

# MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



**MARCH 2026**

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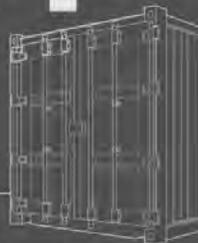
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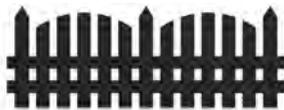


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## A LETTER FROM REV RONA



Easter comes early this year, on 5 April, and so we find ourselves moving swiftly from the season of Epiphany into Lent, and onwards towards Holy Week. Each of these seasons invites us into a different rhythm of faith: Epiphany, with its stars and moments of revelation; Lent, with its call to repentance and reflection; and Holy Week, which draws us again into the heart of the story that shapes and sustains our Christian life.

These changing seasons offer us not only familiar rituals, but fresh ways of seeing — opportunities to pause, to reflect, and to encounter God from a slightly different angle.

This year, my hope is that The Milborne Benefice will gently encourage you to explore faith more deeply and to engage with some of life's deeper questions. We will be offering an engaging and accessible course on the Bible, including an online option so that you can join from the comfort of your own home. The Clockspire Restaurant are kindly hosting our Confirmation classes, and in each edition of the magazine we are also exploring a different way of praying, offering space to try something new.

Across the eight churches that make up our Benefice, there is so much happening—and so many ways to belong, to learn, and to grow. Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we hope you will feel encouraged to join in and to discover what God is doing among us.

**With love, Rev Rona**

***Confirmation** is a moment to affirm your baptismal faith and to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the journey ahead. In short, if have promises made on our behalf at our Christening, Confirmation is the time when we can make those promises our own.*

## Confirmation Classes

I wonder if you have heard about the 'Quiet Revival'? It's a reported, low-key, yet significant surge in interest in Christianity and church attendance, particularly among young adults (18-34) in the UK. It highlights a shift towards a more active, intentional faith, emphasising Bible engagement and community, and it's often driven by personal invitations from friends.

Anecdotally I have heard about many young people locally who are questioning 'What's it all about' and exploring whether faith can offer any answers. Therefore, it seems a perfect time to be offering not only local confirmation classes, but also a Confirmation service in our Benefice in the Summer.

Please extend this invitation to any who would be interested in hearing more about the Christian faith. Each session will offer a chance to reflect, to talk honestly, and to deepen your understanding of what it means to live as a disciple of Christ.

### Preparation Sessions

(Saturdays, 10.00–11.30)

The Clockspire Restaurant,  
6 North Street, Milborne Port,  
DT9 5EP



**25 April | 16 May | 27 June | 18 July**

Led by Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne

## Confirmation Service

Saturday 1 August, **Milborne Port Church** (*time to be agreed*)

If you are interested, I would love to hear from you.

Please email me and I will be very happy to reserve a place.

I look forward to journeying with you

Rev Rona ([revrona@gmail.com](mailto:revrona@gmail.com))

**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

**Christening.**

Olivia Julia Anne Hill

01/02/2026



**Easter in The Milborne Benefice**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March PALM SUNDAY**

10.30am *Benefice Holy Communion Service* Charlton Horethorne

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

7pm *Stations of the Cross* Stowell

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

10.30am *Service of Holy Communion* Milborne Port

7pm *Holy Week in words and music* Compton Pauncefoot

**Thursday 2nd April, MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7pm *Maundy Thursday Last Supper* Goathill

**Friday 3rd April, GOOD FRIDAY**

10:00am *Good Friday Service* Milborne Port

2.00pm *Service of the Final Hour* Charlton Horethorne

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, HOLY SATURDAY**

7.00pm *Service of Light* Milborne Wick

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, EASTER DAY**

9.00am *Service of Holy Communion* Blackford

10.00am *Service of Holy Communion* Maperton

10.30am *All Age Service of Holy Communion* Milborne Port

## **Request**

**We are looking for someone to deliver a small number of magazines to Baunton's Orchard each month.**

**Please contact: Liz on 01963 251145**

### **SNOWDROP COFFEE MORNING**

**Thank you to everyone who supported this event towards repairing the roof of St Peter's Church, Goathill Helping to raise the fantastic amount of £422.00**

## **Marmalade Festival**

in aid of Church Funds

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

55 London Road (Use car park entrance)

### **Mothering Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am**

This is a time to give thanks for those who have nurtured, encouraged and walked alongside us: from mums and grandmothers, to godparents, mentors, carers, and friends who nurture and support us every day. We warmly invite you to a joyful, all-age service celebrating mothers and mothering relationships in all their forms. Together we'll reflect, give thanks, celebrate, and share in a service designed to be welcoming to everyone.

**Bring your mothers, children, invite your neighbours, gather your friends — let's make it a morning of gratitude, joy and togetherness.**

## **Ernie Davis**



Dad to Steve, Paul and Neil, Father-in-law to Janet and Annette. We are sad to announce the passing of Ernie at the age of 98, with his family by his side. He will be sadly missed. He was probably one of the oldest residents in the village. Ernie was a very active member of the Community over the years and only retired from being Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee in June of last year.

Ernie's funeral will take place at St Johns Church, Milborne Port on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 pm, with private burial.



Family flowers only but donations can be made to the Church Roof Fund in memory of Ernie.

### **MILBORNE PORT SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB**

### **JUMBLE SALE**

**SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 10.00 AM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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**Thankyou**

# Milborne Churches Together Christian Aid Group

## Lent Lunches for Christian Aid

There will be Lent Lunches on the four Fridays in March this year, ie **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**. All will be held at Church House, Bathwell Lane, Milborne Port DT5 5AN. **Please note the later start time, 12.45 for 1pm**. We will serve soup, bread and cheese. There is no charge, but we ask for donations to Christian Aid. Everybody is very welcome to attend. No need to book, but please warn us if you are planning to bring large numbers of people! Please also advise any dietary needs. Offers of help are welcome – with making soup, helping in the kitchen and setting up the hall. Thank you!

**Clare Silk 07905 912356 and Anne Salkeld 07841 434130**

### The Spirit of Milborne Port

*'Working together for our Community'*

**INVITE TO OUR NEXT MEETING:  
THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH@ CHURCH HOUSE**  
Drinks and nibbles from 7pm. Meeting from 7:30

Calling all residents, groups and businesses. Come along and meet the team and find out what The Spirit of Milborne Port is all about at our AGM which is open to all. We will be looking back at 2025 and sharing our plans for 2026. We would love to see you there to hear your feedback and ideas.



Upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
Summer Fete Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
[www.spiritofmilborneport.org](http://www.spiritofmilborneport.org)



In Aid of St John's Church  
**An Evening of Music**  
with the  
**HMS Heron Band**  
**RN Volunteer Band**



The concert will include popular classics, overtures, film music, West End show music, military marches and contemporary works.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
**St John's Church**  
**7.00 for 7.30 start**

Wine available - donations welcome

**Tickets £15**  
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## **Saturday May 9th Community Matters Event**

**Milborne Port: Community Matters** is an event that will mark the launch of a communication strategy designed to improve networking, engage members of the community, bring people together and improve the quality of life for all. This is fundamentally an information sharing event but also designed to celebrate village life and reach out to as many local people as possible. The Parish Council are sponsoring this and so **there is no charge for you to exhibit!**

**The event that will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at and around the Village Hall in Springfield Road, from 10 am – 4 pm;** setting up will be from 8 am but we will try to be flexible. Representatives and exhibitors from **all voluntary and not-for-profit community organisations and local businesses** are being invited to publicise what they do and how they do it, in a bid to promote the richness of village experience that is on offer in Milborne Port. There is no charge for exhibiting or attending. Exhibitors will be provided with at least half a trestle-table's worth of space, depending on demand; or they can bring their own table. Chairs will be provided. There will be refreshments available to buy. Access to electricity will be limited due to the location of sockets and the potential for trip hazards; any electronic equipment that you do bring must be PAT tested.

**If you would like to find out more or book a place as an exhibitor, contact Jane Daggett: [janedaggett.mport@gmail.com](mailto:janedaggett.mport@gmail.com) The deadline for booking is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**

By booking a place, exhibitors will be accepting the terms outlined in an agreement. More information will be provided as our plans develop. We very much hope that you will consider taking part in this exciting day! You might have been aware of similar 'Welcome to Milborne Port' events held at Church House in the past; this is similar but on a larger scale and encompassing businesses as well as voluntary organisations. Best wishes,

*Jane Daggett Co-ordinator, Community Matters*

### **The Parish Council continues to deliver new services:**

The Parish Council owns and manages the allotments, two playparks, the cemetery, the Town Hall, some of the Village's many green spaces and a car park. In addition to this, it assists with the management of the Churchyard and the Library. In this last financial year, the Parish Council also became the sole trustee of the Village Hall, in addition to facilitating a youth club and completing other projects such as: the bank clearance of Bathwell Lane; restoring and painting the railings around St John's; rebuilding two walls (East Street & Wheathill Lane); installing further play equipment at Gainsborough; also at Gainsborough changing the direction of the entrance to make it safer for people entering/leaving; and an upgrade to the shelter so that it actually protects from the elements. At Springfield, there has been a £60k upgrade to the 5-aside/basketball court, this coming just a year after the double tennis courts were refitted, and a new set of swings is on order, due to be installed in the coming months.

Where the Community Plan is concerned, steering groups led by Councillors and working on improving village communications and emergency planning have been making great progress. You might think that coming into the 26/27 financial year on April the 1<sup>st</sup>, there surely cannot be much more to do! Actually, there is... and the three large projects that the Parish Council is working on right now are...

### **The Community Hub (or the new Library as some might call it):**

This is in the process of being built by Redcliffe Homes at the front of the new estate in North Street/Station Road, and is due to be handed over to the Parish Council at some point this summer in a shell and core state, meaning that it will have a roof and walls, and that will be about it. It will be for the Parish Council to fund and manage the project to have the empty shell fitted out into a useable building. Planning is already under way, some grant.

funding has been obtained, and further funding is being sought, as well as sponsorship.

**The Village Hall Refit:** The Village Hall Committee has spent the last year getting professional advice as to how to make the Village Hall more energy efficient, but also just generally more attractive and smart. Significant amounts have been spent on the hall over the last year, much of it just carrying out necessary maintenance works to the electrics and replacing a fire door. Also, the ladies’ loos have also been refitted (£10,000) and the next project in the short term has to be the replacement of the lobby, as it is rotten (up to £18,000). Using the professional advice received and surveys carried out, a list of longer-term upgrades has been drawn up and costed at £83k+; we are now seeking grant funding and donations for this. The new management team will also be organising fundraising events.

**Additional changing facilities for the Sports/Football Club:** While the club house doesn’t belong to the Parish Council, we are helping the Football club to try and achieve its ambition of creating additional changing facilities for Girls’ Football.

**The Council Tax 2026/27:** When setting its budget for this coming year, the Parish Council and its Committees started discussions back in the Autumn (2025). Councillors looked very carefully at the cost of providing services and at what savings could be made, while also being realistic about rising costs. I fear it will not come as a surprise that, even by keeping things close to the bone, the Parish Council is to increase its share of the Council Tax from this April.

Bruton	£254.17 (25/26)
Langport	£359.54 (25/26)
Wincanton	£200.92 (25/26)
Henstridge	£115.40 (25/26)
Milborne Port	£172.79 (26/27)

The increase will be just £4.21 per year, for a band D household – this is 35p per month – which will mean a Band D household will pay £172.79 per year for services and projects **delivered by the Parish Council.**  
How do we compare?

**'The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.'** (Alfred Austin)

We have half and full plot allotments available for new tenants! If you have been contemplating a tenancy but never quite got round to it, now is the time! Here is a great little YouTube clip about the joys of having an allotment!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIGbVaB\\_mNk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIGbVaB_mNk)

**March Meetings: Full Council - Tuesday 3rd; Planning Committee - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Meetings take place in the Town Hall and start at 7 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can address the meeting with questions or comments from 7-7.15 pm. 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.

**Milborne Port's Annual Parish Meeting  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 3 pm  
Village Hall, Springfield Road**

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held at **3 pm** on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026** in the Camelot Room, Milborne Port Village Hall, Springfield Road. The meeting is being held on the same day and at the same location as the **Milborne Port: Community Matters** event; we think that this will convey the message that we are all on the same team! This is not a meeting **of** the Parish Council but is organised **by** the Parish Council. Its purpose is to share information about the activities of the Parish Council, County Councillors, local groups and organisations; it is also an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the village.



## ReBorne Community Church

Here we are in March – will the March winds bring snow? If you're anything like me and enjoy watching the Winter Olympics, then snow certainly feels like it's in the air. I've been inspired by the resilience of Maisie Hill, a snowboarder who returned to the slopes after a horrific accident. It's resilience at its very best – and something we can all aspire to.

During this Lenten period, we're also reminded of the resilience of Jesus during His 40 days in the wilderness, resisting temptation and trusting wholeheartedly in His Heavenly Father. Jesus is our role model for life, and if we can reflect even a small part of His love and faith, we truly can make a difference in this beautiful world of ours. Through our After-school Club and Toddler Groups, we will journey together towards Easter and its wonderful gift of new life. Do join in, be part of it, and be encouraged. And if the snow does come, we'll enjoy the brightness it brings with it.

Thank you, as always, for supporting Coffee ReBorne – you truly brighten our days.

Blessings to you all during this Lenten period as we walk together towards Easter.

*Yvonne Bright*

**Our MP in Parliament** Contact: [sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk)

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# CHURCH SERVICES

*(including the Principal Service Readings)*

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

**1st March**      *2nd Sunday of Lent*

*Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17*

9:00 am      Holy Communion      Blackford  
10:30 am      Holy Communion      Milborne Port  
6:00 pm      Evensong      Stowell

**Wednesday 4th March**

10:30 am      Midweek Communion      Milborne Port

**Friday 6th March**

7:00 pm      Compline      Milborne Port

**Sunday 8th March**      *3rd Sunday of Lent*

*Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42*

9:30 am      **Compton Pauncefoot** and Blackford Morning Service  
10:30 am      Holy Communion      Milborne Port  
6:00 pm      Evensong      Charlton Horethorne

**Wednesday 11th March**

10:30 am      Midweek Communion      Milborne Port

**Friday 13th March**

7:00 pm      Compline      Milborne Port

**Sunday 15th March**      *Mothering Sunday*

*2 Corinthians 1:3-7, John 19:25b-27*

9:00 am      **Blackford** and Compton Pauncefoot Morning Service  
9:00 am      Holy Communion      Milborne Wick  
10:30 am      Holy Communion      Maperton  
**10:30 am**      **Matins**      **Milborne Port**  
6:00 pm      Holy Communion      Charlton Horethorne

# FOR MARCH

## **Wednesday 18th March**

10:30 am Midweek Communion Milborne Port

**Friday 20th March** 7:00 pm Compline Milborne Port

## **Saturday 21st March**

4:00 pm Memory Lane Milborne Port

## **Sunday 22nd March** *5th Sunday of Lent*

*Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45*

9:00 am Holy Communion Compton Pauncefoot

10:30 am Holy Communion Milborne Port

3:00 pm Holy Communion Goathill

## **Wednesday 25th March**

10:30 am Midweek Communion Milborne Port

## **Sunday 29th March** *Palm Sunday*

*Psalms 118:1-2,19-29, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 21:1-11*

10:30 am **Benefice Service** Charlton Horethorne

## **Tuesday 31st March**

7:00 pm **Stations of the Cross** Stowell

## **Wednesday 1st April**

10:30 am Midweek Communion Milborne Port

7:00 pm **Holy Week in words and music** Compton Pauncefoot

## **Thursday 2nd April**

7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday Last Supper** Goathill

## **Friday 3rd April**

10:00 am **Good Friday Service** Milborne Port

2:00 pm **Service of the Final Hour** Charlton Horethorne

## **Saturday 4th April**

7:00 pm **Service of Light** Milborne Wick

**Sunday 5th April** **Easter Sunday**

**HOLY WEEK BENEFICE SERVICES (PALM SUNDAY TO  
EASTER DAY) – SEE ALSO PAGE 12**



**Spring Term at Milborne Port Primary School** 🌸 What an amazing spring term we are having so far! Our school has been buzzing with excitement, achievement and community spirit.

 **Inspire Reading Session with Parents** It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and family members into school for our **Inspire Reading** session. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their reading skills with additional family members, demonstrating not only their progress but also their growing confidence and love of books. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the session so special.

 **Valentine's Disco Success** Our Valentine's Disco, brilliantly organised by our PTFA, was a huge hit! The hall was filled with laughter and dancing, and children enjoyed tattoos, hotdogs, sweets and plenty of time on the dance floor. We are delighted to share that all funds raised are going towards our Outdoor Learning and Forest School start-up project — an exciting development for our school. Thank you to the PTFA and all who supported this fantastic event.

 **Laughton Award Winners** This term, our Laughton Awards were presented to pupils who have shown outstanding understanding in reading and made valuable contributions to reading across the school. We are incredibly proud of our winners. We extend our sincere thanks to the Laughton family for their continued generosity in supporting this award and enabling us to celebrate excellence in reading each year.

 **Bikeability Achievement** You may have seen our Year 6 pupils out and about completing their Bikeability training this term. We are proud to announce that the children successfully completed their Level 2 cycling

proficiency. Well done to all involved for demonstrating such maturity and responsibility on the roads.

 **Newtown Class Visit to the Farm (Virtually!)** Newtown Class have been learning about the differences between the human digestive system and that of a cow. To enrich their learning, they took part in a live TEAMS meeting with Miss Kington's local family farm. The children were introduced to Farmer Emily, an inspiring and empowered local female dairy farmer, who shared her expertise and answered thoughtful questions from the class. What a fantastic way to bring learning to life!

 **Beeches Preschool Reach for the Stars** Beeches Preschool have been reaching for the stars in their recent space topic. The children collaborated brilliantly to create models of the planets as their final outcome. Their creativity and teamwork were truly out of this world!

 **Thank You to Our Community Volunteers** A huge thank you to Milborne Port PTFA, Johnson's Stalbridge Linen Services, who kindly supplied six volunteers to help tidy up our school grounds. We are also incredibly grateful to Milborne Port Gardening Club (especially Fiona), along with Rebecca and Jack Tizzard, for their support in creating our wonderful quiet nature area at the front of the school. **Thank you, thank you, thank you — we appreciate your time, generosity and community spirit very much!**

 **Extending Our School Offer**

We are continuing to widen our provision to support our families:

- **Breakfast Club** (including food) starts at 7:45am
- **After School Clubs** run until 5:15pm
- We also offer **free teacher-led clubs until 4:00pm**

We are proud to offer extended opportunities that support both learning and family life.



## Milborne Port History & Heritage Group

On Monday 16th March, we are delighted to be welcoming back Joe Rogers, whom we first met in March 2025 when he entertained and informed us so eloquently and with such enthusiasm on the topic of the West Somerset Railway. This time: **Tithe Barns**. Joe is the author of *Tithe Barns and Railway Enthusiasm in Twenty-first-century Britain*. He visited his first tithe barn in 2014 and in 2019 spent the year exploring over 100 barns across the UK, from Cornwall to Scotland, Wales to Kent and everywhere in between. In this talk he will cover the general history of these buildings, showcasing some local Somerset and Dorset examples.

**Join us at Church House in Bathwell Lane for a 7.30 pm start.** We are a charity and ask for a suggested donation of £2 per member or £5 per non-member to cover costs. If you are parking in Bathwell Lane, please do so considerately as it is a bit of a squeeze along there, although less so following the verge clearance than it was! If you wish to become a member of our group, and we very much hope that you do, please email us: [mphhgroup@gmail.com](mailto:mphhgroup@gmail.com)

If you couldn't make it to Church House on Monday 16th February, I am afraid that you missed an absolute treat! Dorset born-and-bred folk singer, Alastair Braidwood, charmed us with his rendition of traditional and modern folk songs from Dorsetshire and further afield, pared back to his simple unaccompanied voice, and with plenty of opportunities to join in! It was a truly uplifting experience!

*Nathalie Hetherington, MPH&H Group Secretary*

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GEORGE STILES

Lyrics by  
ANTHONY DREWE

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At the end of January some of us went to Henstridge village hall, having been invited by their WI to join in with their traditional Burns Night Celebrations. The haggis was duly piped in then we enjoyed a delicious meal, consisting of haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by a dessert of creamy cranachan. They did a brief pantomime sketch, then wheeled out a table with various craft items on it with which we made a Haggis creature. After the traditional raffle, we had some Scottish based dancing which hopefully helped us work off some of the calories! We all agreed it was a really enjoyable evening.

Instead of our usual monthly meeting, we had our annual lunch in February. This was at the Clockspire again and we were very well looked after by David, the Manager, and his team. We spent two or three hours enjoying each other's company and, of course, the delicious food.

**Our next meeting** takes place in the Community Room/Library at the old Town Hall on **12th March at 2.00pm** when we will be having a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Those of us who are creative are encouraged to make a 'fun hat' and we will be painting candles, as well as enjoying something to eat and a cuppa or two. *Visitors and non-members are welcome to attend at a cost of £5.00*

I should like to give advance notice of our **April meeting** which will take place in **Church House on 9th April at 7.30pm** when we will be given a talk and demonstration of CPR entitled Bystander as a Life Saver. We have decided to hold it in church house as a larger premises is required for demonstration purposes. All are welcome to attend.

In the meantime, do come along to our regular Friday coffee mornings from 10.30 - 12noon

*Christine Porter*

# Friends of Milborne Port Library

## 2026 is the Year of Reading

**Pick up a book!** Books inform and entertain. Learning to read is one of the essential skills taught from a young age. It has opened up the world to us giving us information as well as pleasure. There will always be some who do not completely master reading but we hope to encourage all ages to pick up a book to read this year.

We will be presenting several activities to celebrate reading and hope you will take part in something.

Members of *Friends of Milborne Port Library* will visit local organisations and there will be widespread publicity, look out for posters and flyers. Ask for further details at the library.

### **World Book Day - 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026:**

To celebrate World Book Day there will be a competition to “**Design a book cover**” for two age groups, with book token prizes for each category. Encourage your children to take part. See Millie at the library for entry.

### **Dates for March 2026**

**Scrabble Club** - Tuesdays 2.30 – 3.30pm –open to all

**NEW! Storytime and play** – Tuesdays 10am – 11am. Join us for stories and free play. For little ones aged 0 – 4 years.

**Book Club** – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2pm

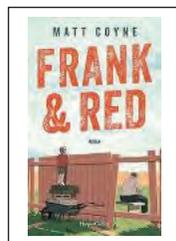
**Lego Club** – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March all morning

**Spring crafting session** for children– Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 - 11.30am

**Book Review:** “*Frank and Red*” by Matt Coyle

*(This was our current book club read and we all enjoyed it).*

People come into our lives at certain points for different reasons. Frank is a grumpy old curmudgeon who sees the arrival of Red, a six-year-old boy who lives next



door, as an annoyance. Red is curious, smart and never stops talking and the unlikeliest of friendships is born..... and will change both their lives.

*Borrow a copy from the library or reserve online at [Librarieswest](#).*

**Advance notice;** Look out for details of a Magic Science session during the Easter holidays

Mary Clothier [marydmc38@gmail.com](mailto:marydmc38@gmail.com)

## **Memories from an old Milbornian.**

*Gwen Kenward (nee Mitchell) was born in 1930 a cottage opposite Rosemary Street. She is now 96 years old and has requested her memories are shared in the magazine. The following is a short version, and the full version will be on the Milborne Port History & Heritage group website in due course.*

**The Cottage:** Our cottages,10-13 on the main A30 Sherborne Road were some of the oldest in the village made with cob walls and thatched roofs so we had to be careful with fires. The front door was a heavy oak studded door, and the only heating was a fire with an oven beside it. This provided the only means of warmth, hot water and cooking. The fire had to be lit before we could even contemplate a cup of tea or a wash in the morning. There was a lavatory outside but no flushing. We had to carry water through the house to the toilet, not nice in the dark and all weathers.

Dad (Harold Mitchell) worked for the Medlycott Estate. I remember him planting ash tree saplings, which were then planted out in Goathill woods, also in the woods near the Railway Station, (Hanover Woods). When he became foreman, he worked at the Estate wood Yard at the bottom of East Street. He was very knowledgeable about trees and knew exactly how much wood a tree would produce just by looking at it. My twin brother Patrick was apprenticed as a carpenter, and I still have a stool he made. The pay was poor and Mum took in gloving (knot tying), as did many women in Milborne, to make ends meet.

**School:** We lived opposite the Church School and started there at 4 years old. When Miss May Tabor left school, she became our “pupil teacher” and stayed for the rest of her working life. In the afternoons we had a short sleep. When we moved up a class, we had cardboard coins to learn about money. Mrs Pilkington, the headmaster’s wife, was the teacher and she had a jar of sweets from which we were allowed to “buy” two. We also had a comic to read, which was passed around the class. This was quite tatty by the time everyone had read it. Every day we recited our tables and did lots of spelling and reading. Mrs Pilkington was always knitting, even in the playground (probably socks for Mr Pilkington). She taught me to knit. All our books were kept in a cloth bags, made by girls in the sewing classes.

Being twins Patrick and I were still very small when we started school, and the headmaster had to weigh and measure us every month because we were under weight and if either of us or both of us were ill or missed school Mrs Pilkington sent our free milk over to mum. Because we were small, we had milk in the morning and afternoon.

For years Dad wound the school clock for 10 shillings a year (50p now). It entailed climbing three long ladders and winding up the weights. I was allowed up there once. I think it was the day the war ended and we hung a flag out of the tower window.

In **1940** I passed the “Scholarship” (which became the 11 Plus). This meant I could go to Yeovil Grammar School. It was very hard for my parents to meet the cost. My first term there was disrupted by bombing. The school was near the Aircraft Works (Western Works) making Lysander planes (used for dropping people into occupied France). One day coming home at Babylon Hill there was a loud explosion which rocked the bus. We later learned that a bomb had landed in the field beside the bus. A lucky escape! When bombs fell around the school we had to stay home but still continue our schooling and homework.

I left school in 1945 and immediately started work at Lloyds Bank in Sherborne as a clerk. All entries for cheques and credits were written by hand and had to be correct before finishing work. It was considered a good job but the pay was only £1.50 per week." *To be continued*

Gwen Kenward 2026

## What to Watch in the March Night Sky

*"Twilight fell: The sky turned to a light, dusty purple littered with tiny silver stars"*

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, J.K. Rowling*

Dominating the March evenings are the planets Venus and Jupiter, coupled in the southern sky by the large spring constellations of Leo and Virgo. In the north we have the year-round constellations Cassiopeia, the dragon Draco and the twin bears Ursula Major and Ursula Minor. In the Harry Potter universe, J.K. Rowling named many members of the Black family, and those they married into, such as the Malfoys, after stars and constellations to highlight their obsession with purity and their noble lineage.

### **Planets**

**Mercury:** Dim evening 'star' at start of month, poorly placed morning object after that.

**Venus:** Evening planet low in the west, setting 70 minutes after sunset at the start of the month.

**Mars:** Morning planet, too close to Sun to be seen.

**Jupiter:** Bright evening planet in the constellation Gemini sets around 4:30 am.

**Saturn:** Faint lying above Venus setting about 7:30pm. By midmonth has dropped down and is out of sight.

### **March 2026 Astronomical Events**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: Full Moon:** In Old England March's full moon was called the Lenten Moon, as it's the Full Moon that occurs during the period of Lent. In



# 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	Vacancy	
Magazine Editor	Mrs Felicity John	250382
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	Amanda MacIntosh	mackintoshamanda@hotmail.co.uk
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 Carmen Danyali	250366
Clerk to Parish Council	Mr Simon Pritchard, Town Hall	251268
Registrar	Ms S Shire	435008
Spirit of Milborne Port	Claire Andrews	07729 582 669
Village Hall		booking@milborneportvillagehall.org.uk
WI Contact	Millie Furby	07738 229322
Police	Non Emergency	101
	Emergencies	999
PCSO on duty (Wincanton)		101
Library	At the Town Hall Tuesday 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Friday and Saturday 9-12.30	07396 587767
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](http://www.milborneport.org.uk)

Parish Council website <https://milborneport-pc.gov.uk/>

Benefice website: [www.milborneportchurches.org.uk](http://www.milborneportchurches.org.uk)

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