

The Dubber

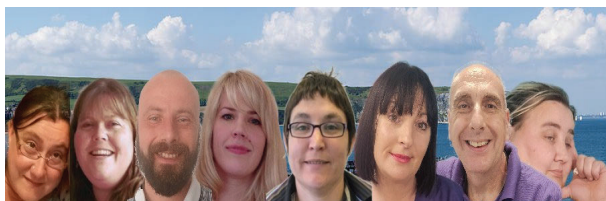
JANUARY 2026





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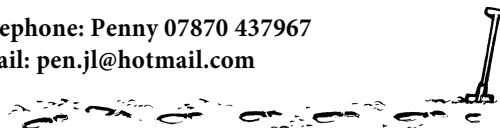


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From the Editor

A Happy & Healthy New Year to you all!



IMPORTANT * PLEASE NOTE!

*February deadline is 3rd Thursday in
January as the 2nd Thursday
is very early*

**February issue deadline
is 15 January**

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Deadline for Next Issue

The editor, Angela Bell, appreciates the early submission of contributions but, for those cutting it fine, the deadline for the **February** issue is noon on **Thursday, 15 January** & it will hopefully be ready for collection circa **30 January** (Chris will email when ready).

Contributions & Notifications

The editor welcomes news contributions and letters as well as notifications of events within the Parishes for the **What's On** section and, space permitting, for free 'one off' box adverts which are included at the Editor's discretion. These can be submitted online to ed@thedubber.co.uk or by post to The Editor, 2 The Steddings, Langton Matravers, BH19 3EU (☎427202).

How to Format Submissions

Preferably, all emailed *Dubber* submissions should be sent as **12 point Times New Roman** (or Minion Pro, if you have it) **plain type** (i.e. no bold, italic or underlining)

aligned left with single line spacing.

Advertising & Distribution

The Dubber Secretary deals with enquiries regarding Distribution and Yearly advertising. The secretary is Nicky Glassock, (admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org); The Vestry, St George's Church, St George's Close, Langton Matravers, Swanage, BH19 3HZ (☎427822). Please contact Nicky (office hours on page 6) if you have any queries about the receipt of your *Dubber* copy or if you would like to know more about advertising in *The Dubber*; If you are a distributor in need of help or advice please speak to the person who delivers your bundles to you and escalate to Nicky in plenty of time, if you have an issue. Additionally, if you, or someone you know, is leaving/have left the parishes and would like to continue to receive a copy of *The Dubber*, please contact the Secretary via email or telephone to arrange this. *Dubber* distributors are always needed!

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

Langton Matravers PC

Parish Clerk - Emma Evans

Address - The Parish Office, 1A High Street, Langton Matravers. (Open: TBC)

Email: clerk@langtonmatravers-pc.gov.uk

Web: www.langtonmatravers-pc.org

Phone: 07745 934263

Worth Matravers PC

Parish Clerk - Michelle Harrington

Address: 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ

Email: clerk@worthmatraversparishcouncil.gov.uk

Web: www.worthmatraversparishcouncil.org.uk

Phone: 01202 670105

Corfe Castle PC (Kingston)

Parish Clerk - Michelle Harrington

Address: 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ

Email: clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Web: www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC

Phone: 01202 670105

January 2026

***The Dubber is the
mouthpiece of the Parishes
of St Aldhelm's***

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St George's, Langton Matravers
St Nicholas of Myra, Worth Matravers
with Harmans Cross
The Chapel of St Aldhelm's Head

Pioneer Associate Priest

Revd Lindy Jane

✉ revlindyjane@gmail.com

☎ c/o 01929 208469

Associate Priest

Revd Nick Webb

Benefice Administrator

Nicky Glassock
St George's Church
St George's Close
Langton Matravers
Swanage
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☎ 01929 427822
Office: 9-1pm

Tuesday & Wednesday mornings

✉ admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org

Keep updated with events and visit the
website, Facebook or Twitter



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Aldhelm Benefice

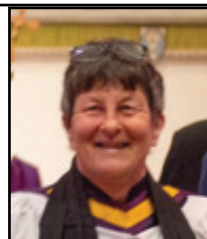
Churchwardens

Parishes of St Aldhelm's Benefice

Richard Earl ☎ 01929 475822

Janet Robinson ☎ 07986 553969

Hello from the Rectory



***This is the picture I took in
the darkness of what I call
my Narnia street lamp. It guides
me home and is a welcome sight
in these cold dark days. Narnia
was a place of hope and a place
of challenge, but hope won the
day. I love CS Lewis books and
if you haven't read them then I
recommend you do. They are not
just children's stories but contain
much wisdom about, love, peace,
justice and truth.***

Christmas is now past and I expect everyone is a little tired! I know I am. January is a month that can often be quite tricky to navigate. After all that busyness, people to visit and people to welcome. Sometimes January can seem a little bleak. It's not exactly warm and inviting but only a few days ago we welcomed the Christ Child into our midst again. His unassuming arrival the start of a new era all those years ago, and for us as we celebrate New Year a time of new beginnings, hopes and dreams. My hope is that the Jesus, the Christ Child, will not only feature for the Christmas Season but will be a part of our daily lives as we venture into the New Year. For some, Christmas may have been a difficult time, one filled with remembered loss or ongoing hardship and so my prayer for you is that you find a way to experience the love and peace that Jesus offers for you now and for all time. Please do be in contact if you would like to chat or leave a message on our office answer phone.

Every Blessing,

Revd Lindy Jane

Pioneer Priest,

Benefice of St Aldhelm Salisbury Diocese

PRAYER

Do you sometimes wish that someone was praying for you? Asking God to keep you safe or guide you through these difficult times? Well, very possibly someone is! There is a wonderful group of parishioners in the St Aldhelm Parish who as part of their regular prayers include praying for approximately 80 individuals!

You hopefully know if someone is praying for you but it has been a number of years since this was set up and it is entirely possible that you have forgotten there is this special person. Or perhaps you have recently moved to the Parish and no one has asked you if you wish to have someone regularly praying for you.

Please, if you would appreciate regular prayer and are not sure that you have a Prayer Leader allocated to you, or you are new in the Parish contact us by emailing: admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org or calling the office on 01929 427822.

Becca Charron



Walking Church

11am Sunday, 11 January

11am Sunday, 25 January

Start TBA

The Coffee Pot

*Meet for real coffee & cake
on the first Thursday of each month
St George's Church*

*10-11.30am Thursday, 3 February
Good company & chat
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There is no Coffee Pot in January*



SERVICE TIMES IN THE PARISHES

SUNDAY	28 DECEMBER	
10.30am	Benefice Service	Corfe
WEDNESDAY	31 DECEMBER	Langton
No Services		
SUNDAY	4 JANUARY	
9.45am	Breakfast Church	Langton
10.30am	Holy Communion	Corfe
5pm	Celtic Evening Prayer	Worth
WEDNESDAY	7 JANUARY	
8.30am	Morning Prayer	Corfe
10am	Prayer in the Morning	Langton
SUNDAY	11 JANUARY	
8am	Holy Communion BCP	WORTH
9.30am	Holy Communion	Steeple
9.45am	Holy Communion	Langton
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Corfe
11am	Walking Church	TBA
11.30am	Informal Worship	Kingston
WEDNESDAY	14 JANUARY	
8.30am	Morning Prayer	Corfe
10am	Holy Communion	Langton
SUNDAY	18 JANUARY	
9.45am	Morning Worship	Langton
10am	Celtic Eucharist	Worth
10.30am	Holy Communion	Corfe
6pm	Evening Prayer	HXVH
WEDNESDAY	21 JANUARY	
8.30am	Morning Prayer	Corfe
10am	Prayer in the Morning	Langton
SUNDAY	25 JANUARY	
9.45am	Holy Communion	Langton
10am	Celtic Morning Prayer	Worth
10.30am	Holy Communion	Corfe
11am	Walking Church	TBA
11.30am	Holy Communion	Kingston
WEDNESDAY	28 JANUARY	
8.30am	Morning Prayer	Corfe
10am	Holy Communion	Langton
SUNDAY	1 FEBRUARY	
9.45am	Breakfast Church	Langton
10.30am	Holy Communion	Corfe
5pm	Celtic Evening Prayer	Worth
WEDNESDAY	4 FEBRUARY	
8.30am	Morning Prayer	Corfe
10am	Prayer in the Morning	Langton

ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY & PRE SCHOOL

December has been a truly magical month at St George's Primary School, filled with festive cheer, community spirit, and joyful celebrations. Our school came alive with a series of wonderful events that brought pupils, staff, families, and friends together to share the warmth of the season.

We began the festivities with our Christmas Film Night, where children enjoyed a cozy evening of seasonal movies and treats. This was followed by the much-anticipated Christmas Fair, a highlight of the month and a fantastic success thanks to the incredible efforts of our dedicated PTA. The fair was a wonderful opportunity for families to gather, enjoy games and stalls, and soak up the festive atmosphere. We are deeply grateful to the PTA for their hard work and creativity in making this event so special.

Our talented school choir also had the privilege of performing at Salt Pig, the Farm, spreading Christmas joy through music. Their beautiful singing was a true testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of our pupils and staff, and it was heartwarming to see the local community come together to enjoy their performance.

One of the most cherished traditions at St George's is our Christmas Service at St George's Church, which included a delightful Nativity play performed by our younger pupils. Their portrayal of the Christmas story was both moving and joyful, reminding us all of the true meaning of the season. The performances of the older children demonstrated their thoughtfulness and growing maturity, and are a privilege to witness. We were also honoured to welcome visits from local clergy throughout December, who shared messages of hope, kindness, and the spirit of Christmas with our school community.

The celebrations continued with Christmas Party Day, a fun-filled occasion where classrooms were transformed into festive spaces, and children enjoyed games, music, and seasonal treats. This day was a perfect way to celebrate the end of term and the beginning of the holiday season.

As we reflect on this wonderful month, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making December so special. It was a joy to share these moments with friends and family, and we are proud of the sense of togetherness that defines our school.

From all of us at St George's Primary and Pre School, we wish our families, friends, and the wider community a very happy and healthy New Year. May 2026 bring joy, peace, and exciting opportunities. We look forward to all the fantastic events and learning adventures the new year will bring!

Claire Hollard, Teacher

Langton's Post Office

The Post Office has organized a 'Flying Postmaster' to come to Salt PigThe Farm, Putlake at Langton on Tuesday mornings between 9-12, so please use it – otherwise we lose it.

SWANAGE FOOD BANK

A very big thank you to everybody who has donated to the Food Bank in November and December.

The Harvest donations from St George's School and the Parish churches were incredible together with the local and fundraising donations.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

Liz Hoad

PURBECK PUFFINS



This time last year I wrote a piece about how our local puffins fared in 2024. Here is the annual update.

The first sighting in 2025 was on 20 March when six puffins were seen. Some of them came ashore and one pair mated on the sea. This was a promising start to the season, confirming that we had the same number of puffins preparing to breed as in the previous two years. Mating was seen again on 5 April and 23 April and there was evidence suggesting one bird may have laid an egg on 21 April. With an incubation period of 41 days, this first-laid egg should have hatched about the 1 June.

On the morning of 1st June there were lots of excited emojis on our WhatsApp group following a report of two separate sightings of a puffin flying into the cliff with fish! However, these sightings were of birds(s) in flight and seen only very briefly. If the first chick had hatched on 1 June, fish-carrying by the adult puffins should, if they had reared chicks to fledging age, have lasted until at least 12 July. However, although a further 43 hours of observations between 1 June and 12 July gave us many sightings of puffins, not another puffin was seen carrying fish.

On 9 of June, a puffin was photographed on the sea with strands of seaweed dangling (fish-like) from its bill, which it brought into the cliff. Maybe the birds seen briefly on 1 June were also carrying seaweed rather than fish! Either way, the lack of any further sightings of fish carrying puffins between 1 June and 12 July means that they cannot have reared any chicks to fledging age in 2025. It is most likely that none of the eggs laid in late April even hatched.

The puffin carrying seaweed into the cliff on 9 June was probably (re-) building a nest – most likely having recently laid a new egg to replace one it had laid earlier and lost. On 17 and 25 June one puffin showed all the signs of incubating an egg again. However, the 25 June was the last day on which puffins were seen on the cliff. On 1 July we found just two puffins far out on the sea and on 4 July we found four puffins again far out to sea. Watches on 10 and 12 July found no puffins at all! They had all gone – before any replacement egg laid in early June might have hatched. This egg may have

been predated or maybe just abandoned due to the departure of the other puffins.

So, our three pairs of puffins all failed to rear any pufflings to independence in 2025 – the same result as in 2024 and 2023. We still don't yet know why the puffins seem to be failing every year but predation of their eggs or chicks is the most likely cause. Crows were seen many times landing on the cliff ledge and looking into the crevice where the puffins nest. A stoat was seen on the clifftop nearby, and although we did not see any rats, I am sure that they are scampering around down there too. Getting proof of predation in future years remains a priority. However, solving this particular 'who dunnit' could easily take several more years. Some pre-emptive action to reduce the vulnerability of the puffins to predation of their eggs or chicks might be needed now. With only six ageing puffins left, they might be running out of time!

Thanks to everyone who contributed puffin sightings in 2025 including: John Allen, Kathy Allen, Katie Black, Jules Bond, Steve Butler, Pete Christie, Tom Clarke, Victoria Copley, Dawn Cosh, James Dawkins, Tony Fulford, Garry Hayman, Sue Haysom, Debs Kelly, Sophie Lake, Hilarie Lewis, Tim Marchant, Nahid Rahman, Helen Schneider, Martin Shaw, Mark Singleton, Matt Swaine, Peter Tinsley, Steve Turner, Suzanne Turner and anyone else I might have forgotten.

Richard Caldow

CORFE SURGERY

A New Year message from Kerry, Practice Manager and me.

First, we would like to send every best wish for 2026 to all Staff, patients and all volunteers connected with our Surgery and thank everyone for their continued support.

As a PPG we recognize how lucky we are to have Corfe Surgery, which is envied by many, and we are keen to involve a greater cross section of our practice community in the work of the Patient Participation Group.

Like me, you may be surprised to know that the greatest proportion of our practice population is in the 0-65 age group (1032 men and 1087 women) and so we would like to attract support from this group and, if possible, include male members of the surgery population recognising of course that many in this age group will be working.

Early in the new year we will be asking patients to complete a questionnaire when visiting the surgery to let us know if the surgery offers the flexibility of appointment times that suit modern working and our younger population and to see if anyone would be willing to support our PPG work.

Whilst the PPG committee meets three times a year for about 1.5 hours in the surgery building around lunchtime, we would welcome input from those willing to receive an agenda and minutes and send in any thoughts to inform the meeting or indeed we could consider changing our meeting time!

The Surgery website includes lots of information for younger patients and Purbeck is fortunate to have a YOUTH PPG which runs out of Wareham surgery but covers the whole area and can be accessed through the website.

If you are wondering what a PPG actually does - we are a group of people who are patients of the surgery who want to help it work as well as it can for patients, doctors and staff. The NHS requires every practice to have a PPG.

Our experiences matter and we can all bring ideas to the surgery to help the surgery team to look after us - so impor-

tant in this ever-changing NHS.

The PPG can be contacted through the surgery or by email corfecastleppg@gmail.com

Please do get in touch with us and help if you can.

Maggie Hardy PPG Chair & Kerry Norman Practice Manager

COME AND SING!

Stretch out those legs and vocal cords and step Into the Woods with the Belvedere Singers this January. The musical medley is just one of the pieces we will be performing at our next concert in May. We love to welcome new singers to our rehearsals, which restart on Tuesday, 6 January.

You really do not need to have a lot of musical experience to sing with us. We are a choir for the four voice parts (alto, soprano, tenor and bass), and so it helps to be able to follow music, but it is far from essential. There are many resources online now to help singers learn their parts and we provide new members with information to signpost them to the most helpful ones. At rehearsals, we do our best to provide a supportive environment and seat new singers beside more experienced choir members. Our fantastic Music Director, Clive Watkiss, begins each rehearsal with vocal exercises and advice on singing techniques to help everyone get the most out of their voice.

We offer two free rehearsals to anyone who would like to try us out and there is no obligation to join us after the trial period. After that, each rehearsal works out at about £5 per night. We supply members with all the music they need as well as a warm and welcoming rehearsal space at the Emmanuel Baptist Church on Victoria Avenue in Swanage. There is ample car parking and access for those who are less mobile.

Rehearsals run from 7.30pm - 9.30pm with a fifteen-minute tea break half-way through. Although we begin again on 6 January, we welcome new members at any point in our singing year.

Come and give us a try. We really want to hear from you. If you can't come along yourself, please spread the word about us, especially to the men in your lives. We are very short of male voices but need new singers for all voice parts.

Find us on Facebook (The Belvedere Singers) or at www.belvederesingers.org.uk. Linda McMorro

SWANAGE MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team Update – event being held on 29 January 2026, 2-4pm, at Corfe Castle Village Hall

Everyone is invited to this event when the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team will be giving updates on all the work they have been doing over the last year - including the work they have been doing to develop a community approach to living well in Purbeck

They will also be sharing the results of the survey about the health and wellbeing needs of people living in Purbeck, which was launched at the Health and Wellbeing Event held at The Mowlem in October.

The Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team brings together all the providers of health and care services in Purbeck - including primary care, community care, adult social care, children and young people services and the voluntary sector - so they can work together more closely to help people stay well for longer and provide streamlined, personalised support when people need it.

The PPGs of all the GP Practices in Purbeck are also working with the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team to ensure people living in Purbeck are involved in improving and shaping local services.

PPG MEETINGS

Our next meeting will be held at the Surgery on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 12.30pm. You can find out more about the PPG, including Minutes of our meetings and our current Priorities, at: www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Patient-Participation-Group.

If you're interested in joining the PPG, please contact Natasha Ritchie, Practice Manager, or email the PPG directly at ppgswanage@gmail.com. *Margaret Guy, Chair*

NATIONAL TRUST

BERRY BONANZA

Have you noticed the trees and hedgerows bursting with berries this year? It's been recorded that 2025 was a 'mast year', when trees and shrubs produce an unusual abundance of fruits, nuts, and seeds, known as mast.

This usually happens about every five years, and the last mast year in the UK was in 2020. But why do trees do this? The answer seems to be that it takes a lot of energy for a tree to produce such an abundance, so they can't do it every year. Instead, they build up their resources until they are ready to produce a bumper crop. When this happens, there's too much for birds and mammals to eat – allowing some seeds to escape and grow into saplings. Clever tactics, eh!

FABULOUS FLOCKS

It might seem bleak outside, but January is a fabulous time for birdwatching. The farmland and hedgerows are bursting with flocks of goldfinch, linnet and yellowhammer. If you're lucky, you might also spot a rare curlew among them (several have been sighted at Weston Farm in Worth Matravers).

Look out for the so-called 'Viking birds', winter-visiting thrushes from Scandinavia. They feast on berries in scrub and worms in the fields. Redwings, with their striking white eye stripe and rusty-red underwings, often gather in large flocks. Fieldfares are bigger, grey and chestnut-coloured with a yellowy-toned breast. They aggressively defend their food, chasing away any other birds that get too close.

As dusk falls, watch for the ghostly glide of a barn owl, cruising over the fields, hunting for small mammals. Hope you can get out to enjoy some magical winter walking! Email: purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk. *Cathy Lewis, National Trust*

First Langton Rainbows & Brownies

**We have vacancies for new members
Rainbows, girls aged 4-7yrs
and Brownies, girls aged 7-10yrs**

**We meet on Thursday 5.30 to 6.30
at Langton Scout & Guide HQ**

**If you have a child that may be interested in giving
us a try, Please contact Val Burden:**

burdenval57@gmail.com 7976551502

MAJOR PETER WEAVER

The Clandestine Life of Peter Weaver – SAS Rogue by Major Peter Weaver & Dr William Ward

My father, Major Peter Weaver, was born in India and, after his father's death in WWI, was brought back to England where his family settled in Canford Cliffs. During WWII, he oversaw all the underground bunkers constructed along the Dorset coast for the Auxiliary Units—Britain's secret wartime resistance network prepared to disrupt any potential German invasion. These covert bases were integral to the clandestine defence strategy.

Recruited by SAS legend Paddy Mayne, he served with 1 SAS deep behind enemy lines, surviving Operation Bulbasket sabotage missions in occupied France where most comrades were brutally executed. He later helped liberate Bergen-Belsen. The memoir features over 100,000 words and 30 rare photographs, most never published before (<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/SAS-Rogue-Hard-back/p/58335>). Bestselling military author Damien Lewis wrote the powerful back cover endorsement, adding national appeal. Harmans Cross is lucky to have such a hero in our village and parish. *Joanna Burri-Weaver*

JANUARY AT HXVH

Happy New Year to everyone from all of us at Harmans Cross Village Hall. As always, there is plenty going on at the Hall with various regular clubs and activities through the week, starting on Monday mornings with table tennis, and then a host of other things to enjoy including choir, yoga, crafts, U3A French and regular coffee mornings. Please visit the website and check our calendar and the 'What's On' page for further details.

If anyone has an interest in hiring the hall for events – either occasional or regular – then please contact our fabulous new Bookings Guru, Bethani Evans. Bethani can be contacted by email at either bethanirawlings.hxvh@gmail.com or bookings@harmanscrosshall.co.uk. The Hall's mobile number continues to be 07384 848419.

Forthcoming dates in January for your diaries are as follows:

MOVIE NIGHT – TUESDAY 13 JANUARY

We are showing *The Salt Path*. I'm sure the book is well known to many and please go to our website at <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights/> to read a review or click on the trailer. Entry is just £6 with doors and bar open from 7pm.

COFFEE JUNCTION

Thursday 8 and 22 January from 10.30am for coffee and conversation – everyone welcome.

HXVH CHURCH

Sunday 18 January at 6pm – a very friendly, informal and happy service for anyone and everyone.

We hope to see everyone again very soon.

Alison & the HXVH Committee

Don't Miss *The Salt Path*
7pm Tuesday 13 January
HXVH

PURBECK FOLK CLUB

Our resident reviewer Bod writes: "Although not quite as well attended as last month, there was a good turnout for the club in December, despite the inclement weather. Unfortunately, the much-anticipated support act, Rinklies Inc, had to cancel at late notice because of illness. We look forward to them being re-scheduled. Fortunately, The Well, a highly talented trio of musicians with a unique sound, rescued the situation by playing two sets. They really came into their own in the second set when their unusual combination of virtuoso violin playing, vocal harmonies and rock-y tunes got us tapping our feet and wanting more. My favourite number was 'I can't live without you' in which the violin is played pizzicato. The band were kind enough to play the number on request as their third encore number! They will be most welcome to return next year for their third appearance at the club."

The next gig is on Thursday, 5 February, when we have a real treat in store. Langton's own Pete Christie - known by many as Parish Councillor, allotmentee, avid birder and to club members as sound engineer par excellence - is top of the bill. Pete has toured extensively in his long professional musical career, showcasing his inimitable combination of acoustic fingerstyle guitar-playing and intense passionate vocals. Pete plays from the heart and sings from the soul. This is definitely a date for your diary and an occasion to lift you from the winter gloom. The support act is still to be confirmed.

We meet at Langton Matravers Village Hall - doors open at 7.30 for an 8pm start and admission at the bargain price of £8 (cash only) on the door. Collette and Richard's pop-up cafe will be selling tea, coffee and home-made cakes. Glasses are provided for those who wish to bring their own drinks.

Put it in your diary now. This is not an occasion to miss!

John Kirwin

LANGTON MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL DECEMBER MEETING

The Parish Council met in December, with four members of the public in attendance. The meeting covered a range of local topics, including planning applications, flooding, the budget and precept.

NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust is continuing essential tree-safety works in Langton Westwood in response to Ash Dieback, expected to run until February 2026. To keep visitors safe, several lesser-used woodland paths will be temporarily closed, potentially for several years. New barriers and signage will be in place by the end of February.

A map shows:

- Red – Public Rights of Way (open)
- Green – Permitted routes (open)
- Blue – Routes remaining closed until safe to reopen

All open routes will be routinely assessed. Visitors are reminded that woodland walking carries natural risks, especially during high winds or drought. More information is available on the National Trust's webpage Tackling Ash Dieback in Purbeck.

ACTIVITY PROVIDER MEETING

The annual activity-provider meeting was very positive. The National Trust thanked Cllr Pete Christie for a decade of work building strong relationships with local organisations

and outdoor-education providers. This partnership has:

- connected tens of thousands of children with nature each year,
- supported local outdoor-education businesses, and
- expanded free and low-cost opportunities for local young people through Purbeck Goes Wild.

The Council values the significant benefits this collaboration brings to the parish.

DORSET COUNCILLOR CLLR BEN WILSON

Highways – Reporting Issues

Residents are reminded to report drainage problems, potholes and vegetation issues via Dorset Council's online portal: Report a problem on a road or pavement.

RESIDENT MATTERS

Concerns raised at the November meeting have been followed up, with updates provided directly to the residents involved.

DORSET PLANNING

Cllr Wilson congratulated Cllr Peter Golob on his contribution to the successful appeal outcome for the Quarry Extension.

BUDGET IMPACT

A summary from the Leader of Dorset Council outlines the pressures created by the recent Government budget. The full article is available online.

DEVOLUTION – WESSEX MAYORAL AUTHORITY

Dorset Council is continuing to explore a proposed Wessex Strategic Mayoral Authority with BCP, Wiltshire and Somerset, aiming for possible devolution arrangements by 2027.

DORSET NATIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A new five-year Management Plan is being presented to Cabinet. Over £10m has been invested in landscape projects over the past six years, demonstrating strong environmental and economic value.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents raised concerns about a proposed property extension, including issues of overlooking and scale within the conservation area.

PLANNING

The Council discussed several planning applications, noting in particular the requirement for mitigation measures to preserve the village's dark skies on two proposals. The Council also agreed to query with Dorset Council the need to fell 26 trees at Leeson House and whether replanting will be required.

Following matters raised during Public Participation, the Council agreed to Object to a planning application in Acton on the grounds of overlooking and the height of the proposed extension within the conservation area.

FINANCES

The Council approved the monthly finances and agreed the 2026/27 budget and precept, which will now be submitted to Dorset Council.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The deadline for community grants is 31 December for consideration at the February meeting. Details will be published on the Council website and noticeboards.

PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

Save the Date: Thursday 23 April 2026. Further arrangements will be confirmed in the New Year.

ALLOTMENTS

Invoices for 2026 and advance notice of 2027 fees have been delivered. Fencing works have begun but are delayed by wet weather; an update will be sought from the contractor.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council welcomed the successful overturning of the Downs Quarry extension appeal and expressed thanks to Cllr Peter Golob and Dr Andrew Langley for their work.

HIGHWAYS AND SPEED LIMITS

The Council discussed possible changes to village speed limits, including reducing the 60mph stretch from the Worth/Burngate junction to 30mph to ease the transition into the 20mph zone. This will be explored further with Dorset Highways.

CLERK'S REPORT

Updates were provided on banking arrangements, Old Malthouse enforcement concerns, liaison with local event organisers, cemetery works, and progress on the new SID pole. Residents and businesses will be kept informed as installation details are finalised.

NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 8 January 2025 at the Village Hall.

Members of the public are warmly encouraged to attend and take part in the public participation session.

For enquiries, please contact the Parish Clerk details p5. Please note the Parish Council's new telephone number: 07745 934263.

The Parish Council wishes all residents a very Happy New Year.

Emma Evans, Parish Clerk

WORTH MATRAVERS

WORTH FILM CLUB

Our first film of the year on Thursday, 22 January is a little unusual; *Oh, My Goodness* is all about French nuns and bicycle racing! One of my best friends has seen it and assures me it is very funny, so I hope it will bring you some smiles and laughs – something we can all use during this cold and dark time of the year.

We look forward to welcoming you to enjoy this whimsical comedy featuring mischievous, bike-racing nuns.

Wine will be served from 7pm and the film will begin at 7.30pm.

To avoid disappointment at the door, book early online:

www.worthmatravervillagehall.org

Tickets are £5.

Claude Bonfanti

WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

DECEMBER MEETING

As the year draws to a close, the Parish Council met in December at Harmans Cross Village Hall to review a wide range of local matters, from budgets and community donations to planning applications, village improvements, and preparations for the year ahead. Below is a summary of the month's key updates.

Highways & Local Concerns: Residents raised concerns about the quality of reinstatement works on the A351 following recent gas utility repairs. Dorset Council Highways has confirmed it is monitoring the situation, and a post-works review will be added to the next meeting agenda to ensure standards are met.

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Dorset Councillor Update: Cllr Wilson provided a verbal Dorset Council update, including highways reporting reminders and general parish matters. A link was shared for reporting potholes, drainage, and pavement issues via the Dorset Council portal. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

Christmas Support for Village Halls: A £250 donation each was agreed for Harmans Cross Village Hall and Worth Matravers Village Hall to support the purchase of Christmas trees and decorations.

Annual Parish Meeting: The 2026 Annual Parish Meeting will be held in April 2026, from 6pm at Harmans Cross Village Hall (subject to hall availability). Local organisations will be invited to exhibit free of charge, and refreshments will be provided. The event will be promoted via The Dubber and a leaflet drop. If you wish to have a stall please contact the Clerk.

Budget & Precept 2026–27: The Council approved the 2026–27 budget and setting the Precept for 2026–27 at £0, continuing recent years' approach of funding services through car park income.

Planning Updates:

- P/FUL/2025/06517 – Barn Opposite Old Quarry Close, Worth Matravers. Proposal: Partial demolition and conversion to three residential dwellings. Comment: Objection as there is no meaningful change since previously refused applications; Unsafe access and inadequate visibility splays; Harm to Dorset National Landscape and dark skies; Unsustainable location outside the settlement boundary; Overly large, visually intrusive residential conversion; No affordable or primary residence housing provision (contrary to Policy H14); Increased overlooking and amenity impacts; Ecology and light-spill concerns near a bee apiary; and Risk of setting a precedent for outward village expansion
- P/FUL/2025/07011 – French Grass Works, Kingston Road. Proposal: Change of use to a single dwelling with garage and mezzanine. Council Comment: No Objection. The building is historically significant and has seen no recent commercial demand. The Council supports its preservation and reuse as a dwelling.

Community Support & Village Improvements: Worth Matravers Village Hall Donation. A £4,000 donation was approved to help complete recent improvement works.

Harmans Cross Village Entrance Gates: The Council will approach Langton Matravers Parish Council to explore jointly supporting entrance gates at both ends of Harmans Cross.

Defibrillator Cabinet Repair: A repair totalling £126.54 was approved for the Harmans Cross Village Hall defibrillator cabinet.

Next Council Meeting: Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of January, alternating between Worth Matravers Village Hall and Harmans Cross Village Hall when possible. Next meeting Tuesday, 3 February 2026, at 7.30pm in the Worth Matravers Village Hall. Please come and join us and have your say.

Parish Council Contact Details on p5: (Please remember to give permission for your details to be shared with Councillors, but note your details will NOT be shared with anyone else).

Michelle Harrington, Parish Clerk



Weddings in St Aldhelm's Parish.



If you would like to get married in one of our beautiful parish churches then please do get in touch. Whether you like the imposing beauty of St James' at Kingston, the picturesque warmth of St George's in Langton, the quaint intimacy of St Nicholas' at Worth, or the unique charm of the Chapel at St Aldhelm's we have the perfect venue for you.



St Nicholas of Myra, Worth

Built around AD1100 St Nicholas' is one of the oldest churches in Dorset. Extensively restored in 1869, with further structural works carried out recently, it is a beautiful place for a smaller, more intimate wedding, as it seats 90 guests.



St George's, Langton Matravers



Stunning 19th century village church, with attractive stained windows and a picturesque entrance porch. This sunny, inviting church will make a perfect place for your wedding. It will seat approximately 120 guests.



St James' Church, Kingston

Often described as the Cathedral of Purbeck, St James' stands majestically above the village of Kingston. This stunning church would make a beautiful setting for your wedding, seating approximately 140 guests.



St Aldhelm's Chapel, Worth



This picturesque, isolated Chapel stands 108m above sea level, at St Aldhelm's Head, near the village of Worth Matravers. The beautiful 12th century vaulted roof, and the rustic charm of the chapel make it a unique place to hold your wedding. It can take 70 guests, with 50 seated.



For further information please call 01929 427822 or email admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org
Plus take a look at the other adverts in the Dubber for reception venues etc.

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have put together some
information to help you.

See inside...



Appliance (power in watts)	Running cost per hour (at 26p per kilowatt hour*)
LED light bulb (5W)	0.1p
LED striplight - 6ft (65W)	2p
WiFi router (20W)	0.5p
Laptop - plugged in (65W)	2p
Phone charger (10W)	0.3p
Digital radio/speaker (200W)	5p
Television (200W)	5p
TV top set box (10W)	0.3p
Device on stand-by (4W)	0.1p
Microwave (1400W)	36p
Induction hob ring (1400W)	36p
Electric oven (2000W)	52p
Air fryer (1700W)	44p
Slow cooker - 3 litre (140W)	4p
Kettle (3000W)	78p
Blender (1000W)	27p
Dishwasher (1800W)	47p
Vacuum cleaner	
- corded (900W)	23p
- cordless (500W)	13p

Appliance (power in watts)	Running cost per hour (at 26p per kilowatt hour*)
Washing machine (1400W)	36p
Tumble dryer	
- conventional (2500W)	65p
- heat pump model (1000W)	26p
Dehumidifier (500W)	13p
Immersion heater (3000W)	78p
Electric shower (9000W)	£2.34
Towel rail (100W)	3p
Electric blanket (100W)	3p
Electric heater (2000W)	52p
6kW air source heat pump (1400W)	36p
Hair straighteners (100W)	3p
Hair dryer (1800W)	47p
Lawn mower (1500W)	39p
Strimmer (300W)	8p
Cordless drill charger (350W)	9p
Pressure washer (1800W)	47p
EV car charger (7000W)	£1.82

* Typical standard rate, October 2025

CALCULATING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY

When comparing costs bear in mind the length of time the appliance will run. Using an electric shower for 20 minutes would cost 78p. Reducing the time to 4 minutes would bring the cost down to 16p.

Each electric heater will heat one room while an air source heat pump will be heating a whole property.

If you have a cheaper rate off-peak that's the time to charge your devices and use items with a longer cycle, such as a dishwasher.

Head to www.sustainableswanage.uk/energy or scan the QR code. This will take you to our electricity cost calculator.



Just input your electricity rates, the wattage of your appliances and the length of time you use them to find out how much they are costing.

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Swanage Con Club

JANUARY

EVENTS 2026

10 Jan

Chay Anton
9:00 pm





17 Jan

Emma Cranham
9:00 pm

24 Jan

Alexis
9:00 pm





Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 15th January

10am – 11.30am

Langton Village Hall

All Welcome!



Knitters, Stitchers, Crocheters & Weavers Club

Langton Matravers Village Hall, Events Room

Every Thursday, 2pm - 5pm

starts 15th January 2026

£5 per session, to include tea/coffee & biscuits.

No booking necessary.

Non-tutored group, all help each other, all levels welcome, occasional tutors can be arranged at an additional cost



All proceeds go to Langton Matravers Village Hall

Please contact Louise for further info: louise.counsell@yahoo.com



Langton Matravers Village Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 11 February

7pm

A warm invite to everyone to attend our AGM at Langton Village Hall.

A review of the year will be given as well as thoughts and ideas for the year ahead. Additionally, we would love to have some new committee members.

If you would like to join the Village Hall Committee, or even if you are just interested in helping out occasionally, we would love to hear from you!



REGULAR EVENTS

Art Group	Mon 2-5pm	LMVH
Beaver Scouts	Mon 5.45-6.45pm	Scout Hut*
Table Tennis	Mon 7-9pm	LMVH
Langton PO	Tues 9-Noon	Salt Pig Putlake
Folk Dancing	Tues 7.30-9.45pm	LMVH
Explorer Scouts	Tues 7-9pm	Scout Hut*
Scout Troop	Weds 7-8.30pm	Scout Hut*
Short Mat Bowls	Friday 7-9pm	LMVH

* Scout info from:

Langton.swanagescouts@hotmail.co.uk

JANUARY 2026

6	9-12pm	Post Office	Putlake Cafe
6	7.30-9.30pm	Belvedere Singers welcome new members	Emmanuel Ch
8	10.30-noon	Coffee Junction	HXVH
8	7pm	LMPC Meeting	LMVH
10	9pm	Chay Anton	Con Club
13	9-12pm	Post Office	Putlake Cafe
13	12.30pm	Swan Med Practice PPG	Swan Surgery
13	7pm	Film: <i>The Salt Path</i>	HXVH
15	10-11.30am	Community Coffee Morning	LMVH
15	2-5pm	Knitters & Stitchers Meet	LMVH
17	9pm	Emma Cranham	Con Club
20	9-12pm	Post Office	Putlake Cafe
22	10.30-noon	Coffee Junction	HXVH
22	7pm	WPC: Film <i>Oh My Goodness</i>	WMVH
24	9pm	Alexis	Con Club
27,	9-12pm	Post Office	Putlake Cafe

FEBRUARY 2026

3	10-11.30pm	Coffee Pot	St George's Ch
3	7.30pm	WMPC Meeting	WMVH
5	7.30	Pete Christie PFC	LMVH



Pete Christie

Scan QR codes above to see video etc.

For more details see website (scan QR code below)

THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2026 at 8 PM

(DOORS 7.30 PM)

LANGTON MATRAVERS VILLAGE HALL, BH19 3HA.

Admission £8 (cash only)

Collette & Richard's "Pop Up Café" will be selling tea, coffee, and homemade cake. You can also BYO drinks - glasses provided.



Website: purbeck-folk-club.mailchimpsites.com purbeckfolkclub@gmail.com

NEWS FROM NOWHERE

THE RAMBLING GARDENER

Welcome to 2026! It is exciting to see what the year brings; I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and new year, good health is what I pray for 2026.

With longer days we can be enjoying the garden more, as I write this the sunshine is so nice and with very little wind. I would like to be outside but sadly I can't use this computer outside.

Sharpen all tools and finish winter pruning; everything likes being cut back hard when they are dormant. Sow peppers, tomatoes, lettuce in heat so they can make the most of

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the summer, think about what you want then look up how to grow them. I am surprised at the number of edible things that with the changing climate we can now grow in the UK.

Watching the farming news on television, there's is one farmer that is planting his farm to olive trees which is costing a lot but he feels it will be a good investment for his children. If we all planted an olive tree, we each could make our own olive oil, I wonder?

I have been enjoying looking at my old sketch books, we did a lot of travelling over the years after our son took over the farm. I was no good at keeping a diary but I did enjoying painting so always took a small book and paints; now, sitting at home, I enjoy the incredible things we did long ago, many of the things we saw no longer even exist.

You will get this early January - do come and talk (01929 421681) and have a mince pie before they go. All the best for 2026.

Rachel



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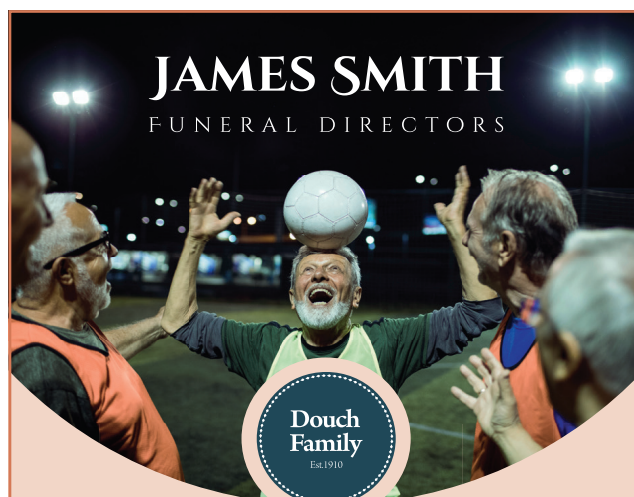
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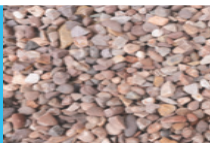
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For more details contact Jayne Ashurst
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