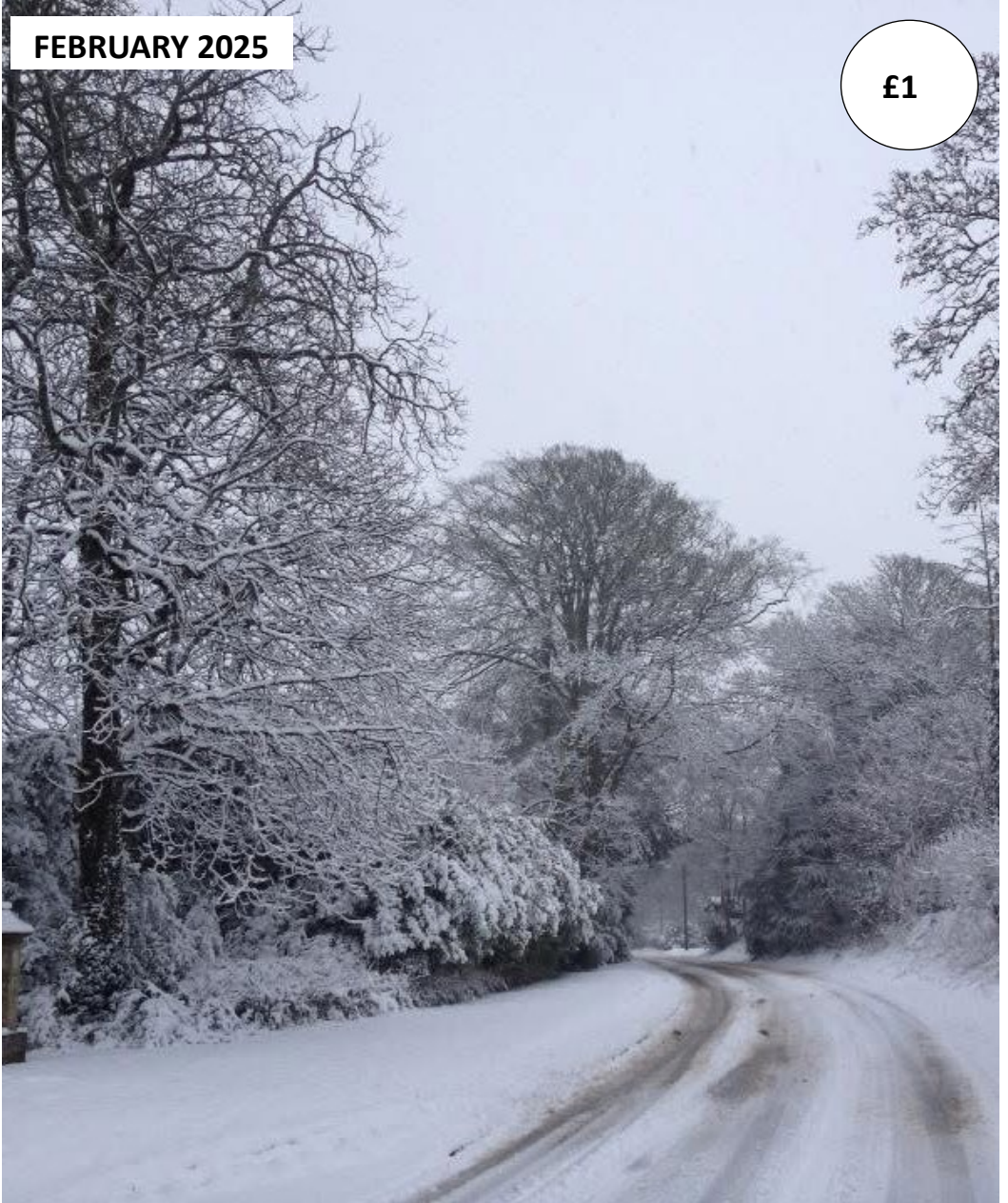


Parish Magazine

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Annual Advertising Rates to end December 2025(Sizes are cm)		
Quarter Page - (6.00 x 9.00)(P) - £78.00	Half Page - (12.26 x 9.00) - £143.00	
Quarter Page - (12.26 x 4.20)(L) - £78.00	Whole Page - (12.26 x 18.25) - £195.00	

The Editor's decision is final. All items for publication must include name and contact number of the author. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the church or the magazine. Advertisers are neither vetted nor endorsed by the Parish Magazine.

Please mention the Puddletown Parish Magazine when responding to advertisers.

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

Published by the Parish Magazine, St Mary's Church, The Square, Puddletown, Dorchester DT2 8SL.

Copy deadline for the March magazine is 7th February 2025.

Front Cover Photos: The road from Puddletown to Tolpuddle on a snowy day.

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Hidden Growth

February can sometimes feel like a bit of a non-time. The excitement of Christmas and the New Year are past and Easter is still a way off, even if the shops have been trying to sell us chocolate eggs since the back-end of last year. The weather is often changeable, the days still short and the trees bare.

But it is not a month without hope. Signs of the coming Spring are apparent: days, though still usually cold, are beginning to lengthen, and changes in nature can be seen. Snowdrops and early flowers are in bloom, and even in the stillness of winter, new life stirs beneath the surface.

This sense of quiet growth mirrors our spiritual journeys. Life can sometimes feel as though it's on pause — we can feel that we are stuck, not moving forward, existing rather than living or even going backwards. But these times might be necessary as we ready ourselves for what is to come. As the earth prepares for its next season in unseen ways, so we can trust that God is at work in our lives too, even if we cannot immediately see the growth that is happening.

This month is a good time to reflect on how we can nurture the seeds of faith, hope and love in our own hearts and communities. It might be through taking time to pray, listen, or spend moments of stillness in God's presence. Maybe it will be through acts of kindness, reaching out to someone who might feel isolated, or supporting a cause that aligns with Jesus's call to care for one another.

A small pinprick of light can make a huge difference in a dark room. As we journey together through this month, let us be lights for each other. Let us celebrate the small joys, support those in need, and take each step with faith that brighter days are ahead.

With best wishes
Sarah

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St Mary's Puddletown		
Intercessors		Scripture Readers
2nd February	TBA	Rosie Hallett
9th February	Puddletown Praise Team	
16th February	TBA	Pat Bishop
23rd February	Jean Jeffreys	Judy Bumby & Mara Wingrove



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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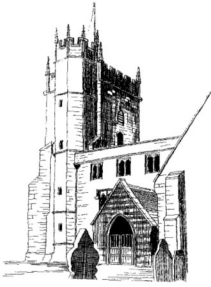
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St. Mary's Church Events - February

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 February 13th.

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 resume this month and will meet on Thursday February 6th @ 12.30pm 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 February 10th at 12noon. We shall be serving sausage casserole followed by the usual delicious puddings. 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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Tower News

Milborne St Andrew, Dorset

St Andrew

Sunday 21st December 2024 in 5m (8-3-18 in A)

120 Plain Bob Doubles



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Emma Hughes | 2 | Dawn Head |
| 3 | Robin J Mears (C) | 4 | Maria Guttridge |
| 5 | Robert Newton | | |

Rung on the front 5 before the village Carol Service.

Milborne St Andrew, Dorset

St Andrew

Sunday 21st December 2024 in 5m (8-3-18 in A)

48 Plain Hunt Doubles

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Robert Newton (C) | 2 | Dawn Head |
| 3 | Emma Hughes | 4 | Maria Guttridge |
| 5 | Robin J Mears | | |

Rung on the front 5 before the village Carol Service.

Puddletown, Dorset

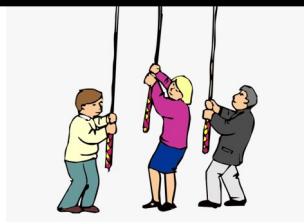
St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 24th December 2024 in 5m (16-1-18 in E)

26 Call Changes

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Fi Irwin | 2 | Roger Thomson |
| 3 | Ian Bishop | 4 | William P Bishop (C) |
| 5 | Emma Hughes | 6 | Robin J Mears |

Rung for the Christmas Crib Service at 5pm. Also present Fiona Thomson.





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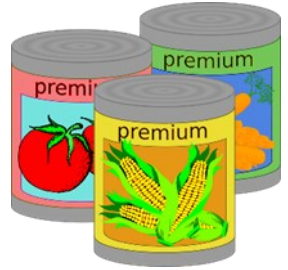


Puddletown Food Bank

Many thanks for the kind donations received in support of the food bank located in St Mary's, Puddletown.

The number of users has increased during recent weeks and several appreciative messages have been left by those accessing the bank eg. *'You cannot know what a difference this makes'*.

'Thank you so much for your kindness'



We hope to be able to continue to provide this resource for people in need in Puddletown, Athelhampton, Burleston and Troytown and would welcome further donations. These may be dropped off at the church or at the surgery.

Popular items range from all canned goods, cereals, quick cook pasta, noodles and beverages, through to shampoo, shower gel, soap, washing up liquid etc.

Any item you are able to donate will make a difference!

We cannot accept fresh produce, but if we can provide some of the above, we will enable families to access further goods independently.

Thank you for your continued support in 2025

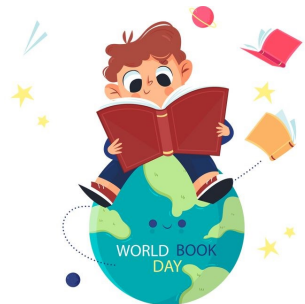
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World Book Day Spring Fair Puddletown Village Hall



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Month on the Farm



The dull, damp and changing temperatures of the last few weeks have caused some issues with pneumonia in the weaned calves which we have tried to control with regular cleaning out of the damp bedding and using copious amounts of fresh, clean and dry straw, sometimes bedding up twice a day with regular checking of the calves health and under extreme circumstances an antibiotic injection is administered. The stocks of hay,

silage and straw are reducing as the winter goes by and some of the weaned calves are really tucking into the forage along with their barley mixture.

Work on the arable fields is pretty limited except for a small amount of spraying which needed the colder temperatures for the chemicals to work effectively. Some of the hedges have been trimmed with more to do when ground conditions allow.

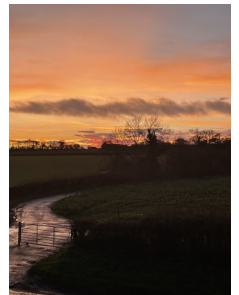


At the moment we have only a few calves on milk as it has been difficult to find them as there is a quiet time of the cows calving between the autumn calving dairy herds finishing and the spring calving ones not started yet coupled with the restrictions put in place of livestock movements due to the Bluetongue midge, which at the time of writing is not in this area, but we were instructed by DEFRA's Animal Health Department to blood test a hundred animals to see if they were infected by the disease in early January, thankfully the results were clear.

Earlier this week we were woken in the middle of the night by some unfamiliar noises which turned out to be some thieves who had broken into our grain store by wrecking the small metal security door enabling them to open the larger door and then pushed the quad bike out of the yard and up the road also taking with them some tools. It was a strange feeling to go into the yard when everything is quiet, cold and very icy and find the doors open and then a few minutes later hear the bike, which had been hot wired as we still have the keys, race up the road where it was loaded up. Although the police were soon on the scene they were unable to catch the culprits or find the stolen items. Since the break in we have had to make a new door to replace the one damaged beyond repair and increase the security measures and suffer the inconvenience of not having a bike for daily livestock duties and the tools when you need them!!

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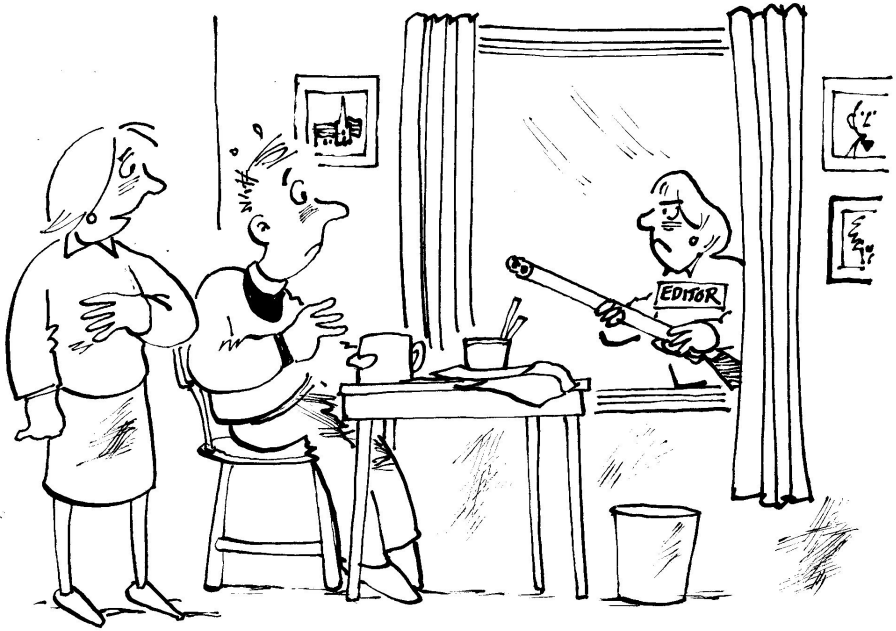
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...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?

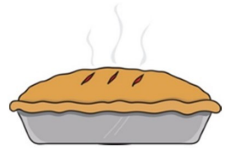
Puddletown Village Lunch



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Supporting Our Local Community in 2025

Our vision at St Mary's School is, 'Inspire today to shape tomorrow'. Our students regularly put this vision into action by shaping their local communities through their volunteering, charity and project work.

Once again this year, our Year 8 pupils have been supporting their local communities through their participation on the school's Young Leaders Award. Pupils explore the concept of leadership, consider the importance of serving others and examine how to bring transformation to their communities.

Julia Goy, T&E lead at St Mary's, said "Over the past four years, the course has resulted in many impressive action projects and has given pupils a chance to grow in confidence, commitment and care for others."

Here are just some of the volunteering projects that the students have undertaken since beginning Year 8 in September!

Serving at the Puddletown Christmas lunch
Fundraising for local charities
Donating clothes, books and toys to local charity shops
Planting daffodil bulbs in the school grounds
Painting pictures for a care home
Putting together a Christmas shoebox for a homeless charity
Litter picking
Collecting for Weymouth Foodbank
Organising afternoon tea for elderly residents
Helping elderly neighbours with their garden and window cleaning
Beach cleans
Making angels and sending messages of encouragement to neighbours
Cleaning and flower arranging for a local church
Building bat boxes for a local wildlife area





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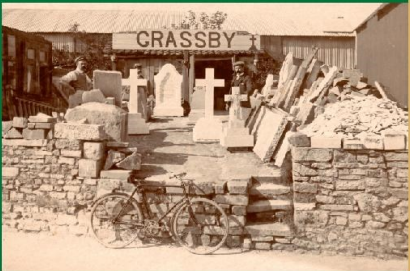
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That's just a taste of what our students have been doing to support their local community, and we look forward to seeing many of these projects develop and flourish in 2025. We are incredibly proud of them all.

We are always looking for opportunities to involve our students in supporting their local community. Another exciting local initiative in development this year is the *Puddletown 300* project which celebrates the 300th anniversary of the Puddletown village census that was carried out by the Reverend Henry Dawnay in 1724/1725. Dawnay surveyed the population of Puddletown house by house, recording a variety of key socio-economic data including the names, ages and occupations of all of the village's residents. The picture Dawnay's study paints of village life in the 1700s is fascinating and we are looking forward to working closely with project leader, Diana Hooper, and her team to explore how we bring Dawnay's work to life for the present generation. Watch this space for updates on the Puddletown 300 project!

Please let us know of local projects, local needs or ways we can help. We would love to hear your ideas!

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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THE PUDDLETOWN SOCIETY



Forthcoming Meetings

Wednesday 12 February 2025

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**There's more happening in a Puddletown garden
than you think**

an illustrated talk by

REBECCA PORTER

Wildlife Officer at Sculpture by the Lakes and

Co-ordinator of Cerne Abbas Butterfly recording

for Butterfly Conservation

St Mary's Church Room: 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 12 March 2025

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.

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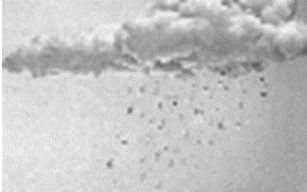


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Puddletown Weather - December 2024

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

December 2024		
	Rainfall for the month	37.50mm
	Cumulative for the year	934.50mm
	2023 Rainfall for the month	156.60 mm
	2023 Cumulative for the year	1065.00 mm
	Temperatures	Max. 14.00° C Min. 0.20° C
	2023	Max. 14.30° C Min. -2.70° C
	Maximum wind speed	28.90 mph
	2023	19.70 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.

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on mervynharris981@btinternet.com,
or call on 07794787588.






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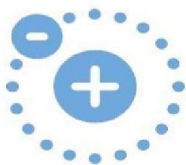
Every Wednesday in Puddletown Church Room.

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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)	01258 837 651
	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

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

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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
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
Orchard Meadow	Clerk to PAPC	
PCC Secretary	Heather Saunders	
PCC Treasurer	John Taylor	01305 848 552
Physio-Led Pilates	Sam Buxton	samjibuxton31@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
Dorset Community Action	info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk	
Dorset County Hospital		01305 251 150
Electricity Failure	(Southern Electric)	0800 0727 282
Gas Leak or a smell of gas		0800 111 999
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 February 2025

What a chilly start to this year with some very frosty weather at the beginning of January. But the inevitable rain has swelled the water meadows and brought a wealth of water fowl to entertain us. And oh dear - the puddles in the church have reappeared, although we had hoped the patch was still holding. We

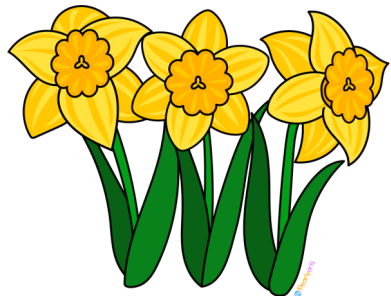
sincerely hope the full roof repair will be made within the next month.

With Christmas now behind us and all the decorations stowed away for another year, we are left with many happy memories of village life - the Carol service in the church and more relaxed Carols in the pub, a lively Crib Service, with the familiar story ably narrated by Robbie and Amelia and acted by a very confident Mary and Joseph, our Christmas Day Service with communion by extension beautifully lead by Margaret Rickard and a sparkly New Year's Eve party in the Martyrs Inn - all reminding us of Tolpuddle's really strong community spirit. TEC is already planning events for later this year, including the Martyrs Weekend so keep an eye out for news in this magazine plus the Village Website and Facebook page.

The church should always be a central part of village life, not just for those who regularly attend services. Our church is open every day for anyone needing a space for peaceful reflection and the book shelves in the North Aisle offer the chance for some quiet reading time - so do please use it. We offer a variety of services, for those who appreciate their familiar traditional prayers as well as those who are willing to try something new. Looking towards February we will have our regular **Parish Communion at 9.30am on 2nd and 16th** - with **Sunday Reflection on February 9th at 5.30 pm** and **Go Fourth on February 23th at 10.00am**. We are sure that one of these services would suit you but if not please get in touch to share your thoughts for alternatives with us. We would welcome another member on the Council- please contact Hilly or Jayne for more information.

Let us look towards the spring as we see the snowdrops popping up in the churchyard and even daffodils raising their heads.

Hilly and Jayne



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PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to February—a month brimming with possibilities as we settle into 2025! It's the perfect time to dive into new projects, connect with our community, and continue building on last year's successes. With plenty of exciting updates, events, and opportunities to get involved, there's no better time to make a difference. Let's make this month count!

Tree planting. Back in November, the Parish Council teamed up with Puddletown First School to plant an incredible 400 whips. Once matured, this natural windbreak will not only shelter football enthusiasts on the rec but also serve as a thriving habitat for wildlife. A heartfelt thank you to the students and staff who made this green dream a reality!



Caravans in layby: We heard your concerns about overnight caravan parking in the old weighbridge layby. Thanks to quick intervention by Dorset Council, as the Highways Authority, the caravans have been removed, and the area is back to normal. A big thank you to everyone who reported the issue.

Defibrillator training. Could you use a defibrillator in an emergency? We're organising free defibrillator training sessions to help anyone interested understand how these lifesaving devices work. Open to all ages and skill levels! Email the Clerk to register your interest, and we'll share details as soon as dates are confirmed

Precept / Council Tax: For the financial year 2025–26, the Parish Council has set the Precept of just under £57,500, representing an 8.81% increase from last year. However, for Band D homes, this equates to a 3% increase, or just 16p per month. These funds will be used to:

- Maintain play parks and public spaces.
- Support vital community projects, such as providing solar batteries for Puddletown Village Hall to keep hire costs affordable.
- Enable us to respond proactively to the community's needs.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain and improve our wonderful parish!

Annual Parish Meeting: This year's Annual Parish Meetings will feature an exciting new format. Local charities, groups, and organisations are invited to showcase their work and engage with the community. If your group would like to have a table to promote your projects, please contact the Clerk at clerk@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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Dorset Council Devolution: Somerset, Wiltshire, and Dorset Councils are collaborating to push for inclusion in the priority devolution scheme, a move that could bring significant benefits to our area. We'll keep you posted as we learn more.

Meet your Dorset MP: Here's your chance to share your thoughts with Dorset MP Simon Hoare:

- Puddletown Village Hall: Sat, Feb 8, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM
- Tolpuddle Village Hall: Sat, Feb 8, 2:30–3:30 PM

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 February 2025, at 7pm in the Tolpuddle Village Hall. Please come and join us and have your say.

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/)

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Why exercise is not only about fitness:

We all lose muscle with age, typically about 3%-5% each decade after age 30. Inactive people lose the most. The loss can become more noticeable and may start to speed up at around age 60. But why does this matter?...

Losing muscle and therefore strength, means you may struggle to do simple everyday things such as getting out of a chair, opening a jar, or carrying groceries.

This could lead to more frailty and a higher risk of falls, broken bones, disability.

The good news is that whilst we can do nothing about ageing, diet and sedentary lifestyle are risk factors we CAN affect.

It's well known that resistance training can slow down the progression of muscle loss and in some cases build it back up beyond baseline levels.

Our local exercise classes on Monday and Friday mornings, focus on resistance and strength work together with a little cardiovascular conditioning and building of core strength.

Everyone is welcome! If you're younger and already quite fit you'll get higher intensity exercises, and for those returning to exercise after a gap or for more mature people, you'll be starting off more gently with some lower intensity exercises.

There's no membership, just turn up and pay on the day. Bring water, to keep hydrated, wear comfy workout gear, a towel for floor work and you're ready to go on that fitness journey you've always promised yourself!

Come and try the first class for free! There's absolutely no obligation to attend after that if it's not your thing. Classes are £5 per session after the free trial.

Classes take place upstairs in the Pavilion Building on Puddletown Recreation Ground.

Please feel welcome to join our small, friendly group.

Sessions are as follows:

Monday 7am

Monday 4pm (primarily for over 60's, but everyone is welcome).

Friday 7am

Friday 10am (again, primarily for over 60's, but everyone is welcome).

I hope you'll consider giving it a try.

This could be the best gift you've given yourself in a long time!

Pls feel free to reach out to me if you have any queries at all.

Sylvia 07788 101075 sylvia.a.salcedo@gmail.com





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CROSSWAYS TRAVEL

We are delighted to share the news that we have just made donations to two local charities who each do so much for the local community.

Donations were made to LINUS Dorset and Weymouth Street Pastors of £1485 each.

The funds were collected by various events throughout the year on board our coaches whilst we were doing our excursions and holiday tours. We would like to thank all our customers who made donations and also our hard working staff for their dedication to these causes through the year.

Crossways travel is proud to support a Charity Of The Year each year and it's always the highlight of year doing these donations and supporting the local community.

Project Linus West Dorset are an voluntary organisation that donates handmade quilts to children in hospital, facing bereavement, relationship breakdown or other emotional trauma. All our quilts are made by hand by our wonderful team of volunteers; our coffee mornings and Sew Days are an opportunity to meet people with a common interest, addressing issues of social isolation.

Weymouth Street Pastors are a familiar sight on the streets of Weymouth at night. Volunteers from local churches patrol the streets helping those in need, ranging from party goers to homeless and people in between. They offer support, first aid and a range of other things depending on their needs.



STREET PASTORS - (From Left to Right) Tony Fidler (Street Pastor) and Matt Crocker (Crossways Travel Director)



LINUS - (From Left to Right) Matt Crocker (Crossways Travel Director), Lesley Platt (LINUS), Liz See (LINUS)



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Beware of illegal money lenders

The high cost of living means that many people are in debt after the Christmas period. While most will use credit cards or other official methods, some will risk taking cash from loan sharks who lend money illegally.

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions you might be borrowing from a loan shark:

Did they offer you a cash loan?

Did they not give you paperwork?

Did they add huge amounts of interest or APR to your loan?

Have they threatened you?

Are you scared of people finding out?

Have they taken your bank card, benefit card, passport, watch or other valuables from you?

Illegal lenders may appear to be a friend offering a favour, but they often target people in vulnerable circumstances and the fact that they are unauthorised means borrowers are left with no protection when it comes to repaying the loan.

In November a joint Trading Standards and England Illegal Money Lending Team investigation led to the prosecution of a 47 year old woman who was money lending in the Exeter area. She had been lending money illegally through 110 loans while working as a professional carer.

Anyone who has been affected by illegal money lending should call the Stop Loan Sharks 24/7 confidential helpline on 0300 555 2222 or access support online at www.stoploansharks.co.uk. Live Chat is available on the website from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Citizens Advice can help too with debt and money advice. They can provide information to help you make the right choices, including help to deal with your debt problems, how to avoid losing your home and how to get your finances back into shape. Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money or contact your local Citizens Advice office.





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"It may well attract more young folk to
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the old church notice board"

Puddletown 300

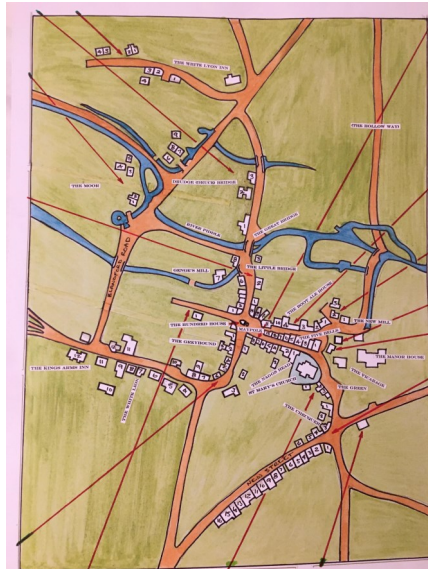
Update

A group of enthusiasts has now come together as I am pleased to report that six people responded to the notice that was in the December Parish Mag. We are meeting weekly and drawing up plans on how best to develop ideas to mark this anniversary.

We are thinking of bringing together 3 or 4 working parties looking at, for example, the buildings and growth of the village, tracing family histories and how to record life in the village today. If you have information or would like to take part please get in touch.

Also I have been researching village history and this map came to light in the Puddletown Society archive holdings. It is hand drawn and is based on the 1724/25 survey of the village. The arrows across the map come from the key down each side – not shown – which gives names and occupations of residents. This map and other survey information will be on display at the Puddletown Society's April meeting – further details next month.

Diana Hooper – dianahooper56@gmail.com



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 last time I wrote it was Advent Sunday, and now, by the time you read this the Christmas Season will have ended/be ending with the celebration of Candles, forty days after Christmas Day.

December was a busy month, as usual. The month began with some of our Church members being invited to join the First School Christmas Lunch. Thank you for the invitation; we enjoyed the food and socialising.

On the third Sunday in Advent, Pam led Worship in Stillness on the theme of "Joy", it being Gaudete Sunday. In the afternoon, we held a Christingle, the first post-covid. Those who attended enjoyed making their Christingles and doing other Christmas-related crafts. Tony led a short Service, which somehow included Mr Potato Head (don't ask) before everyone enjoyed refreshments. Thank you to all those attending and for all the help given in so many ways on the day.

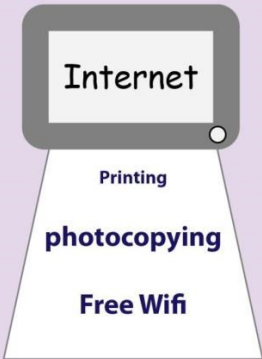
The First School Carol Service took place on the 18th and was a joyful celebration based around the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Lively singing, poetry written by pupils, and clear reading added to the enjoyment of this annual event. "Pigs in Blankets" were referred to frequently in the poetry, and even some "burnt sprouts!"

Our Carols by Candlelight was very well attended. A choir formed for the occasion sang three pieces to much acclaim. Thank you to all who read the Lessons, sang, and acted as Sidespersons, to those who had decorated the Church, to the Bellringers for ringing before the Service, to Becky for bringing the Christmas Tree from the School to the Church (and to the School for donating it), and to Pam who decorated it. Mulled wine and delicious refreshments were enjoyed at the Old Rectory after the service, which was a kind invitation from Sarah and Michael Shorrocks: "Thank You!"

Jo Lacy-Smith celebrated the First Eucharist of Christmas Day ("Midnight in Bethlehem"), preaching a thought-provoking sermon about The Shepherds. The Choir, augmented by Stuart, Sam, and William, sang during the Communion.

On Christmas morning, Sarah led our Celebration. We are grateful to all who supported us at St Andrew's over the festive period.

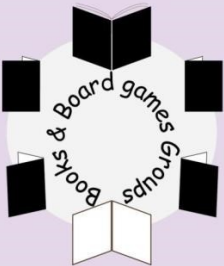
On the Feast of the Epiphany, Tony led our commemoration of the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. Being nothing if not inclusive, our three "Wise Men" were female! Rose offered the gift of Gold and placed the first "King" in the Crib; Veronica offered Frankincense and Cate Myrrh. Angela read the Lesson and provided appropriately star-shaped biscuits to accompany our Tea and Coffee. John read T. S. Eliot's "The Journey of the Magi". As we thought about the New Year, we listened to "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Byrds, based as it is on Ecclesiastes 3.



Puddletown Community Library
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The library welcomes
new volunteers
to help run the library



LIBRARY HOURS:
Wednesday 3pm-5pm
Friday 10am-12pm
Saturday 10am-12pm

Our next Milborne Praise will be on February the 2nd, Candlemas. On that day, Jesus was Presented in the Temple, and Simeon acclaimed Him as "The Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." May that Light shine on our paths this coming year.

Tony & Pam, Churchwardens.

Churchwarden on the move!

I will have moved from my current address by the time you read this.

Before you open the Champagne and begin organising parties to celebrate my departure, I will still be in Milborne!

I can be found at The Ground Floor Flat, Manor Farmhouse, The Grove, Milborne St Andrew DT11 0JS.

Entry is via the grey "Hobbit" door on the north side of the Farmhouse.
Telephone: 07368 145584.

Tony



Puddletown Cricket Club

BINGO NIGHT

Saturday 8th February 2025

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
EYES DOWN AT 7:30PM

Join us for a fun filled evening for our last pre season bingo!

We have hundreds of pounds worth of prizes across our bingo and raffles.

homemade sweets and savouries, Drinks and more!

CASH ONLY

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To find out more contact: Michelle Harrington, Parish Clerk.

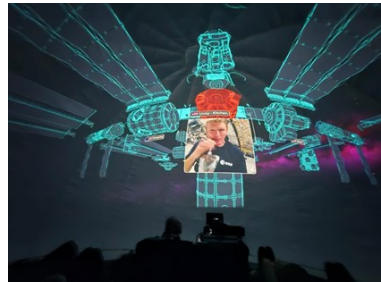
e: clerk@puddletownareaparishcouncil.gov.uk

t: 01202 670105

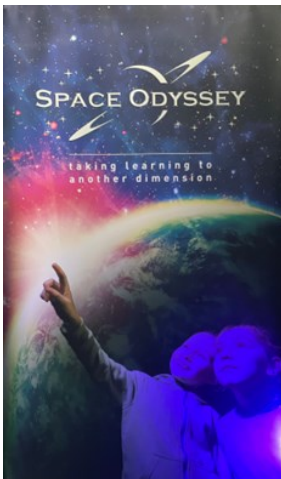


Milborne St Andrew First School – It's Out Of This World!

This week our children had the magical experience of a space dome visiting our school. Our Buttercup Class and Bluebell Class were shown around space by 'Astronaut George', visiting planets and flying through Saturn's ice rings, whilst our Honeysuckle Class got a tour of the international space station!



Simon from Space Odyssey was full of knowledge and our children were mesmerized! When I asked some of them their thoughts, this is what they had to say:



"I loved all the colours" Amalie, YrR

"I liked all of the planets especially when they started to talk!" Jude, Yr1

"I jumped when the rocket went BLAST OFF because it was so loud!" Ella, Yr2

"I was able to ask lots of questions, it was really interesting" Tayla, Yr3

"My favourite part was being able to lay down, relax and watch the stars" Sebastian, Yr3

And it wasn't just the children who learnt something new...



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- Access free, high quality training
- Learn new skills
- Make friends & connect with your community

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01305 265072

**HOME
START**
West Dorset


“My favourite part of today was learning that the brightest star in the sky is called the Rainbow Star. I’m going to look out for it from now on!’ Miss Ross, Buttercup Class teacher.

There really was something for everyone.

Thank you so much to Simon and to the Ogden Trust. The Ogden Trust are enriching physics within a cluster of schools we are working with and heavily subsidised this wonderful experience.

We will all definitely be looking up at the night sky a little differently tonight!





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at the Village Hall
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The Village Hall - Milborne St Andrew - DT11 0JX

Wonka

Friday 21st February at 7.30pm
Doors and Bar at 7.00pm



Dewlish Church Notes

WHAT a joy it was to be able to take part in the Carol Service at our church! Both the small children's acting out the Nativity story and the older ones' readings were delightful. Our very talented musicians were superb. Thank you all so much for taking part, and well done to Jim for once again organising it all. The collection, amounting to £210, has been sent to the Children's

Society. After the service we enjoyed refreshments (provided by church members) in the Village Hall.

Sarah led our Christmas morning service which was so lovely with the church looking splendidly colourful with all the greenery and white altar flowers, plus the stable tableau and well-decorated Christmas tree. Jim is especially grateful to Patrick and Ethan for their help. It is so good to see younger members of our community helping. Very many thanks.

We were delighted to see so many people at our Christmas Bazaar, despite the most horrendous weather imaginable! Many thanks to all who came, and especially to the hard workers running the stalls. There were so many lovely donations of cakes, prizes and other goods. Maisie again ran her stall of handcrafted Christmas decorations and competitions, the proceeds from which went to our church and hospital. Well done, Maisie!

About £550 was raised for church funds – a great help towards meeting our expenses for 2025. We are having to pay £7,800 to our diocese office and £2,000 for insurance so we do appreciate the generosity of all our villagers and supporters.

We are already making plans for the Spring with Lent lunches, Mothering Sunday and our Spring Sale on the agenda as usual.

Finally, we wish everyone - albeit, rather belatedly! - a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Daphne Burg

January Magazine Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Godlessness. 9, Egotism. 10, After. 11, Eat. 13, Sort. 16, Plan. 17, Escape. 18, Odds. 20, Idem. 21, No fear. 22, Idle. 23, Abet. 25, Ail. 28, Eaves. 29, Achieve. 30, Grasshopper.

DOWN: 2, Odour. 3, Lair. 4, Same. 5, Neat. 6, Settled. 7, Gershonites. 8, Grandmother. 12, Apples. 14, TES. 15, Octopi. 19, Deliver. 20, Ira. 24, Breve. 25, As is. 26, Lash. 27, Whip.

ALL-AGE CHAT CLUBS

Every **THURSDAY** 9.15 to 11am

Nautico Lounge

66 St Thomas Street, Weymouth. DT4 8EL

Every **FRIDAY** 11 to 12.30

Vivo Lounge

23 Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester. DT1 1QR

Every **MONDAY** 11 TO 12.30

SERENITEA, PARKSTONE, POOLE. BH14 9PN

Every **WEDNESDAY** 11 to 12.30

Delfino Lounge, Poole. BH15 1ER.



Collect your FREE happy to chat pin-badge at any of the below cafes.

Outside of Chat Club hours, DAILY:.....

Vivo Lounge, Nautico Lounge, The Palm House Weymouth DT4 7TZ, Serenitea and Delfino Lounge are safe, welcoming **CAFE'S WHO CARE**. The staff will see, hear and value you, any time, within their opening hours. They will recognise you by your badge, (don't worry - you can collect one there) and the staff will sit you beside other pin-badged customers, so you can chat and make your own Pop-Up chat club for two or three. This will help keep our communities safe and alive.

Look up and around for pin badges of hope

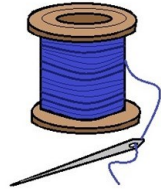
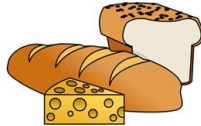


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CRAFT GROUP

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 February

IN PUDDLETOWN CHURCH ROOM

Future dates: 6th March, 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



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Every Monday
During term time

Friendly group for under 5's

10am-12pm

Tolpuddle village hall

£1.50 per family

Crafts | Singing | Snacks | Play

Services in the Benefice

2nd February - Presentation of Christ

Psalm 24; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

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

9th February - 4th Sunday before Lent

Psalm 138; Isaiah 6.1-8; Luke 5.1-11

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

16th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17.5-10; Luke 6.17-26

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

23rd February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

Psalm 65; Revelation 4; Luke 8.22-25

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

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)

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