

MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



APRIL 2025 45P



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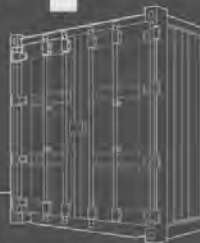
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A LETTER FROM REV RONA

April brings with it the promise of new beginnings. As spring unfolds around us, the lengthening days, blossoming flowers, and singing birds remind us of renewal, hope, and life. How fitting, then, that this April also marks the beginning of something new for our church communities!



From 1st April, we are delighted to welcome the parishes of Blackford, Compton Pauncefoot, and Maperton into the newly formed Milborne Benefice. We look forward to getting to know one another, to worshipping together, and to seeing God's Kingdom grow in this beautiful part of the world. Our churches, each with their own rich history, gifts, dedicated and traditions, now have the opportunity to journey forward together in faith, service, and fellowship.

This month, we also walk together through the most sacred time of the Christian year—Holy Week and Easter. As we remember Jesus' journey to the cross (*do look at Milborne Port Churches Facebook page for the daily quote and photograph of a cross*), we reflect on the depths of God's love for us. And then, on Easter morning, we rejoice in the Good News that Christ is risen! His resurrection brings hope, transformation, and the promise that, in Him, all things are made new.

As we step into this new chapter as an eight-church Benefice, may we do so with the joy and expectation of Easter. Just as Jesus called His disciples into community, we are called to walk this path together, supporting, encouraging, and learning from one another.

May this season of resurrection and renewal inspire us all.

With every blessing, Rev Rona

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

1st March Coralie Cullen-Borne

2nd March Ivy Rose Nottley

FUNERALS

21st March Sidney John Maskell



CHURCH HOUSE 100 CLUB

Results of the March Draw

1st Prize £30 Mrs K Davis

2nd Prize £20 Anon (No. 61)

3rd Prize £10 Mrs M J Harrison

St Peter's Church, Goathill Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 27th April 2025

At about 6.45 p.m., following EVENSONG at 6.00 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Congratulations to **Karin Grindrod**, who took the spring image of St John's Church a year ago. Can you take a great picture showing a fresh angle on the area? 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

Thank You

Margaret Hockey 24.09.1930 - 10.02.2025

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, thoughts and cards. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the service; it was a great comfort to know that mum was so well liked. All donations collected on the day, and since, will be divided equally between Battersea Cats & Dogs Home and Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has helped us through this difficult time.

Barbara Griffiths

Aoife says A Big Thank You.

To the gentleman who found my dog who was wandering about on The High Street, late Saturday afternoon on the 15th March. I was so grateful.

Sarah



Memory Lane
A Special Service
for those with Memory Impairment

Saturday, 19th April
4 p.m. in Church House.

We invite you to join us for "Memory Lane" – a gentle gathering of music, singing, short readings, and prayer for those living with Alzheimer's, Dementia, or memory challenges, alongside their loved ones. Refreshments to follow. These services will continue on the third Saturday of every month.

Remembering

Frederick Martin died April 1945

Frederick Martin, son of Frederick and Ethel Martin, was born at Peasemars, Gillingham in June 1914. In June 1938 he married Kathleen Bennett of Yeovil and at the time of his death, his father was living in South Street, Milborne Port.

Frederick Martin was a Petty Officer aboard HMS Jupiter when she sank in the Java Sea on 27th February 1942, and was one of 75 men taken prisoner by the Japanese. He died in captivity on the island of Muna, aged 32 years, on 19th April 1945. He is buried in Ambon War Cemetery in the Moluccas Islands. This cemetery contains the graves (many moved from smaller islands in the 1960s) of 1,959 Commonwealth servicemen of which 800 are British.

This concludes the series of commemorations of the Milborne Port servicemen who lost their lives during the 2nd World War. We thank Naomi Thorp for the work she has put into this research. There will be a display of all the men's stories, with more detail than there has been room for in this magazine, in St John's Church from 1st to 16th May.



Royal British Legion

Pauline Hicks held a Quiz to support The Royal British Legion Milborne Port and Districts at Laycock Cider held by Angelo. £224.00 was raised during the evening. We are most grateful



Commemorative wreaths for VE and VJ Days will be available for £28.50. If interested, please contact Maggie Pelly on velvetant52@googlemail.com

News from the Parish Council

Is it part of a giant toast rack? No! It's a bike rack! Now you can cycle to the bus stop or the Library at the Town Hall/Weighbridge area and leave your bike in relative safety by attaching it securely to our newly installed bike rack.



Another Litter Picking Star!

Enormous thanks to Ben Mead who has finished his three-month stint of litter picking at Gainsborough and Springfield playparks for his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. He has done a great job, and we are very grateful for his efforts! If there are any other budding-volunteer-litter-picking-young-people out there, do get in touch! We will happily accommodate your needs!

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!' - Robin Williams

We are in the unusual position of having both **half and full plot allotments available** for new tenants! If having an allotment has been on your wish-list and you have never quite got round to it, now's the time! There are few activities that can achieve what horticulture and gardening can. The act of gardening helps us to keep fit and connect with others, to enjoy and be part of nature and to revel in colour, aroma, wildlife and beauty. Do get in touch if you are ready to pick up that trowel!

The issue of **surface water on Gainsborough** when we have heavy rain has been brought to the attention of Somerset Highways again, and we have asked about a timeframe for work on the drainage in the area. We have been informed that *currently the earliest would be 2026 but this is always dependent on other demands ... it would need a thorough CCTV survey and there is no opportunity due to budgets for a CCTV survey until after April.*



Many thanks to one of our handymen, Phil Davis, for the great job done on sprucing up the **posts at The Clump**, which had been looking rather unhappy for a while!

New planting by the Village Hall

The area of brambles, dead trees and other plants in poor shape to the north of the Village Hall has been cleared in preparation for the Spring planting of new shrubs and hedge plants.

Parish Council Meetings in April

Full Council – Tuesday 1st; Planning Committee: Tuesday 15th. 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.

Please note that our contact details have changed:

Simon Pritchard – Parish Clerk clerk@milborneport-pc.gov.uk
Nathalie Hetherington – Deputy office@milborneport-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council Website: www.milborneport-pc.gov.uk

Community Plan Update

Many thanks to those of you who made contact about joining a Working Group. It's not too late to get involved! We would still love to hear from you if you are interested in making a positive impact on your community by joining any of our groups on **dog-fouling, village communications or provision for young people**. We would particularly like to hear from some of the younger members of our community. community.plan@milborneport.org.uk. The Executive Summary of the results can be found at <http://milborneport.org.uk/community-plan/>

Milborne Port Community Plan Steering Group

Our MP in Parliament

Notes on some of the issues that our local MP, Sarah Dyke, has engaged with recently. Not a party political pitch, but a record of her actions as our constituency representative.

- SD made a speech in the House of Commons, demanding the Government exempt dentists, GPs, hospices, early years and care providers from the Government's damaging employers' National Insurance Contribution rises set to come into force on April 6th.
- SD asked the following question at Prime Minister's Questions *"Yesterday with no notice, Defra closed SFI (Sustainable Farming Incentive) applications, leaving thousands of farmers who want to deliver public goods waiting for a year without support. So can the Prime Minister assure British farmers that they won't be left stranded, unable to support environmental and food resilience goals due to lack of government support?"*

Contact: sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk

Milborne Port Football Club

Easter Bingo

Join us Sunday 13th April
at the Village Hall



For a fun night of Bingo,
including great prizes, a raffle and refreshments!

Doors open 6.30 p.m.

Eyes down 7.30 p.m.

We hope to see you there, and thanks for supporting us!

#UpTheMilborne

The Spirit of Milborne Port

'Working together for our Community'

Applications for 2025 funding now open!

The Spirit of Milborne Port are excited to announce our new application process for Community Funding. We are looking for community groups, charities or projects within Milborne Port that benefit our community to donate to. Please visit our website www.thespiritofmilborneport.org or Facebook page for more information and an application form.

Easter Egg Hunt @ Church House Saturday 19th April

Following the success of last year our Easter Egg Hunt is returning. This is a free event but tickets must be booked in advance from Eventbrite. The Egg Hunt will take place from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and includes crafts and refreshments as well as lots of treats to find. A Quiet Session will be run from 10:15-11 a.m. for those children who would benefit from this – no proof of diagnosis required, SOMP recognise not all disabilities are visible. We are pleased to be working with St John's Church again.

Fete @ The Port

Our Summer Fete is back for 2025 renamed as "Fete @ The Port" on Saturday 21st June from 1-6 p.m. We look forward to seeing lots of you at the recreation ground where we will have stalls, family games, bar, BBQ, classic vehicles, kids' crafts, dog show, live music and more. Please note this is a **daytime event only**, there will be no Party @ The Port in the evening.

Contacts: Please visit our website: www.thespiritofmilborneport.org or Facebook Page for more information on our events and meetings. You can email us at thespiritofmilborneport@gmail.com Volunteer with us – we are always looking for new helpers, please get in touch.



We have had a busy half term at Milborne Port Primary. All of the children spent the first three weeks undertaking a Geography-themed enquiry. Gainsborough class were learning about the area around our school and they competed against their parents in a quiz at the end of the enquiry. You might have spotted Medlycott class out and about around the village, learning about physical and human features and the four compass points. Venn class convinced a fictitious family that they should purchase a house in Milborne Port. Kingsbury learnt about 'Dormerset' and the tourist attractions that can be found in Dorset and Somerset. Newtown investigated a region in Southern France and Crackmore learnt about settlements, population and migration.

At the time of writing, the children are working on a Design and Technology (Food) enquiry. This will culminate in the Spring Lunch on Wednesday 2nd April. The majority of tickets have been sold but we have a limited number left - if you are interested, please contact the school office. We are looking forward to hosting the lunch, which has been generously sponsored by The Clockspire.

All of the children took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for the *School in a Bag* charity. At the time of writing, we have raised £680 which is enough to resource 34 school bags. We are hoping that we might reach our £1000 target before the end of term. On World Book Day, the children dressed as book characters and we wrote our first whole school story, with each class writing a chapter.

As you may be aware, I am moving on to pastures new at the end of this term. Miss Carmen Danyali, our SENCo, has been appointed as the new Headteacher and I am sure that you will join with me in congratulating her and wishing her well in her new role.

Jonathan Rodd, Headteacher 01963 250366

Milborne Port Foodshare



New Time: On First Thursdays Foodshare's distribution times at Church House will be changing on **the first Thursday of each month**, as we believe there are some – especially families after school finishes – who would find a later time more convenient. So on **Thursday 3 April we'll be opening the doors at 3.00 p.m. and closing them at 6.00 p.m.** Initially this will be on the **first Thursday** of every month for a trial period. **On the other Thursdays we will open from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. as usual**

Can you Help? Foodshare is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a legal standing which enables us to apply for a wider range of grants and funding. But our need for your help is as great as ever. We particularly need donations of tinned meat and pies, tinned fish, tinned fruit, tinned or packet soup, cooking sauces, coffee, spreads, cereal, biscuits, plus women's and men's toiletries and household cleaning products.

There are collecting points in St John's Church and the Co-op.

Financial Donations, either one-offs or regular gifts, are more than welcome. You can donate via BACS: Sort Code 30-99-50, account no. 53866068.

Volunteer! We need helpers to collect produce from the Co-op on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and to help at the Foodshare sessions on Thursday afternoons. Any time you can give will be much appreciated.

Contact person: Jacquie Hall on 07740 862823. Many thanks.

Milborne Port Village Hall News

Free Gong Bath – Sound Healing Evening

Definitely a first time for the village hall, on 8th April @19.00, the hall plays host to our first ever 'gong' bath. Bring your own blankets and mats to be really cosy! Go to 'Daisy's Healing Gong Sanctuary' Facebook page for further information and tickets, and then just relax!

'Indulge in a magical candlelit evening of healing waves of sound to soothe the soul.'

Junior Cricket at the Village Hall

A last reminder that junior cricket for boys and girls will be held at the Village Hall on the days listed, all from 10.30 to 12.30.

*Mon 07/04 *Wed 09/04 *Fri 11/04 *Mon 14/04

There will be two sessions of an hour each, firstly for under 11s and then for 11 to 14 years. Whilst uptake for the 11s and under has been very good, there has been little response for the under 14s so **if your child is interested, please let me know asap**. If you have not already done so, please email me at manager@milborneportvillagehall.org.uk or message 07946 333542 for the moment.

Please also check the village hall website and sign up to the Milborne Port Village Hall Facebook page so that you receive regular updates.

*Thank you
Chris Sheeran*

Film Night at the Village Hall

We now take a break and will be back in the September, where we hope to introduce earlier start times and have a new batch of the latest cinema releases. Please check village hall website for regular updates.



MPO Musical Theatre has received a generous donation from Milborne Port Parish Council in support of its forthcoming show. MPO Chairman Antony White said “We are very grateful to the Parish Council for giving their time to hear our case and for their generous response, which will help with the increasing cost of mounting a musical production.

MPO Musical Theatre won TWO awards in the annual David Beach competition organised by the Somerset Fellowship of Drama - "The Somerset Tonys". Lloyd Davies was awarded “Best Male Lead” for his role in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Neil Harrison Shaw and his team won “Best Props”

This year MPO Musical Theatre is offering the *The Witches of Eastwick*, which takes MPO into new territory with a sexy, adult themed show, which combines heart wrenching ballads, dark humour and lively ensemble numbers in a must-see production. It’s funny, tuneful and devilishly clever.

The musical is based on the 1984 novel by John Updike and the 1987 film. Pictured are Lloyd Davies, again leading the cast, with Karen Pankhurst, Sukie Read and Esmee Roach as the witches. Can good triumph over evil? Don’t miss the chance to find out at this amazing show!



Karen Pankhurst directs, with Caroline D’Cruz directing the music.

The show runs in Milborne Port Village Hall from 23rd to 26th April. Performances start at 7.30. Online booking is at www.mpopera.co.uk.

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. Please check the list below carefully, and please consider attending some services which may be new to you.

Wednesday 2nd April

10:30 a.m. Midweek Communion **Milborne Port**

Friday 4th April

7:00 p.m. Compline **Milborne Port**

Sunday 6th April *5th Sunday of Lent*

Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion **Charlton Horethorne**

9:00 a.m. Joint Morning Service
with Compton Pauncefoot **Blackford**

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion **Milborne Port**

6:00 p.m. Evensong **Stowell**

Wednesday 9th April

10:30 a.m. Midweek Communion **Milborne Port**

Friday 11th April

7:00 p.m. Compline **Milborne Port**

Sunday 13th April *Palm Sunday*

Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 23:1-49

9:30 a.m. Joint Morning Service
with Blackford **Compton Pauncefoot**

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion **Milborne Port**

6:00 p.m. Evensong **Charlton Horethorne**

Tuesday 15th April

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross **Goathill**

FOR APRIL

Wednesday 16th April

10:30 a.m. Midweek Communion **Milborne Port**

7:00 p.m. Reflective Music for Holy Week **Compton Pauncefoot**

Thursday 17th April *Maundy Thursday*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17 & 13:31b-35

7:00 p.m. Commemoration of Last Supper **Stowell**

Friday 18th April *Good Friday*

Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:7-9, John 18:1-end & 19:1-end

10:00 a.m. Good Friday Service **Milborne Port**

2:00 p.m. Service of the Final Hour **Charlton Horethorne**

Saturday 19th April

4:00 p.m. Memory Lane **Church House, M Port**

7:00 p.m. The Service of Light **Milborne Port**

Sunday 20th April *Easter Sunday*

Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) **Blackford**

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion **Maperton**

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Family Service **Milborne Port**

Wednesday 23rd April

10:30 a.m. Midweek Communion **Milborne Port**

Sunday 27th April *2nd Sunday of Easter*

Acts 5:27-32, John 20:19-end

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion **Compton Pauncefoot**

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion **Milborne Port**

6:00 p.m. Evensong **Goathill**

Wednesday 30th April

10:30 a.m. Midweek Communion **Milborne Port**

**Bishop's letter by Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton**

'God is good... all the time!'



When I was a priest in Nottingham, I remember thinking that as a parish we seemed to reflect more of the story of the crucifixion of Christ rather than His resurrection. Ours was a parish which had many personal stories of loss and suffering, of challenge and trial, and sometimes this made it difficult to lift our faces to the horizon to see the triumph and glory beyond the grave.

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage us to take time to 'walk the way of the cross', to notice God's grace as we do so, even in the painful moments as well as keeping our eyes fixed on the coming glory.

As I write this, I am catching glimpses of the kingfisher on its perch outside my study window. Always a delight! It sits on the branch across the moat in stillness, watching for the sign of a fish before it suddenly dives and then crests the water with its prize. A splash of colour rarely seen by many. It fills me with hope and joy, two gifts which I think Easter inspires.

Walking through Lent we are continually called to become conscious of our mortality and are reminded of the price Jesus paid on our behalf. Giving himself in death that we might have life. And we have that life because his death was not the end but the beginning of a new chapter, of life in all its fulness.

So, whatever the circumstances of your life this Easter, allow yourself to fully recognise and experience the challenges but never lose the prospect of the glory to come! 'God is good... all the time!'

Bishop Ruth



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Proclaiming God's love

Demonstrating God's fellowship

We would like to thank all those who came along to our Open Days at the end of February, and we trust you enjoyed seeing the improvements we have made to our old building. A complete cross section of our community came along, from those who used to come to the old Social Club or the weekend dances, to the new families from the village with young children.



The Coffee Shop was something many felt was needed in Milborne Port and we hope to have this open with a manager on a regular basis in the near future. Please keep an eye on the church website for more information, www.rebornechurch.org

Our church activities are now all back including our Toddler Group, The Afterschool Club and our Wednesday morning Life Group, and our monthly Prayer Meeting and watch out to find out when our Youth Group is due to restart. Our Sunday morning worship will still be taking place at 10.30am in the Digby Hall in Sherborne, with the occasional services being held at Milborne Port. The next service due to be held in Milborne Port is our Good Friday Service on 18th April at 9.30am.



The new hall is also available for booking, with many up to date facilities available, in a bright, warm setting. For any enquiries, please make contact through www.rebornechurch.org/bookings.

Ginny Bignell

Hawfinches in the Churchyard: A Rare Village Visitor

Milborne Port's churchyard is a place of history, peace, and if you're lucky some remarkable wildlife. Among the many birds that frequent this quiet sanctuary, one of the most elusive and striking is the Hawfinch.

With its powerful beak, robust body, and bold markings, the Hawfinch is Britain's largest finch. It's a bird that many lifelong nature enthusiasts have never seen, as it tends to stay hidden high in the treetops. However over recent years, reports of Hawfinches visiting rural churchyards especially those with mature yew trees have increased. The Hawfinches have a particular fondness for yew berries in the winter months.

While Hawfinches are more commonly seen in woodlands, they can occur in places like our churchyards and gardens which act as a winter refuge, especially when natural food sources become scarce. Since late February a flock of around a dozen birds have been frequenting the village of Milborne Port and can be seen almost daily coming to the yew trees in the churchyard. I even had several birds coming to my bird table in my garden to feed on sunflower seeds during those recent frosty mornings.

So how can you spot one? Hawfinches are much larger than the familiar chaffinch and greenfinch, with a distinctive thick conical beak designed for cracking open tough seeds like cherry stones. Their plumage is a mix of warm chestnut, soft greys, and bold black-and-white wing markings, which are especially visible in flight. They are naturally shy and often perch high up in the branches, making patience essential for those hoping to catch a glimpse.



If you're taking a stroll past St John's Church this season, it's worth looking up into the trees and listening carefully. Their call is a quiet "tic" sound, and in flight, they move with rapid, strong wingbeats. While they are rare visitors, the Hawfinch's recent increases in sightings across Somerset and Dorset mean that Milborne Port could well be home to one or two passing through on migration. By mid-April they will be back on their breeding grounds.

Next time you walk through the churchyard, keep an eye out - you might just spot one of Britain's most mysterious finches among the yews. And if you do, be sure to let the village birdwatchers know!

Brendan Sheils

Milborne Port Gardening Club

What a glorious day it has been, blue skies, warm weather and happy hours spent in the garden. Our Club is gearing up for our **Annual Plant Sale**. This is to be held at the Grove Gardens, Church Street on Saturday 10th May, from 9.30 a.m to 11 a.m. In the past, we have been very fortunate to have been donated many plants and seedlings from enthusiastic gardeners in our village. If you are getting out to the garden, we would ask you to think about potting on a few extra plants for our sale. Either some seedlings, plant cuttings or if you are moving or thinning out plants in your garden and think they could have a new life somewhere else, we'd be happy to receive them. These can be flowers, vegetables, fruits or general plants. We would ask that they are clearly labelled. Thank you in advance as your efforts and donations would be greatly appreciated.

Last year we created and sold some wonderful bouquets from garden grown and wild foraged flowers and greenery. We will also be interested in donations of flowers, grasses and fillers if you have some to spare.

More details to follow in the May magazine, or contact us on the email below.

Dahlias were our topic for March, presented by Christina Angelucci. Who knew just how many variations there were of Dahlias! Christina has managed to breed a number of variations and took us on a colourful journey of her diverse collection.

April 15th is our next evening. Apologies in advance, however, please note this evening is for **members only** at Castle Gardens. We will, however, be back at the Village Hall on Tuesday evening, 13th May for another interesting talk on Gardening in Containers. Guests will be most welcome to this talk for our usual fee of £4.00. 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).

Samantha Dean

Introducing Local Businesses

When space permits, we like to offer local business people a chance to describe their business and services. Do contact the Editor if you would like to inform readers about your business, whether or not you already advertise on our commercial pages.

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We had our last afternoon meeting of the season in March when Becci Denissen, our local beautician, came to give us a talk entitled 'Feeling Good'. She brought several products with her, which we were invited to sample, and she told us a brief history of the company she represents - Tropicana, who source their products from natural ingredients and put some of their profits into charitable works. We finished by giving each other a hand massage, using some of the cream or oil provided, which was very relaxing and we all left the meeting with very soft and supple hands after we had a drink and chat with each other.

As we will be having longer days from April, we will be reverting to evening meetings, our first one starting at 7.30 p.m. on 10th April in the community room/library. We will be given a talk on The History of Gin by Mike Rendell and it is to be hoped he will be bringing some samples with him, although I can't guarantee this! Non members are always welcome to attend our meetings - we just ask for a donation of £5.

In the meantime, we are open on Friday mornings, selling coffee, teas, cake and biscuits. Please do come along for a drink and a chat.

Christine Porter

Save the Date!

**Poyntington May Fair
17th May at Poyntington Manor House**

**St John's Church Quiz with Fish and Chips
24th May at the Village Hall
*More details next month***

Friends of Milborne Port Library

Spring is in the air and at the library we are looking forward to lots of spring books and activities.

Seed Swap: We have restarted our Seed Swap so please pop in with some seeds to swap or take some you would like to grow.

APRIL ACTIVITIES – As always, our activities are FREE

For Adults:

Book Club – Tuesday 1st April 2 p.m.

Knit, Games and Natter - Join us with your current craft project, or join in with one of the games or the current puzzle we have on the go. Tuesdays 8th and 22nd April 2.30 – 4 p.m.

Journalling for Wellbeing Workshop – Tuesday 22nd April 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon. FREE session, but booking essential as spaces are limited. Please visit the library or email mptlib@somerset.gov.uk to book a space.

For Children:

Rhyme Time – Every Tuesday EXCEPT 22nd April. 10.30am.

Lego Club – Saturday 5th April Drop in between 10 a.m. and 12 noon to do some building.

Easter Treasure Hunt – From Saturday 5th – Saturday 19th April

Peter Rabbit themed craft session – Saturday 12th April 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Easter Craft Activity – Tuesday 15th April – Available throughout the day

Comic Book Club – Saturday 26th April 9.30 a.m. Children aged 8+.

Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com



Milborne Port History & Heritage Group

There will be no talk in Church House in April. However, we will be offering a **Bank Holiday Guided Walk** on **Monday 21st April**. Join Lesley Wray and other Committee members for our very popular guided tour of the area around the Church of St John the Evangelist and Church Street. If you are thinking, "Oh, I have done that one!", think again! We will amaze you with new research on a long-gone property on Church Street and one of its rather impressive residents... Meet us at the Ball Court/Remembrance Garden, off the High Street, at 7 p.m.; the walk will last for about 60 minutes. There is nothing to pay but donations are always welcome.

Don't forget to keep **Saturday 10th May 2025** free for our **VE Commemoration Day!** We are still busy making plans and would welcome the offer of extra help for our day of events, exhibitions, displays and talks about Milborne Port and its surroundings during the Second World War, all at the Village Hall, with a 1945 'rationed' lunch for £6.00. Entrance and talks will be free of charge. Further details in the May magazine.



We enjoyed an excellent talk about the *West Somerset Railway* last month, given by Joe Rogers – who at the ripe old age of 33 was the youngest speaker we have ever had! Lack of years did not impact on his experience, and he spoke with an impressive in-depth knowledge - and with enormous and infectious enthusiasm - about this important jewel in the crown of heritage railways. He passed the audition with flying colours and will be back next year to give a talk on tithe barns, his other great passion.

Nathalie Hetherington
mphhgroup@gmail.com

Our website: <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk>.

To read Lesley Wray's fascinating accounts of the months leading up to VE Day, internationally, nationally and locally, go to <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk/milborne-port-in-wartime/>. And follow us on Facebook!

What to Watch in the April Night Sky

"Observe the stars, millions of them, twinkling in the night sky, all with a message of unity, part of the very nature of God." – Sai Baba

The planets are 'a sight to see this month'. Jupiter is a brilliant object in the evening sky; however, the evenings are drawing out so there will be less time each night to observe this planetary gas giant. Mars is past its best but is bright and high in the sky. Mercury, Venus and Saturn all make early morning appearances before sunrise. We also have the Lyrid meteor shower which peaks on 22nd April.

Planets

Evening: Mars (southwest), Jupiter (west), Uranus (west – you will need binoculars).

Midnight: Mars (west), Jupiter (west)

Morning sky: Mercury, Venus, Saturn (all east)

April 2025 Astronomical Events

3rd: Close approach of the **Moon** and **Jupiter**.

5th: **Moon at First Quarter**. Close approach of the **Moon** and **Mars**.

9th: **Mercury** at highest altitude in morning sky.

13th: **Full Moon**. The Celts named April's Full Moon the Growing Moon, the New Shoots Moon, or the Seed Moon, while the Anglo-Saxons called it the Egg Moon. In North America the pink wild ground phlox flowers bloom inspiring the name Pink Moon.

21st: **Moon at Last Quarter**.

22nd: **peak of the Lyrid Meteor Shower:** These shooting stars originate from the constellation Lyra, as debris from the Comet Thatcher burns up in the Earth's atmosphere. The Lyrids are one of the oldest recorded meteor showers with records going back over 2,500 years. Unfortunately, the Lyrids are not only one of the weakest annual meteor showers it is also the most unpredictable.

24th: **Venus** at greatest brightness.

25th: Close approach of the **Moon** and **Saturn**, also **Moon** with **Venus**.

28th: Close approach of **Venus**, **Saturn** and **Neptune**.

Sunrise and Sunset

1st: Sunrise 6.42 am Sunset: 7.44 pm

30th: Sunrise 5.42 am Sunset: 8.32 pm

The first day of April is 13 hours, and 02 minutes long. The last day of the month is 14 hours, and 50 minutes, so the length of the days gets 1 hour, and 48 minutes longer during the month.

*Good Viewing!
Ganymede*

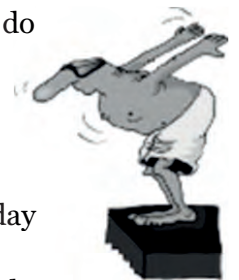
Swimmers Needed!

We are the Halstock Swimmers Group and we could do with one or two new members.

We are a small friendly group (currently 8) which swims at the **SHERBORNE BOYS' SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE** from 11:00 to 11:30 every Tuesday morning.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Carole on 01963 250081

Thank you



Castle Cary Choir Celebrating Diamond Anniversary

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We are celebrating, firstly on home ground, at All Saints' Church Castle Cary with a concert with Wincanton Silver Band at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 12th April. This concert of a wide range of music for all tastes will be raising money for the church.

Our second concert of the year will be in Sherborne Abbey, at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 31st May. This concert will be in aid of the new Breast Cancer unit, Maple Ward, at Yeovil Hospital. Tickets will be £10 (contact 01749 860352 or chrysk@henning1.plus.com) or on the door.

We are always keen to welcome new members, no auditions required, and you don't have to read music. Come and give us a try, we rehearse in the Methodist Church, Castle Cary on Monday evenings from 7.30 p.m. If you enjoy it you can then decide to join. Singing is so good for you! For further info contact Chrys (details above).

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the May 2025 issue of the magazine to the editor please by **Monday 14th April, 12 noon. Please note change of date from the expected Saturday deadline**



Distributors at the church on **Friday 25th April** 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 or 01963 250382

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
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Mumford	33495
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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