Milborne Port Magazine



November 2026 50p

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A Letter from Canon Brian McConnell



Autumn leaves surround us at present. As we gaze at the colours in each leaf, we marvel at the wonder of creation and the Glory of God. A sombre time yes, but the colours somehow draw us into this Remembrance Season that accompanies us in our Christian Pilgrimage. Autumn helps us look forward to the Advent Season, the beginning of the Church's year when we remind ourselves of the coming of Jesus at Christmas. However, the month of November has so many riches attached to it. All Saints Day (1st Nov) is followed on the 2nd. November by All Souls Day when we give thanks for the faithful departed - two days that are very important to me in our Christian Faith. Join me at All Saints in giving thanks for all for all who have shared and taught us the Faith. Be that parents, teachers, parish priests or friends. I rejoice with those who have shared the love of Jesus with me, who shared with me his kindness and generosity, gentleness, comforting presence and enthusiasm for life. Not forgetting His Death and Resurrection which give me forgiveness and hope for the future. He has truly accompanied me on my life's journey. Then on All Souls Day I give thanks for those whom I love but see no longer. The holy people, saints who now rest in peace. The great days of November, including Remembrance Sunday, give us the opportunity to be still and give thanks for all who have made our lives possible in this turbulent world. St John's provides the services which enable us to attend God's House and give thanks for all who have gone before us. A sombre yet important occasion. (See The Diary of Church Services in this magazine.) Autumn is full of opportunities for the Christian! Dwell on his love as we anticipate the Advent season when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Remember He is our hope for lasting peace. If only the world would listen. God Bless. Believe in the wonders of the Christian Faith.

From the Parish registers

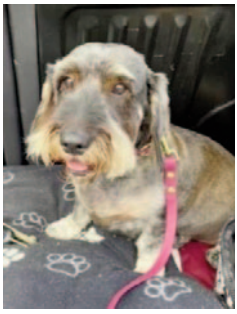
Funerals

Jennifer Hill	**14/10/2026**
Wendy Ellen House	**16/10/2026**
Doreen Anne Pattermore	**23/10/2026**

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Poppies and other merchandise will be available to buy inside Milborne Port Coop on Saturday 31st October from 9.30 am.

When someone serves, their family serves too - support Armed Forces families this Poppy Appeal



I would like to thank everyone in the village, especially, Sarah, Trudie, and Ella for looking after Doris my dog. Doris gave much joy to all she met; she was a character. Fare thee well. *Maggie Pelly*

Congratulations to Anthony Higgins for this picture from earlier in the year of the poppies (for Remembrance.)

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

In Aid of St John's Church Repair Appeal



Quiz Night

Including Fish and Chip Supper from Something Else Fishy

Saturday 14th November 2026

Village Hall, Springfield Road, Milborne Port

Doors – 6:30pm Start - 7:00pm

Tickets £18

Available from Wayne's Butchers (CASH ONLY)

Bring drinks and your own cutlery - Teams of 6 to 8 people

You can donate to the ongoing St. John's Church Repair Appeal using this QR code.



News from the Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan

The Milborne Port Neighbourhood Plan working group has made good progress over the last year and will soon be submitting the draft plan for professional review, following which the Regulation 14 public consultation period will begin; residents will be invited to provide feedback before the draft plan is submitted under Regulation 15 to Somerset Council for formal review.

November Meetings:
Full Council – Tuesday 3rd;
Planning Committee - Tuesday 17th;
Management Committee – 24th.
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.

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.*

Sarah Dyke congratulated **Wyke Farms** after it was crowned British and Irish Supreme Champion at the 2026 Global Cheese Awards.
Rural households are often hit particularly hard by rising energy costs and already suffer from a rural premium - where **everyday living costs 10% higher than in urban areas.** Many people in rural areas live in older, less energy-efficient homes, while those not connected to the gas grid rely on alternatives such as heating oil, which is not protected by the energy price cap. "*The Government cannot keep leaving rural communities out in the cold.*" She also called on the Government to introduce an emergency cost of living package in the upcoming Budget, warning that households across Somerset are facing another difficult winter of rising bills.

Contact:sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk

Heating Oil Support

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://citizensadvicesomerset.org.uk/

Blackmore Vale

For people not in full-time employment

Tuesday 3rd November
Doors open 2.15pm, Speaker 3pm
HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL BA8 0QB

IN MY GRANDFATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

SPEAKER: CHARLOTTE CARTY



In November our thoughts turn to remembrance. Charlotte will tell the story of her grandfather, Lt Colonel Bruno Brown's (commanding officer of the Assam Regiment) experiences in India and Burma during WW2, and her own adventures recreating aspects of his remarkable campaign.

Members £2 Visitors £3; refreshments from 2.15pm, speaker 3pm.

Call 07580 127810 or 07919 585547 for information or visit our website **www.blackmorevale.u3asite.uk.**

WHEN YOU GO HOME, TELL THEM OF US AND SAY FOR YOUR TOMORROW, WE GAVE OUR TODAY



The Spirit of Milborne Port Christmas Lights Switch on

SATURDAY 28TH. NOVEMBER 2026

FROM 4.30PM

AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH.

Visit Father Christmas in his Grotto; visit the Christmas Tree Festival; Listen to Wincanton Town Band; enjoy the BBQ, MuLLed Wine, Mince Pies, Hot Chocolate, Sweets; try your luck at the Raffle; get your Face Painted; play in real(?) snow from the Snow Machine!

Enjoy the Stalls selling all sorts, including Crafts.

And have a go at "Guess the weight of the cake"

WWW.SPIRITOFMILBORNEPORT.ORG

Young Change-Makers, Community Spirit and Memorable Learning at Milborne Port Primary School



One of the highlights of this term was welcoming **Sarah Dyke MP** to school to discuss flooding on the Somerset Levels. This followed the year 4, 5 and 6 experience in science investigating how different rocks and soils affect flooding. Our pupils confidently shared their findings, and it was inspiring to see the children using their learning to think about real-world challenges that affect local people.

During her visit, Sarah also spoke with pupils about women in Parliament and the importance of representation in **leadership**. The discussion linked perfectly to our own school community, where our recent Family Group elections resulted in four fantastic female House Captains. It was a powerful reminder that leadership begins with having the confidence to use your voice, share your ideas and help others.



We were delighted to welcome local flood specialist Phil Emonson from JBA Consulting, who helped Newtown and Crackmore classes deepen their understanding of flooding and environmental change. Having already investigated different soil types, discovering that loam soil offers the best balance between drainage and water retention, the children greatly benefited from hearing first-hand expertise and asking thoughtful questions.

Our school community also came together at St John's Church for a joyful **Harvest Festival** celebration. The service provided an opportunity to reflect on the importance of kindness, care and community spirit, values that continue to underpin everything we do. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event.

Music has provided another wonderful opportunity for children to shine. Our choir, led by Mrs Ross, performed at Milborne Port Village Hall as part of ***The King's Command*** production. The children sang beautifully and represented the school with pride, enthusiasm and confidence. It was lovely to see members of the local community and school families coming together to enjoy such a special occasion.

Reading continues to flourish across the school. We are thrilled that our Year 6 pupils will receive a special copy of *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell as part of The Queen's Christmas Present, celebrating the National Year of Reading 2026. We were also overwhelmed by the support for our recent Book Fair. Thanks to the generosity of parents and carers, the school has earned £200 worth of new books, helping us continue to nurture a lifelong love of reading.



There has been plenty of excitement in the classrooms too. Key Stage 2 pupils have been developing their creative writing skills through figurative language and imaginative storytelling, while Kingsbury Class have been making excellent progress in maths by revisiting prior knowledge and building confidently on new learning. Meanwhile, Crackmore Class celebrated filling their marble jar with a lively Just Dance competition, a well-deserved reward for their teamwork, effort and positive attitudes.

Finally, Year 4 have enjoyed an amazing residential visit at **Leeson House,** with fossil hunting, a walk to Dancing Ledge and a night walk creating memories that will last for years to come.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our families, local organisations and wider village community. Together, we continue to create opportunities for our children to grow as confident learners, compassionate citizens and the changemakers of the future.

Carmen Danyali, Head Teacher

The Tree Creeper

The Tree Creeper is a tiny bird that lives in most wooded areas of our village but definitely operates below most people's radar. They are not uncommon, but Tree Creepers are difficult to spot because of their size and the superb camouflage afforded by their mottled brown plumage resembling tree bark. If you want to see a Tree Creeper, the best strategy is to listen for their short high-pitched call – perhaps on an app such as Merlin. Once located, choose a spot to sit or stand and then quietly and patiently use your binoculars to scour the surrounding tree trunks. Once you have spotted a Tree Creeper it is easier to find others.

You will be rewarded by a beautiful little bird which uses its sharp claws to climb up tree trunks in a spiral pathway, pressing its long tail against the bark for support. As it moves upwards the Tree Creeper uses its long downward curved beak to forage for insects in tiny crevices. Once it reaches the top of the tree it will fly to a neighbouring tree and repeat the process.



There are believed to be over 200,000 breeding pairs of Tree Creepers in the UK (Source: RSPB) yet most people may not have heard of them, let alone seen one. This elusiveness makes it the perfect challenge for an enthusiastic birder!

Jane Hewitt

The Tanners Café

At

Wheathill Close Community Centre

Book and Jigsaw Sale

Thursday 5th. November

10.30 am until 12.00.

Free Entry

Coffee

Milborne Port Christmas Tree Festival

The 2026 village Christmas Tree Festival will be held in

St John's Church, Bathwell Lane

from Saturday 28th November to Monday 7th December.

If you run a business, club, or other organisation, and would like to take part by decorating a tree,
please contact Susan on **07833 542607** for further details.

This year, the festival will start on the day of the Spirit of Milborne Port Lights' Switch On **(Saturday 28th November**) and, as in previous years, the trees will be partly funded by 'Spirit".

The church will be open each day for viewing from **9.30 am to 4.00 pm** and any donations made will go towards covering the remaining cost of the trees.

The theme for this year is 'words that sound as if they contain the word tree'. So do come and admire everyone's creativity. *Susan Wales*

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP US?

Our Foodshare volunteers collect and distribute food, both fresh, frozen and ambient, as well as a few household essentials, to anyone from our community who is struggling financially.

This Christmas we would like to provide some extra assistance to our customers during December.

We are planning a basic but festive provision to include the ingredients for a main meal, dessert, and a few extras such as cheese, chocolate, etc.

During the post-Christmas period, budgets are often very stretched, especially with rising heating costs, so we aim to supplement our normal provision through January to help out too. **Please could you help us by either**

- **Donation by direct debit - however small**
- **A cash donation**
- **Donation of provisions**

To arrange a donation or find out more please phone Jacquie on 07740862823 or email milborneportfoodshare@gmail.com

Or join us on Thursday from 12.30 - 2 pm at Church House, Bathwell Lane, Milborne Port.

More volunteers are always welcome!

This will enable us to make sure our customers enjoy their Christmas too.

With enormous thanks

Jacquie Hall and the Foodshare Trustees

The nights have closed in, the leaves have fallen, and autumn is truly here. And dare I say it, Christmas is just around the corner! At this time of year, remembrance is very much on our minds. I imagine many of us, over the years, have taken part in Remembrance Sunday parades as Brownies, Guides, Scouts, members of the Armed Forces or cadets. When I was a nurse in London, many years ago, we had to seek permission from the 'Matron' to wear our nursing uniforms and red capes. With our church, we would then march to the Cenotaph on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday. I think memory is a wonderful gift, and it is both good and right that we remember those who lost their lives in wars, fighting for our freedom. When I lived near Manchester, Remembrance Sunday was a time when the whole town came together to remember. It was quite spectacular. Many people in the area had joined the Armed Forces as a career. At the school we supported, we would often hear of young adults, former students, who had lost their lives in action. It brought the reality of war very close to home. ****Freedom should never be taken for granted. **** But it makes me think: freedom from what? Recently, an elderly gentleman in our church was baptised. John's story was one of carrying bitterness and hurt for a large part of his life. It was only when he truly discovered and understood what Jesus had done for him by dying on the cross that he was able to forgive those who had caused him such personal pain. Through forgiveness, John discovered a real freedom in his life. I am always mindful that Jesus came to give us life in all its fullness. He offers us freedom from fear, overwhelming anxiety, hatred, unforgiveness and addiction. This doesn't mean that life will always be easy, but that we do not have to face it alone. For me, knowing Jesus and understanding and remembering what He did for me on the cross means that I can live with the assurance of the freedom He offers. My prayer is always that anyone longing for this freedom will follow the signposts available to them and discover a personal encounter with Jesus. As we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom, may we also remember the freedom Jesus offers each one of us. ****Enjoy the freedom He brings.****

Every blessing, Yvonne

Church Services

(including the Principal Service Readings)
Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St John's: Weekdays at 9 a.m.

Sunday 1st 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 4th November

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Sunday 8th November ***Remembrance Sunday***

10.50am	Remembrance	Blackford
10.50 am	Remembrance	Maperton
10:45 am	Remembrance	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Remembering Evensong	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 11th November

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Sunday 15th November ***2nd Sunday before Advent***

1 Thess 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

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 18th November

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

For November

Sunday 22nd November ***Christ the King***

Ephesians 1:15-end, Matthew 25:31-end

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Compton Pauncefoot
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
3:00 pm	Holy Communion	Goathill

Wednesday 25th November

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Sunday 29th November ***1st Sunday of Advent***

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-end

10.30am	**Benefice Service**	**Blackford**
6pm.	Darkness into Light	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 2nd December

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Milborne Port Benefice Carol Services – Dates for your diary:

Sunday 13th. **December**	Carols at Stowell Church	6pm
Wednesday 16th. Dec.	Carols at Compton Pauncefoot	6pm
Friday !8th. Dec,	Carols at Milborne Wick	6pm.
Sunday 20th. Dec.	Carols at Goathill	3pm.
Sunday 20th. Dec.	Carols at Milborne Port	6pm.
Monday 21st. Dec.	Carols at Blackford	6pm
Thursday 24th. Dec.	**Crib Service** Milborne Port	3pm
Thursday 24th. Dec.	Carols Charlton Horethorne	6pm

Come and Enjoy Carol Singing and great music at one or more of our beautiful and ancient churches.

Praying is trying to feel close to God. Sometimes we may feel close and often we may feel far away. We begin by thinking about something, a person, a place, a situation. Our feelings may overwhelm us and the warmth of love, or the tears of pain may come. We may shout in anger at God.



A big focus in November is **Remembrance**. We gather together to remember people who have given their lives in the service of peace in the world. Those whose lives have been given in world conflicts and in more local wars and it is important that we remember them. Prayer has its biggest effect on the one who prays, the pray-er. We begin by thinking, learning about people of the past, listening to and reading news reports old and new. We might be learning about world conflicts as part of our learning of world history and have examinations to do at the end of the education year. We might be experiencing the sharp pain of someone's birthday they are not here to celebrate or looking at a child who will never see a parent in the flesh.

Getting together we share those feelings and memories. We find things to do to help the remembering. We put flowers on a grave, have a drink raising a glass to someone not there. We might think about going to church and the act of remembrance at the war memorial for a collective remembering. We may not want to worship a God whom we feel has taken a loved one away, but we may want to rail against that God as names of the fallen are read out. That is what Remembrance Sunday is about. It is a human response to human situations. Formality and ritual help us express ourselves when words fail or become impossible to find.

Frank Wright *photo: Karen Grindrod*

Milborne Port History & Heritage Group



Our next event is on **Sunday 8th November:** Exhibition of World War Two artefacts with local historian James Plummer at **Church House, 2-4 pm**. Come and see some of James' impressive collection: the full equipment of the WW2 British infantryman; an example of the most common British small arms, accessories and inert ammunition; several named medals; photographs; British, American and German helmets; examples of frontline and home front medical equipment; German items such as landmines, battlefield awards and commendations, plus an MG42, the most famous and one of the most feared German weapons of the war. Plus exhibits from our museum. Entry is free but any donations will be warmly welcomed and passed on to the Royal British Legion. Refreshments will be served.



Please note that this Remembrance Sunday event is instead of a talk on 16th November.

On **Monday 19th October,** triple-act Roger Cowley, Nicki Edwards and Mary Clothier entertained and educated us with 'Secrets of a school log book: a glimpse of school life between 1935 – 1979 in Milborne Port', including stories and anecdotes from the Church School records, which provide a fascinating decade-by-decade insight into the social history of Milborne Port. Many memories were pleasantly stirred for those members of the audience who attended the school themselves. An amusing and often poignant story of the school's life in the middle years of the 20th century.

Gloving in Milborne Port - the resources!

Following the technical hitches during our talk on Monday 21st September, Lesley Wray has kindly agreed for her Powerpoint from the night to be uploaded to our website *milborneporthistory.org.uk*; you can find it on *The Tanneries and Gloving in Milborne Port* page in *Histories.* The talk (including the contributions from members of the audience) was audio-recorded, and you can find the unedited warts-'n'-all version of the recording on the same page.

There were some super questions and comments/anecdotes from people who had connections with Milborne Port's gloving past, and these are now recorded for posterity! Thank you also to those people who brought precious gloving-related keepsakes and memorabilia to share with us. If you would like to buy a copy of Lesley Wray's new booklet, please get in touch via mphhgroup@gmail.com. £5 + £2.70 postage. *Nathalie Hetherington,*

http://milborneporthistory.org.uk.



Our afternoon October meeting was well attended. Sally, a local solicitor, gave us a talk on Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney. She was very informative and gave us lots to think about. Obviously, everyone's circumstances are different, but she stressed the importance of having a Will and the complications that can arise if you haven't done so. Before the talk, Celia, our president, reminded us of the carol service at Wells taking place in December to which some of us will be going. I shall also be going to the AGM at Taunton later this month with Celia, which is always an interesting occasion.

Some of us met at Reborne in North Street for a coffee and chat one morning, and we hope to make this a regular thing. Now that the lovely weather has finished and the dark evenings are here, people will be doing less gardening and don't always like to go out so much at night, so it's good to keep in touch.

Our next meeting is at 2.00pm on 12th November when Susan Wales will be giving us a talk on hand bell ringing. Visitors are always welcome to join us at a charge of £5 which includes a drink

Our Friday coffee mornings continue to be well supported so please drop in if you want a drink and a chat, and possibly a piece of cake!

Christine Porter
The Glovelies (MPWI)

1st Sherborne Scout Group

Scout Christmas Post is back for 2026! 🎄

Send your Christmas cards locally for just 40p each and support local Scouting!

Sherborne Scout Group is bringing back Scout Christmas Post, in partnership with Holy Trinity and Great Lyde Scout Groups in Yeovil.

Simply write your cards as normal and pop them into one of our Scout Post boxes with your payment. You can pay 40p per card in cash (in a separate envelope) or online using the QR code on the box.

Our volunteers sort the cards, and our young Scouts deliver them in time for Christmas!

We deliver to: Milborne Port, Sherborne, Yeovil, Thornford, Yetminster, West Coker, East Coker, Hardington Mandeville, Hardington Moor, Hardington Marsh, Odcombe, Pendomer, East Chinnock, Chilthorne Domer and Tintinhull.

Boxes will appear in local shops and businesses from 16th November. Check individual boxes for last posting dates.

Follow **1st Sherborne Scout Group on Facebook** for collection locations and updates.

Every card helps support adventures and opportunities for local young people.

Thank you for supporting us!

There will be boxes at: - coffee ReBorne, the Gainsborough, MP library and Something Else Fishy.

Milborne Port Gardening Club

At our October meeting we welcomed a most knowledgeable and engaging new speaker, Kev Lane, Englishman of the Soil, who shared with us the merits of the No-Dig Method for soil and crop cultivation, much promoted by Charles Dowding. Kev presented his case with some first-class photos of beautiful and large vegetables - worthy of any top horticultural show - but all grown naturally without any added fertiliser or insect repellents, just a good dressing of compost and mulch each year as we would normally do and use of mesh or fleece where necessary. He showed proof of how the soil abreacts to being dug over regularly and that having added plant feeds will lead to excess weed production, compared to his no-dig beds which had scarce weeds, scarce slugs or aphids and yet produce stunning results. He also added that this dressing of compost and mulch is an essential need with the development of hotter Summers ahead, but drought will always be a major threat to us all when growing produce. He arranges his fruit and vegetable planting in a bio-diverse way, to encourage insects to behave like insects rather than just as predators there to destroy all your hard work. But he went much further than this, listing his favourite varieties of a great list of different vegetables which he has found grow consistently well in our area and also which quality seed companies are producing superior results. In a world that badly needs to learn how to work with Nature and her natural cycles and needs, Kev's talk was both valuable and inspiring.

This month we have our AGM. We will be sharing our achievements over the past year and will include our annual photo display on the screen, as submitted by our members, of our talks and Summer Garden visits. All this with a glass of wine, refreshing soft drinks or a hot cuppa to create a social evening as well as to discuss business! **As well as our members, visitors are also very welcome to join us for the evening on Tuesday November 10th at 7.30pm - doors open 7pm at the Reborne Hall, North Street.** (If you are parking nearby, please respect space needed by residents to access their properties safely.)

Finally we complete this year's talks with Sherborne Abbey florist Claire Raper, who will be demonstrating ideas for Christmas floral displays on **Tuesday December 8th** - so save the date for this very knowledgeable and local expert!



Jane Daggett MPGC Chair **EMAIL: mpgardeningclub@gmail.com**

Friends of Milborne Port Library

Charity No: *1183786*

New Staff: **Jenny** has joined us and is settling in well. She is sorting out future activities to be added to diary dates soon. By the time you read this **Alana** will have joined us and we look forward to a long and happy partnership.

Our library is ranked as one of the best of the small libraries in Somerset, thanks to our diligent staff, our customers and all the people who support us.

November Dates:

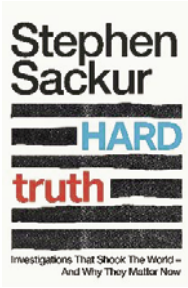
Library Book Club – Every fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Next one 23rd November. New members always welcome.
Lego Club – Saturday morning – Check date at the library.
Scrabble Club – Every Tuesday 2.30pm



New Village Hub: Redcliffe homes have been finishing the Shell & Core of The Community Hub, ready for it to be legally transferred to the Parish Council who will finish the interior of the building. **More news soon.**

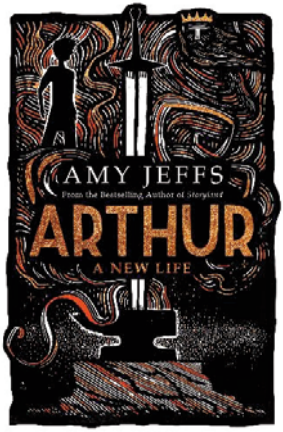
Mary Clothier
marydmc38@gmail.com

Sherborne Literary Society – Upcoming events in November 2026



3rd November – Stephen Sackur will be discussing his book "Hard Truth" Can the fight for the truth be won? Drawing on his long and distinguished reporting career, Stephen Sackur mounts a passionate case for truth telling in his book 'HARD truth', out this Autumn.

Sackur's compelling writing, clear arguments and meticulous research make this a must read for anyone who values the power of the press to hold the powerful to account.



16th November – Amy Jeffs will be in conversation with Lou Troup (Chair of SLS), discussing her latest book "Arthur". Join Sunday Times bestselling author Amy Jeffs for a tapestry of fascinating Arthurian tales, in conversation with Louise Troup. *'Arthur a New Life'* mines the seams of a story that we THINK we know - but do we? Join this wonderful Somerset based historian of stories for a truly fascinating evening.

ALL EVENTS will be held at Cheap Street Church. Doors open 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start

TICKETS are £12 members, £15 non-members, £8 for students and under 18s

Tickets available from Winstones or via the Sherborne Literary Society website www.sherborneliterarysociety.com where you can also become a member for a mere £10 annual subscription, and receive discounted tickets, priority booking and 10% off books at Winstone's bookshop in Sherborne.

About SLS: We exist to encourage creative expression in our community through reading and writing events and outreach. Over the last year we have hosted Booker Prize winners and nominees, debut novelists, historians and the only Annual Travel Writing Festival in the country.

The November Night Sky

"During a November day, I don't believe in ghosts. At night, I'm a little more open-minded." *Unknown.*



Helios in his chariot, relief sculpture, excavated at Troy, 1872; in the State Museums of Berlin

November brings us closer to the winter solstice on 21st December. The days continue to shorten as the nights lengthen; by the end of the month, daylight is one hour and twenty-eight minutes shorter than at the start. Lacking a scientific explanation for winter's shorter days, the ancient Greeks attributed them to the gods' preference for summer's longer daylight. The poet Callimachus, for example, wrote that Helios, the sun god, lingered longer in winter to watch nymphs dance, explaining why summer days lasted longer.



Planets

Evening Sky

Saturn: The only planet easily visible in the evening. It is positioned in the constellation Cetus and sets around 3:00 am.

Late Night & Midnight

Jupiter & Mars: Both planets rise around 11:00 pm in the constellation Leo, near the bright star Regulus. Jupiter shines much brighter than Mars. While Mars starts the month higher in the sky, it steadily heads downward, passing to the left of Jupiter on 16 November.

Early Morning & Dawn

Venus: The brilliant Morning Star. It rises as early as 4:00 am and reaches its maximum brilliance on 27 November.

Mercury: Puts on its best morning appearance of the year during the second half of November. Look for it to the lower left of Venus.

Astronomical Events

1st: Last Quarter Moon.
2nd: Moon near **Mars**
3rd: Moon near **Jupiter**
7th: Moon near **Venus**
9th: New Moon
16th: Mars near **Jupiter**
17th: First Quarter Moon
17th-18th: **Leonid meteor showers**. Running from the 6th to the 30th of November, it peaks on the night of the 17th and early morning of the 18th. Viewing conditions could be good after moonset at 11:30pm.
20th: Moon near **Saturn**. Western elongation of **Mercury**

24th: **Full Moon** – the second supermoon of the year. In Celtic tradition, it is called the Mourning Moon and the Darkest Depths Moon. The Celts believed that water was a gateway to the underworld and called the November full moon the Reed Moon after the reeds growing at the edge of pools and rivers. The haunting sound of reed instruments was thought to resemble calls from the other side

27th: Venus at maximum brightness as a morning star.

29th: Moon near **Jupiter** and **Mars.**

30th: Moon near **Jupiter** and **Mars**



Sunrise and Sunset

1st: Sunrise 7.01 am Sunset: 4.47 pm

30th: Sunrise 7.51 am Sunset: 4.09 pm

In Milborne Port, the first day of the month is 09 hours, 46 minutes long. The last day of November is 08 hours, 18 minutes, the length of the days gets one hour, twenty-eight minutes shorter in November 2026.

Good Viewing. *Ganymede*

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the December 2026 issue of the magazine to the editor please by Saturday 21st. November at 12 noon latest.



Distributors at the church on
Friday 30th. November at 2 p.m.

Editor's email:
magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk
All email contributions will be acknowledged.
Email is preferred.
We are STILL experiencing problems with our phone, so if you try 01963 250382 please leave a message and I will get back to you. Thankyou.

Milborne Port Calendars 2027

Available at the Quiz Night, at the Light Switch on, at Waynes, at Church. Covers of the magazine from 2026 are reproduced for each month of 2027.

The Price remains the **same as last year at £5.00.** Postal envelopes available @25p each – they make great presents! Cash preferred please. *Thankyou - Felicity*



Front Cover: View over the village.

Photo by Martin Hewitt

MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS
PARISH CHURCH: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Staff

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 & 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 & Stewardship Recorder	Mr Paul Springett	220790
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

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**

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

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

To have a copy of this magazine delivered to your house each month,
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