

From Source to Sea

with the churches of the Bride Valley and Chesil

Weekly News: 25th January 2026 – Conversion of Paul



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

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 8.00 am | Burton Bradstock | Holy Communion |
| 9.30 am | Burton Bradstock | Family Breakfast |
| 11.00 am | Puncknowle | Café Church |
| | Shipton Gorge | Holy Communion |
| | Littlebredy | Holy Communion |
| 4.00 pm | LATCH | Community Church |
| | | CANCELLED |

1st FEBRUARY: Candlemas

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 9.00 am | Langton Herring | BCP Communion |
| 9.30 am | Abbotsbury | Holy Communion |
| | Litton Cheney | Holy Communion |
| 11.00 am | Burton Bradstock | Morning Worship |
| | Puncknowle | Holy Communion |
| | Long Bredy | Holy Communion |
| 3.00 pm | Swyre | Evening Prayer |

Psalm 24

NT: Hebrews 2: 14-end

OT: Malachi 3: 1-5

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

For our prayers:

We have much to celebrate this week, including:

- The willingness of so many to step in during our rector's recovery to lead our services

We are most grateful for:

- Our sacristans who prepare for Holy Communion in our Benefice churches
- Those who represent our churches on the Benefice Council

Specially in our prayers this week:

- Our rector, Andrew, and Revd Philip Ringer for their continuing recovery
- 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 struggling with health issue and those being looked after in residential homes
- All those suffering in the many war-torn places in our world
- Shipton Gorge and all who live and work there
- Recently bereaved families and friends including *Josephine Pearce, Peter Fowler and Chris Legge*

Rector: Revd Andrew Rawding rectorbridevalleychesil@gmail.com

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

COLLECTS: THE CONVERSION OF PAUL *(for use in services/in private prayer)*

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Jeremiah's Call and Commission

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

⁶Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' ⁷But the Lord said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.'

⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

'Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

New Testament Reading: Acts 9: 1-22

The Conversion of Saul

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵ He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ⁷ The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹ The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' ¹³ But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul Preaches in Damascus

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' ²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief

priests?' ²² Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 19: 27-30

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' ²⁸ Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

REVD ANDREW RAWDING RECOVERY AND UPDATE TO SERVICES:

We are pleased that Andrew is continuing his recovery, albeit with regular appointments back at Southampton monitoring his progress. It will be some time before he is able to resume his normal workload. Loveday and Andrew continue to be most grateful for all the support offered. We are grateful for all the other local clergy who have stepped in to help. Please continue to refer to *From Source to Sea* (online version at www.bvn.org.uk is the most up to date) and *Facebook* for any last-minute changes including the times and places for services going forward.

BRIDE VALLEY & CHESIL HELP OUR PLANET (HOP)

Are you interested in helping our planet? All are welcome at a meeting at St Mary's, Burton Bradstock on 29th January at 6.30 pm to discuss how we can do this at a local level in our communities. What events could we run? How can we support our schools with clubs and activities? What local action can we take 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.

ST BRIDE'S, 'IMBOLC' AND CANDLEMAS: 1st February PILGRIMAGE

Ed Hubbard has volunteered to lead the pilgrimage along a ~10km Bride Valley route starting from Littlebredy church to The Othona Community (between Burton Bradstock and Swyre). Parking at Othona **by 10.15 am**, transport (cost £10-20) will be provided to the start, meeting there at 11.15 am for a 12-noon departure. Joining at other points on the route will be possible. Dogs on leads welcome – be prepared for some mud! There will be hot drinks and a warm fire for pilgrims on arriving at Othona. Then you are encouraged to stay for candlelit worship in the lovely Othona chapel and a hearty shared meal (see below). If you would like to register an interest in the pilgrimage walk please email BVchurchesTA@outlook.com, with subject 'St Bride's Pilgrimage 2026'

CELEBRATION AT THE OTHONA COMMUNITY

The Othona Community invites any neighbours from the Bride Valley and Chesil area to join in a celebration of these three festivals. Enjoy an hour of music, readings, prayer and blessing in our chapel full of candlelight (Candlemas is 2nd February). Then stay for a simple shared supper of tasty homemade soup, bread, fruit etc. You'll be connecting with resident and visiting Othona Community members *and* with walkers who have made the Pilgrimage of Peace that day from Littlebredy to Othona. There is no charge – donations will be welcome. Spaces in the chapel are limited to 60 on this occasion, so please let us know if you'd like to come by emailing Tony: warden@othonawestdorset.org.uk

CANDLEMAS

All are invited to join a quiet candle-lit service of meditation at Puncknowle on Thursday 5th February at 7.00 pm to celebrate 'Christ the Light of the World'. There will be a buffet provided at the Crown afterwards.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

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|-----------|----------|--|
| 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

| | | | |
|-------|------------------|----------|--|
| Wed | 28 th | 11.30 am | BCP Communion at Portesham |
| Thurs | 29 th | 9.45 am | Portesham School Christingle Service in the church |
| Sun | 1 st | 10.15 am | St Bride's/Imbolc/Candlemas walk and celebration (5.30 pm) |

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)

FEBRUARY

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|------------------|---|
| 2 nd | Visiting Clergy 'Thank You' event at Othona CANCELLED |
| | School Christingle Service: 2.15 pm at Burton Bradstock |
| 4 th | Midweek communion: 11.45 am at Burton Bradstock |
| 5 th | Candlemas celebration: 7.00 pm at Puncknowle |
| 6 th | Burial of Ashes: David and Jill Basley 1.00 pm at Burton Bradstock |
| | Funeral: Christopher Legge 12 noon at Litton Cheney |
| 9 th | Ministry Team: 10.00 am venue TBA |
| 11 th | Coffee Stop: 10.00 am in Burton Bradstock Village Hall |
| 12 th | Burton Coffee Mates: 10.30 am in the church |

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