

# From Source to Sea

## with the churches of the Bride Valley and Chesil

### Weekly News: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3 Sunday



#### Welcome!

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



#### SERVICES TODAY

9.30 am	<b>Litton Cheney</b>	Morning Worship
	<b>Shipton Gorge</b>	Breakfast Church
	<b>Puncknowle</b>	Holy Communion
10.00 am	<b>Portesham</b>	Family Praise
11.00 am	<b>Langton Herring</b>	Holy Communion
4.00 pm	<b>Abbotsbury</b>	Carol Service
6.30 pm	<b>Burton Bradstock</b>	Carol Service

#### 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 Whitlock*  
*Revd Fiona Wheatley*  
*Revd Canon John Wood*

#### 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER: Advent 4 Sunday

9.30 am	<b>Burton Bradstock</b>	Café Church
	<b>Long Bredy</b>	Live Nativity
10.00 am	<b>Abbotsbury</b>	Morning Praise
11.00 am	<b>Portesham</b>	Holy Communion
4.30 pm	<b>Littlebredy</b>	Carol Service
5.00 pm	<b>Shipton Gorge</b>	Carol Service
6.00 pm	<b>Litton Cheney</b>	Carol Service

Psalm 80: 1-8

NT: Romans 1: 1-7

OT: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-end

#### For our prayers:

##### We have much to celebrate this week, including:

- The central place that carol services hold in the lives of our villages attracting many folk who don't regularly attend other services of worship

##### We are grateful for:

- Our grass cutters and all who look after the surrounds of our buildings

##### For our new Archbishop designate:

- For Rt Rev Sarah Mullally as she prepares to take up the weighty responsibility

##### Specialty in our prayers this week:

- 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 affected by the terrible fire in Hong Kong
- Those who feel undervalued and taken for granted
- Langton Herring and all who live and work there
- Recently bereaved families and friends including those of *Jill Bush, Jennifer Samways, Bill Halford and Karen Loxton.*

## **COLLECTS: ADVENT 3 SUNDAY** *(for use in services/in private prayer)*

**O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

**God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### *Post Communion Prayer*

**We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen**

### *Prayer at the Advent Candle*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10**

### *The Return of the Redeemed to Zion*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **New Testament Reading: James 5: 7-10**

### *Patience in Suffering*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

### *Jesus Praises John the Baptist*

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into

the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."  
<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **FROM ST PETER'S CHURCH, LONG BREDY**

A magnificent sum of £730 was raised for St Peter's at the café breakfast and tabletop sale. Huge thanks to all those who helped and supported in any way making it an excellent event enjoyed by all. The church is having a 'Festival of Animals' this Christmas to celebrate the Nativity. People are welcome to make a small Animal to decorate the Church with whatever materials are available. There will be some suggestions on the craft table in the church that everyone is welcome to use e.g. making a donkey or sheep. Why not catch up with the Grumpy Owl who lived in the stable and saw the Nativity! Then come to the 'Live Nativity' on **Sunday, 21st December** (9.30 for 10.00 am). Meet the Holy Family and some of the Animals.

## **FROM ST MARTIN'S, SHIPTON GORGE**

The 'Pies for Peals' night was a great success in raising over £1500 for the maintenance and repair of the bells at St Martin's, Shipton Gorge. Thanks to all those who attended and to Tracey for the wonderful pies!

## **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IN THE BRIDE VALLEY NEWS**

Thanks to all those who posted Christmas Greetings in the December Bride Valley News. The BVN and the Three Ells Trust will each receive £638.50 as a result of your donations.

## **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 **28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 11.30 am**.

## **VISITS TO SCHOOLS AND WORK WITH CHILDREN**

Revd Andrew is pleased to be regularly visiting all the schools in our Benefice to take assemblies. Linking with children and families by holding services continues especially as Christmas approaches and to include a Christingle service with Portesham School in January.

## **ADVENT WINDOW TRAIL**

Spreading light across the Bride Valley! Displays are going up in windows around Puncknowle, Swyre, Litton Cheney and beyond. Follow the Kings, stars and angels on the Camel trail! Paper copies are available from the churches at Puncknowle and Swyre and from The Crown and The White Horse. Further details are available on the Villages' Facebook pages.

## **FROM THE BENEFICE COUNCIL**

### **Pilgrimages of Peace**

Rector Andrew has been looking at the dates linked to Saints in the Bride Valley and Chesil Churches and thinking about possible pilgrimages for 2026. Alongside this, plans for self-guided pilgrimage routes are being developed, with the help of Francesca Dewhurst from Long Bredy. She has designed a 33 mile route taking in all of the churches which can be viewed at [Bride Valley Pilgrimages - Google My Maps](#) but is also creating shorter routes centred around each church and routes that take in ancient sites. The aim eventually is to encourage visitors to our area and our churches by publishing these routes on the British Pilgrimage Site.

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday	3.30 pm	<b>NO</b> 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	<b>NO</b> 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	<b>NO</b> 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

Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Ministry Team at Othona
		5.30 pm	Carol singing round Burton Bradstock (meet at the church)
Tues	16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Burton Bradstock School Carols in the church (also at 5pm)
		4.00 pm	Thorner's Carols by Candlelight in Litton Cheney Church
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Thorner's School end of term Service in the church
Thurs	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Burton Bradstock end of term service in the church
		3.00 pm	Shipton Gorge Community Choir concert in the church
		7.00 pm	Carols at the Crown (Puncknowle)
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Funeral: Bill Halford at Portesham
		5.30 pm	Come Along Inn in Long Bredy Village Hall
		6.00 pm	Carol singing round Litton Cheney (meet at the bottom of Paddocks)

## 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

23<sup>rd</sup> Carol Singing round Shipton Gorge at 5.00 pm  
 28<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage of Hope starting at 10.30 am from Burton Bradstock Church  
 Baptism: George Franklin 2.00 pm at Shipton Gorge  
 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Les@Keatley.me.uk)