

MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



MARCH 2025 45P



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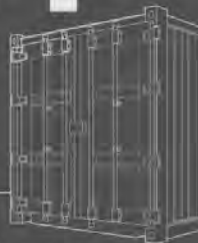
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A LETTER FROM REV RONA

Dear Friends,

As we step into March, we enter the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 5th March. Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, self-examination, and preparation for Easter. Many of us think of giving something up for these forty days, but what if we also took something up? This year, I invite you to embrace a few moments of daily contemplation – a chance to rest, reflect, and listen to that still small voice inside you.

Christian tradition has valued this type of contemplation for thousands of years. Jesus himself often withdrew to quiet places to pray, showing us that stillness is not just inactivity, but instead can be a vital part of an inner life. In today's world, this idea finds echoes in the secular practice of Mindfulness – the art of being present in the moment, attentive to our own thoughts and surroundings. Whether we call it contemplation, prayer, or mindfulness, the principle remains the same: we have wisdom within us, and sometimes we need only be still to hear it.



Lent offers us an opportunity to develop the discipline of silence. What if, instead of fasting from chocolate or alcohol, we put down our digital devices for just five or ten minutes each day? Instead of scrolling, we could listen—to our own thoughts, to birdsong, to the wind in the trees, or to the unspoken emotions of those around us. In doing so, we might notice something unexpected: the voice of God, speaking in the quiet.

For those who feel uneasy about 'contemplation,' think of it as time spent pondering on a bench or in a garden shed – or any age-old retreat for quiet thought! And as we near the end of the month of March, Mothering Sunday reminds us to be grateful for those who have nurtured us, perhaps by simply being present and listening.

May this Lent be a season of meaningful reflection and renewal.

With love, *Rev Rona*

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

4 th February	Laurie Jeans
5 th February	(Peter) Alan King
17 th February	John Malcolm Taylor



CHURCH HOUSE 100 CLUB

Results of the February Draw

1 st Prize	£30	Mr H G Hayward
2 nd Prize	£20	Mr & Mrs A Older
3 rd Prize	£10	Mr J Barker

Save the Date

Goathill Duck Race 14th June

SOMP Fete: 21st June PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

Now at Peace

Margaret Hockey (the little old lady who worked in the paper shop) sadly passed away on Monday 10th February at Ivelhurst Nursing Home in Yeovil. Her family and friends will miss her greatly.



Funeral at Yeovil Crematorium, 12th March at 2 p.m. (Provisional)

All Welcome

Barbara Griffiths

Thank You

Alan King 17.09.1945 - 08.01.2025

The family would like to thank everyone for all the kind messages cards and flowers received. Special thanks to Reverend Rona who gave Alan such a wonderful sendoff, to Daniel Biss and his team at Bristers & Son who held our hand through such a difficult time.

To everyone who were able to attend the service on the day, seeing so many friends and family really was a comfort. Lastly but by no means least, Thank you to everyone who helped, to the caterers Victoria O'Bryan and to Sue Wales and her wonderful Bell ringers, we are all sincerely grateful.

Claire Andrews

Congratulations to **Nichola Henson**, who took this month's cover photo.

We are always pleased to receive new photographs for consideration as future covers. Please send your high-res images of scenes in and around the village to

magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk

Lent 2025: The Rest is Worship

Join us once a week on Mondays at 10 a.m. in Church House for some quiet time and to learn about the role of meditation in worship. Our sessions begin on Monday 10th March. Everyone is welcome to this Lent Course with a difference.

Rev Rona

Lent Lunches in Support of Christian Aid

Delicious lunches of home-made soup, bread, and cheese will be served each Friday in Lent, beginning on 7th March. They will continue in Church House until the final lunch on 11th April, which will be in the ReBorne building in North Street, by kind invitation of ReBorne Community Church.

Each lunch will begin at 12.30 p.m. with a very short reflection. Tea and coffee will be served at the end. Please donate generously if you can, as all gifts will go to Christian Aid.

Any queries or offers of help (very welcome!) to Clare Silk 01963 548472, or Anne Salkeld 01963 250529

Lent Cross Challenge

In Lent our focus starts to turn towards the cross, and we are surrounded by crosses – in nature, in our homes, or in things we can make. It's not just hot cross buns! How about crossed tree branches, a panelled door, a carving or sweets laid out in a cross shape? St John's is running a photo challenge on our Facebook page – when you spot a cross, take a quick picture and post it as a comment on the daily Cross Challenge post. Alternatively, email the picture to magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk.

Another Thank You

On December 6th I managed to trip over my feet in the street on a wet dark evening and break my shoulder in two places. I would like to thank the people who gathered round me that evening. Special thanks to Clare who took me to hospital and stayed with me throughout the evening. Thanks too for those who rallied to cover a wedding I was due to do the following day. The couple, bless them, found time to send me a message the day after their wedding. Maureen was at home having had a cataract operation two days before. People jumped in and did everything necessary for us. So huge thanks to everyone, not least for the excellent and efficient care at Yeovil District Hospital and the Yeatman. This is the second time I have published words like these, and I hope it does not become habit forming! I'm glad to say the shoulder is now doing well.

Frank Wright

Marmalade Festival

**Saturday 22nd March, 9.30 –
12.00 noon**

Blackberry Cottage, 55 London Road,
Milborne Port

*Please use the garden entrance in East
Street car park*



Tea, coffee, toast and marmalade; jars of marmalade to purchase

Proceeds to Church Funds

If you would like to contribute please make some marmalade (any type) or send along a loaf of bread or pack of butter before the event.

Reduced Sugar Marmalade Recipe

Last year I left a couple of my reduced sugar Seville marmalades at Frank and Maureen's Festival and was thrilled to see a letter of appreciation in the Magazine the following month! I thought the recipe might be of interest. It's from my cooking Guru Jane Grigson's 'English Food'. I will do some more for the festival, though the family likes it so much I tend to run low!
Anne Salkeld

Oxford Style Marmalade

Follow your usual recipe to cook the Seville Oranges. Weigh the skins and pulp and boil with an equal weight of sugar plus 300ml of cooking liquor for each 500g. Then proceed as usual [I add a sachet of pectin with the sugar]

New Church Electoral Roll 2025

As explained in last month's issue, we are currently preparing a new Electoral Roll, and the time to apply is NOW, whether or not you were previously on the roll. If you are over 16, have been baptised and live in the Parish or, if not, regularly worship in the parish, you are eligible to be on the Electoral Roll.

Applications must be completed by **8th April**. Those who apply can take part in decisions which affect the church and parish, take part in the APCM and stand for the Parochial Church Council.



To apply you can either complete the form online at **<https://www.milborneportchurches.org.uk/electroll>** (or use the QR code) or use an application form available in St John's Church.

*Graham Sharpless, Electoral Roll Officer, Milborne Port with
Milborne Wick*

A Busy Year Ahead for The Parish Council

The Parish Council has a few new capital projects in the pipeline for 2025/26, in addition to the normal everyday tasks of managing the allotments, two playparks, the cemetery, the Town Hall, The Churchyard and the Village's many green spaces.

Somerset Council is continuing to make cuts, both to services and to staffing numbers, so there is more cost and work being pushed down onto the Town and Parish Councils of Somerset. Sadly, the services that Somerset Council offer will continue to be reduced over the coming year, dictated by the fact that Somerset Council is almost insolvent and so there is no choice.

When setting its budget for this coming year, the Parish Council and its Committees started detailed discussions on services, potential savings, and rising costs back in the Autumn (2024). It will not come as a surprise that, even by keeping things close to the bone, the Parish Council is having to increase its share of the Council Tax from this April. The increase will be £29.71 per year, for a band D household – this is £2.48 per month – which will mean a Band D household will pay £168.58 per year for services provided by the Parish Council.

How do we compare? Last year Bruton was at £184.92 and Sherborne at £228.59 . This year's figures show Wincanton on £200.92 and Langport on £359.54 .

The Parish Council - Delivering More Services Than Ever

Youth Services/Youth Club The Parish Council has teamed up with Bruton, Wincanton and Castle Cary Town Councils to employ a youth worker to serve across the four council areas. This has resulted in the provision of a youth evening at the Village Hall each Thursday. This project is a three-year commitment costing £10,000 per year (reported last year).

The Village Hall Employing a manager to run the hall and assistance with maintenance items has added a cost to the council of around £13,500 per year (reported last year).

Reduced Support from Somerset Council The slow decline of Somerset Council's funding is the main reason for the Parish Council costs increasing. For Dog & Litter bin emptying, the Parish Council will now be charged by Somerset Council to empty many of the bins in the Village. Over the years, the Parish has also considerably benefited from the help of a Locality Officer employed by South Somerset District Council. She was responsible for knowing how much money the principal authority had to spend on local infrastructure projects, and she would assist the Parish Council in long-term planning to make sure the money was spent locally.

Somerset Council has made the Locality Officer redundant; the Parish Council now seeks to employ a Community Projects Officer. This post was advertised in last month's magazine. We believe that the person would be attracting at least as much grant funding to the parish as they would cost. It is a model which has been used successfully in Bruton.

We are excited about this new post and hope that it will be of quite some benefit to the Parish. For now it's just a temporary post and the Parish Council will keep its effectiveness under review.

Parish Council Meetings in March

Full Council: Tuesday March 4th; Planning Committee: Tuesday March 18th; Management Committee: Tuesday March 25th.

Meetings take place in the Town Hall and start at 7 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can address the meeting with questions or comments from 7-7.15 p.m. If you would like to attend but would experience access difficulties, please let us know in advance and we will relocate to the Community Room downstairs.

Simon Pritchard – Parish Clerk clerk@milborneportpc.org.uk

Nathalie Hetherington – Deputy office@milborneportpc.org.uk

Milborne Port Community Plan

We would like to thank those of you that came to our recent meeting for your interest, support and enthusiasm! So, what next? Well, we encourage anyone who would like to get involved to get in touch and join a Working Group. We are looking in particular for people to join working groups around the following topics:



- *dog fouling
- *activities/provision for young people
- *pavements/accessibility
- *village communication.
- *footpaths/byways/bridleways
- *flooding

*Milborne Port Community Plan Steering Group
community.plan@milborneport.org.uk*

The New Breast Cancer Unit Yeovil Hospital

Yeovil Hospital now has a 'state of the art' new breast cancer unit which has been funded entirely by voluntary donations. The small group of fundraisers and many other people raised a huge amount of money, but are still fundraising for this important building. Therefore we are still collecting unwanted and broken jewellery and watches for this unit. Most of the jewellery and watches are sold at Acreman St. Auctions Sherborne who have been so supportive of the breast cancer unit at Yeovil Hospital.

Breast Cancer can affect both men and woman at any age. It is a devastating illness, not only for the person concerned, but also their families. We are so lucky to have a good hospital like Yeovil which serves both South Somerset and parts of Dorset.

Maggie Hague 01963 250108
Fundraiser for Yeovil Hospital Charities

Milborne Port Community SpeedWatch

Could you take on the role of Coordinator OR Deputy Coordinator of the Milborne Port Community SpeedWatch group?

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make our village safer by encouraging drivers to keep within the speed limit, and in particular to show consideration for pedestrians crossing the road, for those walking on the narrow pavement along Sansomes Hill, for cyclists, and for vehicles attempting to exit driveways onto the A30. We also have a site on the A30 at the eastern end of the village.



We are a small, cheerful group of trained volunteers, and aim to run SpeedWatch sessions about once a week. Sessions can last up to an hour, and can only be run in daylight and in dry weather conditions. Our current focus is on the A30 approach to Sansomes Hill, coming from the Sherborne direction.

We urgently need a new deputy coordinator as this role is now vacant. You would have lots of support and the role does not involve much work. We also need a new coordinator as the current coordinator wishes to step down. Again, there would be a full handover. The role is not too much work and involves agreeing the schedule of Speedwatch sessions, ensuring compliance, submitting session results to the police online and occasionally, if possible, attending South Somerset area meetings.

If you are interested in either role, or just in joining us, please contact: office@milborneportpc.org.uk

Film Night at the Village Hall


Tuesday 25th March, 7.30 p.m.

CONCLAVE

Cardinal Lawrence leads one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, the selection of a new Pope. Surrounded by powerful religious leaders in the halls of the Vatican, he soon uncovers a trail of deep secrets that could shake the very foundation of the Roman Catholic Church.

Tickets £5.00, available in advance from Wayne Pullen, Butchers, or on the door. **Tea, coffee, wine and beer available!!!**



The first half of the Spring Term was a busy one. Newtown and Gainsborough Classes visited the village library. Many thanks to Millie Furby for welcoming them so warmly and promoting a love of reading. Gainsborough Class also went out of school for their first school trip. They walked to the Milborne Port Heritage Centre and enjoyed looking at the displays.

Next half term, each class will be contributing to a lunch for the senior citizens who attend the Tuesday Luncheon Club. This will take place on Wednesday 2nd April and tickets will be available from the Luncheon Club at Church House soon. Tickets will be £5 each and the proceeds will go to the School in a Bag charity which was chosen by the School Council. We are looking forward to hosting this lunch and are delighted that The Clockspire have agreed to sponsor the cost of the ingredients.

Jonathan Rodd Headteacher 01963 250366

Milborne Port Village Hall News

Bookings for the village hall are coming in thick and fast at the moment, so if you think that you might want to hire the hall, please book as soon as you possibly can. Please also note that the cost of hiring the hall is to increase from April 1st to £15 per hour for Main Hall and £10 per hour for the Camelot Suite/Mezzanine following a decision by the village hall committee.

Junior Cricket at the Hall

Junior cricket for boys and girls will be held at the Village Hall on the days and times listed below. There will be two sessions of an hour each, firstly for under 11s and then for 11 to 14 years. We will try and get outside as much as possible but obviously this is weather dependent. We will cover basic batting, bowling and fielding but with an emphasis on fun. It is hoped that children with cricket experience will benefit as much as beginners and that their experience will rub off and inspire the others.

- Mon 07/04/2025 10:30-12:30
- Wed 09/04/2025 10:30-12:30
- Fri 11/04/2025 10:30-12:30
- Mon 14/04/2025 10:30-12:30
-

Please can you let me know if you think your child or children would be interested in these sessions, with names and ages, so that I can get some idea of numbers and provide suitable equipment etc.

Please also check the village hall website and sign up to the Milborne Port Village Hall Facebook page so that you receive regular updates. I cannot guarantee that all messages will go out on other local pages, as Social Media is not my strong point!

Please email me at manager@milborneportvillagehall.org.uk or message 07946 333542 for the moment. I will then try and sort out WhatsApp etc. We are starting at the very beginning, so bear with me on this.

Chris Sheeran

CHURCH SERVICES

(including the Principal Service Readings)

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St John's: Weekdays at 9 a.m.

Our pattern of services has changed a little. Please check the list below carefully for changes, and please consider attending some services which may be new to you.

Sunday 2nd March Sunday next before Lent

2 Corinthians 3:12-end & 4:1-2, Luke 9:28-36

9:00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne
10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Evensong	Stowell

Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Matthew 6:1-6 & 6:16-21

10:30 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service	Milborne Port
7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service	Milborne Port

Friday 7th March

7:00 p.m.	Compline	Milborne Port
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Sunday 9th March 1st Sunday of Lent

Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Evensong	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 12th March

10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Friday 14th March

7:00 p.m.	Compline	Milborne Port
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Saturday 15th March

10:00 a.m.	Community Thanksgiving	Milborne Port
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FOR MARCH

Sunday 16th March

2nd Sunday of Lent

Philippians 3:17-end & 4:1, Luke 13:31-end

9:00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Wick
10:30 a.m.	Matins	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 19th March

10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Friday 21st March

7:00 p.m.	Compline	Milborne Port
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Sunday 23rd March

3rd Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9

10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
3:00 p.m.	Evensong	Goathill

Wednesday 26th March

10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Friday 28th March

7:00 p.m.	Compline	Milborne Port
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Sunday 30th March

Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2:1-10, Luke 2:33-35

10:30 a.m.	Mothering Sunday	
	Benefice Service	Milborne Port

Wednesday 2nd April

10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Friday 4th April

7:00 p.m.	Compline	Milborne Port
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ReBorne Community Church

*Experiencing God's Grace
Proclaiming God's love
Demonstrating God's fellowship*

ReBorne Church baby and toddler group is back in full swing, as we take advantage of our newly refurbished building on North Street.

Come and join us from 13.30 - 15.00 every Monday afternoon (except school holidays) in the ReBorne Church building on North Street, Milborne Port. You can expect a very warm welcome, refreshments and a really friendly group of people to chat to. I've been coming along with my son since he was about 8 weeks old, and we love it.

We are taking advantage of our new, larger space and have lots of toys and activities for babies and toddlers up to preschool age. There's plenty of space to leave buggies too. A particular favourite is the ride-on car area, where the toddlers can freely play without getting in the way of the younger babies. And it's also great to have the extra space for messy play and arts and crafts. We all enjoy snack time and song time at the end, including our favourite bubbles, as we're reminded that Jesus loves us!

It's lovely to be back in our building, and so great to see lots more families coming along and enjoying the new space.

Jessica Cracknell

Milborne Port Climate and Nature Action Group

Those of us with pets may be accidentally poisoning our garden birds! Pet fur found in songbird nests contains high levels of pesticides. Recent studies have found that pet flea treatments containing fipronil and imidacloprid were in all the blue tit and great tit nests studied, with the highest mortality rates in the most contaminated nests. This follows on from studies finding these dangerous pesticides in every river. So please don't put your pet's fur out for the birds, and keep them well-groomed when they are moulting.

On a heartening note for the long-term maintenance of farm soil fertility and food production, and also the health of our rivers, Jane Pearce, a scientist working at Rookwood Operations in Wells, has won a prize for an invention that could recycle phosphate from rivers, where it harms water quality and wildlife, for it to be used again on farmland, also reducing our dependency on finite, imported, mined phosphate.

<https://network23.org/milbornecan/>

The Elusive Bullfinch

Until recently I had not seen a Bullfinch in the village for some time. That's not to say they weren't here. I saw a male and female in Wick Road and two weeks later in Station Road (photo) - probably the same pair. About the size of a Sparrow, a male Bullfinch is unmistakable with its black head, black tail, bright crimson neck and breast (the female is duller, being more pinkish).



Despite their striking colours, Bullfinches are difficult to spot, as they are shy and favour dense vegetation. However, they are more likely to be seen in winter than in summer when they become even more secretive. Largely herbivorous, they feed mainly on tree buds such as oak and hawthorn, as well as flowers, berries and seeds. In a cold snap they will come to bird tables.

Sadly, Bullfinch numbers have shown a steady decline since the 1970's (when they were considered a pest in orchards), although recently there is evidence of a slight increase in numbers (Source: RSPB). So let us hope we will see more of this beautiful but elusive little finch in the months and years to come.

Jane Hewitt

Milborne Port Football Club



It's been a very stop-start month for the adult section of the club in recent weeks. The weather has impacted lots of games and we're all looking forward to some drier weeks ahead to enable the teams to push on in their respective leagues.

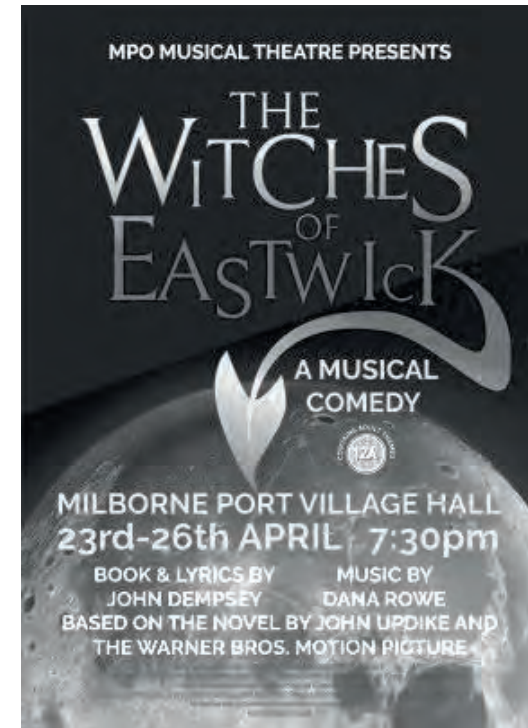
The youth section has been playing in the Champions League phases of their season and are progressing well with lots of smiles on cold and wet winter mornings! It's been really inspiring to see how many families get so involved in ensuring the children are enjoying the game, even in the worst of conditions, they're still outside, taking in the fresh air and playing a sport they love.

We'd love to welcome more parents, family members and the public to be involved in helping children and adults play football. We have plenty of vacancies and can assist with funding for coaching qualifications for people who'd like to be join us. Don't hesitate to contact mpfcsecretary@outlook.com for further details.



#upthemilborne

Ben Tupman



Milborne Port Gardening Club

Dare we celebrate that Spring has sprung! Spring being the season we often refer to as a time of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth.

Our February speaker was Mike Burks of The Gardens Group. Mike's "Gardening in Climate Change" talk was once more enlightening and food for thought. I am sure most of us went away with a few ideas for adapting to the changes and forward planning. He also reminded us that Compost is becoming peat-free across the UK and gardeners need to adapt to this newer medium, adjusting their feeding and watering habits.

Whilst having been sent to Mexico to steal/procure the cochineal insect back in 1787, the French botanist Nicolas-Joseph Thiéry de Menonville reported the strangely beautiful flowers he had seen growing in a garden in Oaxaca. And so, this is where our delight and frustration with the glorious dahlia began

March 11th is our talk on Dahlias. This is being presented by Christine Angelucci, who came to gardening as a second career and is highly regarded in her specialist field of dahlia breeding. I think this is one for members and guests alike. If dahlias are your passion or nemesis, please do come along. Doors from 7 p.m., meeting starts at 7.30 p.m.

Should you wish to know more about the Club, or join us in 2025, please do come to any meeting or contact the Secretary (Samantha at samgraham2009@gmail.com). We happily welcome guests to our meetings for a fee £4.00 from January 2025.

Samantha Dean



February is usually the month when we have our annual meal to cheer us up after a dismal January. This year we chose lunch at the Clockspire so that most people could walk there and enjoy a glass of wine. We were very well looked after by the Manager and staff and everyone said how much they liked the food, ambience and service. Almost all our members came along and we all enjoyed socialising. I'm sure we will be repeating the experience in the summer.

In March our meeting will take place at 2.00 p.m. when Becci Denissen will be talking to us about caring for our skin and body. Anyone is welcome to join us at our meetings for the modest price of £5 which includes a warm drink.

If you are new to the village and wonder who the Glovelies are, we are the Milborne Port branch of the national WI. We serve coffees/teas in the community room/library on Friday mornings from 10.30 - there is usually cake too, so please drop in for a cuppa and chat. We'll be pleased to see you.

Christine Porter

Friends of Milborne Port Library

All events in the library are Free of Charge.

Rhyme Time – Tuesday 11th and 25th March 10.30 a.m. Aimed at children aged 0 – 4 years.

Book Club – Tuesday 4th March 2 p.m. All welcome.

Lego Club – Saturday 8th March. Drop in between 10 and 12 noon. All ages welcome

Children's Craft Club – Saturday 15th March 10.30 – 11.30. Join us to make a gift for Mother's Day.

Comic Book Club – Saturday 29th March 9.30 a.m. Aimed at ages 9+. Come and explore these fun books and join in some related activities. Snack and drink provided.

Knit, Natter and Puzzle Group – Tuesday 11th and 25th March 2.30 – 4 p.m.

Since the start of the year we have been really lucky to receive two visits to the library from classes at Milborne Port School to enhance their learning.

Newtown Class spent some time with us exploring Traditional Tale stories. They have been creating their own imaginative versions of these and we are very excited to say that we will have these available for you to look at in the library very soon.

Gainsborough Class have also visited us while learning about their local area. They had a lovely afternoon session exploring books about maps. Both classes were an absolute pleasure to have in the library and we hope to see them again.

Additional Heating: We are very grateful to the Parish Council for providing us with an additional heater in the Community Room. This has made our library a much warmer place. Please do come and make use of the Warm Space.

Did you know we have iPads which you can borrow for up to six weeks at a time? The iPads have in-built 4G so you are able to use them without having internet at home. If you would like to borrow one, please visit the library.

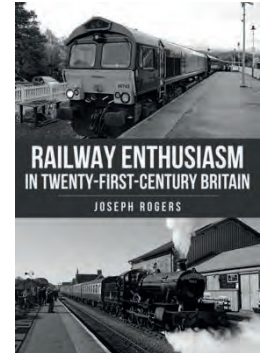
Last but not least we shall shortly be welcoming Karen, our new member of staff. Come along and make her acquaintance.

Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com



Milborne Port History & Heritage Group

Our next talk will be given by Joseph Rogers on Monday 17th March and is entitled *West Somerset Railway*. Joe is the author of *Railway Enthusiasm in Twenty-first-century Britain* and conducts talks on railways and the railway hobby. His railway experience comes from over a decade working within the hobby. He currently works for Dovetail Games, makers of the popular Train Simulator PC game. Do join us at 7.30 p.m. at Church House in Bathwell Lane. We are a charity and ask for a suggested donation of £2 per member or £5 per non-member to cover costs.



Richard Cooper-Knight's talk entitled 'Death and Service' on Somerset war graves last month provided a poignant focus on local men (and one woman) who died whilst in military service during World War One and who were buried in the UK, including two from Milborne Port whose graves can be seen at our cemetery. Richard's careful and dedicated research into these people's backgrounds, families and work was a sombre reminder of the precious lives of real individuals behind the names on the gravestones...



We are still busy making plans for our VE Commemoration Day on 10th May, and would welcome the offer of extra help; it will be a full day of events, all at the Village Hall.

With the VE Day commemorations in mind, Lesley Wray is leading us through the months leading up to VE Day by telling us what was happening internationally, nationally and locally. Lesley's full articles can be found at <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk/milborne-port-in-wartime/>. Here is a sample of Milborne Port news from March 1945.

Milborne Port's Major Stanley Southcombe - of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers - was lead engineer of the 6th Brigade attached to the Guards armoured division. While the Guards were in the thick of the action, he went forward to examine the damage that had occurred. He built mobile workshops so that the tanks could be repaired, or rebuilt using parts from damaged tanks, ready to continue the fighting. He was Mentioned in Dispatches for his gallant service in March 1945.

Nathalie Hetherington

Lock 'em up or let 'em out?

How hard it is to make a difficult decision? Well, Julia Holman who was, by profession, a criminal lawyer and spent several years working on the parole board should know. She will give some insight in how the parole board works, the volume of paperwork required and an understanding as to how difficult decisions about whether to allow parole are made. The talk includes some real examples of cases Julia was involved with and she will involve us in the difficult decision-making process.

Julia's talk will be preceded by the Blackmore Vale U3A's AGM at 2.45 p.m. when it is hoped to gain new committee members.

Henstridge Village Hall Tuesday 4th March from 2.15 p.m. for refreshments. Members £2.00, visitors £3.00

What to Watch in the March Night Sky

March's astronomical highlight is a partial eclipse of the Sun. In Milborne Port, the Sun will have about a quarter of its disc hidden. Never look directly at the Sun. The simplest way to view an eclipse is to use an item you normally find in the kitchen: a colander. Stand with your back to the Sun and hold the colander in one hand and a piece of paper in the other. Hold the colander between the Sun and the paper and watch as you safely observe many images of the eclipse on one piece of paper. The colander acts as a pinhole camera.

Planets

Mercury is found in the early-evening sky and puts on its best show of the year. On March 8th it lies near to Venus over the western horizon. Venus for the first half of the month is a brilliant evening 'star'. Mars is an evening object in Gemini lying below Castor & Pollux by the end of the month. Jupiter at nightfall is located high in the south residing in Taurus. By the end of the month, it's found in the west for a few hours or so. Saturn and Neptune are out of view this month. Uranus requires binoculars - best seen during the first half of March during the early evening.

March 2025 Astronomical Events

1st & 2nd: waxing crescent Moon sits near Venus after sunset (a lovely sight if we are given clear skies).

6th: Moon - First Quarter, close approach of the Moon and Jupiter

7th: Mercury at dichotomy – the planet appears exactly half-illuminated by the Sun.

8th: Mercury at highest altitude in evening sky.

9th: Close approach of the Moon and Mars

14th: Full Moon: In astronomical terms it is the last Full Moon of winter. It is called the Worm Moon after the earthworms that signal thawing grounds.

20th: the Spring Equinox the start of astronomical spring.

22nd: Moon - Last Quarter

29th: New Moon. Partial eclipse of the Sun visible from around 10 am.

30th: British Summer Time begins (clocks go forward by an hour).

Sunrise and Sunset

1st: Dawn 06.24 UT Dusk: 18.22 UT

31st: Dawn 06.15 BST Dusk: 20.14 BST

The first day of March is 12 hours 01 minutes long. The last day of the month is 13 hours, 59 minutes, so the length of the days gets 01 hours, 59 minutes longer during the month. On the 15th of February 2025 the Sun set at 6pm and it won't set before 6pm again until October 29th

Happy Spring Equinox!

Ganymede

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the April 2025 issue of the magazine to the editor please by Saturday 22nd March at 12 noon latest.

Distributors at the church on Friday 28th March at 2 p.m.

Editor's email :

magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk

All email contributions will be acknowledged. If you do not receive a reply, or if you are unable to use email, please ring 01963 33495



MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS

PARISH CHURCH: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Staff

Priest in Charge	Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne	845278
Churchwardens	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
	Mrs Nicki Edwards	nickiedwards19@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Ms Helen Solomon	250248

Other Useful Church contacts

Organist	Mrs Rachel Willetts	01935 813958
Vergers	Mr & Mrs Ronnie Goodman	845082
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Magazine Advertising & Magazine Treasurer	Mr Robin Bawtree	251359
Tower Captain & Sec:	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
PCC Secretary	Mrs Felicity John	250382
Church Treasurer	Mr Paul Springett	220790
& Stewardship Recorder		
Church House Treasurer	Mr Ben Grundy	bengrundy@mpchouse.org.uk
Parish Church of St Peter, Goathill:	Church Warden: Mrs Trudy West	250611
Milborne Wick Church:	Prowarden: John Sprake	250243
Church House Bookings:	www.mpchouse.org.uk or Christine Porter	250821

OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES

Roman Catholic Church (Wincanton)		34408
ReBorne Community Church	Minister Adrian Bright	07975 755032

OTHER INFORMATION

Doctors	Drs Wyer, Bulley, Smith, Esteves, Palanisamy, Robertson, Gray & Squire	250334
Vet	Southhill Veterinary Group, The Old Glove Factory, 1-2 North Street, Milborne Port	250255
Primary School	Head Teacher Mr J. Rodd	250366
Clerk to Parish Council	Mr Simon Pritchard, Town Hall	251268
Registrar	Ms S Shire	435008
Spirit of Milborne Port Village Hall	Claire Andrews	07729 582 669
WI Contact:	Manager/Bookings: Chris Sheeran	07946 333542
Police	Christine Porter	250821
	Non Emergency	101
	Emergencies	999
PCSO on duty (Wincanton)		101
Library	At the Town Hall	07396 587767
	Tuesday 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Friday and Saturday 9-12.30	
Pharmacist	Ty and Mansur Lawal, Milborne Port Pharmacy	250259
Over 65s Tuesday Lunch Club	Anne Salkeld	250529
	Alison Flynn	07896 678267
	Chris Chiswell	07713 030782

Milborne Port community website and diary **www.milborneport.org.uk**

Parish Council website **www.milborneportpc.org.uk**

Benefice website: **www.milborneportchurches.org.uk**

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