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They might have been tempted to try to co-opt Jesus into their business as the great fish whisperer... think of the wealth they could have amassed... But it is the other way round! Instead, they follow Jesus on his great fishing expedition - fishing for people. They have glimpsed God's abundant love and care for them - specifically for them - and now they are recruited to pass that message on to everyone else – and down the line, to us too. Will we, too, pass on the message? Peter and his fellow fishermen were specifically called by Jesus to put down their nets to fulfil the particular role of Disciple that God had in mind for them. It is unlikely God is calling us to abandon our lives in quite such a spectacular way, but God is always calling us to something... Can we train ourselves to notice anything of God's transformative power in our lives? A beautiful vision of the kingdom that somehow turns the very real travails of our lives, however great or small, into something less significant by comparison - and therefore less burdensome? Will we pass on this Good News to others?

*Revd Cally Burch*

### SAFEGUARDING ASSISTANTS (SGAs)

Anne Rees works with our Parish Children and Young People (SGACYP) groups, contact her via: [anne@parishofbridport.org](mailto:anne@parishofbridport.org). Alongside Anne we are **still looking for someone** in a similar role to focus on *vulnerable adults*. Contact Wendy or Di in the office for the role description.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAY BRIDPORT

Next CTiBD PRAY Bridport is **11 February** at 6pm.  
Venue: Bridport United Church. *Note earlier time!*

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2025

#### Palm Sunday (13 April)

8am JM Book of Common Prayer *St Mary's Bridport*  
9.30am AR/JR Morning Praise *HT Bradpole*  
9.30am Holy Communion *St Swithun's Allington*  
11am PR Holy Communion *St Mary's Bridport*  
11am GP Morning Praise *HT Bothenhampton*  
11am CB Holy Communion *St John's*

#### Maundy Thursday (17 April)

11am Morning Chrism *Salisbury Cathedral* – all Clergy  
7pm JM Holy Communion, Foot-washing *HT Bradpole*  
7.30pm CB/LJ/DSh Holy Communion, Foot-washing and Vigil *St Swithun's Church Allington*.

#### Good Friday (18 April)

12 noon GP **Prayers** *Holy Trinity Bothenhampton*  
12 noon till 3pm JM/JR/AA/CB **Vigil** *HT Bradpole*  
2pm till 3pm CB/PW **Meditation** *St Mary's Bridport*  
2pm **Liturgy** DSm/KO'B *St Swithun's Allington*

#### Holy Saturday (19 April)

10.30 LJ/CB/JR/AR 'Come & Sea' 2 hours : *St John's*  
8pm JM/AA/JR/PW Easter Eve *St Mary's Bridport*

#### Easter Sunday (20 April)

Sunrise Service (time tbc) *East Pier West Bay*  
8am CB Book of Common Prayer *St Mary's Bridport*  
9.30am JM Holy Communion *HT Bradpole*  
9.30am LJ/DSh Holy Communion *St Swithun's Allington*  
11am CB Holy Communion *St Mary's Bridport*  
11am JR Holy Communion *HT Bothenhampton*  
11am PR Morning Prayer *St John's*  
11am AA Holy Communion *St Mary's Walditch*

9 February 2025

Fourth Sunday before LENT

## PARISH NEWS



**Greetings** from Bridport's worshipping community

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This Sunday, we continue our immersion in Luke's gospel. The story of this miraculous catch of fish both teaches us a lot about the nature of God and encourages us with Jesus' ability to transform human lives. Typical of most miracles in the Bible, it involves the ordinary natural stuff of life, supernaturally transformed. A few Sundays ago we heard about Jesus' first miracle in John's gospel: turning those massive jars of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. What is noticeable in these miracles is the scale; the vast abundance of God's provision. The fishermen don't just receive one large catch's worth of fish – there is enough fish to threaten to break their nets and sink both boats. There is far more fish than they are able to deal with! I think these miracles of God, like others, tell us two things about God: the abundance of God's provision and how carefully targeted and directed God's actions are. There is a precision to them, a particular message conveyed by each one. In each case we may ask, who is the message (or the miracle) for? At Cana it was for the disciples. In this story, it is for Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen. Peter, like the rest of the huge crowd, notices Jesus as one who speaks with authority. When Jesus had finished speaking and asks Peter to put out the nets into deep water, Peter replies, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything, but because you say so, I'll let down the nets" – Peter is obedient to Jesus's instructions, even though it makes no logical sense. Peter, the professional fisherman, working with his fishing partners with generations of experience, knows full well that you don't catch fish in full sunlight, especially after a night without a catch. So, what is the message for Peter? What is the difference that this miracle makes in Peter's life? You can detect the weariness in Peter's response to Jesus' request to put out the nets into the deep water. The Bible doesn't give us the back story. We don't know if the night's work was merely tiring and frustrating for the fishermen or if it represented an existential struggle with their livelihood. We do know that their labours had been in vain and they were weary. Is that how we feel? Particularly those of us who feel we are working hard just to keep up with the demands of daily living. For some, at times, it can feel like a struggle for nothing. But Peter listens to Jesus and is obedient to his instructions – despite the lack of obvious common-sense in them. And yet, here is the big surprise... precisely when his prayers are answered and he has the most valuable and expensive haul of fish he's ever seen, Simon Peter and his partners James and John abandon it all! "They left everything and followed him" - this is how our reading finishes and yet this is a whole new beginning for them. The weighty, worldly matters that had got Peter down suddenly don't seem to matter anymore. They have been introduced to a much bigger vision. What is it that they have seen? It is a glimpse of something that takes them way beyond the world they live in.

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## COLLECT

O God,  
you know us to be set  
in the midst of so many and great dangers,  
that by reason of the frailty of our nature  
we cannot always stand upright:  
grant to us such strength and protection  
as may support us in all dangers  
and carry us through all temptations;  
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.

(or)

Lord of the hosts of heaven,  
our salvation and our strength,  
without you we are lost:  
guard us from all that harms or hurts  
and raise us when we fall;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Post Communion

Go before us, Lord, in all we do  
with your most gracious favour,  
and guide us with your continual help,  
that in all our works  
begun, continued and ended in you,  
we may glorify your holy name,  
and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## READINGS

### 1 Corinthians 15 : 1 - 11 *The Resurrection of Christ*

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

### Luke 5 : 1 - 11 *Jesus Calls the First disciples*

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

### Psalm 138 *Thanksgiving and Praise. Of David*

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down  
towards your holy temple and give thanks to your  
name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything. On the day I called, you answered  
me, you increased my strength of soul. All the kings  
of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have  
heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the  
ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.  
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but  
the haughty he perceives from far away. Though I  
walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against  
the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfil  
his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord,  
endures for ever. Do not forsake the work of your  
hands.

## THURSDAY PARISH PRAYER

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

**20 February 2025** *St Swithun's Church Allington;*

**6 Mar** *Holy Trinity Bothenhampton; 20 Mar* *St John's*

## LENT BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

"The Whole Easter Story" by Jo Swinney is available to purchase from James Craddock. Please contact him 01308 458725 or [jscraddock2022@outlook.com](mailto:jscraddock2022@outlook.com)

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

If you plan to attend the 11am Eucharist of the Chrism and Re-affirmation of Vows at Salisbury Cathedral on 28 March and need a lift to Axminster train station or would like to share / offer a lift either to Axminster or Salisbury, please contact Michele Craddock. If there is a lot of interest we could perhaps consider hiring a mini-bus or coach.

**Replies by 17 March** please. Tel: 01308 458725 or Email: [cwteam@parishofbridport.org](mailto:cwteam@parishofbridport.org)