

LENT GROUPS

“The Whole Easter Story” by Jo Swinney is the chosen book, **Sunday** with **Peter Wright** – peter@parishofbridport.org
St Mary’s Meeting Room 4pm till 5.30pm, **9 March**.

Monday with **Revd Phil Ringer** philip@parishofbridport.org
Cherries, West Bay after Morning Prayer **10 March**.
10.30am till 12 noon. “Hope in Hard Places”
(order from Charity ‘Embrace the Middle East’ £4.99)

Tuesday with **Martin Whiting** martin@parishofbridport.org
Holy Trinity Bradpole, 2.30pm till 4pm, **11 March**.

Tuesday with **Revd Jo Neary** in St Mary’s Church,
Beaminster 10.30am-11.30am, **11 March**.

Wednesday 8pm-9pm ZOOM (**5 March - 9 April**)
<https://arocha.org.uk/event/lent-book-club-the-whole-easter-story/>
Please pre-book yourself onto the ZOOM meeting.
Hosted by Jo Swinney, Jo Herbert-James and others.

Wednesday with **Revd John Rees** (**16 April**)
Pilgrimage walk (5-6 miles) around our 6 churches
start at St Swithun’s, finish at Holy Trinity Bradpole.
Bring a packed lunch. This is an opportunity for us
to enjoy the Spring beauty of our area and recap
some of the topics in Jo Swinney’s book.
07340 589375 or john@parishofbridport.org

Thursday with **Kathrine O’Brien** at St Swithun’s, at
11am, after the morning service, starts **6 March**.
Email: kathmob206@gmail.com

Friday with **James Craddock** at Tamarisk Cottage
(Walditch DT6 4LB) from 2.30pm till 4pm starting on
7 March for 6 weeks. Tel: 01308 458725.

ECO CHURCH NEWS

Congratulations to Holy Trinity Bradpole, who have
gained their Bronze award, and thanks to all those
whose hard work has made this possible.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 17 May – Deanery Creation/Eco day
2pm to 4.30 pm – St Mary’s Church Bridport.
An opportunity to share ideas, challenges and
opportunities relating to Eco church with other
churches in the Lyme Bay Deanery plus a Cream
Tea!!

Saturday 27 September - Parish Green Day
10.00am to 4pm – St Mary’s Church Bridport.
Speakers in the morning and practical workshops in
the afternoon including a Workshop organised by
Bridport Regenerative Textiles CIC which is working
with Bridport Youth Groups.

These are great opportunities to share our
Custodianship of God’s Creation with other Green
Groups in Bridport and “Make Jesus Known.”

As we all enjoy the wonderful signs of Spring,
please pray for those who will be organising these
events and those who will take part. Thank you.

Janet Webster - Eco Church Sub Committee

9 March 2025

**First Sunday of LENT
PARISH NEWS**

Greetings from Bridport’s worshipping community

FINDING JOY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES THIS LENT

Our Parish Eucharist service last Sunday was joyous. Holy Trinity Bothenhampton was wonderfully full, bathed in Spring sunshine, with people from all six churches worshipping together. (Apologies for significantly under-catering on daffodils – a testament to our wonderful turnout!) In part, we celebrated St David’s Day, and St David’s words have been resonating with me as we enter this Lenten season: “Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.” David led an austere, ascetic life, yet he found joy. Perhaps his simple, stripped-back lifestyle was precisely what enabled his deep contentment – a lesson for our often cluttered lives. Ten years ago this Spring, I faced a sudden, devastating diagnosis. It coincided with what became one of the most beautiful Springs I’ve ever experienced. My garden produced a spectacular display of Spring flowers, and initially, this seemed cruelly ironic. How could Nature continue so vibrantly while my world had ground to a halt? Did Mother Nature not care? Did God not care? But as I looked closer, I found comfort. Nature simply does what Nature does – the world keeps turning, regardless of our personal crises. The rhythms and continuity of the natural world carry within them the surprise of hope. The past ten days have been tumultuous on the world stage, at times unbearably disheartening. Global events remind us that challenges anywhere are everyone’s responsibility. We cannot dismiss international tensions as someone else’s problem. Yet, amid these global challenges, we must still find joy. Our Old Testament reading this Sunday (Deuteronomy 26:1-11) exemplifies this resilience. Written during the Israelites’ wilderness journey, it recalls God’s promises to Abraham, how God freed them from Egyptian oppression and how they will give thanks to God when they find their promised land. As we enter Lent, our season of wandering through the wilderness, perhaps we can follow St David’s advice to “do the little things” that simplify our lives and allow us to notice and delight in moments of beauty. In doing this, we realise that we are part of a much larger narrative: God’s story of creation: a journey of life, death and resurrection, into which God has completely committed himself through Jesus. Our Lent book, The Whole Easter Story – why the Cross is good news for all creation explores this in depth. (Find details about our Lent book groups elsewhere in this pew sheet). I often reconnect with this wider perspective by looking at a good view. From our bedroom window, the splendid Dorset hills remind me each day of the words from Psalm 121: “I will lift up my eyes to the hills; from whence comes my help? My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2) This is my prayer of thanksgiving at this time – one way to prepare for the death and Resurrection of our Lord. Whether you encounter God in sweeping landscapes, in the delicate lifecycle of a flower bulb, through reading and discussion, or in countless other ways, my prayer is that this Lent, each of us experiences a deep and meaningful connection with God.

Revd Cally Burch

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

READINGS

Romans 10 : 8b – 13 But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Luke 4 : 1 - 13 _____ *The Temptation of Jesus*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Psalms 91 : 1, 2, 9-end _____ *The Assurance of God's Protection*

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

THURSDAY PARISH 'CYCLE OF PRAYER'

First and third Thursdays of the month 3.30-4.30pm.

20 March St John's West Bay **3 April** Holy Trinity Bradpole.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll process begins month. Application forms - to go on the Roll - will be in each of the six churches in the Parish in accordance with the electoral roll timetable.

James Craddock - Electoral Roll Officer

OTHONA QUIET DAY

Saturday **12 April** 9.30am- 4pm. Details will follow.

— BRINGING TOGETHER FLOWERS & QUILTS!

Planning is underway for a Flower and Quilt festival which will be held in St Mary's Bridport over the weekend of **27 – 29 June** 2025. It is hoped that this event will bring together the creative talents of a wide range of people from the local community so that we can once again celebrate the colour and vibrancy of our town. The project is to be known as 'Bridport Bright and Beautiful' and it would be good if as many individuals, organisations and businesses were represented. Proceeds from the event will be divided between the church and local community projects. To register your interest at this early stage in our planning process, please contact Di at the church office 01308 424747 or admin@parishofbridport.org or speak with Becca Doe at Beccas Fabric Larder in South Street **before Monday 17th March**.



Celtic traditional and contemporary songs and tunes. Music from the UK & Ireland



*"An uplifting journey" (BBC)
"The real deal" (The Living Tradition)
"Startlingly talented musicians" (Oxford Times)*

Saturday at 7.30pm

15th March

St Mary's Church Bridport

Postcode: DT6 3NW

£15.00 (cash or card) including a free drink.

Tickets on the door. Enquiries: 07799564515