletownrfc@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
Orchard Meadow	Anna Bendall—Clerk to PAPC	01305 849596
PCC Secretary	Heather Saunders	
PCC Treasurer	John Taylor	01305 848 552
Streetfair	Annette Pitman	01305 848 219
Tolpuddle Home Group	Simon Dodd	01305 848 171
Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust	tolpud- dleostrust@btinternet.com	tolpuddleostrust@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.	Diana Foreman	01305 848 419
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	
Electricity Failure (Southern Electric)	08457 708 090	
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	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	Pam Shults (Chair)	01258 837 203
	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 2020

Here we are- back in lockdown- but there is a different feel about it this time- is it resignation, compliance, pessimism or optimism? Some of us at St John's are feeling optimistic- we did manage to hold services

which were totally Covid secure, we have taken extra precautions to protect our congregation and we even managed to have the band and choir leading our Go fourth Service. And most important this time round we are permitted to open the church daily for private prayer - why this was forbidden in the last lockdown was hotly debated.

As I write this I can see the children outside waiting for the school bus- thank goodness the schools are still open and our youngsters can resume some sense of normality. We are very grateful to Jo Austwick, a member of our Events Committee, who organized the Saints Competition as an antidote to Halloween-. This is her report:-

St John's Tolpuddle Saint Competition

During half term a competition was held to locate the saint in windows across Tolpuddle -each saint had a letter which spelt out a place. The weather was against us on both weeks but a number of young people entered. The winning place was 'Orchard Meadow'.

The Rev'd Sarah Hillman kindly pulled the winners out of a box on Sunday 1st November after the service, the winners were as follows:

1st prize £5 – Reuben Wood, 2nd prize £3 – Niamh Roff, 3rd prize £2 – Amelia

Belt.

Thank you to all who entered, Reuben, Niamh, Amelia, Harry, Izzy, Thomas, James, Polly, Rosie, Mia, Alfie, Joel & Samson.

We are preparing for Christmas in the hopes that services will be resumed, please take note of the following dates and please contact Julie on 848027 to reserve a seat as we will be very limited for numbers, which is why we are duplicating some of the services. Do remember to wear your mask. At the time of writing this we believe we are not actually to sing but who knows

Carol Services- Sunday December 13th – 3.30pm and 5 pm with band and small choir,

Crib Services- Wednesday December 23rd – 3pm and 4.30pm.



Continued on Page 35

Tolpuddle's Charity

Christmas Lights Competition & Christmas Market

- 1) Submit your entry - £5 per house**
- 2) Decorate the outside of your house with all things Christmas**
- 3) Display the number given to you on entry**
- 4) Join us for a village switch on 11th December - time tbc (one way system will be in place to walk around on 11th to view the lights)**
- 5) All the displays will be judged by Tolpuddle's children by submitting your favourite number to our central box held at 26 Main Road.**

For more information contact Abi - 07896551877

All proceeds go to

**St John's Church
Tolpuddle
and
DCH Maternity's Bereavement Suite
Revamp Fund**

Christmas Communion- Friday December 25th at 9.30am- (no need to reserve a seat for this)

Meanwhile the Events Committee are not wasting their time through lockdown- we are busy making “St John’s Stars” which will be delivered to every house in the village to remind everyone that the church and community of Tolpuddle is still very much alive , despite the pandemic and the fact that the pub is closed.

We are also preparing goods for our Christmas Market which we hope to hold on December 11th to coincide with the ‘Lighting up’. Do come and support us outside the church. Look out for posters and fliers for more information.

There will also be a Raffle with two magnificent hampers- one for the children and one for an adult. If you wish to give a contribution for either of these please contact Hilly (848552) or Marion (849353). Money raised from these events will be divided between the church and Dorset County Hospital- Maternity Unit- in particular the Forget-me-Not suite.

Finally a huge thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to protect our community through these difficult times- those volunteers who have helped with deliveries and done little things for their neighbours. We all have faith that this dreadful period will come to an end, perhaps leaving us all a little stronger and wiser and more appreciative of each other.

Happy Christmas to one and All

Hilly and Jayne

Lighting up Tolpuddle!

The idea of not having a village Christmas was not an option for us, so much had been cancelled for COVID-19. We came up with the Tolpuddle Christmas Lights Competition, everyone in the village can be included and give out some Christmas cheer in the form of lights!

The journey begins from St John's churchyard in Tolpuddle on 11th December where Harry King will light up the church porch at 4.30pm which signals the beginning of the competition, hopefully everyone will have their lights on too!

Everyone will follow the one way route around the village to see the lights (socially distancing please!) and the children of Tolpuddle will 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 our route planned. It costs £5 to enter and you register with your name and address by calling Abi (number on the poster) or Fiona 07833176334. The voting box will be held at 26 Main Road, Tolpuddle.

The church will have their Christmas stall open at the same time with lovely things for you to buy and refreshments too (donations for this will be gratefully received by Hilly, Marion or Fiona.)

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.

Abi and Fiona.



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TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Registered Charity No. 257403



Once again, because of the pandemic, we have been forced to close the Village Hall - from 5 November until, hopefully, 3 December. The rules do not allow social gatherings indoors or fitness etc classes.

We will continue to monitor developments and reopen just as soon as we are allowed to do so and are confident about the safety of users.

Peter Walton

Chairman, Village Hall Committee

TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE SURVEY

A very big thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete and return the Community Survey. At the time of writing, with a few days left 'til the 8 November deadline, over a quarter of all households have done so and that is a very good return rate for a local survey. It should enable us to get a pretty good feel for local opinion.

The next step - allowing a bit of time for any later returns - will be to record and analyse the feedback and prepare a report. The aim remains to do that by early 2021 and to feed back the results to the Community and the Parish Council. It is, of course, unclear when we can have another Village Meeting, but we will look for other ways to make the Survey available.

Meanwhile, many thanks for your support.

Peter Walton

Parish Councillor

ALEX FROST & JOHN BUTLER



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THE VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB IS BACK

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It's drawn on the 1st of every month with prizes of:

1st £15

2nd £10

3rd £5

Each ticket is £10 for the year

If you would like to buy one please email tolpuddlevhinfo@gmail.com or call 07866 678358 and we'll send you the details. In aid of the Village Hall Development Fund.

Winners: 100 Club 2019-2020

In aid of the Tolpuddle Village Hall Development Fund

Monthly draws usually take place between 11.00 and 12.00 on the last Tuesday of the month but the draws for the last 8 months were pulled out of the hat on 1st November and are shown below:

2020	1st (£15)	2nd (£10)	3rd (£5)
April	No 69 Margaret Walton	No 92 Chris Lewis	No 79 Dawn Smallwood
May	No 14 DCH Chemo Unit Appeal	No 78 Eileen Overhead	No 50 Jo McCarthy
June	No 83 Steph King	No 4 Marion Bishop	No 20 Karen Mason
July	No 62 Lydia Hayles	No 19 Nigel Pitman	No 32 Joan Trevitt
August	No 14 DCH Chemo unit appeal	No 50 Jo McCarthy	No 47 Ann Bacon
September	No 18 Gemma Childs	No 1 Margaret Walton	No 32 Joan Trevitt
October	No86 - Abi King	No 41 Ian & Suzanne Cray	No 94 Avril Harcourt
November	No 63 - Sue Stoodley	No 25 Jo Austwick	No 31 Paul Cooper



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Update on the Tolpuddle Village meeting

In addition to the Parish Council meetings we usually hold two village meetings per year in Tolpuddle. These are an excellent chance for villagers to raise any issues or make proposals in an informal way and are usually very well attended.

The Tolpuddle Village AGM, which was scheduled for May 2020, was postponed due to the Covid -19 virus and with current restrictions no new date has been set.

The monthly Parish Council meetings continue via Zoom rather than in the usual public format. If you wish to raise any issues please contact Tolpuddle Councillors Peter Walton and Nicky Ling or the Parish Council Clerk via email on puddletown@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Julia Johnstone (Village meeting clerk)

tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com

Milborne St Andrews Church News

In October we had successful services, although numbers of the congregation were a little lighter than pre Covid 19, they were still good. Which shows that our services are providing a welcome opportunity for those who wish to worship together. Our new services, Worship in Stillness, have been very well received and several regulars say how much they like it.

Our Events Committee provided a very welcome Curry@home service to 37 people in the village; the event raised £320 thanks to the members who made the curries, rice, apple cake and to those who served and made the home deliveries. They also continue to make and sell masks for church funds, which currently has raised just over £1300. Such a resourceful busy team many thanks to them all.

Our thoughts are now optimistically turning to the Christmas Season and how we can manage to accommodate as many as wish to come given the socially distancing requirements. As the other benefice churches, we will be organising systems which will allow people to apply to book 'tickets' for services which they want to attend. St Andrew's scheduled services are the Carol Service at 6pm on the 19th December, Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 10pm and the Christmas Celebration at 10.30 on Christmas day. I will be the contact for St Andrew's so should you wish to come and to book a 'ticket' please get in touch either by landline phone 01258 837203 or by mobile 07913266230 or email pamshults@btinternet.com .

Pam Shults
Churchwarden



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MILBORNE ST. ANDREW

Public Health Dorset - can you help?

At Public Health Dorset (the local public health team at Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Councils), we're building a network of people to help develop and share important COVID-19 messages in our communities. One of our main responsibilities is to keep people informed about what they need to do to protect themselves and others from coronavirus. We would greatly appreciate it if you could support us in doing this, by [signing up to our COVID-19 Trusted Voices newsletter](#), letting us know what information and resources you need, and sharing the key points with your community.

Understanding the COVID-19 guidance isn't always easy and for some people it can be a real challenge. In our communities, we know that lots of factors like language, sensory or cognitive impairment and access to the internet can have an impact on this. That's why we want to develop a network of people who know their communities really well, and who we can work with to increase everyone's understanding of what we all need to do. A Trusted Voice could be a community leader, an advocate or supporter of a particular group, a leader in a workplace or voluntary setting, or a representative of a community – you are receiving this email because we think this could be you or someone you work with.

As well as keeping people informed about what they need to do now, the Trusted Voices project will also help us reach everyone in our communities as quickly as possible in the event of an outbreak or local measures being introduced. We'll provide the key points in our regular e-newsletter and we ask that you share these in whichever way works best for you and the groups you're involved with, it might be WhatsApp, email, Facebook or posters in public areas. We are committed to working with you to better understand the needs and concerns of your community and to develop the most effective communications resources and channels, so if you feel there are some resources that would be particularly useful for your community, please let us know.

Please [visit our website to find out how to sign up to the newsletter](#). You'll need to select COVID-19 Trusted Voices from the list. If you have any contacts who might also be interested in supporting this project, please forward this email on to them too.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us at publichealth-enquiries@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

We really appreciate your support and look forward to working with you.

The Public Health Dorset team

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Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

Autumn walk and Little Apple

The weather has been variable not just day to day but during the morning. One minute it's sunny then rainy. A good consequence of this is that the children are becoming adept at changing from shoes to wellies before they go out to play. Independence at dressing oneself is a life skill and although it is quicker and easier for a parent to dress their child it is important to support them to gain this independence. Once having mastered the footwear they can freely move their play from inside to out.

On Armistice day Ladybirds walked along the Causeway to see what poppies we could see. It was a pleasure to take a small group of well-behaved children out into the village. Little things are exciting and while looking at the stream opposite a small apple was spotted bobbing its way in the flow of water. This caused great excitement with some wondering where it was going and where it had come from. We carried on to the War Memorial where we studied the poppies although the excitement of "another stream" meant looking for the small apple. And yes, lo and behold there it was heading towards us. Disappearing under the bridge the children crossed to the other side and waited in great anticipation to be met with shouts of delight as that little apple appeared and bobbed its way out into the farm. It never fails to amuse us how the simplest of natural things entertain the children.

We stopped to talk to some village residents who were wearing poppies and we appreciated that they took time to converse with the children. Continuing our walk along Chapel Street we watched a skip lorry taking a loaded skip away; jumped in a pile of dry leaves; found a bruised apple and looked at the old beehive. Walking back to the Hall one of the children pointed out the old water pump and could tell us all he knew about it. Then another bridge over the stream and to some a disappointment that there was no small apple floating underneath.

Back in the Hall we investigated the bruised apple and made collage pictures of poppies. This week having talked about poppies being the symbol for remembering our brave soldiers we created poppies in many ways – printing with apples in circles to make wreaths, painting, collage and painting the ends of plastic bottles. Some children enjoyed playing soldiers with hats and walkie talkie while other spent ages sweeping up leaves, filling and emptying wheelbarrows.

Liz Dyer (Leader)

01258 839117 or 07771 512427

Kelly Hagggett (Secretary)

secretary@milborneladybirds.com



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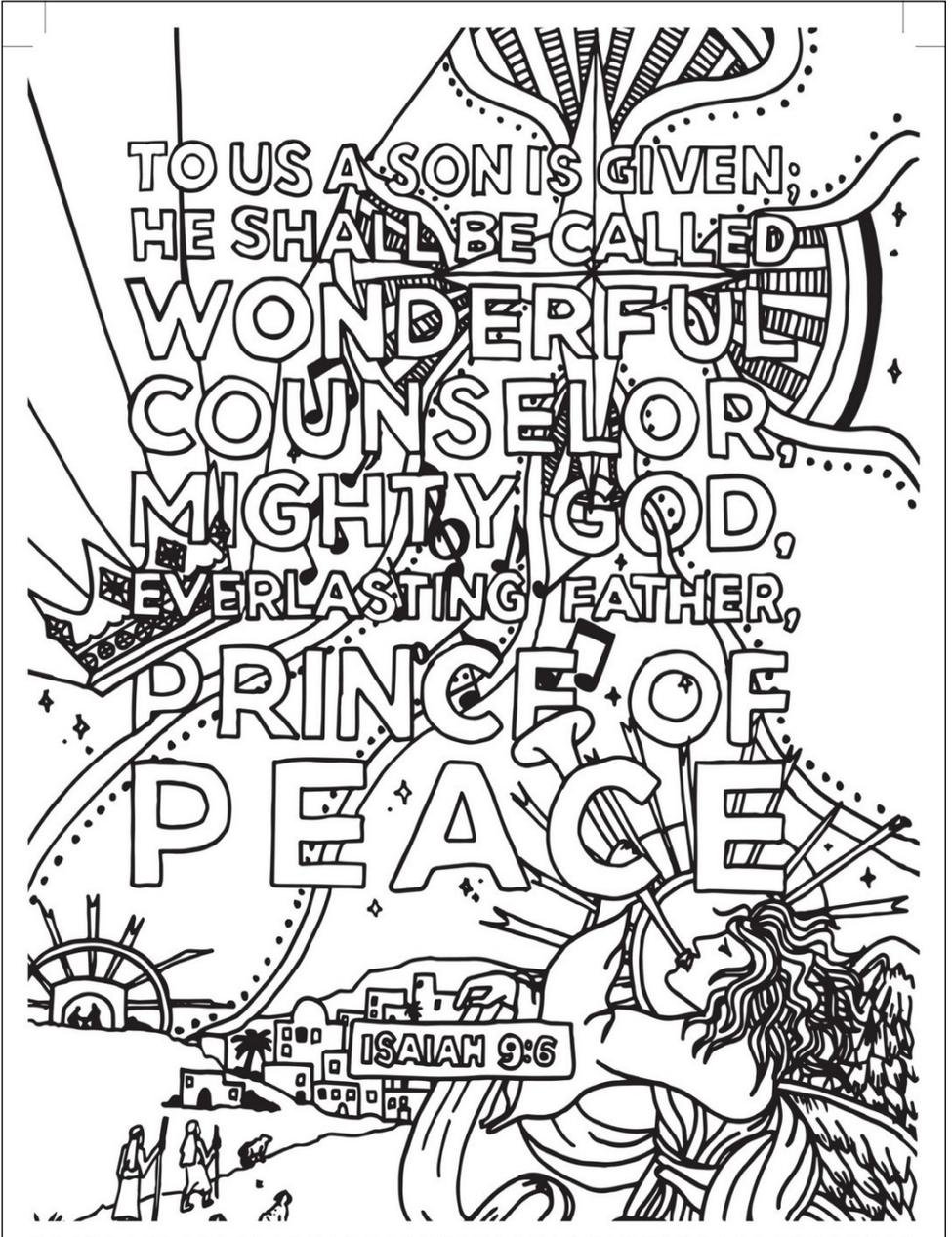
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Comfort and Joy – Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

By John Kiddie, CHP (80p single copy; pack of 10, £7; pack of 50, £30)

Churches all over the country will be marking Advent and Christmas in both new and familiar ways this year. 'Comfort and Joy', the Church of England's 2020 Christmas campaign, will help enrich your Christmas.

It features daily reflections for the Christmas season from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcot, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby.

Beginning on Christmas Day and ending on 2nd January, each day explores a Bible reading and a familiar carol, encouraging us to consider Christmas in these extraordinary times, and inviting us to hear again the message of the angels - good news of God's unfailing love for a world that is weary and hurting.

For more about 'Comfort and Joy', online services, and the free app featuring audio versions of all the featured carols, go to: www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy

Courtesy of Parish Pump

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club

Have you had enough of 2020? If you found that you enjoyed your garden this year and that it helped you through what was a difficult year, then why not keep actively gardening during 2021. Physical exercise, planning ahead, considering wildlife, providing fruit and vegetables, an opportunity to learn, making your environment a joy to look at gardening can give you all of these things and more. MSA Gardening Club sponsors and maintains the planters on the corner of Milton Road, in Milborne, trying to add a bit of colour to the village to brighten things up a bit. We are a group of like-minded people who enjoy gardening; we meet each month at the village hall to talk gardening (or anything else for that matter), listen to invited speakers, enjoy competitions, drink tea and eat biscuits ... what's not to like? Why not come along! Whether you're an experienced or novice gardener we'd love to see you. We're hoping to start meeting again in March (watch this space). If you decide you'd like to become a member it costs just £12 per year.

For more information call Mark on 01258 839060.

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IN TIMES GONE BY.

In the fourth article of our series we home in on...

DEWLISH'S ROMAN VILLA

A 10-year excavation during the 1970s of the Roman villa in the grounds of Dewlish House close to the junction of the Devilish Brook with the stream from Cheselbourne revealed a very luxurious bungalow-type home with over 50 rooms, the walls of which were of flint with hamstone quoins and other dressed stone in windows and doors.

The shallow-angled roof - at least one section was at 20 degrees - was partly of Purbeck stone tiles with hamstone ridges and partly of red clay tiles, the highest points having hamstone finials. External walls were all rendered (and probably lime-washed) while the internal walls sported elaborately painted frescos.

In 1999 these were laid out in a barn at Chebbard Farm, and an attempt was made to reconstruct the decoration. Most rooms, including the ceilings, had geometric designs, which included circles, squares, rectangles, diamonds and flower and leaf motifs, all in bright colours. Dados of maroon or grey ran round the bottoms of walls and were often splashed with paint to suggest marble.

Special rooms, such as the triclinium, had more elaborate designs, including figures (probably of gods) and a spectacular seascape. However, the long history of stone-robbing and subsequent ploughing made it nearly impossible to reconstruct the decorative patterns of whole rooms. Nevertheless, the collection of plaster fragments proved to be one of the most extensive from Roman Britain.

Much plaster retained the impression of the structure and of the walls and ceilings to which it had been attached. The walls were of flint with some stone and tiles, while the ceilings were of bundles of reeds tied to the ceiling joists, a method of construction still in use till at least the 19th century.

Floors of the final phase were of mosaic in almost every room. Skilled mosaicists - no doubt from Durnovaria (Dorchester) - laid plain mosaics in working rooms and complex designs in main public rooms. A mosaic procession of fantastic sea creatures led by Cupid on a dolphin was discovered in the baths.

One room featured a leopard attacking a gazelle, the quality of which was rarely surpassed anywhere in the Roman world. In July 2020 this "tour de force of the mosaicist's art" was threatened with export and efforts to get together £135,000 to prevent this were started, the Government having set a deadline of 16 October for the money to be raised. (See article which follows on page 53 for details)

The earliest villa was built about 250AD, probably by a wealthy member of the Durotriges, the Romano-British tribe which lived in Dorset. It consisted of a simple long-house type building with living quarters at one end and a farm building at the other end. This was rebuilt by a more wealthy owner towards the end of the 3rd century, the old long-house being extended and converted entirely into farm buildings. Continued on Page 53

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The large aisled barn was now over 35m long and the living accommodation was a new building at right-angles to the barn and measured 75m long and had 30 rooms.

When the property changed hands again soon after 350AD the new owners (with even greater resources at their disposal) demolished the farm buildings and replaced them with a small square temple and a suite of offices. The living quarters were totally rebuilt but with extended baths and a whole new kitchen suite. The dining room was given a grand semi-circular apse, its sliding front partition allowing access to a courtyard on warm summer evenings.

The villa may have remained a private house but it was much more likely to have become a rural religious complex dedicated to one of the ancient pagan gods, the owner conceivably taking advantage of resources made available by Emperor Julian the Apostate in 361AD for such a purpose. Worship flourished here for about 50 years but ploughing of the temple and offices destroyed the mosaics so it has never been possible to identify the “incumbent” deity.

Soon after 400AD, towards the end of Roman Britain, the villa was derelict again; the land was still being farmed and it may be that farm workers camped out on the fine mosaics and caused damage. Before long some parts of the building caught fire, roof timbers rotted and gradually the forces of nature reduced the once proud and palatial house to a heap of rubble. Throughout intervening centuries people in search of building materials dug in the site; eventually the mounds were so reduced that it was possible to plough over the top. Thus Dewlish’s villa lay quietly until its rude – but vitally important – awakening in 1969.

**** *Many thanks to the contributors to our source-book, “Dewlish 2000”***

Export bar on mosaic

A funding campaign has been launched to stop the export of the historically invaluable Dewlish mosaic. Imposing a temporary bar on it going abroad, Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage said the mosaic was an “incredibly rare” piece of history telling us about the lives of our Roman ancestors.

There are few mosaics from the Durnovarian school and the Dewlish treasure shows exceptional workmanship, the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest advised the Minister.

One committee member, Leslie Webster, has been quoted as saying, “For us to lose the mosaic from Britain would be a great misfortune. The spirited depiction of a leopard bringing down an antelope is a brilliantly accomplished image of nature red in tooth and claw; the soaring leap of the deer, and the precise delineation of the leopard’s muscular power and ferocious grace, is a *tour de force* of the mosaicist’s art.”

The decision on the export licence application has been deferred until 16th January 2021. Now the search is on for a buyer to match the £135,000 asking price. A GoFundMe crowd-funding campaign has been set up so any interested organisations or individuals can contribute. Further information is available from Dorset County Museum (Tel: 01305 262735).



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 information, advice and resources.

December's Word Search

Silent Night

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time. 25 words to find in the grid below.





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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

All Christmas service plans are provisional because of the uncertainty regarding what restrictions will be in place by the end of December.

We are planning for a number of socially-distanced services for Christmas in addition to our usual Sunday morning acts of worship.

We want to welcome you to join us.

In order to be safe, we are holding some of our most popular services twice, so that there is room for everyone. We will have to ask you to book in advance for these so we can keep numbers at each within the guidelines. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first served basis, but cannot guarantee a specific seat, as these will be dependent on the order in which people arrive at church on the day. Unless you are exempt, government rules require everyone to wear a mask inside the building at all times.

The services listed below are the ones where we require advance bookings. (All other Sunday and Christmas services will be open to those who turn up on the day.)

Puddletown

Sunday 20 th December	4.30 p.m.	Carol Service 1
	6.00 p.m.	Carol Service 2
Christmas Eve	3.30 p.m.	Crib Service 1
	5.00 p.m.	Crib Service 2

Please book with Cynthia Metcalfe 01305 848043; cynmet@yahoo.com

Tolpuddle

Sunday 13 th December	3.30 p.m.	Carol Service 1
	5.00 p.m.	Carol Service 2
Wednesday 23 rd December	3.00 p.m.	Crib Service 1
	4.30 p.m.	Crib Service 2

Please book with Julie Bonner 01305 848027

Milborne St Andrew

Saturday 19 th December	6.00 pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	10.00 pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Christmas Celebration

Please book with Pam Shults on 01258 837203

Dewlish

Sunday 20 th December	11.00 a.m.	Carol Service 1
	3.00 p.m.	Carol Service 2

Please book with Jim Burg 01258 837466

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.

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Services in the Benefice— December 2020

6th December—Advent 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30am	Celebrate.....	Milborne St Andrew
11.00am	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00am	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish

13th December—Advent 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne St Andrew
11.00am	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown
11.00am	Parish Communion	Dewlish
3.30pm	United Carol Service 1	Tolpuddle
5.00pm	United Carol Service 2	Tolpuddle

Saturday 19th December

6.00pm	Carol Service	Milborne St Andrew
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20th December—Advent 4

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30am	Worship in Stillness	Milborne St Andrew
11.00am	Carol Service 1	Dewlish
3.00pm	Carol Service 2	Dewlish
4.30pm	Carol Service 1	Puddletown
6.00pm	Carol Service 2	Puddletown

Wednesday 23rd December

3.00pm	Crib Service	Tolpuddle
4.30pm	Crib Service	Tolpuddle

Thursday 24th December—Christmas Eve

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

Friday 25th December—Christmas Day

9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion	Dewlish
9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion	Tolpuddle
10.30am	Christmas Celebration	Milborne St Andrew
11.00am	Christmas Praise	Puddletown

27th December—Christmas 1

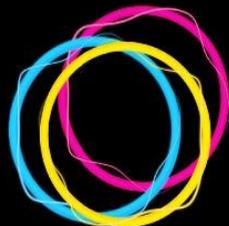
11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown
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PRAYERS (Mon. – Thurs. 8.15 a.m.; Sat 9.00 a.m.)

Monday	Puddletown	Tuesday	Milborne St Andrew
Wednesday	Dewlish	Thursday	Tolpuddle
Saturday	Puddletown		

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