

From Source to Sea

with the churches of the Bride Valley and Chesil

Weekly News: 4th January 2026 - Epiphany



Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to all those worshipping with us today and during the week.

Our ministry team:

Revd Andrew Rawding (Rector)

Revd. Ryder Rogers

LWL Vicky Thomas

LWL Paul Cheater

LWL Diana Ludlow

Occasional visiting clergy:

Revd Philip Ringer

Revd Alida Whittock

Revd Fiona Wheatley

Revd Canon John Wood

Revd Debs Smith

Revd Margaret Preuss-Higham

Revd Carole Peters-King

Revd Chris Grasske

Revd John Rees

SERVICES TODAY

9.30 am	Litton Cheney	Morning Worship
10.00 am	Langton Herring	Morning Worship
11.00 am	Abbotsbury	Holy Communion
	Long Bredy	Holy Communion
	Burton Bradstock	Morning Worship
3.00 pm	Swyre	Epiphany Carols
4.00 pm	Portesham Hall	Community Church
		CANCELLED

11th JANUARY: Baptism of Christ Plough Sunday

9.30 am	Litton Cheney	Morning Worship
	Puncknowle	Holy Communion
	Shipton Gorge	Breakfast Church
10.00 am	Portesham	Morning Worship
11.00 am	Burton Bradstock	Holy Communion
	Langton Herring	Morning Worship
3.00 pm	Puncknowle Mr Farm	Plough service
	Psalm 29	OT: Isaiah 42: 1-9
	NT: Acts 10: 34-43	Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

For our prayers:

We have much to celebrate this week, including:

- The willingness of other clergy in the area to step in during our rector's recovery to take services across the Benefice

We are grateful for:

- The expert medical teams working to rebuild our rector's leg after the accident
- Our administrator who has worked tirelessly and quickly to re-work the service plans

Specially in our prayers this week:

- Our rector, Andrew, for a speedy recovery from his recent motorbike accident
- Our Benefice as we pray about the appointment of a new house for duty priest and the organisation of the service plan affecting all our churches
- Those for whom the New Year is a time of unhappiness, loneliness and/or fear
- Those behind 'barbed wire' in prisons, refugee camps and other detention facilities
- West Bexington and all who live and work there
- Recently bereaved families and friends

Rector: Revd Andrew Rawding rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com

Please contact the administrator: Helen Fry (☎01308 897260) bvchurchesta@outlook.com

COLLECTS: EPIPHANY *(for use in services/in private prayer)*

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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. Amen

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you,³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.'³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the

child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

REVD ANDREW RAWDING ACCIDENT AND UPDATE TO SERVICES:

We are pleased that, following several sessions of surgery to his seriously damaged leg, Andrew is continuing to recover in hospital, but it will be some time before he is able to resume his normal workload. Loveday and Andrew are most grateful for all the messages of support. Administrator, Helen, has worked tirelessly in a very short time to find other clergy to lead services but there may be short notice changes to the usual plan whilst Andrew recovers and during Revd Philip Ringer's illness. Please consult *From Source to Sea* and Facebook for updates including the times and places for services over the next few weeks.

PLOUGH SUNDAY: 11th January

We look forward to celebrating Plough Sunday again this year. We will have a service next Sunday at 3.00 pm celebrating all those who work on the land and produce food in this and other communities. We are grateful to Sarah Wild for offering to host this in the Grain Store at Manor Farm, Puncknowle (DT2 9BX) where parking and refreshments will be available. We are also most grateful to Revd Cally Burch who has agreed to lead the service at short notice.

CHANGING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

Responding to the need to provide services of Holy Communion at different times to accommodate the reduction in clergy in the Benefice, Portesham's BCP Communion will take place at 11.30 am on the Wednesday after the fourth Sunday each month, the first of which will take place on **28th January 2026 at 11.30 am.**

SAVE THE DATE FOR A ST BRIDE'S/'IMBOLC' PILGRIMAGE

Before Andrew's accident, we had planned a pilgrimage to celebrate light and life, and new beginnings, on **Sunday 1st February** which is St Bride's Day and also 'Imbolc'.

Imbolc marks the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox, signalling the first signs of spring like lengthening days, new growth, and lambing season, honouring the goddess Brigid with fire, purification, and themes of rebirth, fertility, and new beginnings. The pilgrimage is now likely to be shortened compared to the original plan. Full details will be confirmed and published through '*From Source to Sea*' and Facebook.

From 5.00pm, however, there will be a welcoming '**Winter Warmer**' event for pilgrims at Othona, with worship and lots of candles, including a simple meal, followed by a candlelit evening of friendship to lead us into the light and love of 'Candlemas'. If you would like to register an interest in the pilgrimage walk please email BVchurchesTA@outlook.com, with subject 'St Bride's Pilgrimage 2026'.

BRIDE VALLEY & CHESIL HELP OUR PLANET (HOP)

Would you like to 'Help Our Planet' through activities in and around your village? Do you have knowledge, skills and experience to share? All are welcome to a meeting at **6.30pm on 29th January in St Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock**, to consult our local communities about how we can come together to take action to 'Help Our Planet' (HOP). This will include thinking about events, supporting our schools to run HOP clubs/activities and local action to support wildlife and our environment. HOP was founded by Burton Bradstock resident Professor Philip Howse OBE and others, influencing 'COP' discussions on climate change and the Amazon.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday	3.30 pm	Big Q Church at Thorner's School (<i>term time only</i>)
Tuesday	10.15 am	Life Group at Manafossen Barn, Burton Bradstock
	10.00 am	Friendship Café in Portesham Village Hall
	6.00 pm	Bell ringing practice (Litton Cheney ☎482312*)
Wednesday	4.30 pm	Bell ringing practice (Long Bredy ☎482270*)
	7.30 pm	Bell ringing practice (Shipton Gorge ☎07581050910*)
Thursday	6.00 pm	Bell ringing practice (Abbotsbury ☎07791256443*)
	7.00 pm	Bell ringing practice (Burton Bradstock ☎898603*)
Friday	2.00 pm	Tots' Time: Burton Bradstock (<i>term time only</i>)
	3.00 pm	Bible Study Group at Portesham Methodist Hall

** Please phone to check if practice is taking place*

ADDITIONAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun	4 th	10.30 am	Burial of Ashes: Juniper Greener at Long Bredy
Wed	7 th	11.30 am	Midweek Communion at Burton Bradstock
Thurs	8 th	10.30 am	Burton Coffee Mates in the church
Sat	10 th	10.30 am	Coffee Break in Long Bredy Village Hall

THANK YOU FOR GENEROUS GIVING

Thank you to everyone who supports the work of our churches by their financial giving, through the various ways that are now possible. We also recognise the time and talent we are fortunate to share. *"Yours Lord is the greatness, the glory, the splendour and the majesty. Everything in heaven and on earth comes from you and of your own do we give you."*
(1 Chronicles 29:14)

DATES FOR THE DIARY (NB May be subject to change)

12 th	Church cleaning at Shipton Gorge: 9.00 am
13 th	Litton Cheney PCC: 9.30 am at Steddings
14 th	Coffee Stop: 10.00 am in Burton Bradstock Village Hall
16 th	Come Along Inn: 5.30 pm at Long Bredy Village Hall
18 th	Long Bredy PCC: 10.30 am at Manor Farm
19 th	Ministry Team: 10.00 am at Othona
	Benefice Council: 7.00 pm at Puncknowle
21 st	Shipton Gorge PCC: 10.00 am at Mason's Cottage
25 th	Community Church: LATCH at 4.00 pm CANCELLED

Please check the **Bride Valley News** for further information and events.

Please take this leaflet and use it for reference and prayer. Each week's copy is at:

<http://www.burtonbradstockvillage.org> and <https://bvn.org.uk>

Follow the Bride Valley and Chesil Churches on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/bridevalleyandchesilchurches>

and on A Church Near You: www.achurchnearyou.com

Daily Hope – the free service from the CoFE is available on ☎0800 804 8044 From Source to Sea is produced by a team. Items to the administrator, Helen Fry:

bvchurchesta@outlook.com ☎ 01308 897260 The Churches of this Benefice have adopted the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and are 'Promoting Safer Churches'. The Benefice churches have an open door to all survivors. For further information or support please contact our Safeguarding Officer, Les Keatley. ☎07833545450 email: Les@Keatley.me.uk