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Front Cover Photos: Spring Daffodils

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Finding God's Presence in Lent

As we enter the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on 5th March, we are reminded that the month of March is a time of reflection, renewal, and growth. The days gradually lengthen, the earth begins to awaken, and we too are invited to look inward and ask how we can deepen our relationship with God and with one another.

Lent is a season of preparation, a season when we can set aside distractions to listen more closely to God's voice in our lives. We might do that in all sorts of ways, and our churches are offering opportunities to come together with others to do just that. There are booklets in church with all the details in – as well as our usual Sunday services, we're offering short, midweek services; Lent lunches; and two courses: a daytime one in Milborne St Andrew based on the book *Wild Bright Hope* and an evening one in Puddletown centred on the classic film *Casablanca*. All these are open to everyone – you don't have to be a regular churchgoer to come and join us. We'd love to see you.

Groups and services can help us become more aware of God's presence, but Lent is a good time to stop and reflect on where God finds us in our daily activities and life.

Wild Bright Hope has some quotations from children about where they experience God, reminding us that there are no limits to God's presence. Here are some of them.

Italian 5-year-old: I see God when I look at the stars with my mummy. They are so pretty and make me feel like God is watching me.

Indian 7-year-old: I see God when I light a candle with my parents. The warm glow makes me feel God is close to me.

Kenyan 10-year-old: I experience God when I help my friends at school. Sharing with others makes me feel God's love inside me.

Japanese 11-year-old: I see God when I meditate in the garden, listening to the birds and the wind. It feels peaceful, like God is whispering to me through nature.

Nigerian 13-year-old: I see God when we gather as a family to pray every evening. Our prayers bring us closer to God and to each other.

Iranian 15-year-old: I feel God's presence when I'm dealing with confusion or making tough decisions. When I pray or talk to someone I trust about my worries, it reminds me that God is guiding me through the confusion.

German 16-year-old: I experience God when I play music. The melodies and harmonies make me feel connected to something bigger than myself.

Nature, music, prayer, family, friends – there are so many different ways to experience God. I wonder how many you will find this Lent.

With best wishes, Sarah

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St Mary's Puddletown		
Intercessors		Scripture Readers
2nd March	Jean Jeffreys	Paul Fleetwood
5th March	TBA on the night	
9th March	Puddletown Praise Team	
16th March	Cynthia Metcalfe	Judy Bumby
23rd March	Dawn Loveless	Pat Sparks & Geoff Hawkins
Charitable Giving 2025		
Lent		Dorchester Poverty Action
Mothering Sunday		Mosaic
Easter Day		The Salvation Army (Homeless)
Harvest		Water Aid
Christmas		The Children's Society

BENEFACTORS

Funeral

D. 10th Jan Joan Stephens

Puddletown

Open the Book – we need your help.

Open the Book is an exciting storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. Every three to four weeks, a small team goes into Milborne First School for an assembly on a Tuesday morning.

We would love more people to join our team as we have become very small in number. Do you like performing? Are you good at reading stories? How would you look dressed up as a biblical character? I know there are actors in the village, so why not offer your skills in this small way.

The children really enjoy the stories, and we enjoy acting them out. Training is available, and you will need to have a criminal-record check but we can organise that for you.

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Sarah Hillman
sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com or 01305 848784





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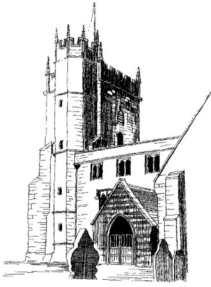
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St. Mary's Church Events - March

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.

We are currently rather short of people to help with serving coffee and cake on these occasions so if any of you lovely people out there would like to come and join our friendly team please get in touch with Judy on 07788142250.

Rosemary's cards will be available at coffee pop-in on Thursday March 3rd.

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

Warm Space has returned to the church room on Wednesdays, from 10.30 to 1.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along, you will find a warm welcome, a warm room (don't have to put the heating on at home!) tea, coffee, hot soup, jigsaws ,cards etc....

Craft Group will meet on Thursday March 6th @ 12.30 in the church room. A light lunch will be provided. Please contact Margaret to book your place on 01305 849332 or margaretmary227@gmail.com

The Village Lunch will be on Monday March 10th at 12noon. We shall be serving steak and ale pie 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.

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Lent Courses

Wild Bright Hope

£11.99 (book)

Mondays 10.30 a.m.

The Chapel, Chapel Street, Milborne St Andrew

From 10th March 2025

Twelve writers share their experiences of hope in a variety of life situations. The book encourages us to embrace a more hopeful perspective for the world and the challenges we face, and to consider how we ourselves can play a full part in bringing in the kingdom of God. Each week we will read two chapters in advance of the meeting and reflect on them together when we gather in person.

Week 1— Seeds of unity; reimagining day to day

Week 2—Kingdom, faiths and diplomacy; wild paths of peace

Week 3—Hope and the Church of England; a vision for hope in politics

Week 4—Widening horizons; a beautiful and messy awakening

Week 5— The radical grace of God; good news, new histories

Week 6—A journey through a supper table; hope in suffering

What to bring with you: course book (see sign-up sheet in church)

A Beautiful Friendship

A Lent Course based on the film *Casablanca*

£5.99 (book)

Tuesdays 7.30 p.m.

Church Room, Puddletown

From 11th March 2025

It's an oldie, but a goodie.

This course offers a fresh perspective on a classic film. Dealing with powerful themes of love, loss, faith and sacrifice, it will help us reflect on the Gospel message.

Week 1—Watching the film

Week 2—Waiting in the wilderness

Week 3—Lamenting and lost love

Week 4—Seeing God's bigger picture

Week 5— Standing up for our beliefs

Week 6—The power of self-sacrificial love

What to bring with you: Bible, course book (sign-up sheet in church), pen and paper



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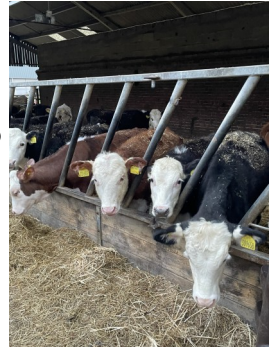
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Month on the Farm



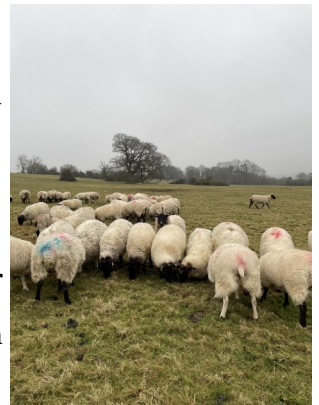
As the month of February speeds along the days are certainly getting longer but so far not much spring-like weather. In spite of the dull and damp days the cattle out grazing the turnips and cover crops are not treading or poaching the ground too much. The cold and small amount of snow before Christmas though did kill off the mustard crop and now there are no green leaves, just a hard dry stalk for the cattle to chew on and tread into the

ground. Their consumption of silage bales which are put into round bale feeders has increased, but the cattle seem very content wandering the field looking forward to their fresh block and new bales every morning. The older group of cattle on the mixture of turnips and oil radish have still got plenty to eat and are not so keen on the bales!



Some of the early Autumn born calves have now been introduced to some nice sweet smelling silage which was made last summer off the herbal ley fields. This is given to them gradually along with their ad lib barley mix and straw, as the change in diet can cause problems to the rumen if there is a sudden change.

The sheep are due to start lambing in early March and are still out on the permanent pasture. As they are getting closer to lambing they are being fed a protein nut and a molasses based 21% lick which is poured into 40 litre containers which have a wheel in them that the sheep lick round thus having some food as they turn it, a very sweet and sticky syrup which the sheep really go for and is meant to balance up any deficiency in energy requirements as the lambs grow inside their mothers. Any day now the ewes will be brought into the poly tunnel back here ready to settle in before lambing and will have their nuts increased in relation to the number of lambs they were scanned to be carrying and ad lib silage for the all important late pregnancy lamb growth stage and the making of lots of good quality colostrum and a plentiful milk supply when the lambs pop out.





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Most of the hedges that were due to be cut this year, they are cut on a rotational basis, have had their trim with just another half day to complete them all, a few places have had a more serious trim ready for some new fencing to go up. We had hoped to have done that by now but it has been too wet for the machinery to travel without making ruts in the fields so we are waiting for a few dry days!! Over the past month we have been planting up some gaps in hedges with a mixture of species and tomorrow a group of hedge specialists are coming to start assessing all the hedges on the farm as part of our environmental scheme requirements.

Wakely Cox

12th February 2025



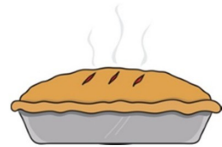
Puddletown Village Lunch



Monday 10th March

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Spring is in the air at St Mary's and our sports teams have certainly put a spring in our steps!



Our Year 7 Area Cup football team has put on a series of fantastic displays of possession-based football and clinical finishing. The team came away with a 7-0 victory and progressed to the next round of the Area Cup with a tough game against Wey Valley School.

Our Year 8 squad were involved in a much-anticipated match vs St Osmund's Middle School. The team had to be resolute and disciplined against a strong St Osmund's outfit. The boys took their chances on goal and restricted St Osmund's to very few chances. St Mary's came away with an impressive 3-2 victory and the team progresses to the next round where we will await our opponents with great excitement.



Our Year 8 students have enjoyed an incredible opportunity to deepen their understanding of World War II with a special visit to the Dorchester History Centre. This trip allowed students to explore historical archives, engage with expert historians, and analyse primary sources from the era. The visit was an eye-opening experience, providing students with a first-hand look at how the war affected local communities. Many were particularly fascinated by letters and photographs from Dorset residents during the war, helping to bring their history lessons to life. "It was amazing to see real documents from the time," said one student. "It made everything feel so much more real."

We have been opening our doors to prospective students and their families for a series of Open Mornings. These events give visitors the chance to explore our school, meet our dedicated staff, and learn more about the diverse opportunities we offer.

Parents and students were welcomed into classrooms, where they observed lessons in action. Many were particularly impressed by our inclusive learning



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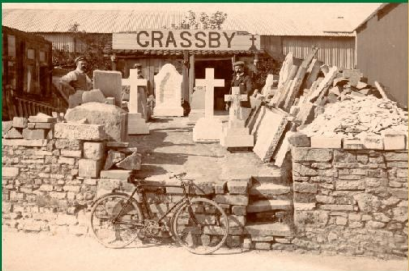
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environment and the strong sense of community within the school. The events continue to be a great success, and we look forward to welcoming more families to St Mary's for our next Open Morning on Thursday 13 March.

To round off a fantastic first half term of 2025, our students enjoyed a vibrant Valentine's Disco! With music, dancing and plenty of fun, the evening provided a great opportunity for students to relax with friends at the end of a busy few weeks. The students danced to their favourite tunes and enjoyed delicious treats provided by our wonderful St Mary's School Association.

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

St Mary's School Association: Chairpersons: Briony Hosford & Marie Chappell

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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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Forthcoming Meetings

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THOMAS HARDY: THE NOVELS, THE NOVELIST AND PUDDLETOWN

an illustrated talk by

ALBAN O'BRIEN

Tour Guide and Thomas Hardy specialist

St Mary's Church Room: 7.30pm.

Saturday 12 April 2025

SNAPSHOTS IN TIME

St Mary's Church Room 10.00am – 4.00pm

Admission Free

*A chance to see photos from the archive and help identify people from past
carnivals*

*and other events. See again the Village Volunteering 2023 Coronation
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come along to find out more about the Puddletown 300 history project

Admission to Speaker Meetings: Members: Free, Visitors: £5

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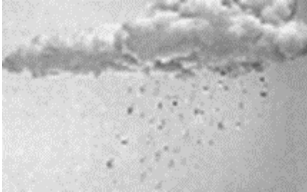


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Puddletown Weather - January 2025

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

January 2025		
	Rainfall for the month	94.50mm
	Cumulative for the year	94.50mm
	2024 Rainfall for the month	86.10 mm
	2024 Cumulative for the year	86.10 mm
	Temperatures	Max. 14.30° C Min. -04.20° C
	2024	Max. 13.30° C Min. -6.00° C
	Maximum wind speed	20.60 mph
	2024	31.30 mph



Short Mat Bowls

Monday Afternoons 2.30 to 4.30 Short Mat Bowls Puddletown Village Hall.

We are looking for new members to join our friendly group, Woods/Bowls will be provided.

If you are interested please contact Mervyn
on mervynharris981@btinternet.com,
or call on 07794787588.







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Puddletown Pumpkins

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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!

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Warm Welcome!

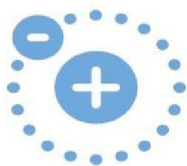
Every Wednesday in Puddletown Church Room.

From 10.30am until 1.30pm

Refreshments (tea, coffee, and soup & a roll) available.

Bring your knitting or craft... Come and do a jigsaw... Read a book...

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CLERGY	The Revd Sarah Hillman (Vicar)	01305 848 784
	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
	Pam Shults (Milborne St Andrew)	01258 837 203
	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 Café	Katie Weiss puddcommcafe@gmail.com	
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 cllrrgreen@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
Guides, Brownies & Rainbows	Amy Knight	01305 848 602
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 puddletownrhc@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

CONTACTS PAGE - Please help us keep these pages up to date by notifying us of any changes

Short Mat Bowls	Mervyn Harris	07794 787588 (Mervyn) 01305 849 049 (Sue) mervynharris981@btinternet.com
-----------------	---------------	--

Tree Warden	Cllr John Ridout cllrjridout@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Village Hall Caretaker/Bookings	Kevin Smith (puddletownvh@gmail.com)	07706 798271
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Village Hall Committee Secretary	Amy Knight	01305 848602
----------------------------------	------------	--------------

Yoga	Mandy Cooper	07713 477737
------	--------------	--------------

Young Farmers (Dorset)		01305 263 947
------------------------	--	---------------

TOLPUDDLE CONTACTS

Defibrillator (outside Martyrs Inn)	Clare & Roger Angus	07720 059035 or 01305 848286
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Orchard Meadow	Clerk to PAPC	
----------------	---------------	--

PCC Secretary	Heather Saunders	
---------------	------------------	--

PCC Treasurer	John Taylor	01305 848 552
---------------	-------------	---------------

Physio-Led Pilates	Sam Buxton	samjibuxton31@gmail.com
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Pilates	Kathy Ashdown	07967 655159
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Tolpuddle Events Committee	Ian Cray	
----------------------------	----------	--

Tolpuddle Home Group	Shirley & Richard Woolford	01305 849539
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Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust		info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org
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Tolpuddle Toddler Group	Maria Palmer	07717 506020
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Tolpuddle Village Meeting	Tyra Nozaic Goosen, Clerk.	tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com
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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
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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
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Dorset Community Action	info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk	
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Dorset County Hospital		01305 251 150
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Electricity Failure	(Southern Electric)	0800 0727 282
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Gas Leak or a smell of gas		0800 111 999
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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
Badminton	Bruce Dyer	01258 839 117
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 March 2025

I always find February and March a little confusing- as the days are the same date and yet they are so different. March heralds the arrival of Lent, which for some means “quitting” and for others taking on a new resolution - perhaps joining one of Sarah’s Lent courses. We are so fortunate that she is

able to prepare these and do hope you will want to join them this year, to discover more about what your faith means to you or for the challenge of exploring other people’s faith.

For some of us (sadly very few) our faith is strengthened by attending regular services. As you are aware, at the moment we do have a service every Sunday in St John’s - for the times of these services do check the programme at the back of the magazine - but for how long can this regularity continue? Are we under threat? We have just had to send back the parish statistics to the Diocese and sadly these will reflect whether there is a need for regular services. If you are concerned about this I would suggest you look at the website www.savetheparish.com which does not make comfortable reading.

What has been happening though the month of February in St Johns? We started with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ at the Temple which marks the end of the Christmas season and we then put all the candles away and also the crib. It would be really fabulous if this year we could resurrect the Village Posada through Advent – perhaps you might be able to help organise this? If you would like to know more contact one of the church wardens.

On February 8th there was the dedication of a new bench in memory of Phil and Pam. A good crowd of well-wishers turned up to admire the bench and remember with fondness Phil and Pam’s life in the village. Daughter Marie spoke movingly about their time in Tolpuddle, Phil’s love of the churchyard he worked in and Grandson Joe’s holiday visits.

We are pleased that there is another bench near the cremation tablets and will take this opportunity to thank the churchyard team, now led by Morten. I believe he is always looking for volunteers!



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Our PCC held a special meeting in February as so many of the council members were unable to attend the communal meeting in January. Discussions included the status of the Church Camping amongst other things and of course an update on the church roof- yes we do have a start date- March 24th and also a report about the west wall which has been damaged by the builders.

We hope very much that in reading this report you see that there are indeed still some people who really care about the church - please give us your support

Hilly and Jayne



There are still some 200 club tickets available

200 Club winners January 2025

1st Prize £40 Ticket 87 Julie Woodland
2nd Prize £20 Ticket 165 Elizabeth Baker
3rd Prize £10 Ticket 30 Matt Wilding



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PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL

Spring is finally creeping in, and with it come brighter days, fresh opportunities, and plenty happening in and around the parish. Whether you've been braving the blustery walks or enjoying the first glimpses of daffodils, we hope you're feeling the seasonal shift. There's a lot to look forward to this month, so let's dive into what's going on!


Annual Tree Maintenance: The first round of the parish-wide annual tree maintenance for 2025 has been completed in both Puddletown Play Park and Tolpuddle's Orchard Meadow. The final round of tree maintenance will take place in September and will see the Puddletown Recreation hedges getting a short back and sides!

Playparks: Exciting news! We're thrilled to announce that Puddletown First School has agreed to collaborate with us on redeveloping the Butt Close Play Park. This partnership aims to ensure that children have access to the equipment they truly want to play on. Stay tuned for updates!

Defibrillators training: The Puddletown Area Parish Council is organising defibrillator training sessions, with the first session scheduled for Saturday, 10th May 2025, at Tolpuddle Village Hall (exact time to be confirmed). These sessions are free of charge and open to all residents across both parishes. We're also working on arranging an additional session at Puddletown Village Hall more details to follow!

Save the Date! Annual Parish Meetings:

 Athelhampton & Puddletown Parish Meeting – Wednesday, 14th May 2025, at 6:30 PM

 Burleston & Tolpuddle Parish Meeting – Tuesday, 24th June 2025, at 6:30 PM

If your local charitable group would like to set up a stall to showcase your work, sell small wares, or recruit new members, please contact the Clerk. We'd love to see as many local groups involved as possible! Free refreshments will be provided for attendees.

White Line Marking: Dorset Council Highways has agreed to install new white lines near the Puddletown Community Centre. These markings will help highlight the drop-down kerb area, aiming to prevent vehicles from parking in front of crossing points. Let's hope drivers take note!

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 11th March 2025, at 7pm in the Puddletown Village Hall. Please come and join us and have your say.

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That's all for this month! Stay engaged with your community, and if you have any concerns or ideas, feel free to get in touch with the Parish Council.

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/](https://www.facebook.com/PuddletownAPC/)

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



The poster features a large image of the school building in the background. On the left, there is a circular logo with a blue border containing a gold cross with a red crown in the center. To the right of the logo, the text 'ST MARY'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL' is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below this, 'OPEN MORNINGS 2025' is written in a similar style. A dark blue horizontal band across the middle contains a white calendar icon on the left and the text 'Open Mornings (9:30- 11:00)' in white, followed by 'Thursday 30th January' and 'Thursday 13th March' in white. Below this band, the text 'We invite all parents of Year 4 children to join us for our school Open Mornings on Thursday 30th January and Thursday 13th March.' is written in white. Further down, another line of white text says 'You will have the opportunity to meet the staff, tour the site and find out what it's like to be part of our wonderful school.' At the bottom, there is a Facebook logo with the text 'For the latest news, follow us on Facebook.' next to a QR code, and a photograph of a group of school staff and children standing in front of the school building.

ST MARY'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

OPEN MORNINGS 2025

Open Mornings (9:30- 11:00)

Thursday 30th January

Thursday 13th March

We invite all parents of Year 4 children to join us for our school Open Mornings on Thursday 30th January and Thursday 13th March.

You will have the opportunity to meet the staff, tour the site and find out what it's like to be part of our wonderful school.

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'Buy with Confidence' covers all kinds of work, from plumbing and decorating to car servicing and gardening, carried out by local businesses all over the County and beyond.

Trading Standards approved members have been audited by Trading Standards officers to make sure they follow consumer protection law. Customer references are taken, and complaint procedures are checked to make sure any issues that may arise can be resolved promptly. In addition, to give you peace of mind, criminal record checks are undertaken for businesses whose employees work in or around your home.

It doesn't stop there! Once a business joins 'Buy with Confidence' they are monitored by Trading Standards through customer feedback, complaint monitoring and re-audits.

We would always encourage you to choose a Dorset based trader. However, as the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme is also run by all our neighbouring local authorities, then the pool of Trading Standards approved traders is much greater than just those who are based in the Dorset Council area.

Other trader approval schemes are available, but remember, only 'Buy with Confidence' has this level of Trading Standards approval.

To find a Trading Standards approved 'Buy with Confidence' trader, visit the national 'Buy with Confidence' website at www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk where you can search for local traders around your postcode. Alternatively, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline who can search for you on 0808 223 1133.





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The Lions Club of Dorchester & District

The Lions Club of Dorchester & District was founded in May 1970 and is one of 900 British Lions' clubs carrying out charitable work throughout the U.K. The club serves an area of approximately 55 sq. miles, from Abbotsbury in the west, Crossways to the east of the town and north to Buckland Newton, including over 40 villages and hamlets. There are over 1.4 million members worldwide in 46,000 Lions' clubs serving local communities in over 200 countries, making Lions the world's largest service club organisation.

Lions club members volunteer their time to raise funds for good causes and charities and offer help and support to those who are disadvantaged, for whatever reason. All clubs administration costs are funded by members and over 95% of funds raised locally from Lions' events are donated to local charities and good causes in their community. The remaining 5% is the club's contribution to Lions International Foundation (LCIF) for humanitarian relief work. In recognition of its global reach LCIF is granted an Annual Lions day meeting with the United Nations (LDUN) to discuss the co-ordination of humanitarian relief work with U.N. especially in times of natural and man-made disasters. Lions are always mobilised in times of catastrophes and disasters and in the last decade alone LCIF has provided more than £200 million for disaster relief worldwide.

In addition to humanitarian relief, all Lions' clubs are committed to supporting projects relating to health, sight and youth initiatives. The Lions International Blood Research Appeal (LIBRA) at King's College Hospital, London, Sightsavers, Spectrek, Water Wells, 'Message in a Bottle' and Diabetes Action & Awareness represent significant programmes supported by all Lions' clubs, including Dorchester & District, in their own areas.

Since its formation 54 years ago, Dorchester & District Lions have raised almost £400,000 locally for good causes and charities. During the last year the club's fund-raising events included 'Family Fun at Summerfest', 'Puds and Posers' Quiz Night, Charity Golf Day at Came Down, the Easter Egg draw in local pubs and clubs, 'Hardy Half' cross-country run in collaboration with 3 other organisations in the town - and last but not least, the eagerly anticipated 'Santa on Tour', when the Lions very own Santa and his sleigh visited Dorchester and surrounding villages for fun and festive frolics during December.

Through 2023-24, Dorchester & District Lions have supported several major local appeals and have donated to over 50 requests for support. The recipients include SCBU at DCH, STARS, Diverse Abilities in



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Tel: 01305 848575

Email: rbuck88.rb@gmail.com



*George saw his whole Parish
as a Mission Field*

Dorchester, scout groups in Cerne Abbas, Martinstown and Dorchester, Citizens Advice, Dorchester Poverty Action Group and Dorchester Disabled Club. The club has also donated to over 20 requests in confidence on behalf of individuals and groups, most referred to the club by other professional agencies.

Dorchester Lions set high value on the contribution that our young people make to society, whether at home, at school or in their wider community. Recognition of this contribution is demonstrated annually by the club in the form of their Community Service Awards. The awards are made at St. Mary's Middle School Puddletown as well as Thomas Hardy and St Osmund's Schools in Dorchester. Dorchester & District Lions take pride in making these presentations to the nominated students, who are selected by teachers within their school environment. All recipients embrace volunteering, demonstrate enthusiasm and creativity, displaying a wide range of skills and character virtues, making them exemplary leaders.

Like many service organisations, Dorchester & District Lions are always looking for new members and volunteers willing to help at their events throughout the year. All members feel valued and have an equal say on club matters, so commitments are shared equally by an enthusiastic group who enjoy 'doing what they can' for their community .

If you are interested in getting involved in community events and would like to find out more about what the Lions do, then give Andy a ring on 07815 873 246 for an informal chat or email the club secretary peter.see@btinternet.com. You can also check out our Facebook page 'LionsDorchester' or visit the website www.lionsdorchester.org.uk
We'd be delighted to hear from you.

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DOWNSTREAM DORSET

RIVER TALES AND LOCAL HISTORY

**Presentation and Talk
by Author Mary van Coller**

Tuesday, 4 March, 2025 at 7pm

Tolpuddle Village Hall

Pay Bar and Refreshments Available

**Entry £5 per person - Pay on the door: cash
or card**

**Come along and listen to, and meet, Mary
van Coller who will be sharing the lives and
stories of people who have lived in towns
and villages along the Dorset rivers.
Opportunity to purchase copies of the book.**

Enquiries to: tolpuddleevents@gmail.com



**Money raised will be
shared between the Air
Ambulance and
Tolpuddle Village Causes.**





Notes from St Andrew's

The Christmas Season closed on Candlemas Day, February 2nd, with our Milborne Praise Service, when we were urged to "Shine as lights in the world." Rose read the Gospel story of Simeon and Anna, Josie read "Candlemas"

by the contemporary Priest-poet Malcolm Guite, and we listened to a setting of the Nunc Dimittis in G by C.V. Stanford and sang rousing hymns!

We now turn our thoughts to Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 5th this year. At 6 p.m. that evening, there will be a Eucharist with the imposition of ashes for the whole Benefice in Puddletown. All are encouraged to attend as we begin our Lenten preparations. On the following Wednesdays – 12/3 _16/4 - at 6 p.m. Tony will lead Compline at St Andrew's. Two hymns & the traditional office of Compline provide a twenty-minute or so time of rest to recharge our batteries and "draw near to God."

There will be a Lent course in Milborne on Monday mornings, beginning on March 10th, from 10.30 to 11.45. It will be held in the former chapel with the kind permission of Simon and Teresa. The Course will be based on the book "Wild Bright Hope."

There will be two Lent Lunches in Milborne – Soup, rolls, fresh fruit, etc. – on Wednesdays, 12th and 26th March, between 12.30 and 2.00. Tony will host these at his flat in Manor Farm. Donations for St Andrew's church will be welcome. It would be good to have an idea of numbers in advance, in case a second sitting is required or a second vat of soup needs preparing (Telephone 07368 145584, email Tonytheorganist@outlook.com, or speak to him after a Service).

Work to repair the toilet floors is one step closer to commencement. Who said, "Like a mighty tortoise moves the Church of God"? We also need to replace some light bulbs and heaters. Congratulations to all those who have survived chilly services during the winter months!

There have been several deaths with parish connections recently, and we send our love and prayers to the families and friends of Will Pope, Robin Keller, Jackie Smart and Andy Fox.

Paddi Spruyt, widow of Fr. John, Vicar here 1970-1977, celebrated her 99th birthday at the beginning of February. Greetings were sent from the Parish. Paddi lives in a nursing home in Stroud near her daughter, Katie. Nicholas made a surprise visit to see his Mum on her birthday.

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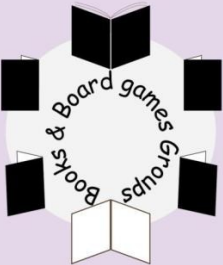
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Puddletown Community Library
More than just book loan
puddletownlibrary@gmail.com



The library welcomes
new volunteers
to help run the library



LIBRARY HOURS:

Wednesday 3pm-5pm

Friday 10am-12pm

Saturday 10am-12pm

Marguerite (Margo, or Peggy) Baillie, widow of John Baillie, Vicar 1959-1969, died a few months after celebrating her 100th birthday at her home in Louth, Lincolnshire, where she had been cared for by her daughter, Prisca. She is buried with John in the churchyard at Aldringham, Suffolk; John and Peggy's daughter, Jane, also died recently, and the flowers from her funeral were placed on her Great-Grandmother's grave in Milborne Churchyard. Prisca said, "Jane had a difficult life, so it seemed appropriate for the flowers to be in Milborne, a place where Jane had been happy."

Thinking back, at one of the Benefice Christmas Services, Sarah played a recording of "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day" to introduce her address. It reminded me of words penned by John Greenleaf Whittier, author of "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind", amongst other things. *"Keep while you may, brethren mine, with honest hearts your Christmas-time, but judge not him who every morn feels in his heart the Lord Christ born."* During Lent, we try to grow nearer to God and know more fully within our hearts that Love which came down at Christmas; but is "New every morning" for "Great is His faithfulness." Happy Lent!

Tony & Pam, Churchwardens.

Milborne St Andrew Village Hall Quiz Night

Saturday 22 March!

Think you know it all? Put your knowledge to the test at our Village Hall Quiz Night! Grab some snacks, gather your team or join one on the night for an evening of trivia, fun, and friendly competition.

Max team size: 6 people - £2.50 per person

Bar opens: 7:00 PM. Quiz starts: 7:30 PM

Whether you're a quiz master or just in it for the laughs, everyone's welcome!

Book your place now; email: chair.msavh@gmail.com

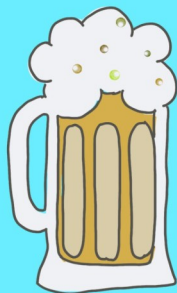
Come along for a great night out—see you there!

Milborne St Andrew

VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT!



SATURDAY 22 MARCH



BAR OPENS
7PM

QUIZ STARTS
7.30PM

PRIZES!

Book your place
today!

Bring a team or join
one on the night!

£2.50 PER PERSON

Max Team Size:
Six People

BRING SnACKS!

Email: chair.msavh@gmail.com

The Costly Mistake Many Divorcees Make

Divorce is often an emotionally challenging experience, but many overlook a crucial legal step that could leave them financially vulnerable. Failing to secure a legally binding financial settlement can expose divorcees to unexpected claims, even years later.

Laura Martin, Partner and Head of Family Law at Blanchards Bailey, highlights the importance of addressing financial matters alongside the legal dissolution of marriage.

“A Final Order legally ends your marriage, but it does not automatically sever financial ties between former spouses,” Laura explains. “Without a Financial Order, financial claims remain open even after the divorce has been finalised, allowing an ex-spouse to pursue assets acquired long after the divorce. It is only a Financial Order that can conclude financial claims.”

A landmark case illustrates this risk. In *Wyatt v Vince*, a woman sought financial relief nearly two decades after her divorce when her former husband had made a fortune. The Supreme Court ruled that, as no Financial Order had been in place, her claim remained valid. This serves as a warning to those assuming their financial affairs are settled simply because their marriage is legally over.

Why a Financial Settlement Is Essential

A financial settlement during divorce ensures clear division of assets, preventing future disputes. Key considerations include:

- **Property & Investments:** Determining asset division, including the family home.
- **Pensions:** Crucial for long-term financial security.
- **Savings & Debts:** Avoiding future conflicts over financial responsibilities.

Spousal and Child Maintenance: Establishing ongoing financial support if needed.

Couples can secure a financial agreement through negotiation, mediation, or a court application.

The Legal Process: Securing a Consent Order

If both parties agree, they can apply for a Consent Order to ensure financial security and prevent future claims. If no agreement is reached, the court intervenes based on the *Matrimonial Causes Act 1973*, considering factors such as:

- Each party's income, financial resources and earning capacity.
- Future financial needs and obligations.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Make a difference to the lives of parents and children
- Enhance your wellbeing
- Access free, high quality training
- Learn new skills
- Make friends & connect with your community

If you could give as little as two hours a week to support a parent and their children, we would love to hear from you:



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**HOME
START**
West Dorset

- The standard of living during the marriage.
- The duration of the marriage and the age of both parties.
- Any disabilities affecting financial stability.
- Contributions.
- Conduct, if significantly unfair to overlook.
- Lost benefits, such as pensions, due to the marriage ending.

Laura warns that failing to secure a Consent Order can lead to unexpected financial claims.

“Many assume there are no lingering financial ties post-divorce,” she says. “But without a legally binding Financial Order, claims can still arise.”

For those going through divorce, obtaining legal advice on financial settlements is essential to ensuring financial closure.

For assistance, please contact Paula Olive at Blanchards Bailey on 01258 483605.



Dewlish Church Notes

AFTER a quiet January (apart from gales, rain and floods!) we are now eagerly awaiting Spring.

The **Ash Wednesday Service** on 5th March is being held at Puddletown Church. Please check the time for this on the church notice board.

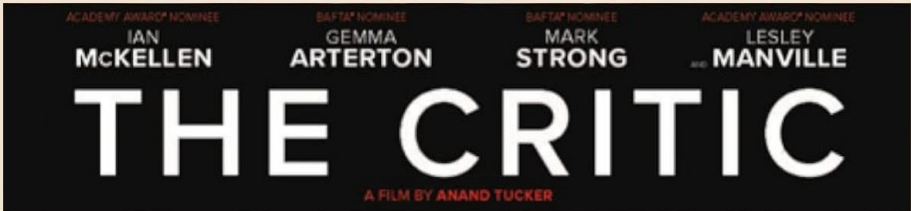
We are pleased to say that we are once again holding a series of **Lent Lunches**, the donations from which will go to WaterAid. The dates and venues are as follows:

- **Thursday 13th March** at Anne and Mike Fell’s “Uptop”, at 12.30pm
- **Tuesday 25th March** at the Village Hall, hosted by Margaret Groves and Daphne and Jim Burg at 12.30pm
- **Tuesday 8th April** at Sue Britton’s Parsonage Farm at 12.30pm

Do please join us: the soups and bread and cheese and grapes are delicious! This will be followed by coffee or tea.

Finally, a note for your diary: On Saturday 12th April we shall be having our annual **Spring and Easter Sale** in the Village Hall, starting at 10.30am. Included are the usual Easter stalls, raffles and refreshments. We very much look forward to having your support!

Daphne Burg



Thriving community spaces on 19th March 2025

All Village Halls, community centres and faith centres are invited to this informative and thought-provoking conference and networking event.

On 19th March 2025

At D'Urberville Centre, Wool

From 10:00 to 15:00 including a networking lunch

The programme includes:

- Meeting the funders and tackling core costs - speakers Ellie Macguire from DCF, Kirsty Main from the Lottery and Anita Hansen from SNG
- Recruiting people from the local community - speaker Vicky Hall from Volunteer Centre Dorset
- Doing things differently; thinking about micro-initiatives, community businesses and how community spaces can provide new services in new ways - speakers include Lydia Harvey of Seed-to-Plate and others to be confirmed
- Community land Trusts - speaker Jacqui Cuff, DCA

Policies & procedures - the short version - speaker Caro Hart, DCA
Generating income, measuring the difference you make, policies and much more! See the full details, the special offer and reserve your free places [REGISTER NOW](#)

The **Sustainable Community Spaces** project is funded by Dorset Council and offers a range of support for Village Halls, community centres and faith centres, including [training](#), [networking](#) and [Your Community Space Dorset](#) a specialist Facebook Group. You will find more details of all of these on the DCA website's dedicated [community spaces membership](#) web-page.

For any further queries about this conference contact: Caro Hart, Dorset Community Action, Community Training Consultant, Village Halls & community spaces adviser for Dorset and trainer at the [Academy](#), Telephone 07827 996905



To Win the Day

A powerful folk-drama by the Dorset-based group *Time and Tide*, following the extraordinary lives of the wives, mothers and families of the Tolpuddle Martyrs through local folk music of the time.



Tolpuddle Village Hall
Main Road Tolpuddle DT2 7ES
Saturday 8th March 2025
Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.00pm
Bar Pay available
Tickets £5 Available from Ian Cray
iancray@icloud.com or 07941 645303

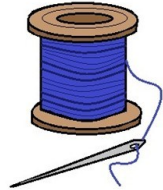
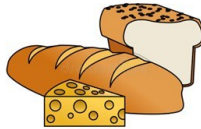


THE PUDDLETOWN BENEFICE FLEX TEAM

INVITE YOU TO A MONTHLY

CRAFT GROUP

Come and make some **crafts**, enjoy a simple **bread-and-cheese lunch**,
take time out to **relax**,
and **chat** to friends, old and new.



THURSDAY LUNCHTIME AT 12.30pm

Next Session on 6th March

IN PUDDLETOWN CHURCH ROOM

Future dates: 10th April , 8th May & 12th June

For further information, contact Margaret Rickard

margaretmary227@gmail.com

01305 849332

If you wish, you are welcome to bring your own crafts and enjoy the company



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

2nd March - Next before Lent

Psalm 99; Exodus 34.29-35; Luke 9.28b – 43

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

5th March - Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51.1-18; Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

6.00pm	United Benefice Holy Communion with imposition of ashes	Puddletown
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9th March - Lent 1

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16; Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Luke 4.1-13

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

16th March—Lent 2

Psalm 27; Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Luke 13.31-35

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30am	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00am	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00am	Family Service	Dewlish

23rd March—Lent 4

Psalm 63.1-9; Isaiah 55.1-9; Luke 13.1-9

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
10.00am	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00am	BCP Matins (traditional language)	Puddletown
11.00am	Parish Communion	Dewlish

30th March—Mothering Sunday

Psalm 34.11-20; 1 Samuel 1.20-28; John 19.25b-27

9.30am	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion	Milborne
11.00am	Mothering Sunday Service	Puddletown
11.00am	Mothering Sunday Service	Dewlish

During Lent there will also be:

Wednesdays (from 12th March) Compline in St Andrew's, Milborne at 6.00 p.m.
Thursdays (from 13th March) Evening Prayer in All Saints', Dewlish at 6.30 p.m.

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picking up in PUDDLETOWN. TOLPUDDLE and DORCHESTER.



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AND HISTORIC PRAGUE**

May 15th 13 days £1995

Join us for tour of a lifetime experiencing some of the hidden jewels of Poland and the Czech Republic. This multi-centre holiday really has something for everyone. We will be staying in the midst of the Tatra Mountains in the picturesque mountain towns of Zakopane as well as the cultural capital of Poland - Krakow and the historic capital of the Czech Republic. You will get to enjoy the scenery of the mountain roads as well as the fabulous architecture of Prague on board a tourist bus, have a chance to go on a mountain railway as well as a river cruise. You will even have the chance to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau and Wieliczka Salt Mines. This really is a holiday you would not want to miss.

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