

MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



AUGUST 2026 50P



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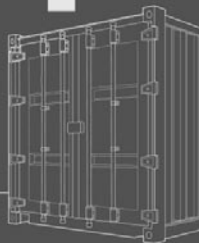
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A LETTER FROM REV RONA

One of the kindest things anyone has said to me since I announced I was leaving came from someone who has spent her whole life in one of our villages.

She simply said, *"I'm so sorry you're going, because you've really become one of us."*



I don't think she will ever know how much those words meant to me.

Over the years, I've come to realise that belonging isn't built only through the big occasions. We remember the weddings and funerals, the baptisms, fêtes and festivals, but in reality, it is shaped by hundreds of tiny encounters that quietly weave themselves into our hearts. A wave from a window as I walk past. Three children leaning out of a passing car shouting, "HELLO, REV RONA!" A little boy calling from his bicycle, "Hello, Rev Rona! How are you?" A conversation on the pavement. A hand held in silence. A shared laugh over coffee.

Those moments are what make a village feel like home.

Thank you for allowing me to find a home here.

In recent weeks many of you have written, stopped me in the street, or knocked on the vicarage door to share kind words. I have been deeply touched by your generosity. Whatever good has come from my time among you has never been mine alone. It has always been something we have shared, through friendship, kindness, faith, laughter and the countless small acts of care that so often go unnoticed.

As I prepare to leave, my hope is that those things will continue to flourish. Keep noticing one another. Keep welcoming newcomers. Keep supporting local groups, looking out for neighbours, celebrating together and caring for those who are finding life difficult. Communities are

strengthened not by grand gestures, but by ordinary people choosing, day by day, to be kind.

Thank you for allowing me to become, for a while, one of you. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

With every blessing,

Rev Rona



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Vinnie Charles Davies	11/07/2026
Gabriella Charles	11/07/2026
Ava Grace Drayton	25/07/2026

Funerals:

Mary Egerton-Smith	27/07/2026
Barbara Irene Babbage	
(Ashes interment)	28/07/2026
Gordon Rolls	
(Ashes Interment)	31/07/2026

Congratulations to Jane Hewitt for this extraordinary picture of a house martin gathering insects along the River Gascoigne.

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



Milborne Wick
Sunday 2nd August Pet service 3pm

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End of the summer term report

Headteacher: Carmen Danyali

A Fantastic Finish to the School Year!

As we head towards the end of another incredible school year, there is so much to celebrate at **Milborne Port Primary School**. From adventurous residentials and sporting success to environmental leadership and a friendly community summer fête, our pupils have continued to demonstrate our school values every step of the way.

Our **Year 6** pupils had an unforgettable time on their residential trip to Adventure Bude. Throughout the week, they challenged themselves with an exciting range of activities including bodyboarding, canoeing, caving, mountain boarding and coastal walks. They stepped out of their comfort zones, supported one another and showed outstanding resilience, determination and teamwork. The evenings were just as memorable, with discos and opportunities to make lifelong memories with friends. To top it off our pupils were awarded **Team of the Week**—a fantastic achievement and one they should all be extremely proud of. Well done, Year 6!



Sport has certainly been at the heart of school life recently as our annual Sports Day got underway. **Key Stage 2** pupils have been competing in a range of field events including speed bounce, obstacle courses, javelin and shot put, showcasing both their athletic ability and excellent sportsmanship. Meanwhile, our **EYFS and Key Stage 1** children have

been having just as much fun taking part in wellie throwing, obstacle courses and mini speed bounce events. The excitement continued as families joined us for the afternoon running races. It was wonderful to see our school community cheering one another on. Congratulations to every child who took part, and a huge thank you to the parents, carers, staff and our House Captains who joined in with the races—including the always-entertaining egg and spoon race!

We are immensely proud of our **Year 5** pupils who recently represented our school at ACE COP '26 at Exeter University. Acting as climate leaders, they worked alongside pupils from across the trust to discuss important environmental issues and share ideas about creating a more sustainable future. Their thoughtful contributions and enthusiasm were inspiring, and they returned with a trust-wide promise that will be embedded throughout our school.

There is great excitement building as Kingsbury Class prepares for their upcoming ACE theatre performance, **A Night at the Movies**, in Taunton next week. The children have been working incredibly hard during rehearsals, showing commitment, confidence and teamwork as they get ready to perform on stage. We cannot wait to see them shine and know they will represent Milborne Port Primary School brilliantly. *(they did!)*

Our youngest learners have also been busy making memories. **Beeches Preschool** recently enjoyed an afternoon at the local park, where Katie and the team were deeply impressed by the children's determination, responsibility and growing independence. From walking safely together to playing cooperatively and confidently, the children were wonderful ambassadors for our preschool. A heartfelt thank you goes to all our parents and carers for supporting these valuable experiences, which help build confidence, resilience and independence from such an early age.

Our newest members of the Milborne Port family have also made a great start. We recently welcomed our **September Reception**

children for their first outdoor learning session, and they have already impressed us with their confidence, curiosity, integrity and determination. We cannot wait to watch them grow and flourish when they officially join us in September.

Finally, a huge thank you goes to our **incredible PTFA** and wider community for organising such a successful Summer Fête, raising an amazing **£4,000** for the school. The event truly captured the wonderful spirit of Milborne Port. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy and expertise to make the day such a success, including our parents, staff, volunteers and local businesses. Special thanks go to Miss Danyali and Mrs Baker for bravely taking their place in the stocks, Marco Ferrari and The Spirit of Milborne Port for providing fantastic games, Lewis from Yeovil Town Community Trust for his football challenges, Kelly's Donkeys for bringing Bella and Romeo, Conor Smith for the wonderful entertainment, Barfoot's Bouncers, Sherborne Fire Station, our talented bakers and chefs, Wayne Pullen, Taylor's of Bruton, Helen and Richard, St John's Church, our generous raffle donors, our fabulous stall holders and our wonderful sponsors—Friars Moor, Crackmore Garage, Johnson's Linen, Redcliffe Homes, AFWM and Bill Butters Windows. Most importantly, thank you to everyone who came along and made the day such a wonderful celebration of our school and village community. What an amazing few weeks it has been. Whether our pupils have been performing on stage, representing the school as climate leaders, competing on the sports field, exploring the outdoors or challenging themselves on residential, they have continued to demonstrate our vision of making a difference through empowerment.



We are incredibly proud of every child, grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers, and thankful to be part of such supportive and caring community. Here's to an exciting finish to the school year.

News from the Parish Council

Pointing in the right direction!

Many thanks again to Somerset Forge for the excellent tender loving care taken with the restoration of the historically and aesthetically important fingerpost at the junction of Furlong Lane and Osborne Road. Many thanks also to the CPRE Somerset for another generous donation of £250 towards the cost of this project.



No HGVs in East Street, please!

Following approaches from residents of **East Street** regarding the problems caused by large vehicles using East Street to cut through to Wheathill Lane, we asked Somerset Council for their advice on how to discourage



HGV drivers from taking this route. On June 24th, they

installed these new signs opposite the Weighbridge and at the entrance to The Coach House on London Road. The process by which sat-nav systems reflect this type of change to street signage is that they tap into Somerset Council information, which is then available to those that pay for the most recent data! Sat-nav information is only as up-to-date as how much motorists are prepared to pay for it!



Volunteers needed to rise to the occasion in the Ball Court!

Our Ball Court is a Grade II listed structure of great importance to Milborne Port and has in the past been carefully tended by some stalwart volunteers. One of our lengthsman does some work to maintain this area but there is a limit to how much time he can spend there. We are looking for a team of volunteers who can keep this lovely and well-used area looking neat and tidy at all times of the year, with the support of the Parish Council. Please get in touch if you are prepared to get stuck in on a regular basis.

Wildflower Haven in Rosemary Street

You might have noticed that the triangle of land at the bottom of Rosemary Street is being managed now as an area to promote wildflower growth and to provide an environment for pollinators to thrive. A local resident has taken responsibility for the area, in consultation with others in the immediate vicinity, so the Parish Council will instruct its contractors not to cut this area. There will be a metre-wide strip cut around the edge of the triangle in order to ensure that sightlines are preserved for motorists, and the area around the bench will also be cut.

August Meetings: Planning Committee - Tuesday 18th.

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.

National Racehorse Week Open Day - 31st August

We will be holding an open day as part of the National Racehorse week, a chance to meet our superstars and see first hand our day to day running of the yard. Including 2 parades throughout the day.

The event will take place on

Monday the 31st August 2026

11am – 4pm

Spurles Stables – DT9 5HE

Refreshments, toilets and disabled access available.

Free entry but *please register your attendance through the website*

[Joe Tizzard Racing - National Racehorse Week](#)

Our MP in Parliament

Contact: sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk

- If we are serious about economic growth, environmental stewardship and food security, then agriculture must be part of the solution. That means putting farming at the centre of our national conversation about the future, not treating it as an afterthought.
- **Peatland Preservation:** Globally, peatlands store more carbon than all the world's forests combined. We should be seeking to protect and invest in nature-based solutions to climate change. In Parliament, she encouraged the Government to establish bilateral peatland partnerships – sharing British expertise to ensure peatlands are protected.
- **Waste Crime:** With waste crime costing the economy over £1bn a year and reported incidents reaching 3,000 in Somerset alone, the Government must recognise illegal waste dumping for what it is: a national emergency. Meanwhile, our rural police forces are underfunded and under-resourced – meaning they struggle to tackle the organised crime gangs which are responsible for up to 35% of waste crime.
- **Fire ponds** provide a ready source of water for firefighting in rural areas where mains hydrants cannot reach, while also supporting irrigation and livestock during periods of drought. A call on the Government to formally recognise fire ponds as a key climate adaptation measure for farmers and rural communities.
- Throughout the summer, Sarah will be holding a series of constituency surgeries in pubs across Glastonbury and Somerton and continuing to engage with the **CAMRA pub trail**, highlighting pubs throughout the constituency and celebrating the vital role they play in supporting local communities and economies.

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. You can find out more on her website.



Reborne Community Church

As we move into the holiday season, many of you will already have enjoyed a break, while others are looking forward to one. I have always loved the sunshine. Many years ago, as a student nurse, my best friend and I would happily spend an entire fortnight lying on a beach somewhere wonderfully hot!! It was relaxing, but if I'm honest, it was all about me and what I wanted to do. Sometimes I wonder if our culture can be a little like that too – focused on “me” and making sure that number one is looked after. Yet that isn't the model of a fulfilled life I see in Scripture. Recently, in our church, we have been reflecting on Mary, the sister of Martha, and the extraordinary generosity she showed. Mary embodied selfless love when she anointed Jesus' feet with expensive pure nard (perfumed ointment) and wiped them with her hair. She stepped beyond cultural expectations and social convention. It was a bold and deeply sacrificial act of love for someone else. It makes me ask myself: how can I be more like Mary? How can I serve my community, my neighbours and those around me more generously? Serving one another takes many forms. It may be giving our time, offering a gift, speaking a kind word, sharing our resources or simply being present for someone who needs us. What is required of me is to see with the eyes of Jesus – to notice the needs of others rather than becoming inward-looking.

As I enjoy some rest and relaxation this summer, my prayer is that I will return refreshed, with a renewed desire to love and serve selflessly, modelling my life on Mary's example rather than the message that so often tells us to “look after number one.” Just imagine what our communities would be like if more of us lived this way. We would see greater kindness, deeper compassion and stronger communities where people genuinely care for one another. The wonderful thing is we don't have to wait for the rest of the world to change. Here in Milborne Port, we can make a start. Will we get it right every time? Probably not. But please do encourage me – and even challenge me – if you see me falling short of this calling to love and serve others. As the sun shines warmly this summer, may you also experience the warmth of the love of Jesus in your own life. Have a wonderful summer.

Yvonne xx

Coffee Reborne

As we head into August, we'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone in Milborne Port for the wonderful support you've shown Coffee Reborne over the past year.

From our regular customers to those who've recently discovered us, it's been a pleasure to welcome you through our doors and be part of the village community. Your kindness and support have meant so much to us.

In the first week of September, we'll be celebrating our first birthday, and we'd love for you to join us. Whether it's for your usual coffee or your first visit, everyone is welcome to help us celebrate this special milestone.

Thank you once again for making our first year so memorable. Here's to many more cups of coffee and friendly conversations!



Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Saturday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Coffee Reborne, North Street,
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Sherborne Literary Society (August and September)

The Sherborne Literary Society is a charity. Events are open to members and non-members. For a £10 annual subscription, you can become a member and receive discounted tickets, priority booking and 10% of books at Winstone's bookshop in Sherborne. **14th August** - Rory Maclean is launching his new book 'Geography of Heaven' at the Butterfly House in Castle Gardens. **19th August** – We have an illustrated talk by actor and writer, Karin Fernald on Frances "Fanny" Burney at The Digby Hall, Sherborne. **9th September** – Sofka Zinovieff will be in conversation with Lou Troup (Chair of SLS), discussing her latest book "Stealing Dad" at D'Urbevilles.

Tickets via the Sherborne Literary Society website where you can also become a member. Tickets also available at Winstones on Cheap Street.

Milborne Port History & Heritage Group



Our next talk will be on **Monday 17th August** and is entitled **Elizabeth Singer Rowe: A Poetess and her Place in Milborne Port**. Was this 'ornament of her sex and age' from the time of Queen Anne once a resident of Church Street? What was this building 'from monkish times' where she might have lived, and what happened to it? Explore the evidence with Nathalie Hetherington and Hugh Vincent and reach your own conclusions... 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. If you wish to become a member of our group, please email us: mpfhgroup@gmail.com

On **Monday 20th July**, we met at St Michael's Church on an idyllic summer evening in Blackford for a talk by Susan Hartnell-Beavis, who wrote the books 'Blackford: The story of a Village and its People' and 'Blackford Revisited: Charting its History and Recent Changes,' amongst others. Susan covered the history of the church, and then of the whole village, with stories of flooding, family connections and influences, emigration, typhoid and farming. We learnt that Blackford is a tiny village with a big history! Too much to fit into an hour, but Sue certainly did justice to her subject, with charm and a clear passion for what has been her home for over 40 years.

Don't forget that our small-but-perfectly-formed **Chapel Museum** is open every Sunday up to and including 30th August! 2.30 - 4 pm.

Nathalie Hetherington, MPH&H Group Secretary

Remember that you can follow us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/269663891785502> – for updates on talks and events, and for signposts to articles that are new to our ever-evolving website: <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk>. We have many people now posting brilliant material onto our Facebook pages, so if you are a Facebooker, it is well worth checking out these contributions. You can also get in touch by e-mail: mpfhgroup@gmail.com



CHURCH SERVICES

(including the Principal Service Readings)

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

Saturday 1st August

5:00 pm	Confirmation Service	Milborne Port
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Sunday 2nd August

9th Sunday after Trinity

Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Blackford
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
3:00 pm	Pet Service	Milborne Wick
6:00 pm	Evensong	Stowell

Wednesday 5th August

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port
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Sunday 9th August

10th Sunday after Trinity

Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

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

Wednesday 12th August

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port
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Sunday 16th August *The Blessed Virgin Mary*

Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 1:46-55

10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
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FOR AUGUST

Wednesday 19th August

10:30 am Midweek Communion BCP Milborne Port

Sunday 23rd August

12th Sunday after Trinity

Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

9:00 am Holy Communion Compton Pauncefoot
10:30 am Holy Communion Milborne Port
6:00 pm Holy Communion Goathill

Wednesday 26th August

10:30 am Midweek Communion BCP Milborne Port

Sunday 30th August

13th Sunday after Trinity

Romans 12:9-end, Matthew 16:21-end

10:30 am Benefice Service Compton Pauncefoot

Wednesday 2nd September

10:30 am Midweek Communion BCP Milborne Port

Musical Afternoon

In aid of Goathill Church

Held in St. John's Church Milborne Port

Sunday 23rd. August 3pm

Refreshments at the interval

My contribution to this theme falls in August. August makes fools of us. We think of it as halfway through the year, yet it is two thirds the way. We think there is little to do, yet there is much looming on the horizon, and it was always my month for seeing off preparations for Christmas. There was always some panic if the carol service was not planned and ready for printing before the bank holiday.

I often think of my mother. She described herself as a Martha rather than a Mary, the sister who got upset because Mary found being in the presence of Jesus better than doing the jobs. **(Luke 10:38-42)** Praying quietly, with others or alone was important as Mary did but didn't necessarily get much done, especially if that prayer left you thinking you had done something.

Mum and I did not always see eye to eye(!) but I learned a lot from her. Her spirituality was expressed in action. I can remember her coming home from work (the village shop) having heard that an old friend suddenly had her grandchildren to live with her. A stepfather had thrown them out. Mum went to my cupboard and began to pull out my clothes. "This is too small now." "I never liked that on you." "When did you last wear this?"

She came home one day having called on a house to find a mum feeding ten children at teatime, her own four and two families of three whose parents were no longer able to look after them. She took to calling every day after work to help until the families got themselves more organised. She also discovered that all those children having been fed, there was no food left in the house for the host mum and dad, and no money to buy more. Our dinner came out of the oven (I used to get it going from about age 10), and she told my dad and me that, "there's (beef) dripping in the cupboard."

Another time I came home from school to find the Rector in the house. He was sheltering a mum and three boys who had fled an abusive relationship and had left with the clothes the mum stood in. "She's about your size.....," said the Rector. Into the wardrobe she went again...

Why am I telling you all this? To pray is to try to be close to God, a God who gave a precious son to teach us how to live with each other and to heal the broken relationship with God. The Son taught those close to him to pray with words and ideas we are very familiar with. The son showed us that if we are to change anything we have to put in the elbow grease as well as the knee-work. Christians pray to become Christlike, that is showing the characteristics we learn about God from Jesus. Jesus criticised the religious people of his day for caring only about what their religion could do for them. He told them to put their prayers to work.

(Matthew 25:40-46)

And we have to put ourselves out, it is sacrificial, it is what makes us an attractive bunch to join.

Milborne Port Gardening Club

We continued our season of Summer Garden Visits by going to The Dorset Walled Garden at Up Sydling House, west of Cerne Abbas, in July. Opening the gates into this exquisite collection of gardens was indeed a rare privilege. Then, knowing that this floral paradise had been created from farmyards made our appreciation of the perfect quality of the planting even greater. Their lovely Georgian house sits in a deep hidden fold of hills which the planting encircles. A very special place. We were pleased to welcome non-members of the club as well and look forward to them joining us in the future.

Our final Summer Visit is to the nearby three-acre family flower farm at Blackmarsh Farm (hence "Black Shed"), Dodd's Cross, Sherborne DT9 4JX. This is on **Tuesday August 11th**. Please contact us via our email, or via Judith Lazell or other committee members, if you would like to come! **Our private tour begins at 2pm so please arrive at 1.45 to sort out payments, at £10 per**

person, for the visit and tour. However, there is also the Farmyard Kitchen café for lunch and teas, overlooking the car park. It can be very busy, so we would suggest booking just in case: 01935 815040 / hello@huntsfoodhall.co.uk

N.B.: the ground is uneven in the fields and there is little shade. After the intense heat of recent weeks, we may consider rescheduling if needed and will contact all those who have booked. Please email if unsure, otherwise we very much look forward to seeing you. Again, non-members and friends are very welcome too!

As announced previously, MPGC is keen to recruit new committee members, especially a new Secretary straight away and a new Treasurer to start in the new year. If you are looking for a very pleasant way to get involved in your local community, especially supporting our gardening club, please get in touch for an informal and no-obligation chat, to see if this would suit?



Finally, please note we will restart our evening meetings in September, on the second Tuesday of the month at the Reborne Hall, North Street.

Jane Daggett MPGC Chair

EMAIL: mpgardeningclub@gmail.com



We had a very enjoyable social evening at Church House in July, which was attended by most of our members, plus guests from Henstridge & Stalbridge. We supplied 'grazing plates' comprising of sausage rolls, falafels, cheese scones and crisps, plus cakes, and there was plenty of wine and soft drinks to wash it all down. Millie, our secretary, devised a 'social bingo' which meant that people had to ask questions of other people and therefore socialise with them. She also read out a quiz during the evening which helped keep our brains ticking over. Finally, Millie had made badges to commemorate certain anniversaries for 10, 20 and 25 years membership. I'm pleased to say our longest serving member, Sylvia, has been a member for 25

years. Personally, I received my own 20-year membership badge, along with two or three other people. It was a really good evening, only marred slightly by the extremely hot weather as it was in the middle of a July heatwave. I think the committee were exhausted at the end of the evening after we'd washed up and packed everything away, but it was worth it. The same week as our Social, some of us went to Stalbridge to attend their regular afternoon meeting. Their speaker on that occasion was Grace Loveless, who is an opera singer, ironman athlete, writer and speaker. This talented lady had us all in stitches at some of her anecdotes and we were really pleased to be invited along.

Towards the end of July, some of us met up at Ecco Gelato in Sherborne one morning to enjoy their delicious ice creams, or coffee if you didn't want to indulge. We hope to make these impromptu get togethers a regular feature.

Our next regular meeting takes place in the Community Room/Library in the High Street at 7.30pm on Thursday, 13th August when we will have someone coming to speak about the Honesty Jar in Henstridge. Visitors are always welcome at a charge of £5 which includes a drink and biscuits. Talking of drinks, please remember that we open our room on Friday mornings from 10.30 to serve coffee/teas - do pop along for a chat. It's usually a bit cooler in there than it is outside this summer!

Christine Porter The Glovelies (MPWI)

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Summer Reading Challenge-Started Saturday 4th July and will run throughout the summer holidays. Pop in to sign up. There will be a treasure hunt of the different Reading

Challenge characters around the village starting **Saturday 24th July**. Visit the library to collect your trail sheet and once completed drop it back in to collect a prize.

VACANCY: We will soon have a new member of staff – watch this space

August Dates: N.B. Story and Play on Tuesdays will be stopped until a new member of staff is recruited.

Pokemon Club - Tuesday 4th August 10.30-12

Book Club – Tuesday 4th August 2pm

Lego Club – Saturday morning 8th August

Children's music themed craft morning – Saturday 22nd August 10.30-11.30

Scrabble Club – Tuesdays 2.30pm

Children's Summer book club. **Tuesday 25th August 10.30-11.30.** Come and share your favourite summer reads with others. Open to all school age children.

There will be other summer activities including a Treasure Hunt and a Craft Session. Ask Karen for details.

Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com

The August Night Sky

"Astronomy compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from this world to another." Plato

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes directly between the Sun and Earth, casting a shadow onto the Earth's surface and temporarily blocking the Sun's light. This alignment only happens during a new moon phase when the three celestial bodies form a straight or near-straight line in space.

Because the Moon is much smaller than Earth, its shadow only covers a narrow path across the globe, meaning an eclipse is only visible from specific regions at any given time. On **12th August 2026**, a total solar eclipse will be visible across Spain, while observers in the rest of Europe including the UK will see a partial solar eclipse. The partial eclipse will take place in the early evening, with the Moon beginning to cover the Sun **just after 6 pm, the maximum occurring between 7 and 7:15 pm**. Here in Milborne Port the coverage will be in the region of **90%** so it should be quite spectacular with a noticeable dimming of daylight to an equivalence of heavy cloud cover, a distinct drop in local temperature, and altered animal behaviour. However, because the sun is incredibly bright, it will not become completely dark. To watch the eclipse you must wear specialised, certified eclipse glasses at all times. **Never look directly at the Sun without specialised eye protection**. If you do not have certified glasses, you can view the eclipse indirectly by looking at projected shadows rather than the sky.

- **Pinhole Card Projector:** Poke a small hole through a piece of card, stand with your back to the Sun, and project the light onto a second white card on the ground.
- **Kitchen Colander:** Hold up a colander or tea strainer with your back to the Sun; the holes will project dozens of tiny crescent shapes onto the ground.

By an extraordinary coincidence, the eclipse occurs on the exact same night as the peak of the Perseid meteor shower, making it a rare double-stargazing event.

Astronomical Events

3rd: Moon near Saturn

6th: Moon at Last Quarter

9th: Moon near Mars

11th: Moon near Mercury

12th: New Moon, solar eclipse and peak of the Perseid meteor shower

15th: Mercury near Jupiter, Venus at eastern elongation near Moon

16th: Moon near Venus

20th: Moon at First Quartar.

28th: Full Moon. In the Anglo-Saxon calendar it was called the ‘Barley Moon,’ ‘Fruit Moon,’ or ‘Grain Moon’ as it coincides with the first harvest of the year. The phrase “dog days” which refers to the hottest days of the year in July and August originated with the ancient Greeks and Romans, who noticed that the bright dog star, Sirius, appears near the Sun at this time of the year. The rising of Sirius and the Sun together in the early morning sky was blamed for the heat and humidity of the season.

Sunrise and Sunset

1st: Sunrise 5.37 am Sunset: 8.59 pm.

31st: Sunrise 6.23 am Sunset: 7.59 pm.

In Milborne Port, the first day of the month is 15 hours, 22 minutes long. The last day of August is 13 hours, 36 minutes, so the length of the days gets 01 hours, 46 minutes shorter in August 2026. Good Viewing.

Ganymede



Rona Stuart-Bourne. My Life in Churches.

As I prepare to leave, many of you know me only as the priest of these eight wonderful churches. But every priest has a story. I've always fancied being a guest on Desert Island Discs, and instead of choosing the music of my life, I found myself thinking about the churches of my life—the places where God has met me, challenged me and carried me. I couldn't possibly choose one to save from the waves, but perhaps I can share a few of them.



So, my life of faith began as a little girl going to worship with my parents. The church was Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Nassau, on the Island of New Providence, in the Bahamas. The Dean was Willy Granger, and he used to call himself my sisters' and my "second father". He was a hugger! We loved him. I remember the incense, the singing, the fans as we all sweated, and above all the love we shared. Even as a little girl, I knew I never wanted to leave.

We left the Bahamas when I was 19, and the next church in my faith journey was the Zuiderkerk in Amsterdam (a 17thC Church in the Nieuwmarkt district). I can't actually remember what led me there, but when I was working in Amsterdam, I wanted to ground myself in a familiar faith, and I cycled off there every Sunday morning. I can't say much about it, other than that it kept my faith rooted in the constancy of God – different part of the world, different climate, different language, but the same God.



Back in the UK Mark and I were married in Holy Trinity in Guildford, and two of our children were baptised there. I met lifelong friends, taught in Sunday School and even got a job through fellow parishioners. Here my adult faith truly thrived.

As a young Mum we worshipped in the small rural St Nicolas' Church in Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, in the Diocese of Oxford. Ironically, in Chearsley I seemed to do almost nothing. I didn't even read in church. Yet when I was called to ordination years later, friends there simply said, "We always knew."

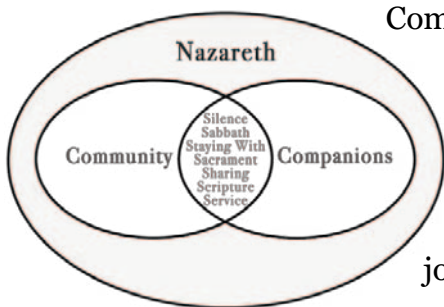


Fast forward to one hot summer's day, visiting St Paul's Cathedral with my youngest son, I was completely blindsided by God. I hadn't gone looking for a calling. But God, it seemed, had been looking for me.

But with the profound support of many friends, and my wonderful husband, Mark, and our children, Ed, Louis, Annabel and Marcus, I found myself standing in Portsmouth Cathedral one similarly hot summer's day. The ordination as deacon and then priest led me into a life in the Church which has been both inspiring and challenging.



More recently, I have found another spiritual home as a Companion of the Nazareth Community, gathering (in person or online) at St Martin-in-the-Fields. An hour of shared silence has become one of the deepest wells of my faith, and it is a community I shall continue to journey with long after I leave here.



Looking back, I realise that while the churches have all been different—cathedral and village church, city church and country church, in the Bahamas, the Netherlands and England—the God who met me in each one has never changed.

Buildings matter. They hold our memories, our prayers, our baptisms, weddings and farewells. But the greatest gift of every church is not its architecture or its history. It is that, within its walls, people encounter the living God.

And now these eight churches and the people within them have become part of that story too. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives, your homes and your churches. You have shaped my faith as surely as any of the places I've mentioned. Wherever God leads next, I shall carry you with me.



He has met me in every one of these places, and I have no doubt that he is already waiting for me in the next.





And from all our congregations and people you have met along the way, a heartfelt thankyou from all of us for your faith, your kindness and your courage. We will miss you.

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the September 2026 issue of the magazine to the editor please by Saturday 22nd August **at 12 noon latest.**

Distributors at the church on **Friday 28th August 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 250382.

Leave a message and your phone number and I will get back to you.

Page 35 of this magazine has useful village contact details, including magazine advertising and distributing information. Please get in touch with the magazine if any of these details are out of date. *Thankyou*



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MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS

PARISH CHURCH: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Staff

Priest in Charge	Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne	845278
Churchwarden	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
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	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
Tower Correspondent	Anthony Hale	07930137448
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

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	Palanisamy, Robertson, Gray & Squire	
Vet	Southhill Veterinary Group,	250255
	The Old Glove Factory,	
	1-2 North Street, Milborne Port	
Primary School	Head Teacher Carmen Danyali	250366
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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	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 <https://milborneport-pc.gov.uk/>

Benefice website: www.milborneportchurches.org.uk

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