

The Pennant



Edition 586 February 2026

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Please email your entries for the March 2026 issue to: ThePennant@mail.com by 21st February 2026

Bradford Abbas Parish Council

Flooding and drains/gullies

The matter of flooding at Smith's Bridge was discussed at length at the last Parish Council meeting as we understand fully the frustration and inconvenience caused when the bridge is closed following periods of heavy rain. We are grateful to those villagers who provide last-minute updates on the situation at the bridge on Facebook to alert other drivers.

The Parish Council Clerk recently wrote to the Environment Agency regarding the blockage of the river by fallen trees etc. The Agency has a 24-hour incident reporting service tel: 0800 80 70 60 where you can report a flood or possible cause of flooding. When reporting an issue we should be grateful if you could copy it to the Parish Clerk bradfordabbas@dorset-aptc.gov.uk so that we form a data base. In addition, we would also welcome any recent photos of the flooding at Smith's Bridge with the date of the flood.

Should you come across any blocked drains or instances of flooding on the roads, please report them to the *Dorset Council reporting service*, (<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-gully--drain-or-flooding-issue>) providing exact location and if possible a photograph.

Defibrillators

The defibrillators, located at the Village Hall and the Sports and Social Club, have both recently been fully checked to ensure they are in good working order, and will continue to be checked on a regular basis.

Wriggle Valley PlusBus

Thank you to those of you who are supporting the PlusBus service. The buses will now go to both Sherborne and Yeovil every week rather than alternating and the monthly Dorchester run is to be continued after a successful trial period. You will find further information and timetables at <https://ectcharity.co.uk/Dorset/wriggle-valley-plusbus>. Please note, the parish council is making a financial contribution to support this service for our residents.

Website

The Parish Council's new website will be up and running shortly. The address is: bradfordabbaspc.org.uk. The change is necessary as Parish Councils have to conform to government legislation on domain names.

Mixed Ability Pilates at the Village Hall, Mondays 6-7 pm

Come and join this friendly class, all abilities and ages welcome. Equipment supplied. (mats excluded)

All sessions £10 pay as you go.

If you need any more information, please contact Lisa Brett 07760-169707 befitbewellwithlisa@gmail.com

Chatty Crafters

It's The Chatty Crafters 1st Birthday on Friday, 20th February at the Rose & Crown, Bradford Abbas, between 2-4 pm, come and join us to celebrate. New and existing members will be made very welcome, there will be cake and crafting. For more information please contact Brenda 07970159093 or Sue 07812430092.

Bradford Abbas and Clifton Maybank Village Hall - Bookings

Bradford Abbas Community Village Hall, with its central location opposite the St Marys Church, is a cosy space for Birthday Parties, young & older, family get togethers, wedding receptions and anything else you may be celebrating. Check the website for availability bradford-abbas.uk/hall, or email bacmvh@gmail.com and complete the booking form, or ring 01935 602279 for a form. A form must be completed to finalise booking the hall for insurance purposes.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRADFORD ABBAS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Christmas services were very popular and much enjoyed by all who attended. The shining star was (as it has been for several years now) the Christmas Eve Outdoor Carol Service in front of the church. Despite the perishing cold wind, around 200 of you came along to get your Christmas off the right way. We lit 400 candles in front of the altar to represent former residents of Bradford Abbas and many people came into church after the service to add their own candle to commemorate their own loved ones.

SHAKE OFF THE JANUARY BLUES

Thanks to everybody who came along on 17th January for our fund-raiser in the village hall. We were treated to entertainment of a very high quality and our thanks go to everybody who helped but especially to the performers, in particular Terry and Sean Scannell, Peter Littlewood and Steve Ward (proving that North Street is a hotbed of talent!). The evening raised a respectable £800 to add to our heating fund. We hope to be able to move ahead with the installation of our new system in the coming months.

POP-UP CAFE

Many villagers still seem to be in the dark about our pop-up café in the church every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon. We have a good crop of regulars. Why not join us for a warm cuppa and a natter. Coffee and tea-making facilities are in the church for you to help yourself to every day. All we ask is that you leave the café area clean and tidy (and if you can afford it, maybe leave a small donation in the honesty box).

UPCOMING SERVICES - EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 10am Morning Worship (lay-led)

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 10am Holy Communion (led by George Moody)

SUNDAY 1st MARCH 10am Morning Worship (lay-led)

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 10am Holy Communion (led by David Dunning)

Please note that there is a special service on Sunday 8th February at Folke church at 2:30pm to officially welcome James Clark into our benefice as our new Team Vicar. If you would like more information about this service, please come along to our service on 1st February or pop into our pop-up café any Saturday morning.

A message from the Team Rector

As I sit writing at the start of January, the question on everyone's lips is 'How was your Christmas?' My answer has been rather muted as I spent the whole time from Christmas Day onwards laid low with sickness. Up to that point it was fabulous; after that point it was rubbish.

Now in February, the question is rather out of date, but it does make me think that a surprising amount of life is a bit like that - the best and the worst in one tight package - all too often with one following close on the other.

Lent (18th February onwards) is a time when traditionally people choose some mild form of loss (giving something up for Lent) in the hope that it will help them to see something of the best of life that is often hidden by the clutter or business of everyday life.

This is fine when it is a choice, but for many loss is riven through life, woven into its very fabric. The loss of a loved one, the loss of freedom, the loss of health or mobility, the loss of work or opportunity. These things are not desired or chosen, but come unwanted and unplanned.

So what do we do with them? Well, that is what I am trying to discover. I think we receive the incidental beauties with gratitude. I think we allow full vent to our loss. And I think we must be unafraid to lean on others with our full weight. But I am learning and sometimes it is a slow business.

Oh, and the author of Lamentations encourages us to hold on to the Lord, however distant he seems. That may be the toughest call.

George Moody

Team Rector, Three Valleys Benefice, www.threevalleysteam.org.uk

Mixed Ability Yoga

Saturdays 8.30am-9.30am Bradford Abbas Village Hall

Come along and join us! These are friendly and fun classes, suitable for most. Start your weekend with movement and relaxation. £9 per session. Email emmarileyoga@gmail.com for further details

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY TRUST

After organizing events in the village every year for nearly a decade, the SMCT trustees have decided to have a year off in 2026. At present, we plan to come back in 2027, perhaps with some of your old favourites and perhaps with some new ideas.

If anyone in the village would like to join our group and help us to plan for the future, please do get in touch.

We wish you all a happy and healthy 2026.

Jo, Alan, Rob, Ruth, Trevor and Gary

The ST MARY'S COMMUNITY TRUST team

The Friendship Club

Our next meeting is at 2.00pm, Tuesday 3rd February at Bradford Abbas Sports and Social Club. There will be Bingo, a small draw, Tea & Biscuits and a chance to have a chat and laugh with fellow villagers. New members will be warmly welcome. Our meetings are always on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month.

Rose and Crown, Bradford Abbas

- **Opening hours:** Tuesday 5- close; Wednesday - Thursday 12-3 & 5-close; Friday 12-close; Saturday 10am – close; Sunday 12 noon – 6pm.
- **Restaurant:** Wed – Fri 12pm-2pm & 5.30pm-8.30pm; Sat 10am - 2pm and 5.30-8.30pm, Sun 12-4pm
- **Lunchtime Specials:** Pop in to see our specials board! Served Wednesday - Saturday 12pm - 2pm (limited availability)
- **Grill Night** – join us on Wednesdays & Thursdays from 5.30pm
- **Fish & Chip Friday:** Served every Friday lunchtime 12pm - 2pm
- **Sunday Carvery** - Limited availability, please contact us to book in advance
- **Meat Draw** every Sunday at 4.30pm

February events:

- **Breakfast:** The first Saturday of every month, served 10-12
- **Valentines Day:** Saturday 14th 5.30-8, Set Menu, bookings only
- **Quiz Night:** The 3rd Thursday of every Month: Thursday 19th Feb. Come and test your knowledge! Teams of 4-6, £2pp. From 8pm. The winning Team hosts the next Quiz!

Future events, March:

- **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Fundraiser:** Saturday 14th, served 2-4.30, bookings only. £11.95pp.
- **Saturday 14th: Murder Mystery Night,** Bookings only. £40pp - 3 course meal/ welcome drink.
- **Mother's Day Carvery:** Sunday 15th, Book now to avoid disappointment.

Follow our social media for our full list of events and opening times. You can hire our skittle alley - please pop in or contact us to discuss further, Contact us on: 01935 423199, email info@therosecrownbradfordabbas.co.uk. Visit our website <https://www.therosecrownbradfordabbas.co.uk>

Yeovil Railway Centre

See our website yeovilrailway.freesevers.com, or our Facebook page for details of events taking place in February.

History Society

It is with regret for me to inform you all that the History Society has now been formally closed. Noone came forward to take it over. The funds will now be distributed between four local heritage funds and history associated initiatives.

The committee would like to express its thanks to our stalwart members that continued to support us during challenging times and indeed all past members of the History Society that was formed back in 1978.

Tony White

Monday Night Bingo

Every Monday at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.00pm. at Bradford Abbas Sports and Social Club. Everyone 18 and over is welcome to our weekly light-hearted evening which also includes a small draw and a chance to win the SNOW BALL and of course a laugh and chat, we finish at about 8.30pm.

Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club

See our website sbacameraclub.co.uk for information about our forthcoming meetings, or follow our Facebook page.