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For a subscription to this magazine contact the Distributors as above.

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Copy deadline for the June magazine is 7th May 2025.

Front Cover Photos: The re-thatched shelter near the Martyrs Tree in Tolpuddle. (Tony Gould).

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Peace at Last

“Well, darling, the war in Europe is over at last. I remember I used to say that, when it was, I would get drunk. This is honest, sweetheart, I never touched a drop but I said a prayer and thanked God for his guidance and kindness. It’s been a long time and a good part of my life wasted. Still I suppose it was all for the best.”

The above is an extract from one of more than 200 letters written by Douglas Lowe to his sweetheart Marjorie Suggitt. It is dated 10 May 1945. Two days earlier VE Day had taken place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War II. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Winston Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul’s Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. It was a day of jubilation, relief, and reflection. Streets filled with dancing and laughter, but also with tears for those who had not returned. For many, it was the beginning of rebuilding lives, families and communities.

Eighty years on, we still live in the shadow of that conflict, but we also live in the light of the peace that followed. This anniversary invites us all—whether people of faith or not—to pause and remember the courage and sacrifice of those who served, and to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy today.

It’s also a moment to reflect on our own calling, in whatever way we live our lives, to be people of peace. In a world that still knows war and suffering, each act of kindness, each step toward reconciliation, matters.

Churches were very much part of the celebrations in 1945. We will also be commemorating VE Day in two of our benefice churches this year and invite you to join us. On 4th May, the theme for our 9.30 Milborne Praise service, led by Tony Fox, will be the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Also on 8th May at 2.30 p.m. there will be a service of remembrance and thanksgiving in Puddletown church, led by Margaret Rickard. Both will contain hymns, readings and prayers.

And listen our for our bell-ringers later in the day too. ,

With best wishes,
Sarah

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St Mary's Puddletown		
Intercessors		Scripture Readers
4th May	Jean Jeffreys	Judy Bumby
11th May	Puddletown Praise Team	
18th May	Dawn Loveless	Bob Todd
25th May	Cynthia Metcalfe	Paul Fleetwood & Dawn Loveless
Charitable Giving 2025		
Lent		Dorchester Poverty Action
Mothering Sunday		Mosaic
Easter Day		The Salvation Army (Homeless)
Harvest		Water Aid
Christmas		The Children's Society

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St. Mary's Church Events - May

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

Rosemary's cards will be available at coffee pop-in on Thursday May 5th.

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

Craft Group will meet on Thursday May 15th @ 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 **Easter Family Fun Day** was a great success. Seventeen children attended along with parents and great fun was had by all playing games, making cakes, watching the puppets, hearing the Easter story etc.....

The Village Lunch will be on Monday May 12th at 12noon. We shall be serving chicken breast in a wine and cream sauce 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.

Future Events to look out for include a **Garden Party** at Dawnay House on June 12th;

A **Midsummer Fair** on Saturday 21st June followed by Hymns & Pimm's service on the Sunday evening.

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

Church Mouse Stock

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A message from Maggie

I can't quite believe how quickly the last three years have gone. I vividly remember arriving in Puddletown in June 2022 to start my curacy here in the Puddletown benefice, feeling like I had no idea what I was doing, and now, three years later it is time for me to move on to start my first role as an incumbent.

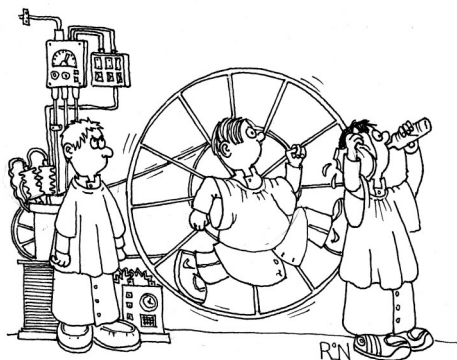
Following interview I have been offered the post as vicar of the parishes of Wootton & Shippon in the diocese of Oxford. It is anticipated I will be moving there to take up the post mid-summer.

Although I moved unexpectedly from Puddletown mid-curacy, the Puddletown Benefice will always hold a special place in my heart as I started my ministry here. And I remember with joy the first time I presided at Holy Communion after I had been priested, and the beautiful cake, with little cats around the edges, that we all shared afterwards!

I would like to thank you for the love and support I have continued to receive from so many of you. If you are ever in the Oxfordshire area, do let me know as I would love to see you.

God bless, Maggie

The Revd Maggie Crosbie
Assistant Curate
Team Shaftesbury Benefice



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St Mary's Church, Puddletown

Enter our Flowerpot Creation Competition

Build an animal, human, landmark etc. out of flowerpots to display in the churchyard on **Saturday 21st June at our Midsummer Fair.**

Further instructions will be posted in the June issue of the Parish Magazine and on Facebook nearer the time.

No entry fee.

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Month on the Farm

The Spring barley has all been sown and is nicely up in drill, but is now really in need of some rain as the young plants have not got enough of a root structure to find the moisture. All the crops are growing well, the oil seed rape is now flowering (the bright yellow flowering crop). The barley and wheat moving through the growth stages but is being held back by the north winds, lack of rain and the hot days and frosty nights. The grass fields have had some fertilizer sprayed onto them as a mixture of water, urea and humic acid, something we have not tried before but we should get better grass growth, whilst using less fertilizer, we have invested in a piece of new equipment to spread this so hopefully we will get the anticipated result.

A lot of the cattle have now have been turned out to grass, the autumn born calves are grazing the paddocks on the herbal leys around here and have done one round and the older cattle are on the permanent pastures and with the dry weather we are starting to graze the meadows here along the Piddle with others out along the Frome. We decided to keep some of the yearlings indoors and are feeding some silage and our rolled barley mix to them ad lib as the barley is not worth a lot to sell (about £154/ton) to the mills and we can add value to the cattle by feeding them and getting them heavier quite cheaply with the intention of a good margin when they are sold later in the year. We have sold some more store cattle and the prices are very strong due to a drop in cattle numbers here in England and also World wide and the consumption of beef still a large part of people's diet.



The sheep have all finished lambing in what has been near perfect weather conditions for the young lambs and their mothers out grazing the grass and the youngsters racing around in their playgroups in the fields. The ewes are just eating grass with some molasses based lick to help keep their milk supply going for their growing lambs.





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All the muck is being cleaned out of the yards as time permits and is being heaped to spread shortly under the maize or will be stacked and left to rot down to be spread in the autumn. Spring must really be here as ducklings have already been seen on the meadow and a blackbird is busy outside the kitchen window in the tangled clematis while the blue tits are back in the box seen from the farm office window and we await the first house martins arriving back to their usual nests in the farm buildings.

Wakely Cox

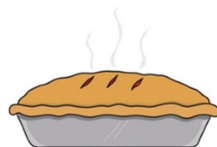
10th April 2025



Puddletown Village Lunch



Monday 12th May
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If you haven't yet made it to Lyme Regis to join in on some elephantastic fun, then you're missing out! Throughout April and May, this corner of the Jurassic Coast has been taken over by a stampede of around 50 elephants. From the iconic cliffs at West Bay to the Cobb at Lyme Regis, *Stampede by the Sea* features elephant sculptures of all sizes and colours placed across the area to create a fun art trail that is accessible to all.



St Mary's very own elephant, named Sweety for obvious reasons (see picture!), is the creation of our pupils who, under the guidance of art teacher Alison Moore, came up with the fabulous confectionery creation! Esme M in Year 8 was the inspiration behind the eye-catching design that won us all over. Why not take a trip to Lyme to see our very own Sweety, and the rest of the herd, in the wild? At the end of the trail, each elephant will be sold at auction to raise vital funds for Weldmar Hospicecare.

As you will be aware from our previous news stories, St Mary's is building quite a reputation for sporting success, and much of this is about offering the best opportunities for our students to experience success in a wide range of sports. Recently, our Key Stage 3 girls' football team were lucky enough to attend a football talent festival at Budmouth Academy in Weymouth where they had the chance to show off their skills in front of talent scouts from Bournemouth FC. The girls enjoyed a terrific experience and are now patiently waiting by the phone for a call up to the Women's Super League! Watch this space!





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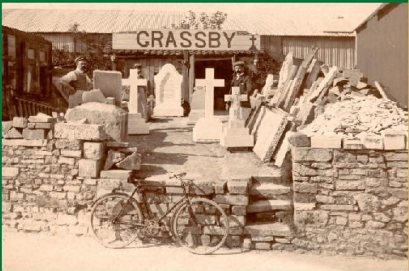
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Talking of fabulous opportunities, just before the Easter break, a group of budding Year 8 engineers did St Mary's proud at the Poole Rotary STEM challenge. Our teams, who were up against various other schools in the area, had to design and build a device to launch a ball into the air. The students put their Design and Technology skills very effectively into practice, taking second and third places in the competition. Their designs even won a special commendation from the Mayor of Poole!



Calling all St Mary's alumni! Would you like to come back to our school to see what's changed? We would love to welcome you back to St Mary's on **Friday 13 June at 10am** for a tour of the school, a cuppa in the library and the chance for a reminisce! To confirm your attendance, please email Mrs Gaughan in the school office (email address below). We look forward to welcoming you back!

CONTACTS

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

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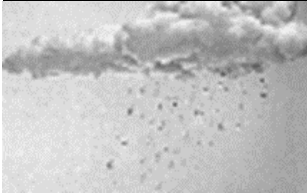


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Puddletown Weather - March 2025

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

March 2025		
	Rainfall for the month	60.90mm
	Cumulative for the year	261.40mm
	2024 Rainfall for the month	124.20 mm
	2024 Cumulative for the year	334.80 mm
	Temperatures	Max. 19.20° C Min. -3.10° C
	2024	Max. 17.00° C Min. -2.10° C
	Maximum wind speed	14.50 mph
	2024	25.10 mph



Puddletown Community Library.

The winners of the March 200 club draw are:

- 1st prize - Geoff Ellis £40
- 2nd prize - Julie Wheldon £20
- 3rd prize - No publicity £10







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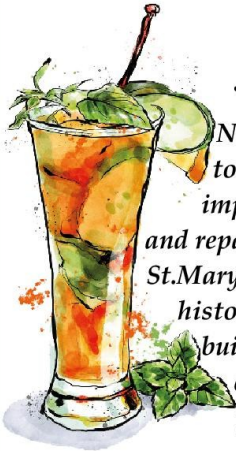


Garden Party *- with Pimms*

Thursday 12th June 2025
Dawnay House,
8, The Square,
Puddletown
6.00 to 8.00pm

The Friends of Puddletown Church invite you to spend a summer evening in the beautiful garden of Dawnay House, enjoying good company, music and a glass of Pimms, wine or a soft drink.

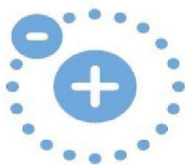
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CLERGY	The Revd Sarah Hillman (Vicar)	07350 414483
	sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com	
LICENSED LAY MINISTER	Margaret Rickard	01305 849332
CHURCHWARDENS	Vacancy (Puddletown)	
	Dawn Loveless (Puddletown)	01305 849 534
	Hilly Cobban (Tolpuddle)	07817 557367
	Jayne Brayshaw (Tolpuddle)	01305 849 314
	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	
Flower Rota	Heather Mears	01305 848 021
Football Club	Steve Brown	07789 821 408
Footpaths & Rights of Way	Michelle Harrington clerk@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk	01202 670105

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DOCTORS		
Puddletown Surgery Dr J Griffiths, Dr C Burnham & Dr J Bond		01305 848 333
Puddletown Surgery (Dispensary)		01305 849 329
Out of hours medical advice & NHS Direct	Out of hours medical advice & NHS Direct	111
Friends of Puddletown Church	Jill Temple friendsofpuddletownchurch@gmail.com	
Friends of Puddletown Library	Paul Poser	01305 848 176
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Gym	Dan Weiss coachdan26@gmail.com	07547 713675
Exercise Classes For All	Sylvia Salcedo sylvia.a.salcedo@gmail.com	07788 101075
Handbells	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Mini-Soccer/Youth Football	Jon Palmer	07891 173 999
Neighbourhood Plan	Clerk to PAPC	
PCC Secretary	Emma Hughes	
PCC Treasurer	David Elliott	07776 256537
Pilates (at First School)	Kathy Ashdown	07967 655159
Puddletown CPPP	www.facebook.com/puddletownplaypark	
Pumpkins Toddler Group	Find us on Facebook or Instagram @puddletownpumpkins	
Puddletown Society	Janet Ranger-Dennis	07752 634773
Puddletown Ukulele Group	Bob Watson bobwatson55@hotmail.com	07725 684 400
Recreational Multi Games Area	David Knight	07890 260 320
Recreation Ground Pavilion	Liz Knight	01305 848 380
Royal British Legion (RBL)	S Ridout	01305 848 940
Rugby Club	Ray Stephens puddletownrnf@hotmail.com	07966 412 467
SCHOOLS		
Pre-school	Sharon Brown www.puddletownpreschool.co.uk	01305 849 533
First School (Head of School)	Mrs A Seal www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk	01305 848 206
St Mary's CE Middle School	Mr Tim Ennion	01305 848 293

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

Tree Warden	Cllr John Ridout cllrjridout@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk
-------------	--

Village Hall Caretaker/Bookings	Kevin Smith (puddletownvh@gmail.com)	07706 798271
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Village Hall Committee Secretary	Amy Knight	01305 848602
----------------------------------	------------	--------------

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

TOLPUDDLE CONTACTS

Defibrillator (outside Martyrs Inn)	Clare & Roger Angus	07720 059035 or 01305 848286
-------------------------------------	---------------------	------------------------------

Orchard Meadow	Clerk to PAPC
----------------	---------------

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

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

Physio-Led Pilates	Sam Buxton	samjbuxton31@gmail.com
--------------------	------------	------------------------

Pilates	Kathy Ashdown	07967 655159
---------	---------------	--------------

Tolpuddle Events Committee	Ian Cray
----------------------------	----------

Tolpuddle Home Group	Shirley & Richard Woolford	01305 849539
----------------------	----------------------------	--------------

Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust		info@tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org
----------------------------	--	----------------------------------

Tolpuddle Toddler Group	Maria Palmer	07717 506020
-------------------------	--------------	--------------

Tolpuddle Village Meeting	Tyra Nozaic Goosen, Clerk.	tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com
---------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------

Tolpuddle Village Show	Jo Austwick	austwickjoanne@gmail.com.
------------------------	-------------	---------------------------

Tolpuddle & Southover Village Website	www.tolpuddlevillage.co.uk	tolpuddlevillagewebsite@gmail.com
---------------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

Village Hall Bookings Sec.	Jo Austwick	tolpuddlevhinfo@gmail.com
----------------------------	-------------	---------------------------

Village Hall Chairman	Peter Walton pdwalton@btinternet.com	01305 848 034
-----------------------	---	---------------

Yoga (Iyengar)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
----------------	-------------	--------------

USEFUL & EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 88 22 00
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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 & PS CO Alison Donnison 6500	101 or "Contact Us" section on Dorset Police Website
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DEWLISH CONTACTS		
Cricket	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837 696
Ladies Group	Judith Bridgen	01258 837 157
Parish Council	Chris Udens (Chair)	07973 167117
Parish Clerk	Amanda Crocker dewlish@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
Village Hall (Chair)	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296
Village Hall (Sec)	Alex Carter	01258 837 312
MILBORNE ST ANDREW CONTACTS		
Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837 661
Archery	Mike Healy	01300 342 134
Bellringers	Robin Mears	01305 848 021
Busy Bees Group (Under 5s)	Claire Tudge	07970 734 162
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837 089
Food & Wine Club	Steve O'Neill	07490 691 121
Gardening Club	Bill Love	01258 837 677
Ladybirds Playgroup	Samantha Mercer	07767 450967
Milborne First School	Michelle Cheeseman (Head)	01258 837 362
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793 319
Nightsabre Dog Training Group	Natasja Lewis	07896 275 357
Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470 333
Parish Council	Richard MacNair (Chair)	07774 081 551
	Wayne Lewin (Clerk)	07419 136 735
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	07983 013 781
Pilates (at First School)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Scout Group	Sam Elliott	07873 762 035
Sports Club	Philip Smith (& Bookings)	07776 561 105
Tap Dancing (Adults)	Kevin Selby	01305 250 386
Tennis - Member's Secretary	Rich Hawker	07983 013 781
Village Hall	Linsey O'Neill (Chair) chair.msavh@gmail.com	07798 720 812
	Susan Poet (Bookings)	07866 313 999
Wednesday Social Club	Josie Wright	01258 839 090
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471 732
Yoga –at Milborne Sports Pavilion	Sue Chapman (Iyengar yoga)	01305 848 053
Yoga—at Village Hall	Angela Johnson	01258 839 060



St John's Church Tolpuddle May 2025

After a late Easter, with Spring well under way, the church is now preparing for Pentecost and the Trinity. As usual, Marion will be decorating the church beautifully with wild and garden flowers, the altar frontals will be green and Summer is just around the corner. Hopefully the glorious sunshine we have enjoyed over the last few weeks will continue, although the farmers and gardeners will no doubt be praying for some rain.



Last month a group of 20 members of the "Historical Appreciation Society" visited St John's where they had a short talk about the church, noting particularly the "Crown Post Roof" and Norman door. They were going on to visit four other churches in the area.

The APCM was held on April 13th, the PCC was renewed and now the church wardens will be attending a service to formally licence them in their parish role.

What else is happening in the village?

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The Martyrs Festival is on the horizon, tickets went on sale at the end of March, and as usual the village will be swinging into action helping with food and car parking. Keep the dates in your diary - 18th to 20th July.

TEC (Tolpuddle Events Committee) has been temporarily disbanded. It was a very active committee but at the time of print no-one has come forward to take on the role of Chair or Secretary. This is very disappointing but we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked so hard in this committee and raised a great deal of money - in particular Ian Cray and Jonathan and Sue Van Baars.

We have a variety of services throughout the month to suit many different tastes. We are very enthusiastic about our Lay lead service Go Fourth on the 4th Sunday of the month which offers a relaxed worship with the help of the band and the Team. The more traditional at heart might enjoy the Parish Communion on the first and third Sundays and for those looking for peace and contemplation on the second Sunday we offer Sunday Reflection at 1730, a compilation of music, poetry and readings. And do remember that the church is open between dawn and dusk every day if you just want to sit in a quiet space, away from the hustle and bustle of village life.

I think this might be a good opportunity to say farewell to Julie and Adrian. Julie was churchwarden for many years- she organised the very first Bonfire Party and many other village functions and was the maker of the famous steak pies for the Harvest Supper. She was known round the village for her skill at selling "tickets"- for raffles and other functions. Adrian, though not as overtly exuberant, was a very loyal parishioner, holder of the church key and sacristan, not to mention cleaning out the gutters with the help of a very long ladder (Health and Safety officer look the other way!)

We must also thank Jane Keenor for her commitment to keeping the church spick and span and for being the main key bearer. We also have a good churchyard team run by Morten Vilhemsen but we are always looking for more volunteers - whether in the churchyard or the church itself - please contact Jayne 07739 100181 or Hilly 02305747552.

Meanwhile enjoy the summer - whether or not the sun shines and let us be grateful that we live in a stable, democratic country and remember those less fortunate

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It's that time of year again! Martyrs Festival 2025

Sunday 20 July at Tolpuddle Village Hall: Can you help?

The annual Martyrs Festival in Tolpuddle will take place over the weekend of 18-20 July and we're looking forward to another successful year.

As well as the usual daily breakfasts at the Martyrs' Field, we shall be providing refreshments at Tolpuddle Village Hall throughout the Sunday. Proceeds from both, together with carparking on the Sunday, contribute significant funding for St John's Church and the village hall and help to support local activities throughout the year. Both the hall and the church are undertaking works this year, so fundraising is more important than ever.

This year we are hoping for a bumper year. Last year's 'ploughman's in a box' lunches in the village hall proved to be very popular, so, with a few minor adjustments, we will be making these again this year. In addition, we will provide our usual array of homemade cakes, together with teas, coffees and soft drinks throughout the day. We have a reputation for good value, home-cooked food and, as far as feasible, all the food will be sourced or produced locally.

As ever, we need help with various aspects of the day's catering, including providing some of the food; setting up the hall on Saturday afternoon; and serving and clearing up in the hall on the day. In particular, we are looking for:

- Homemade cakes of all shapes, sizes and flavours*
- Homemade quiches*
- Help with setting up tables and chairs from 6.00pm on Saturday 19th
- Helpers in the hall from 8.30am – 5.30pm on Sunday 20th. We plan to open from 10.00am to approx. 4.30pm (earlier if the food runs out) and are looking for volunteers to do 2-hour periods at a time in the hall but there is flexibility. (We will prepare a rota for the day in due course.)

*help with the cost of the ingredients can be provided, if needed.

We were very grateful for all those who helped last year and, once again, are looking for volunteers for this year. If you would be willing to help with any – or all – the items listed above, please email or text Margaret Walton (maclark2@btinternet.com or 07740622415) to let her know what you would be prepared to do. If you are able to help on the day, please let her know if you have any time constraints. Even if you volunteered last year, it would still be helpful if you could reconfirm your willingness to do so again and your availability etc. If you are new to the area, it is a great way to meet people and help the village at the same time.

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For the Martyrs' breakfasts, Jonathan Van Baars and Andy Turner will be organising these as usual on Saturday and Sunday mornings, 7:00 to 10:00, and will also be looking for volunteers to help with them. Please contact Jonathan (jonathan@vanbaars.co.uk) or Andy (apturmer55@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

We look forward to hearing from you and many thanks in advance.

Sir Ernest Debenham and the village of Tolpuddle

A lot of people have remarked about the fact that the shelter on the green by the Martyrs Tree has been re-thatched by the National Trust and very good it looks too! The shelter was originally funded by Sir Ernest Debenham (who owned a farming estate in Briantspuddle, Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle) in 1934 as part of the celebrations to mark the hundredth anniversary celebration of the transportation of the "Tolpuddle Martyrs" to Australia for forming a trade union of agricultural workers in our village. As you know George & James Loveless, John & Thomas Standfield, James Brine and James Hammett were eventually pardoned and returned to the UK after protests and demonstrations in big cities.

In 1934 the cottages were also built and there was a huge demonstration of trade unionists from all over the country at the opening ceremony. Sir Ernest also did a good deal to help Tolpuddle using Arts and Crafts Movement designs to give James Hammett his own gravestone (he had an "unmarked" grave for fifty years), he bought land for the graveyard and also, as I have said, erected the shelter.

The annual rally and festival has been organised annually since 1947 by the National Union of Agricultural Workers and in recent years by the TUC (Trades Union Congress). It has been expanded in recent years and comprises music, historical analysis and discussion. **The Rally & Festival will take place this year between Friday, 18th and Sunday, 20th of July** and there will once again be a barbecue for village residents before the event.

So, do come out and celebrate on the day of the Rally and also come to the barbecue. The TUC is very pleased to see residents of the village and neighbouring villages at the Rally and Festival.

Tony Gould



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A colorful poster for a Midsummer Fair & Flowerpot Festival. The background is light blue with stylized white clouds. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting (yellow, red, green, and orange) hangs across the frame. The main title 'MIDSUMMER FAIR & FLOWERPOT FESTIVAL' is written in a playful, rounded font. 'MIDSUMMER' is in white with a black outline on an orange banner. 'FAIR' is in red with a white outline. '&' is in red. 'FLOWERPOT FESTIVAL' is in red with a white outline. Below the title, the date and time 'Saturday 21st June 11am to 5pm' are written in red. The location 'ST MARY'S CHURCH, PUDDLETOWN' is in dark teal, and 'JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!' is in black. A list of activities follows, including 'Cream Teas & Light Refreshments', 'Church Mouse', 'Cakes', 'Tombola', 'Plants', 'Bric a Brac', 'Games', 'Stalls', 'Tower Tours', and 'Hymns & Pimm's'. The poster is decorated with various flowers: white daisies, a yellow flower, pink flowers, and red flowers. A green banner at the bottom contains the charity number.

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Disinheritance by Deception



If you think “fraudulent calumny” sounds like something from a Shakespeare play, you are not far wrong. The concept of pouring poison in the ear was a common theme for the playwright. Sadly, however, it is still very much relevant today in the context of Wills.

Lucy Mignot, Partner and Head of Contentious Trusts and Probate at Blanchards Bailey, explains this issue in detail.

Fraudulent calumny occurs when a person poisons a will-maker’s mind against someone who would otherwise be their natural beneficiary, and as a result the will-maker disinherits the person they have been poisoned against or leaves them less than they would be expected to receive. If fraudulent calumny is proved, the entire Will may be rendered invalid and set aside, reverting to the Will-maker’s previous will or, if they did not have one, the intestacy rules. In practice, these disputes are often between siblings, where one is alleged to have spread lies about the other to a parent. There are cases where it was alleged that a parent had been deceived into believing that one of their children had stolen from them, was a shopaholic and spendthrift, or was untrustworthy.

Fraudulent calumny will only be established if the person casting the aspersions knew that what they were telling the Will-maker was untrue or they did not care whether or not it was true, and there is no other explanation for the disinheritance.

It is a subtle form of undue influence where, rather than being forced into making changes against their Will, the Will-maker makes the changes of their own volition because their perception of the person they are disinheriting has been skewed. Fraudulent calumny is often missed by inexperienced or non-specialist lawyers.

If you are concerned that a Will may have been affected by deliberate deception or you believe it may not be valid for any other reason, it is essential that you seek specialist legal advice from a contentious probate expert.

For assistance, please contact Lucy Mignot on 01305 217303.



Notes from St Andrew's

I write this just after we have begun our Holy Week observance with the Palm Sunday Eucharist. Palm Crosses were blessed, and the St Luke's account of Jesus' Passion was read. It was a very moving occasion.

At the end of March, Mothering Sunday was celebrated at the Parish Eucharist, with Sarah celebrating (wearing a rose-coloured chasuble donated by a parish in North London where Tony has connections) and Margaret Rickard preaching. Posies, made by Lin and Tony, were distributed.

Milborne First School came to St. Andrew's on April 1st (no joke!) for their Easter Service. It was a wonderful occasion, with poetry, music and artwork. Congratulations to all involved; it was the first time year three led a Service. It was great to have many family members and friends present, too. See you all at Harvest!

On Sunday, May 4th, at 9:30 a.m., Tony will lead a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. There are other events on the day itself in Milborne, and a Service in Puddletown at 2:30 p.m.

Our annual Meeting is being held on May 25th in Dewlish this year (we alternate within the parish), following the Parish Eucharist at 11:00. Do come along and hear what has been happening over the past year and to elect officers for the ensuing year. There is still time to join the Electoral Roll.

We are grateful to those who supported the three Lent lunches. Just over £200 has been raised towards the work needed to stabilise the floors in the toilet cubicles. Thank you to all involved; the lunches were a most convivial time—after all, even in Lent, we are still Easter People! Numbers at Compline this year have averaged double figures. The Lent Group has been a lively and stimulating experience. Thanks to Sarah for leading, and Teresa for hosting us at the Chapel (which brought back many memories for some!)

A number of people from the village or with village connections have died recently. Among them are Bruce Dyer, Larry Wadham, Alan Cousins, Rose Gough, and Paddi Spruyt. The cremated remains of John and Anne Miller and Martin Holdaway have also been interred in the churchyard. We send our condolences to all who mourn at this time and pray for the repose of the souls of the departed.

Although the weather has changed to a cooler, more unsettled pattern after the very warm and dry Spring so far, we are reminded that we are still in Eastertide, the season of new life and growth.

Tony (& Pam), Churchwardens.

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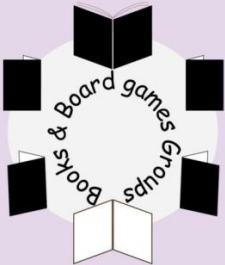
Free Wifi



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

MSA Gardening Club's Annual Plant Sale



**at Milborne Village Hall
on Saturday 10th May
10.30am to 12.30pm**

**Homemade cakes and
refreshments available**

Free entry

**Wide selection of locally
grown plants and associated
items at excellent prices**

Do come . . . everyone welcome!



PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH MEETING

14
MAY

PLACE OF THE EVENT

Puddletown Village Hall



TIME OF THE EVENT

6.30pm

WWW.PUDDLETOWNAREAPARISHCOUNCIL.CO.UK

The Parish Council would like to invite you to the Annual Parish Assembly. This meeting is an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate, talk to the different village groups and organisations, share ideas and to suggest ways of making our parish even better.

Come and enjoy a FREE cup of tea or coffee with a cheeky little biscuit!!




PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL


Spring has sprung, and with it came a busy April meeting for the Parish Council. Thanks to everyone who joined us and contributed. It's always great to see residents taking an interest in their community. Here's a quick and easy-to-digest summary of everything we covered. Plenty of updates, ideas, and actions to keep the parish ticking along!

“Please slow down”: Following a one-year trial of road safety signage across North Dorset funded by the Police Crime Commissioners Office, the option to use the signs across the Dorset County area has been made possible thanks to the cooperation of Dorset Council. If residents want a sign erected locally to help stop speeding, please contact us.

Defibrillators training Date Change: The Puddletown Area Parish Council is organising defibrillator training sessions, with the first session rescheduled for Saturday, 31st May 2025, at Tolpuddle Village Hall starting at 10am. The session is 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


Join the Parish Council for a couple of hours of conversation with local groups like Dorset Police, The Church, The Cottage Garden Society, and the Guide Dogs (adorable pup included!). We even have the Middle School Choir opening our event in Tolpuddle. Share your ideas with councillors, learn about upcoming plans (Including a new Youth Council), and help improve our community. Enjoy a FREE cup of tea or coffee (plus a cheeky biscuit!) while connecting with your community.

Join us, share your vision, and be part of the positive change

Butt Close Playpark: During our May meeting, one item of conversation will be regarding the playpark in Butt Close. If you'd like to have a say on what equipment is installed, or how the area should be developed please join us at our May meeting. Tuesday 13th May 2025, in the Puddletown Village Hall from 7pm.

Planning Applications:

 2 Trent Meadows, Puddletown – T1 Yew tree: No objection

 Southover Farm, Tolpuddle – Two agricultural buildings for cow housing: No objections

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



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:



[www.https://homestartwestdorset.co.uk](https://homestartwestdorset.co.uk)
office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk
01305 265072

**HOME
START**
West Dorset

land/planning

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 13th May 2025, at 7pm in the Puddletown Village Hall. Please come and join us and have your say.

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/>

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



Dewlish Church Notes

WHAT a glorious day it was on Mothering Sunday! Spring has now definitely arrived, and the flowers are a joy to behold. Our Mothering Sunday service went very well, with Jim leading the service, Aiden playing the organ and our young villagers reading about the story of Mary's relationship with Jesus. Beautiful posies of Spring

flowers – lovingly made by some of our ladies – were distributed, and Sue very kindly made simnel cakes for each member of the congregation. Thank you everyone!

On Sunday 25th May we are hosting the **church APCM** after the 11.00am Parish Communion service for Dewlish and Milborne. All those on the Electoral Rolls of Dewlish and Milborne are welcome to join us - we would love to see you.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday 29th May so we hope to have our usual service in the churchyard but **at 7.00am**. Please note the new time. We have made it a little later this year to allow everyone to stay in bed a bit longer!

Daphne Burg



Tolpuddle Toddlers

Friendly group for under 5's

Every Monday
during term time

10am-12pm
Tolpuddle Village Hall

£2.50 per family

crafts | singing | snacks | play

Become a Trading Standards volunteer

Do you have spare time, and would you like to help others stay safe from scams and similar types of fraud? If so, we're looking for people in the Dorset Council area who would like to help us promote the national Friends Against Scams scheme by becoming 'Scamchampions' and encouraging others to become 'Friends'.

Today, more than 1 in every 100 people living in Dorset are a Friend with Friends Against Scams.

Friends learn how to spot the signs of a scam and can then use that learning to help other people. By having simple everyday conversations Friends can help to keep others safe, whether family, friends, work colleagues, in fact anyone a Friend might meet. Friends also know where to report a scam and where to go to get help.

It's very easy to become a Friend. Anyone can. Just visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk and take the 20-minute online training at a time to suit you. If you don't have a computer, then ask at your local library how to access the training from a public access computer.

If you are part of a group and would like face to face training for a larger number of people, then please contact Trading Standards on the email below.

Volunteers with Dorset Council Trading Standards become 'Scamchampions' who encourage others to become Friends in a more structured way. Examples include attending partnership events with Trading Standards staff, having face to face conversations with people in libraries, getting involved with informal coffee morning group discussions, and for some people who are confident in doing it, giving presentations.

We are always happy to hear from people who would like to talk about what they can offer to a volunteering role. We are led by you in terms of your skills and how much you'd like to be involved. To find out more about our [Trading Standards volunteering](#) opportunities, please get in touch with us at tradingstandards@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

PUDDLETOWN PRESCHOOL

JUMBLE SALE

17TH MAY 2025

11AM-2PM

PUDDLETOWN FIRST SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

£10 PER TABLE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO

PUDDLETOWN PRESCHOOL

TO BOOK YOUR TABLE, PLEASE EMAIL

[INFO@PUDDLETOWN-PRESCHOOL.COM](mailto:info@puddletown-preschool.com)

OR TEXT 02919 441381

FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T MAKE THE EVENT WE WILL BE RUNNING A
COMMUNITY TABLE WHERE WE CAN SELL YOUR JUMBLE ON YOUR BEHALF
FOR 50% OF SALES MADE!





PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

DEFIB WITH CONFIDENCE—EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

SATURDAY 31ST MAY
TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL
STARTING AT 10AM

Free training for all Puddletown Area Parish Council residents.

Training starts at 10am and finishes when you are confident (Usually about 2 hours).



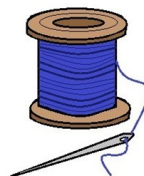
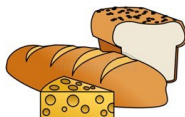


THE PUDDLETOWN BENEFICE FLEX TEAM

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 15th May

IN PUDDLETOWN CHURCH ROOM

Future dates: 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

4th May - Easter 3

Psalm 30; Acts 9.1-20; John 21.1-19

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30am	Milborne Praise - 80th Anniversary of VE Day	Milborne
11.00am	Parish Communion followed by APCM and bring-and-share lunch	Puddletown
11.00am	BCP Morning Prayer	Dewlish

80TH Anniversary of VE Day - Thursday 8TH May

2.30pm	Service of Remembrance and thanksgiving	Puddletown
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11th May - Easter 4

Psalm 23; Acts 9.36-43; John 10.22-30

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

18th May - Easter 5

Psalm 148; Acts 11.1-18; John 13.31-35

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

25th May - Easter 6

Psalm 87; Acts 16.9-15; John 14.23-29

10.00am	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00am	BCP Matins	Puddletown
11.00am	Parish Communion followed by APCM for Milborne and Dewlish	Dewlish

Ascension Day - Thursday 29th May

Psalm 47; Acts 1.1-11; Luke 24.44-53

7.00am	Morning Prayer	Dewlish Churchyard
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Puddletown

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Executive Coach Travel With A Personal Touch

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COME AND EXPERIENCES COACH TOURS WITH A DIFFERENCE

DAY EXCURSIONS AND HOLIDAY TOURS ON COACH

picking up in PUDDLETOWN. TOLPUDDLE and DORCHESTER.



LATE AVAILABILITY

MONET'S GARDEN, VERSAILLES AND PARIS

July 10th 5 days £825

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

CALL US FOR YOUR COPY OF OUR NEW DAY EXCURSION BROCHURE !

FOR YOUR COPY OF OUR HOLIDAY BROCHURE CALL US ON

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