

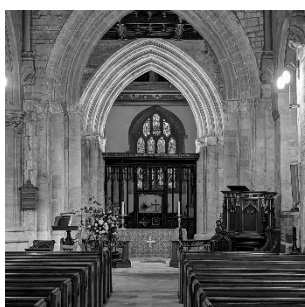
A LETTER FROM REV RONA

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The other day, someone asked me a question that made me pause and smile: “Why does Milborne have ‘Port’ in its name?” It’s a fair question—and one that speaks to the rich heritage of this village we call home.



In days gone by, Milborne Port was a bustling centre of trade and connection. Livestock, produce, and goods of all kinds flowed through the village, and our High Street was alive with shops and local businesses. In this context, “Port” means “a market town”. But more than just a marketplace for goods, it was a gathering place for people. And at the heart of it all stood the Church—a spiritual harbour in a thriving port.



If you’ve ever noticed the light on the green outside the main church doors, you may have seen the symbol of commerce etched into it. That symbol is a quiet reminder that the Church was once the meeting point between commerce and community, between everyday life and inner lives. It provided more than shelter; it offered connection, care, and spiritual nourishment.

Now, as Milborne Port continues to grow and evolve, we believe the Church still has a vital role to play. But like any place that has weathered generations, the building is showing its age—its roof leaks, the heating falters, and even the beautiful stained-glass windows need care.

That’s why we’ve created a survey—not just as a check-in, but as a genuine invitation. We want to hear from you: How could this beautiful, historic space best serve you and the wider community today? How can it once again be a place of welcome, warmth, and purpose?

As we seek to restore and renew, it’s important to say this: there is no hidden pot of money from the Diocese or the Church of England. Any repair or renewal will be made possible only through grants, community fundraising, and—most meaningfully—your ideas, your prayers, and your involvement.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another” (Hebrews 10:24–25).

You can access our survey with this QR code (or use this link: <https://www.milborneportchurches.org.uk/projstjohns>). Please take a few moments to fill it in. But more than that, we invite you to consider how you might be a part of shaping the next chapter in the story of Milborne Port. Together, let’s honour the past and build something even more beautiful for the future.



“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.”
(Psalm 127:1)

With gratitude and hope,
Rev Rona