

# The Pennant



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Please email your entries for the April 2026 issue to: [ThePennant@mail.com](mailto:ThePennant@mail.com) by 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026

## St Mary's Community Trust

As advised in last month's Pennant, the SMCT trustees have decided to have a year off in 2026. That said, we still plan to enjoy ourselves and – wherever possible – we'll invite you to join in with us. One such opportunity comes along with...

**Saturday 7th March – WASSAILING.** In recent years we've made a bit of a fuss about Wassailing. This year, it's just a gentle bit of fun. We will be gathering in the pub at 7pm and about 7:30 we'll have a walk down to the orchard at Mill Farm, make a bit of noise and bless the trees and then come back to the pub for a drink or three. If you feel like joining us, please do. You'll need to bring a torch or lantern, something to bang and make a noise with (a saucepan and a wooden spoon is a good combo), weather-appropriate clothing and boots. Please remember to take your dirty boots off when you go inside the pub.

**See you soon, Jo, Alan, Rob, Ruth, Trevor and Gary,** The ST MARY'S COMMUNITY TRUST 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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/>

## **Bradford Abbas Parish Council**

### **Railway Engineering Work – Heart of Wessex line from 28 February to 8 March**

Railway engineers will be carrying out essential railway engineering work between Yeovil Pen Mill and Weymouth, from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Throughout the closure, buses will replace trains between Yeovil Pen Mill, Dorchester West and Weymouth.

### **A plea to clean up after your dogs and keep the Games Ground tidy!**

Please ensure that you always pick up any dog mess when walking your dog along the streets and lanes of the village. And a reminder for those using the Games Ground, please use the litter bins provided to dispose of any rubbish you may have (but take used nappies home please!).

## **Easter Bingo, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

## **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](mailto:befitbewellwithlisa@gmail.com)

## **Chatty Crafters**

The March meeting of The Chatty Crafters will be **Friday, 20th March** at The Rose & Crown, Bradford Abbas between 2-4 pm. We meet every third Friday. Newcomers are very welcome to come and join our friendly bunch of chatty crafters. Come and join us for a bit of crafting or just a bit of chatting. It's a community event over a cup of tea/coffee, slice of cake or biscuit. 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](mailto: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**

### **LENT BIBLE GROUP**

We have a group meeting in the village once a week through Lent. The meetings are on Fridays, starting at 2.30 pm. If you think you might like to join us, please call or text Gary on 07799 430400 for details of the venue each week. Don't worry if you might have missed the first few meetings, it's still worth joining for the remaining ones.

## **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 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 MARCH 10am Morning Worship (lay-led)

SUNDAY 8th MARCH 10am (a short) Morning Prayer service (lay-led)

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

SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 10am (a short) Morning Prayer service (lay-led)

EASTER SUNDAY 5th APRIL 9:30am Holy Communion (leader TBC)

SUNDAY 19th APRIL 10am Holy Communion (leader TBC)

## **A message from the Rector**

Often it is hard to decide what the theme of the month is going to be, but today after 40 days of rain it is not so difficult. Now, I know what you're thinking, has George been secretly building a huge wooden boat to put all the animals in? The answer is no, not least because, well, it has rained a lot but not that much. It does stop occasionally and the sun even came out this morning.

Now okay, you're reading this in March, so you may be basking in the latest weird heat wave, but it will be hard to forget this wet winter. Due to the proliferation of vehicles in our front garden, I've had to park on the grass and now it's a muddy mess - and it'll still be a mess even after the mud dries. That's a minor example, but we don't grow crops underwater much in this country, nor do we put our houses on stilts, so for some the consequences may have a long tail.

The consequences for Noah were extreme for sure (you knew I'd get back there eventually). A dysfunctional family destined to repopulate that world, a bit of a hangover from the celebration (or maybe I'm misremembering that bit - do look it up and let me know), and a rainbow promising the world would never be destroyed by water.

That rainbow image is used all over the place these days to celebrate lots of different things, but for Noah it meant the end of rain, the sun coming out again, the promise of God that our lives are lives where we travel *through* trouble and hardship, if we can but keep walking: 'Yea though I walk *through* the valley of the shadow of death'. With God it is always *through*. So if you're still inundated with water, of any kind, hold on to the 'through-ness' of God's work in our lives.

George Moody, Team Rector, Three Valleys Benefice, [www.threevalleysteam.org.uk](http://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](mailto:emmarileyoga@gmail.com) for further details

## **The Friendship Club – no meeting in March**

Our next meeting is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 – Save the date, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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

March events:

- **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](mailto:info@therosecrownbradfordabbas.co.uk). Visit our website <https://www.therosecrownbradfordabbas.co.uk>

## Yeovil Railway Centre

The first steam train days of the new season are on:

- Sunday 15th March: Steam Train Day and Mothers Day.
- Sunday 29th March: Steam Train Day and Yeovil Arts Week

Gates open 10.30am to 4.00pm with the first train ride at 11.00am and then frequently until 3.50pm using Peckett 0-4-0 *Pectin* to travel 1/3rd mile along the former GWR Clifton Maybank branch.

Admission £13, children £6.50 with under 5's free. One child free with each full paying adult

On both events there will be more information on the gate.

Additional information is on our shiny new website [yeovilrailwaycentre.co.uk](http://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

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

- Tuesday 10th March: Huw Alban - 'Place, Process, Print'. Huw is a Dorset based photographer and an artist using photography in his work.
- Tuesday 24th March: the Bradford Abbas Shield - a competition between five clubs. This year's theme is 'Farmers and Farming'.

See our website [sbacameraclub.co.uk](http://sbacameraclub.co.uk) for information about our forthcoming meetings, or follow our Facebook page.

## Pennant delivery person needed

The Pennant is looking for a delivery person for the Wyke Farm area. There are approximately 15 houses to deliver to along that route. If you are interested and happy to volunteer to deliver The Pennant please email [pcchapman18@gmail.com](mailto:pcchapman18@gmail.com) or ring 01935 602279. With many thanks, Tricia Chapman