

The Pennant



Edition 588 April 2026

Printed courtesy of Mrs Annette Haynes as a service to the community

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

Easter Bingo, Saturday 4th April at Bradford Abbas Village Hall

Bradford Abbas Preschool invites you to its ever-popular Easter Bingo event! This year's bingo night will raise money for new toys and equipment for the children, and your support will make a real difference.

Come along for an evening filled with fun, and many fantastic prizes to be won. It's a great opportunity to enjoy time with friends, family, and the local community.

We hope to see you there for a brilliant night out.

Doors open at 7:00pm/ Eyes down at 7:30pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH HEATING PROJECT

An update on where we are on the church heating project.

The Faculty application has been sent to Salisbury Diocese. The DAC has recommended the proposals and they are now out on a 42 day consultation. We hope to have final approval soon.

However – slight problem!

On 22nd January this year the Government announced that, after 20 years, the scheme which enabled places of worship to claim back VAT would end on 31st March 2026. In fact the total fund available on this scheme has already been allocated and no more applications are being accepted. The Government are planning a new scheme but this has not been finalised and we know it is not going to cover the reclaiming of VAT.

Therefore – we will be landed with an unrecoverable VAT bill of approximately £11,000.

Whereas the funds already raised will pay for the actual project (thanks to some extremely generous donors, grants, fundraising events and many other supporters) we do not have the extra funds needed to cover the VAT.

We are in the process of applying for another grant.

As well as being used for religious services, christenings, weddings and funerals, our Church is a great space for other events and entertainment and is there for the benefit of all.

We are now appealing to anyone who feels able to help us raise this extra money. However little a donation, it will be a huge help and very much appreciated.

Donations can be made by:-

Cheque: payable to 'PCC of Bradford Abbas' (please write on back 'heating fund')

BACS: PCC of Bradford Abbas

Sortcode 40-41-23

Account 71033506

Reference 'Heating'

Card machine: inside Church

Cash: in wall safe to right of Church door (this is emptied daily)

Please remember to write in your diary **Sunday 19th April** when we will have a stall at

Sherborne Market (in front of the Abbey), where you will find lots of beautiful handmade items, which would make fantastic presents for friends and family. All proceeds to Church heating.

We will be planning other fund raising events throughout the summer. Keep watching The Pennant for further news and updates.

A HUGE thank you again to all our generous donators and supporters.

St Mary's Church Heating Fundraising Team

Upcoming events at Mill Farm

Rat Pack Girls

Get ready for a night of glitz, glamour and vintage Vegas sparkle as The Rat Pack Gals swing into Mill Farm Music on **Friday 24th April 2026, 6.30 - 11.00 pm**

From the brilliant comedy-theatre duo Belle Street — Susan Grant and Joni de Winter — this lively, feel-good production is a loving, laugh-out-loud musical tribute to the legendary Rat Pack and the extraordinary women who stood alongside them. With gorgeous harmonies, sharp humour and irresistible charm, Susan and Joni transport audiences straight to the high-living, hard-drinking world of 1960s Hollywood and Las Vegas.

If you love classic songs, sparkling storytelling and a great night out, don't miss The Rat Pack Gals at Mill Farm Music on Friday 24th April 2026. Dress up if you dare — and come ready to swing.

Rebecca Chambers' New Tricks

Rebecca Chambers' New Tricks comes to Mill Farm on **Friday 22nd May** in an intimate trio format, featuring the ever-gorgeous double bass playing of Dave Roberts and the totally beautiful piano artistry of Chris Knight, both of whom you might recognise from Rebecca's bigger Jazz band, The New Jazz Code.

Led by one of Dorset's most respected Blues and Jazz vocalists, Rebecca Chambers brings 28 years of performance experience to the stage. Her rich, expressive voice and natural storytelling ability have made her a favourite across the South West, captivating audiences with warmth, sophistication and soul.

Tickets for both events available from the Mill Farm website: <https://www.millfarmmusic.com/events/>

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

The next meeting of The Chatty Crafters will be on Friday, April 17th. Join us for crafting and chatting between 2-4, at the Rose & Crown, Bradford Abbas, bring along the item/project you are working on, small

or large, we look forward to seeing you. We meet every third Friday of the month, welcoming current and new members. For more information please contact Brenda on 07970159093 or Sue on 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 <https://bradford-abbas.uk/>, 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

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 your to help yourself every day. All we ask is that your 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

EASTER SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 9:30am Holy Communion (led by David Dunning)
SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 10am Holy Communion service (led by James Clark)
SUNDAY 3RD MAY 10am Morning Worship (lay-led)
SUNDAY 17TH MAY 10am Holy Communion (led by George Moody)

APCM

The church's annual meeting (the "APCM") is scheduled to take place in the morning of either Sunday 19th or Sunday 26th April at 11:15. Details will be published outside the church and also on the Pennant Facebook page. If it is to be on 26th, then we will have an additional service that day at 10am.

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

The Friendship Club

Our next meeting is Tuesday 14th April at 2.00 pm at Bradford Abbas Sports and Social Club. There is Bingo, a small draw, tea & biscuits and a chance to have a chat and a laugh with fellow villagers. New members will be warmly welcomed. Generally, our meetings are always on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month.

Craft Stall – Sunday 19th April

We are taking a stall in Sherborne Market on Sunday 19th April. The first market of the year and it's bound to be a good one. Come and have a browse. Lots of beautiful handmade bags, cushions, jewellery, cards, Italian embroidered tablecloths etc for sale. All proceeds in aid of the church heating fund. Look out for more information in The Pennant next 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

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

For events this month please go to yeovilrailwaycentre.co.uk

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.

Pennant Editor

I have recently moved out of the village, so there is now an opening for a new editor of The Pennant. It only takes around one hour per month to put together the entries and send the final copy to the printer. There is very little real editing needed as most of the articles are beautifully written!

Having undertaken the role for the past six years I can recommend it to anyone who would like to make a very valuable contribution to Bradford Abbas village life. If you are interested, please email

ThePennant@mail.com or jobarber@gmail.com.

All best wishes, Jo Barber