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**OCTOBER 2026 50P**

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## A LETTER FROM SUSAN WALES

Nicki Edwards, the Milborne Benefice Liaison Officer, explained last month that we have entered a “period of vacancy” following Rev. Rona’s departure. Whilst we search for a new priest for St John’s and the other churches in the



benefice, life will continue much as before. The day to day running of the church will fall upon the shoulders of the members of the Parochial Church Council who, alongside Helen our benefice administrator, will ensure services and life events will continue to be held, and that the church building will remain open on a daily basis for anyone who wishes to use it.

On to other practical matters. Following some scorching heat over the summer months, the roof repairs have been completed, and it was with some relief that, following one or two heavy downpours, no leaks have occurred. Repairs to the stonework on the interior and exterior of the building were also completed in similarly high temperatures. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to support the fund-raising effort – either by donating, buying, contributing, or running and supporting events. Without your support and generosity these necessary repairs would not have taken place.

Fund raising will need to continue however: at the time of writing, we await the final bill from the builders, which will be in the region of £26,000. Although a good part of the total cost of the roof repairs has already been met, we will still need to work in earnest to ensure there are sufficient funds available to continue with work in repairing and restoring our Grade 1 listed church building. The west window is next on the list to be looked at and the organ and heating system could well need attention in the near future.

To this end, please come to a concert in St John’s church on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm**. It will be given by the **Foresail Shanty Group**, who come from Cornwall and are performing locally elsewhere over that weekend. There will be a **quiz in the Village Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November** and a

**Christmas Tree Festival in December.** So, watch out for further details.  
*Susan Wales Churchwarden to St John's*

**Rev. Rona** would like to thank all those who kindly and generously contributed to her leaving gifts. The monthly book subscription starts in October, and she has already bought a good selection of gardening equipment with which, she says, she can start to tame her garden. We wish her well in all her literary and horticultural endeavours.

## **Whist we are 'In Vacancy' (i.e. no vicar!)**

Matthew 6:34: *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own".*

Whilst we are 'In Vacancy', please remember that we have a wonderful team of retired Priests, Licensed Worship Assistants, Churchwardens and Stewards who are here to support you as best they can. Please do not hesitate to contact them if something is troubling you, you need pastoral or practical help, or you need more information about what is going on. Nicki Edwards is the Benefice/Diocesan coordinator, who, in liaison with everyone across all the churches in the Benefice, is working hard to produce the Benefice profile that needs to be put together before advertising for a new Priest in Charge. You will be asked your thoughts in due course, and it is really hoped that everyone can contribute and feel part of the process.

Meanwhile, do feel confident that the church team around you are here to give you any assistance and guide you as best they can. *The Benefice Team.*

## **From the Parish registers**

### **Wedding**

Andrea Hulme/Andrew Stevenson-Hamilton

03/09/2026

### **Funerals**

John Richard Crick (Burial only)

07/09/2026

Thomas Bartlett (Tom)

11/09/2026



## Wendy House

There will be a Funeral Service for the life of Wendy (after a Cremation Service in the morning) on

Friday 16th October at 2pm in St John's Milborne Port.

Wendy, and her husband John, who had Crackmore Garage for many years, are kindly remembered for their support and encouragement of many organisations in the village.

**St John's Harvest Supper for Christian Aid** will be held on Friday October 2nd in Church House, Bathwell Lane, 6.30 for 7 pm. All welcome, but please book with Clare Silk or Anne Salkeld in good time as space is limited.

Tickets £8 to include two courses: Lasagne & salad followed by dessert. There will also be a raffle and a short quiz. Please bring your own drink and glasses and remember cash for the raffle. Offers of help to provide food and with serving/setting up, also raffle prizes, gratefully received. Please advise of any dietary needs.

All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

## **Heating Oil Support**

### **News relevant to Somerset:**

You may be aware that there is a Government scheme to help people who rely on heating oil to heat their homes and water. This is aimed at households with low incomes and limited access to savings.

**Citizens Advice Somerset** is administering this scheme on behalf of Somerset Council, and **our first priority is to identify eligible households**. Please get in touch if this could be you or help a neighbour who might not have internet access.

<https://citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk/>

We are planning to launch our take-up campaign in September.

*Jon Gray Research and Campaigns Volunteer Citizens Advice Somerset*



Milborne Wick Church

# HARVEST

## *Supper*

SATURDAY  
10 OCTOBER - 6PM

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FOOD & GLASS OF WINE\*

**£25 PER HEAD**

\*extra bottles can be purchased on the night

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Please put **Harvest** as the reference

# SEA SHANTY AFTERNOON

**Regional Folk Songs and Songs of the Sea performed by  
Cornish acapella singing group**



## FORSAIL

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**St. John's Church**

**2-4pm**

**Tickets £10 from Wayne's (cash only)**

## INTERVAL WITH TEA AND CAKES

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**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.*

She has welcomed the Government's decision to remove time restrictions on disabled people's bus passes. Across parts of England, disabled bus pass holders have been unable to use their passes for free before 9am or 9.30am on weekdays. This has created unnecessary barriers for people travelling to work, education, medical appointments or taking children to school. Under the Government's change, disabled bus passes will be valid at any time of day.

Sarah tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament celebrating the work of Somerset-born artist George Henry Longly and calling for greater support for artists and creative businesses in rural communities.

The motion highlights Longly's large-scale public artwork, CHRONOS, at Fresh Wharf on the banks of the River Thames in London. The work brings together geology, archaeology, mythology and architecture and was created through close collaboration between the artist, fabricator and installers. She also warned that rural creative practitioners are too often under-represented in national arts funding.

**Contact:**[sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk)

## News from the Parish Council

### Could you become a Parish Councillor?

The Parish Council is very keen to welcome more councillors into its membership, and we encourage Milborne Port residents to put themselves forward for this very important role. Maybe you are new to the Parish and want to become involved with local matters, or maybe you have lived in the village for all your life and you are now looking to give something back. To qualify, you must be 18 or over and on the electoral register. The Parish Council is involved in many different activities, from local planning matters, to managing the open spaces and working with our community groups, to delivering projects. If you feel you could bring something to the role and a genuine interest in our village, why not put yourself forward to become a councillor?

Do get in touch to find out more about the process of becoming a councillor by co-option; you do not need to wait for an election! If you would like to talk to us, pop in to see us in the Parish Council Office any Tuesday morning between 8.30 am and 12.30 pm or on a Wednesday by appointment; you can also call us on 01963 251268 or 07375 892631 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are also happy to assist with printing off the form for you.

### **October Meetings:**

**Full Council – Tuesday 6th;**

**Planning Committee - Tuesday 20<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.

## A Long Tail



If there was a “cuteness scale” for UK birds, the Long-tailed tit would definitely be a contender for the top spot. These beautiful little passerines (perching birds) can be identified by their small size and rounded head, but they are most easily recognised

by their unusually long narrow tail. They are a beautiful mixture of colours including black, white, brown and (more usually) pink, the pattern of which varies (photo 1).

Being very sociable and gregarious Long-tailed tits move in family groups numbering about 5 to 10 – often adults with the previous season’s offspring. Fledglings have a distinct red eye ring, as well as dark brown feathers on the head, which give the appearance of an eye mask making them look even more cute and endearing than the adults!

Photo 2 was one of a group of 4 fledglings which were flitting back and forth amongst the brambles and elder by the river in mid-May, seemingly unaware of me with my camera, or potential predators such as Sparrow Hawks that I have also seen in the vicinity.



Despite being mainly insectivorous, Long-tailed tits are often drawn to bird feeders especially suet, fat balls and peanuts. As the RSPB recommended “seasonal feeding” comes to an end at the start of November, I am sure that many enthusiasts in the village (myself included) will be looking forward to the return of these cute and comical garden visitors to our bird feeders.

*Jane Hewitt*

## A Fresh Start to the New School Year at Milborne Port Primary



Over the summer, our school has undergone a fantastic transformation, with painting and refurbishment taking place across the school. Our classrooms and learning areas are now looking modern, fresh and welcoming — creating spaces where children can feel proud, comfortable and ready to learn.

A particularly exciting development has been the creation of our new therapeutic classroom spaces in Years 5 and 6. Thoughtfully designed by our Year 5 and 6 teacher, Mr Shakesby. The classrooms have been carefully planned with children's wellbeing, independence and learning at the heart of the design.

The aim is to create calm, purposeful and supportive environments where pupils can feel comfortable, confident and ready to learn. It provides opportunities for pupils to regulate, focus and engage with learning in ways that work for them. We are incredibly grateful to the Milborne Port Primary School PTFA, whose generous funding has made this development possible, including the new furniture in our Key Stage 2 classrooms.

Our new Reception children have made a wonderful start to school life and we are incredibly proud of them — and of the support and encouragement from their families. We also want to celebrate the incredible work of our Beeches Preschool team who have worked exceptionally hard throughout the school holidays to transform the setting and ensure that everything was ready and waiting for the children. There has been plenty of action on the sporting front too!

We are particularly excited that Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust will now be leading one PE session each week, with our class teachers taking the lead for the following session. This gives our pupils the opportunity to develop not only their physical skills, but also their confidence, independence, resilience and ability to collaborate.

We are particularly proud to celebrate our very first Milborne Port Bronze Award of the year. Congratulations to the pupil who has already achieved this fantastic recognition for excellent behaviour and outstanding learning! He is now the very proud owner of his Milborne Port Bronze Award certificate and pencil — a wonderful achievement so early in the school year.

This year, our Year 6 House Captains are taking on an exciting new responsibility as we re-establish our Family Groups across the school. Our House Captains will play an important leadership role, helping to build a strong sense of community, teamwork and belonging throughout our school. We are really looking forward to seeing our Year 6 pupils step up, take responsibility and make a real difference to school life.

Good luck to all of our House Captains — we can't wait to see you lead!

### **Come and See Our School for Yourself**

If you are considering a school for your child, we would love to welcome you to Milborne Port Primary School Open Day.

**Thursday 24th September**

**9.30am – 10.30am**

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the biggest decisions you will make, and our Open Day is a wonderful opportunity to experience what makes our school so special. Come and discover our calm, caring school community, where every child is known, valued and encouraged to thrive.



Our vision is simple:

*“Making a difference and empowering through challenging the norm.”*

Our children achieve outcomes in EYFS, Phonics and Year 6 that are above both Somerset and national expectations, while enjoying the nurturing, family atmosphere of our village school.

Meet our wonderful staff, explore our newly refreshed learning environments and see first-hand how we inspire children to flourish.

We can't wait to welcome you and show you everything that makes Milborne Port Primary School such a special place to learn, grow and belong. Here's to another fantastic year of learning, discovery, achievement and growth!

*Carmen Danyali, Headteacher*

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**Milborne Port Bereavement Support Group** has recently been set up by me to offer a gentle, and welcoming space for anyone living with loss. Grief can feel lonely and uncertain, and it can help simply to be with others who understand something of that journey.

It is my aim to provide a quiet place to talk, listen, or simply sit with others. Group support can help people feel less isolated by bringing them together with others who have also experienced loss. It offers a safe space to share feelings, hear different coping experiences, gain reassurance that grief takes many forms, and slowly rebuild confidence through connection, kindness and mutual understanding.



Drop-in meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month, from 10am to 12 noon, at Reborn Church, Milborne Port. The group is open to anyone who has experienced bereavement and would value gentle support, whether their loss was recent or some time ago.

If you are grieving, you are very welcome to come along for a cup of tea, a quiet conversation, or simply a place to be alongside others. Sometimes the most helpful thing is not advice, but the comfort of knowing that you do not have to face grief alone.

**For more information:**

Vicky Martin, 07468 455246, [info@nwacounselling.co.uk](mailto:info@nwacounselling.co.uk)



## ReBorne Community Church

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

It's Party Time – Everyone is Welcome

To begin, I want to thank everyone who supported Coffee ReBorne's birthday party. It was a wonderful day of celebration, and as someone who loves being around people, I was in my element.

We have so much to celebrate every day, yet it's easy to be pulled away by the things that distract us from what is good. I try to make a point of thinking about what I'm grateful for each day, although I get distracted too. Gratitude looks different for each of us, but there's always something to be thankful for. I'm reminded that when we gather with family and friends, something special happens. We encourage one another, laugh together, and create memories that stay with us.

Dare I mention Christmas already? In my family, we try to gather the extended family together on Boxing Day, and somehow, we always seem to collect a few extra people along the way. Isn't it lovely to be invited to a party?

I'm involved with *Truth Be Told*, an intergenerational storytelling group. One of our stories tells of a king who prepares a great banquet. He first invites the dignitaries and those who seem important, but many are too busy to come. So, the invitation is thrown open to the whole community. People begin to arrive, and finally one lonely person hears about the feast and asks if they can come too. Not only are they welcomed - they're made to feel completely at home, and everyone makes sure they're included. It becomes a joyful celebration for all. Jesus told a story like this in the Bible - the Parable of the Great Banquet. It's a picture of God's invitation to each one of us. Yet so often we're distracted by other things: social media, hobbies, work, or perhaps simply not wanting to be around other people.

But this invitation is different. The party is hosted by the King of Kings - Jesus - and everyone is welcome. It's a glorious banquet in heaven that will last for eternity, where those who know Jesus as Lord and Saviour will celebrate with Him forever. The invitation is open to everyone, but each of us has the choice to accept or decline it.

What will your answer be to this life-changing invitation?

I hope I'll see you at the party.

*Yvonne*

---

Local Milborne Port resident Lorraine Daniel has recently launched **West Country Hampers & Gifts**, an online business celebrating the very best artisan food, drink and gifts from across the Southwest.

The website offers beautifully curated hampers featuring products from independent producers, alongside a growing range of British made gifts, preserves, sweet treats, home fragrances and seasonal collections, with nationwide delivery available, Local delivery or pickup.

To find out more, visit [www.westcountryhampers.uk](http://www.westcountryhampers.uk) or follow

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Thank you to all our regular advertisers and those who are waiting for space to come up to advertise your local business in the magazine. Sometimes there is a little space available for me to include more information about a local business like Lorraine's. If you would like to send in a short copy and I have room to fill, I will endeavour to include it (although I can't guarantee when). *Ed.*

# CHURCH SERVICES

*(including the Principal Service Readings)*

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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. September**

**Harvest Festival Goathill 6pm.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. October**

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

*Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-end*

9:00 am

Holy Communion

Blackford

**10:30 am**

**Harvest Holy Communion Milborne Port**

**6:00 pm**

**Harvest Evensong**

**Stowell**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

10:30 am

Midweek Communion BCP

Milborne Port

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

*Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14*

**9:30 am**

**Harvest Morning  
Service**

**Compton Pauncefoot**

10:30 am

Holy Communion

Milborne Port

**6:00 pm**

**Harvest Evensong**

**Charlton Horethorne**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

10:30 am

Midweek Communion BCP  
Milborne Port

# FOR OCTOBER

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

*Luke the Evangelist*

*2 Timothy 4:5-17, Luke 10:1-9*

|          |                              |                     |
|----------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Morning Service for B and CP | <b>Blackford</b>    |
| 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 |

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

|       |                       |               |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 30 am | Midweek Communion BCP | Milborne Port |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------|

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October

*Last after Trinity, Bible Sunday*

*Colossians 3:12-17, Matthew 24:30-35*

|          |                |                           |
|----------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Holy Communion | <b>Compton Pauncefoot</b> |
| 10:30 am | Holy Communion | Milborne Port             |
| 3:00 pm  | Holy Communion | Goathill                  |

## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October

|          |                       |               |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 10:30 am | Midweek Communion BCP | Milborne Port |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|

## Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October

|         |                   |               |
|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| 4:00 pm | All Souls service | Milborne Port |
|---------|-------------------|---------------|

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November

*All Saints Day*

*1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12*

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

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

|          |                       |               |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 10:30 am | Midweek Communion BCP | Milborne Port |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|

We had to make an unexpected change to our September meeting as we were unable to go ahead with Murder Mystery Evening as planned. Fortunately, the lovely people who run the Hedgehog Rescue Charity at Hazelbury Bryan were able to step up at the last minute. We were given a fascinating talk on their work and saw lots of slides of very cute hoglets. I was surprised to learn that a female hedgehog can have as many as ten hoglets at one time. We were told that if we saw a sick hedgehog during the day, we shouldn't feed it but just keep it warm, give it water to drink and take it to a vet or rescue centre.



**GLOVELIES**

Some of us went to Marston Magna ladies' group on the 16th as we had been invited to their quiz evening. The evening was made more enjoyable by a delicious ploughman's supper which was served at half time. I'm pleased to say that one of our teams came joint winners, so the quiz lady had to think of a 'decider' question and, after several attempts, our team won.

By the time you read this, we will have held our annual fund-raising coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support so I will report on the amount raised for this next month. Thank you in advance for your support, including the local businesses.

Our October meeting will take place on Thursday, 8th October, at **2.30pm** (please note the earlier time) when we will be given a talk on Wills and Lasting Power of Attorney by Sally Manning. As always, visitors are welcome to join us at a cost of £5. Please remember we are open for serving coffees every Friday morning from 10.30am.

*Christine Porter*

## **MILBORNE PORT GARDENING CLUB**

At our first indoor meeting as we began our Autumn programme, we welcomed back the delightful gardening author and presenter Abigail Willis, who took us on a history tour of a plant first found fossilised 13 million years ago! The plant? The Rose! Who knew it had such extensive ancestry? Her “Meetings with Remarkable Roses” talk truly lived up to its title but also included topics such as perfumes, modern rose adjudication and development of all the different classifications we now take for granted. She also included how a new rose is developed, which can take 10-25 years to perfect and thousands of cuttings and experimentation with cross-pollinating techniques to achieve the fragrant, disease resistant and of course beautiful, repeat flowering rose we have come to expect in new roses today. Small wonder roses cost so much.

This month, our talk will be with Kev Lane, Englishman of the Soil, who will discuss the merits of the No-Dig Method, much promoted by Charles Dowding. Soil cultivation is vital to understand for good flower and vegetable production, especially with the hot and dry Summers we are now having to adapt to. Kev and his partner Wendy also run the Red Panda eco-shop in Sherborne, so you can see he takes his subject seriously, much needed in a world of chemicals and plastic. As well as our members, visitors are also very welcome to join us for the evening on **Tuesday October 13th at 7.30pm - doors open 7.10pm at the Reborne Hall, North Street**, with refreshments on offer. (If you are parking nearby, please respect space needed by residents to access their properties safely.)

Our final bit of news is that following an on-going recruitment problem filling vital roles on our committee, over many years, we have informed our membership of our decision to close the MPGC next April, as it cannot continue in its present format. We are extremely mindful of the sad impact of this and are looking at ideas

to reformat the club to try to continue a gardening enthusiast's presence in the village. Many community groups and societies have been closing locally as well as all around the country, mainly for the same reason that people are unable to help run such clubs and we do understand why. Life changes and it is important to adapt - much like our climate is changing. If we work with the natural flow of things, rather than fight against it, we are more likely to find a successful outcome.



*Jane Daggett*      *MPGC Chair*

[mpgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:mpgardeningclub@gmail.com)

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## **Friends of Milborne Port Library**    Charity No: 1183786

### **Libraries Will Never Die**    by Catherine Pulsifer

In the future's embrace, where pathways lie,  
The libraries of tomorrow reach the sky,  
A fusion of tech and creative might,  
Unleashing ideas, boundless and bright.

Virtual realities, immersive and new,  
Expanding the limits of what we once  
knew,  
Through holographic realms and AI  
guides,  
Knowledge flows as the future provides.

But amidst the marvels of tech and AI,  
The libraries of tomorrow will never die,  
The human touch, the warmth of a smile,  
Guiding hearts through the search for a while.  
For libraries are more than mere bricks and screens,  
They are the keepers of dreams and means,  
Past, present, and future converges  
In these sacred spaces, where knowledge surges.





### **Children Delight by Catherine Pulsifer**

Going to the library children delight  
You can see their imagination ignite.  
Books beckon them with tales untold,  
Adventure and magic to unfold.

With wide-eyed wonder, they explore each  
nook,  
Their imaginations dance, like words in a book.  
Searching the books they lose track of time  
Reading stories and poems that rhyme.

**New Staff:** We are pleased to announce Jenny and Alana will be joining us very shortly. Jenny comes with a wealth of library experience so has a head start. Alana is currently undergoing the necessary training. We give them a warm welcome and look forward to seeing them very soon.

There will be fewer activities until the new girls start but, in the meantime, here are a few firm dates for October:

**October Book Club** – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2pm

**Lego Club** – Saturday morning 10<sup>th</sup> October

**Scrabble Club** – Every Tuesday 2.30pm

**The Summer Reading Challenge** has now ended. Although there were not as many entries as in previous years, those that took part were very enthusiastic and enjoyed the experience.

**New Village Hub:** Work has been progressing through the summer on the new Village Hub, which you will have noticed taking shape. The Parish Council will be taking legal ownership very soon, and then the final fit-out can take place. Once this is

complete the Hub will be the new home for Milborne Port Community Library, as well as being available for meetings, and as a dedicated a warm and cool space. The History and Heritage Society will also have displays in the building.

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

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## **Milborne Port History & Heritage Group**



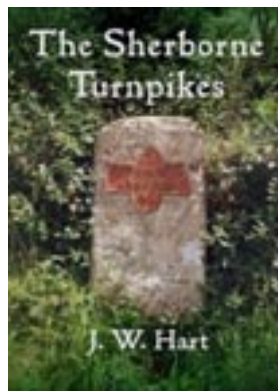
Our next talk on **Monday October** is entitled **Secrets of a school logbook: a glimpse of school life between 1935 - 1979 in Milborne Port:** Stories and anecdotes from the Church School records which give a fascinating insight into the social history of Milborne Port. Led by Roger Cowley and Nicki Edwards, with contributions from Mary Clothier and other guests!

Join us at Church House in Bathwell Lane for a 7.30pm 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: [mphhgroup@gmail.com](mailto:mphhgroup@gmail.com)

A long-standing supporter of our group, Jim Hart, has recently published a fabulous book entitled 'The Sherborne Turnpikes' through Sherborne-based The Three Pigeons Press, and this will be on sale for £20.

*Nathalie Hetherington, MPH&H Group Secretary*



Remember that you can follow us on Facebook - – 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: [mphhgroup@gmail.com](mailto:mphhgroup@gmail.com)

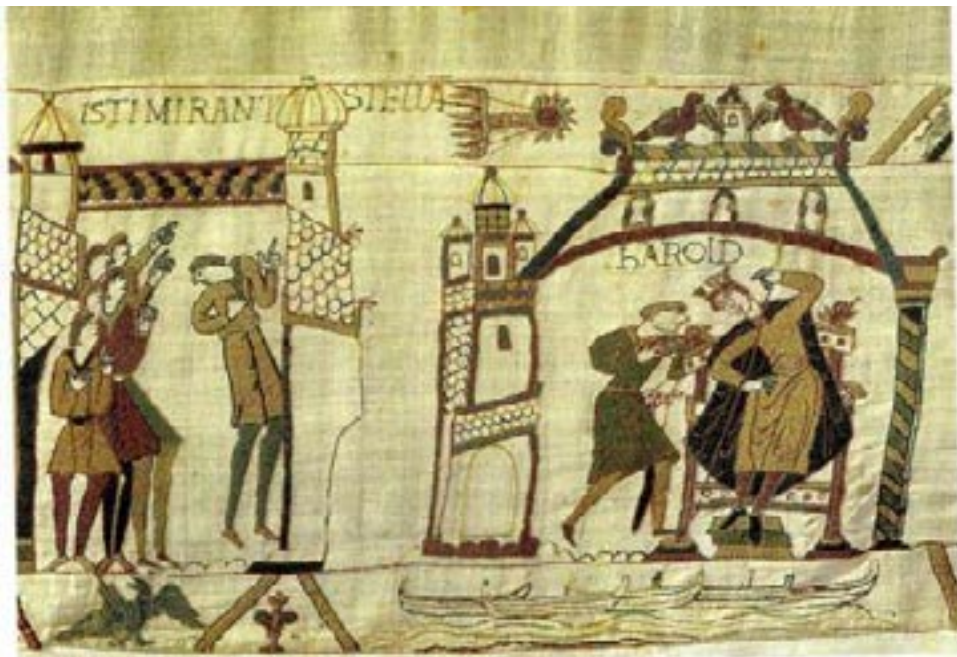
## **The October Night Sky**

*"Success is like Halley's comet, you know. Every now and then it just comes around."*  
*Ross Perot*

Historically, comets were often regarded as harbingers of great events or divine messages. In 1066, William of Normandy is said to have interpreted Halley's Comet as a favourable omen, signalling his forthcoming victory. For the English, however, it was seen as a warning of disaster for King Harold and his kingdom. Halley's Comet is currently about 3.2 billion miles from Earth, yet this month Earth passes through debris left in its orbit, creating the Orionid meteor shower. The comet sheds this material each time it travels close to the Sun, roughly once every 75 years.

The Bayeux Tapestry, currently on display at the British Museum, includes the earliest known European pictorial representation of Halley's Comet, showing its 1066 appearance as a glowing omen above King

Harold. The accompanying Latin inscription translates as “These men marvel at the star.” The comet is depicted with a fiery, many-rayed, hair-like tail, while figures below point up at it in awe. Beneath the comet, ghostly Norman ships are stitched into the lower border, symbolising the impending invasion and framing Harold’s reign as doomed.



### Planets visible this month:

**Saturn:** Rises close to sunset, at about 18:54 BST on 4 October, and remains visible throughout the night.

**Jupiter:** Moves into the late-evening and morning sky, appearing close to Mars by the end of the month.

**Mars:** Visible in the morning sky throughout October, rising before midnight by the month’s end.

**Venus:** Not observable in the night sky during October.

**Mercury:** Remains difficult to spot, sitting low in the evening twilight.

## Astronomical Events in October 2026

**3<sup>rd</sup>: Last Quarter Moon.**

**4<sup>th</sup>:** Saturn reaches opposition, making it especially well placed for viewing.

**5<sup>th</sup>:** The **Moon** appears close to **Mars**.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** The **Moon** appears close to **Jupiter**.

**10<sup>th</sup>: New Moon.**

**18<sup>th</sup>: First Quarter Moon.**

**21<sup>st</sup>:** The **Orionid meteor shower** peaks. The shower runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> November and is best viewed after the Moon has set.

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** The **Moon** appears close to **Saturn**.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** The **Moon** remains close to **Saturn**.

**25<sup>th</sup>: British Summer Time ends.**

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Full Moon. October's Full Moon is traditionally known as the Hunter's Moon. Its bright light once helped people hunt after sunset and prepare food stores for the coming winter; it is also sometimes called the Blood Moon.

**31<sup>st</sup>:** Halloween.

### Sunrise and Sunset

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Sunrise 7.11 am Sunset: 6.49 pm

**31<sup>st</sup>:** Sunrise 07:01 am Sunset: 4.47 pm

In Milborne Port, the first day of October is 11 hours, 38 minutes long. The last day of the month is 09 hours, 46 minutes, so the length of the days gets 01 hour, 52 minutes shorter in October 2026.

Good Viewing.

*Ganymede*

*Another of our advertisers – see her details on page 37.*

Hi, I'm Justine, and I'm based in Milborne Port.

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I offer a local, friendly service with plenty of care and attention to detail. Every garment is treated with care, and I'm always happy to chat through what you need so we can find the best solution for you. Whether it's a small tweak or a bigger alteration, I'll do my best to make the process easy and stress-free.

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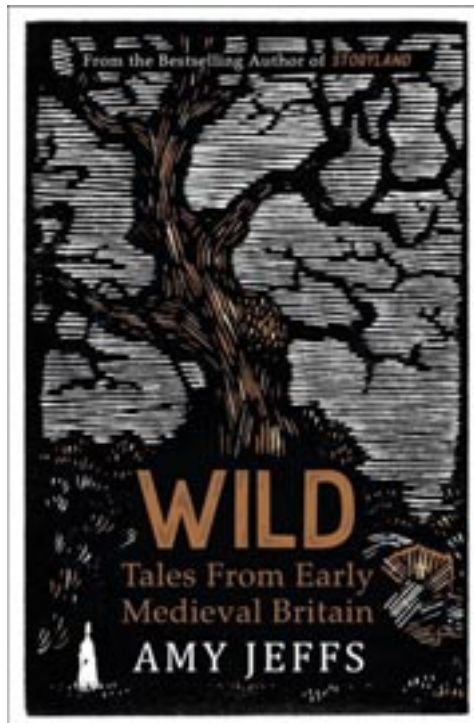
Drop me a message to chat about what you need—I'd love to help!

Congratulations to John Fisher for this month's cover photo – A Village View from East Hill looking down on Wheathill.

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

**[magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk](mailto:magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk)**

Recently I was given a book about “Wild Tales from Medieval Britain” by Amy Jeffs, an Art Historian who lives in Somerset. She is doing several literary festivals this autumn – the most local to here being Bath, Bridport and Sherborne in November (see her website [AMYJEFFS](http://amyjeffs.com)) Her book is based on ancient stories and poems from **The Exeter Book** which is a 10th-century anthology of poetry in Old English and is the foundation volume of Exeter Cathedral Library. It is such an important medieval survivor that in 2016,



UNESCO added the manuscript to its Memory of the World Register of artefacts of global cultural significance. I was intrigued to find out more about it (so I googled it - [The Exeter Book](http://theexeterbook.com)). It was written down by a single scribe – no doubt a monk – in about 970. Most surviving Old English texts are in prose and there are only four known poetic manuscripts: the Beowulf manuscript in the British Library, the Junius manuscript in Oxford, the Vercelli Book in Italy, and the Exeter Book. Though incomplete and damaged in a few places, the Exeter Book is the largest, the best preserved and probably the earliest of them – the oldest book of English literature in the world, of incalculable value. Having been donated to the cathedral by its first bishop, Leofric (d.1072), the manuscript has been in Exeter since at least the 11th century and has been kept and cared for in the Cathedral Library ever since that time. It contains some 40 poems – predominantly Christian in

outlook though a few originate from the period before the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity – and nearly 100 poetic riddles. Some are derived from Welsh and even some derived from the obscure and mostly lost Pictish languages. Works such as the Wanderer and the Seafarer are among the best known of its varied contents and have inspired writers such as JRR Tolkien. The riddles (a few of which have bawdy double meanings) are virtually all those which survive in Old English.

If you Google it, you will see that you can look at the pages – written on vellum (usually prepared calf skin) which survives for hundreds of years – even today Parliamentary Acts are written and stored on vellum (amongst other ways). I have to admit that Old English is beyond my capabilities, but some words have barely changed over more than 1000 years. Examples include /Helle/ for “hell” and /hongor/ for “hunger”. A truly amazing survivor.

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## MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the November 2026 issue of the magazine to the editor please by Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October **at 12 noon latest.**



Distributors at the church on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 2 p.m.**

Editor's email :

**[magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk](mailto: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 and leave a message – I will get back to you.



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# MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS

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### Staff

|                      |                  |        |
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| Priest in Charge     | Vacancy          |        |
| 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<br>& 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           | 07350580914                    |
| 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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| Vet                         | Southhill Veterinary Group,<br>The Old Glove Factory,<br>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<br>Tuesday 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Friday<br>and Saturday 9-12.30           | 07396 587767                           |
| Pharmacist                  | Ty and Mansur Lawal,<br>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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