

MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



FEBRUARY 2026 50P

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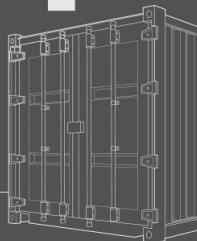
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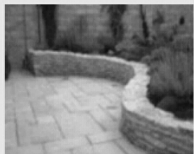
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A LETTER FROM REV RONA

Confirmation Classes

Have you ever wondered what it really means to follow Christ today? Are there questions about faith you've never quite had the chance to ask? Perhaps you were baptised as a child but never had the opportunity to affirm those promises for yourself.



The Milborne Benefice warmly invites you to explore the Christian faith in a welcoming and unhurried setting. These Confirmation sessions offer a chance to reflect, to talk honestly, and to deepen your understanding of what it means to live as a disciple of Christ. Rooted in the Church of England tradition, Confirmation is a moment to affirm your baptismal faith and to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the journey ahead.

Sessions will take place on Saturday mornings (dates to be confirmed) and are open to anyone who is curious, thoughtful, or simply sensing that now might be the right time to take the next step.

If you are interested, I would love to hear from you. Please email me and I will be very happy to reserve a place.

I look forward to journeying with you

Also, as we look forward to Easter, we must first travel through Lent, so this year we have decided to offer the Church of England's "**Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent,**" *focusing on discipleship rhythms like prayer, Bible study, worship, and service, offering daily reflections and resources for individuals and groups to grow closer to God, especially around Easter.*

We will gather on two occasions to discuss the course, **firstly 3pm on Saturday 14th February** (before Ash Wednesday) for tea, cakes and discussion. Secondly at **3pm on Saturday 14th March** also for tea, cakes and

discussion. In between we will follow the course independently. Books are available from Rev Rona (*suggested donation of £5*).

And, if you would like to follow the Diocese of Bath and Wells **Year of Focus on Prayer** (<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/faith/prayer/>), each month in this magazine I will include a short exploration of a particular style of prayer.

You can find this on page 24.

Rev Rona (revrona@gmail.com)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS:

ROY FERNLEY BAILEY 05/01/26

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This month the children in our Primary School were asked if they would like to take a picture for the front cover of the magazine

Congratulations to Emma Cosgrove, who is in year 1, for her lovely picture of

Sunrise at Goathill.

We are always pleased to receive new photographs for consideration as future covers. Please send your high-res images of scenes in and around the village to

magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk

Our MP in Parliament Contact: sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk

Notes on some of the issues that our local MP, Sarah Dyke, has engaged with recently. Not a party-political pitch, but a record of her actions as our constituency representative.

"When farming businesses fail, there is a knock-on impact on local hospitality, including pubs, cafés, restaurants and hotels. Rural communities depend on these businesses to survive and thrive. Somerset is a tourist region. Hospitality supports nearly 10% of all jobs and contributes over £1 billion to the regional economy."

Ms Dyke... sits on the EFRA Committee (Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee) - which is tasked with scrutinising the policy relating to the water industry - said the Government is not going far enough to stop sewage dumping.

"In terms of funding for education, Somerset is one of the lowest-funded Local Authorities in England. The f40 group is campaigning for lasting change to the SEND system, prioritising early intervention for those children who need extra help, investment and resources for schools, and better inclusion of SEND children in mainstream education."

(The f40 group represents 43 local authorities across England that are among the lowest funded for education. Its primary mission is to campaign for fairer and increased funding for education focusing on early years, school and Special educational Needs (SEND). The group aims to address the significant disparities in funding which can exceed £500 per pupil between the highest and lowest local authorities. Somerset and Dorset and two of the lowest funded authorities.)

Sausage and Mash Lunch

In aid of St. John's Church Repair Fund

Saturday 21st February

Church House 12.30 for 1.00pm

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Marmalade Festival

Saturday 7th March 9.30 – 11.00am

Blackberry Cottage, 55 London Road

(use Garden entrance off East Street car park)

Tea, coffee, toast and marmalade, **marmalade to purchase**

Proceeds to church funds

If you would like to contribute, please make some marmalade (any type) or send along a loaf of bread or pack of butter before the event. The Seville oranges have gone now but you could make Three Fruit or Lemon or any type you like, even Onion! We don't need any more jars, thank you!

Roof Repairs: The church of St John's has stood at the heart of our community in Milborne Port for generations, serving not only as a place of worship but also as a gathering place for community events, family celebrations, and as a place of support during difficult times. The building itself is more than just wood, stone, mortar and glass: it is a symbol of our shared history, values, and traditions. However, the main church and tower roofs have begun to leak, putting the structure of the building and its function at risk.



A leaky roof is not just a minor inconvenience, as the presence of strategically placed buckets testifies. Water damage can quickly spread, affecting the interior ceilings, walls, and floors. Over time, persistent leaks can lead to wet and dry rot occurring, mould growing, and even structural weakening. This could threaten the safety of anyone who enters the building. If the leaks are left unaddressed, things would inevitably deteriorate, resulting in even more costly repairs being required. We need to deal with the problem now.

Repairing a church roof is a significant financial undertaking. The costs include not only materials and labour, but also supervision to ensure that repairs are carried out in a way that respects the building's historic character. Our church does not receive funding from external sources. Neither the government, Church of England, nor the Diocese of Bath & Wells, provides financial support to keep our precious historic building in good shape. Its upkeep relies on the generosity of the congregation and parishioners, local residents, and supporters.

The Parochial Church Council is now facing the immediate challenge of funding repairs to these roofs. The cost of these repairs is likely to be in the region of £100,000. There are plans to source grants, but we will also need to find other ways of raising money so that we can ensure that our church building remains a safe, welcoming space for everyone, both now and in years to come. Repairs to the exterior and interior stonework are ongoing. The windows will also require various repairs in the near future. All this comes at a cost.

Supporting a repair project such as this is not just about fixing a building; it is about investing in our community. The church provides space for family, community and charity events. Its doors are open to all, offering comfort, inspiration, and a sense of belonging.

We invite everyone in the community to participate in our fundraising efforts, whether through donations; volunteering to organize, support or hold a fund-raising event; or by helping to spread the word. Together, we can meet this challenge and secure our church's future for generations to come. If you feel you would like to help in any way, either practically or financially, then please let us know.

Contact: Rev. Rona: 01963 845278

Nicki Edwards nickiedwards19@gmail.com;

Susan Wales 01963 250660



If you'd like to help us get the ball rolling now, you can make a donation online by using the QR code, which will take you to our Parish Giving site. Or use the web link below:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/milborne-port-w-milborne-wick-sherborne>

A Winter Visitor

After prolonged and heavy rainfall, a new habitat is created in fields along



the River Gascoigne. These so called 'wet pastures' are great feeding grounds for our resident Little Egret but also provide an opportunity for some rarer visitors to Milborne Port, including Snipe.

A winter visitor to southern England, this secretive bird generally feeds at the edges of estuaries, rivers or wet pastures where it can wade in shallow water. Although its legs are shorter than most wading birds, this is more than compensated for by its extremely long bill which the Snipe uses to probe the mud for worms, insects and crustaceans. Apart from its long beak, Snipe can also be identified by their exquisite stripy brown, gold head and back, which provide them with fantastic camouflage.



Snipe are most active at night, so it was an unexpected treat to spot a pair feeding by the river in daylight, as was the case in both December and January.

Jane Hewitt



Geography, Leadership and Enrichment – A Busy Start to the Year!

We have had a fantastic start to the new year, with geography learning taking place right across the school.

In **Early Years and Key Stage 1**, the children have been exploring the human and physical features of our local community. You may have spotted our busy learners out and about, completing their very own fieldwork trips and investigating what makes our local area special.

In **Key Stage 2**, geography learning has taken the children further afield. Pupils have been developing persuasive skills by considering how they could convince their families to visit Tuscany, while also deepening their understanding of migration and immigration and the effects these have on society. Crackmore Class have been reading *The Windrush Child*, making strong links between their geography and history learning to explore important themes of migration and identity.

We are also delighted to celebrate our first silver award certificate this year. Children earn class Dojo points towards their bronze, silver and gold certificates, while also collecting points for Milborne Port prizes – a great way to recognise positive attitudes and effort.

Our character gateway this term is explorers and resilience, and the children have been exceptional in how they have embraced this focus. Through discussion and reflection, they have identified that resilience means "*having a go*" and "*never giving up*"—values they have already begun to demonstrate in meaningful ways.

Some children have shown outstanding resilience by actively helping to develop our school's outdoor areas. They have worked hard moving wood chips into place in preparation for the creation of new outdoor play spaces, showing determination, teamwork and a real sense of pride in their school environment. Our School Innovators are now beginning to think creatively about what these outdoor areas will look like and how they can be used to

enhance learning and play. Exciting plans are starting to take shape, so watch this space!

Project Leadership is well underway this spring term. Our pupil leaders have met to plan leadership strategies across the school, with Play Leaders currently being trained by Yeovil Football Community Support. In addition, our School Innovators have been meeting to plan exciting activities for World Book Day and Outdoor Learning.



Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome the Somerset Cricket Foundation next term, who will be working with all of the children.

It has certainly been a busy and enriching start to the year, and we look forward to sharing more with you soon!

For more information why not visit our Facebook and Instagram page.

#MilbornePortPrimarySchool.

Miss Carmen Danyali Headteacher

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 08:30am – 3pm.

School Office – 01963 250366

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News from the Parish Council

February Meetings: Full Council - Tuesday 3rd;

Planning Committee - Tuesday 17th.

Meetings take place in the Town Hall and start at 7 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can address the meeting with questions or comments from 7-7.15 pm. If you would like to attend but would experience access difficulties, please let us know in advance and we will relocate to the Community Room downstairs.

Milborne Port Community Plan: Emergency and Flood Plan Steering Group: 'Milborne Port Prepared'

This steering group is making great progress in working out how the village can respond to emergencies this winter and beyond but would still welcome the involvement of more residents. The next meeting will be at the Town Hall at 7pm on **Tuesday 10th February 2026**. Please come with your ideas, problems, and thoughts on how we move forward as a resilient parish prepared for anything! Contact Cllr. Margaret Capon - for further details.

margaret.capon@milborneport-pc.gov.uk or on 07445 555445

The Spirit of Milborne Port *'Working together for our Community'*

We hope you all enjoyed last years seasonal festivities including the village Light Switch on which took place on Friday 28th November at St Johns Church, special thanks to all those concerned at the Church and Church House committee for kindly opening your doors and welcoming us again.

This year we welcomed back Sherborne Town Band who really did make the evening feel very festive, and Milborne Port Library reading Christmas stories, a big thank you to Mary Clothier.

Santa and his Elves were busy again seeing well over 100 excited children in his grotto.

Thank you to all the wonderful stall holders who supported the event and Waynes Family Butchers for the great BBQ, thanks also to Simon & Paul for very kindly letting us use their PA system, thank you to Iris and her craft ladies Jill & Heather for helping with the raffle and to Millie and M.Port WI for running the children's crafts and everyone who gave up their time and came along to help, not forgetting the amazing folk who turned out on such a wet and windy Saturday morning to put the trees up along the High Street, thankfully the weather was kinder when the trees came down, your generosity and kindness is very much appreciated.

This years raffle raised an amazing £1,019.50

Raffle winners 1st Mr. & Mrs. S&T Bown £100. 2nd £50 Mrs. Dawkin and 3rd Nick Partridge Clockspire voucher.

Well done to Kerry Ann Redman who guessed the correct weight of the Christmas cake 7lb 7oz, and thank you to Elaine Street, who kindly donated the cake again this year.

The total amount raised from this event was £3,468.17.

A huge thank you again to everyone who helped make this possible, the costs of this event including the trees and lights in the High Street is in excess of over £3,000 which highlights just how important our sponsors are and everyone who kindly donates either their time, raffle prize's or cash, without you it just wouldn't happen.

Thank you again for your support, special thanks to our wonderful local business's for sponsoring the event.

Date for your diary:- Spirit of Milborne Port AGM

Thursday 5th March 7.30pm @ Church House, ALL WELCOME.

Village Fete Saturday 13th June

– Scarecrows this year: Football World Cup.

If you would like get involved or maybe sponsor, please do get in touch.



ReBorne Community Church

It's hard to believe that we are already into the second month of 2026. They say time flies when you're having fun — or perhaps when you're getting older!

Here at ReBorne, we would like to thank everyone in our community who has supported Coffee ReBorne so far. If you haven't popped in yet for real barista coffee and cake, please do. Come and rest, enjoy the surroundings, reflect on your day, share conversation, and make new friends. Saturday mornings are now added to our opening times, newspapers available that day.

I am always grateful for the words of Jesus in Scripture, where he says: "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Our hope and prayer is, that at Coffee ReBorne, you can find rest and a sense of peace.

Don't forget Toddler Group is on a Monday 1.30-3 in the main hall, and the arts and craft group Home Creations on a Thursday morning.



Wishing you a wonderful February
— and we hope to see you soon from
ReBorne Church
Ginny Bignall

CHURCH SERVICES

(including the Principal Service Readings)

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St John's: Weekdays at 9 a.m.

Sunday 1st February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (*Malachi 3:1-5, Luke 2:22-40*)

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Blackford
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
12:15 pm	Holy Baptism	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Evensong	Stowell

Wednesday 4th February

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 8th February

2nd Sunday before Lent (*Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:25-end*)

9:30 am **Compton Pouncefoot** and Blackford Morning Service

10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Evensong	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 11th February

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 15th February

The Sunday next before Lent (*2 Peter 1:16-end, Matthew 17:1-9*)

9:00 am **Blackford** and Compton Pouncefoot Morning Service

For services at Blackford and Compton Pouncefoot, the venue is in bold.

FOR FEBRUARY

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Wick
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Maperton
10:30 am	Matins	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 18th February

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Milborne Port

Saturday 21st February

4:00 pm	Memory Lane	Milborne Port
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Sunday 22nd February

1st Sunday of Lent (*Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11*)

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Compton Pauncefoot
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
3:00 pm	Evensong	Goathill

Wednesday 25th February

10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 1st March

2nd Sunday of Lent (*Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17*)

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Blackford
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	Evensong	Stowell
Wednesday 4th March -10:30 am	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port

Prayer with Rev Rona

For **February** I would like to commend the **Daily Examen** to you. Examen is an Ignatian way of praying (following the teachings of Ignatius of Loyola), and it is usually done towards the end of the day, and generally follows these steps:

How to Pray the Examen

1. Place yourself in God's presence. Give thanks for God's great love for you.
2. Pray for the grace to understand how God is acting in your life.
3. Review your day — recall specific moments and your feelings at the time.
4. Reflect on what you did, said, or thought in those instances. Were you drawing closer to God, or further away?
5. Look toward tomorrow — think of how you might collaborate more effectively with God's plan. Be specific and conclude with the "Our Father."

Why not see if you can make this a pattern for your life at least a few times a week. Being more reflective often brings great fruitfulness.

Here is an example of the Examen being used in a particular season (Epiphany). **I know Epiphany has passed for another year**, but this feels like a wonderful way to pray the Daily Examen. I commend it to you.

Rerouted by God: An Epiphany Night Examen

During Epiphany we pause to trace the paths we walked that day, and we are attentive to the quiet stars that guided – or unsettled –

us. Like the Magi, we come not with perfect directions, but with open hearts, ready to recognise God where we finally arrive.

Become still and welcome God's Light.

As this day ends, place yourself gently in God's presence. Imagine the quiet night sky and a single star shining steadily above you. Ask for the grace to see your day as God sees it.

Give thanks for the stars of today

Where did God offer you guidance today—a word that clarified, a moment that reoriented you, a quiet joy that assured you that you were on the right path.

Receive these as gifts and give thanks.

Notice your journey and its detours

Like the Magi, where did you travel with trust today?

Where did you feel lost, distracted, or unsure of your direction?

Without judgment, notice what drew you closer to God and what pulled you away.

Stand before the child and offer your heart

In prayer, enter the house at Bethlehem.

See Mary and the Child. Kneel with the Magi.

What do you place before Jesus tonight—your questions, desires, fears, hopes? Rest there in silence.

Look towards tomorrow with hope

Ask for the grace to follow God's light tomorrow, even if the way is unfamiliar.

Trust that the same star will rise again and lead you onward.

Close with a slow breath and a quiet Amen.

Rev Rona

Milborne Port Gardening Club

Snowdrops and Daffodils are such a wonderful sight at this time of the year, like rays of sunshine, especially when the days can be dull! Hopefully you have managed to see them on your travels.

Our first meeting of the year got off to a slightly chaotic start – thank you to all for their good humour! As the old proverb says, ‘All’s well that ends well’.

Welcome to our new members, whom we trust will enjoy being part of the Club as well as benefit from the variety this year’s programme offers.

We were fortunate to have, for our first speaker, Jeanette Hampstead of Hedgehog Rescue in Hazelbury Bryan. Jeanette has been mastering the art of rehabilitating and releasing many of these rather intriguing creatures for many years and shared her passion for their welfare with us. For many of us, we gained a better understanding of how to share our gardens with Hedgehogs and to learn that they really do have a healthy appetite for many of the creatures we gardeners don’t like!!! A happy co-existence.

Please join us if you are interested on **10th February, at 7.30pm, Village Hall** for our next meeting. We have a guest speaker from Castle Gardens on Propagation. This will be a “practical guide to raising your own plants from young plants or from cuttings”. It’s a timely reminder on the ‘how to’ as we will be thinking about our spring and summer gardens to come.

Should you wish to know more about the Club, or join us in 2026, please do come to any meeting or contact the Secretary (Samantha at samgraham2009@gmail.com). We happily welcome guests to our meetings for a fee of £4.00.



Samantha Dean February 2026



Our January afternoon meeting was well attended, considering the wet weather we had. Millie, our secretary, had prepared slides showing the Resolutions that the National WI had put forward. They were all very worthwhile, ranging from Women's Homelessness, including single women with families who are in bedsits/hotels as well as those sleeping on the streets, to Councils providing Women's toilet facilities in public places, as well as four other very important issues. We voted individually and those who weren't at the meeting were asked to send their vote in. The Resolution which received the most votes will be sent to County Federation. After we had refreshments, members were asked to talk about the artist who had inspired them - these ranged from Henry Moore to Gaudi and Vermeer. Our own Sue Scott had inspired another member who had made a very attractive design with mosaics, and Diane showed us some of her brilliant pastel drawings. We have some very talented members (myself not included, unfortunately!)

We will not be having our usual meeting in February as we will be going out for our annual lunch so that's something to look forward to and cheer us up this rather bleak winter.

We continue to have drop in afternoons on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month, to which everyone is welcome. We will be joined by Sue from School in a Bag in February. We have raised money from our raffles and coffee mornings in November and December, plus members' own donations, and are able to finance 8 bags and we will help Sue pack them, whilst having a drink and chat.

Our regular coffee mornings on Friday continue to be well supported and we look forward to seeing members, regulars and visitors then.

Christine Porter The Glovelies (MPWI)

Friends of Milborne Port Library

Dates for February 2026

January has seen a flurry of new visitors and lots of activities in the library. Our new scrabble club is proving popular but there is always space for more, so if you would like to join us, it runs on a **Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm.**

2026 is the **National Year of Reading.** We are working on lots of new and exciting sessions to encourage new visitors to the library. One of the things we are working on is encouraging others by sharing our reading goals this year. Please do pop in and add yours to our board. Along with the launch of Scrabble Club, we are also hosting a **Pokemon session** in half term for children.

Rhyme Time – Tuesdays 10.30am in term time

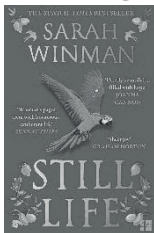
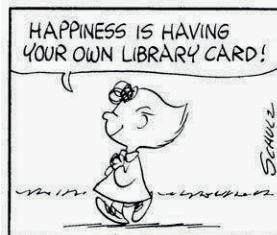
Scrabble Club – Tuesdays 2.30pm

Book Club – Tuesday 17th February 2pm

Lego Club – Saturday 14th am

Boardgames – Saturday 28th am

Pokemon Morning – Tuesday 17th February 10.30 – 11.30 am. Books, games, cards, and activities. Aimed at children (and their adults) aged 6+



Book Review – *Still Life* by Sarah Winman

Evelyn and soldier Ulysses, meet during the War in Florence and their lives are connected from then on. Follow the twists and turns of life for Ulysses after that moment until there are reunited in the future. Through heartbreak, humour, long journeys and all sorts in between, with extra laughs along the way from a parrot called Claude. If you would like to give this book a read, pop into the library to borrow it.

Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com



Milborne Port History & Heritage Group

On **Monday 16th February**, we will be entertained by Dorset born-and-bred folk singer, Alastair Braidwood.

Alastair performs traditional and modern folk songs from Dorsetshire and further afield, pared back to the simple unaccompanied voice. There shall be some rousing choruses, so make sure to bring your own voice to help along!



**Join us at Church House in Bathwell Lane for a
7.30 pm start.**

On 19th January 2026, Milborne Port resident Charlotte Carty presented 'In my Grandfather's Footsteps'. This was a repeat of the highly moving and engaging talk that Charlotte gave on 10th May 2025 as part of our VE Day Commemorations. It was so good that we put it on again for those who missed it, and for those who wanted to hear it again! The talk followed Lt Col Brown during his days fighting in the Far East in World War Two, providing a brief overview of the campaign in India and Burma, and recounting the adventures of the family of Lt Col Brown in 2024 as they re-created the Assam Regiment's 77 mile,

39-hour, non-stop march in the Naga Hills of N E India, where the regiment helped to halt the Japanese advance into India.

A truly inspirational talk. If you attended and would like to know more about the educational charity close to Charlotte's heart, you can find more information here: <https://kohimaeducationaltrust.org/>

We are a charity and ask for a suggested donation of £2 per member or £5 per non-member to cover costs. If you are parking in Bathwell Lane, please do so considerately as it is a bit of a squeeze along there, although less so following the verge clearance than it was! If you wish to become a member of our group, and we very much hope that you do, please email us: mphhgroup@gmail.com

Nathalie Hetherington, MPH&H Group Secretary

Remember that you can follow us on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/269663891785502> -

for updates on talks and events, and for signposts to articles that are new to our ever-evolving website: <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk>. We have many people now posting brilliant material onto our Facebook pages, so if you are a Facebooker, it is well worth checking out these contributions. You can also get in touch by e-mail: mphhgroup@gmail.com

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St John's Church

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Milborne Port's



Community Matters Day

Bringing together our Community

Saturday 9th May 2026

10am - 4pm Village Hall, Springfield Road, MP

All businesses, not-for-profit organisations & activities groups, in Milborne Port, will be receiving an invitation to book an exhibition space free of charge to showcase themselves to the community on this day.

Watch this space for more information

For further details email Jane Daggett: janedaggett.mport@gmail.com

Say Aphasia Charity

sayaphasia.org | Charity no. 1169933 T: 07796 143118 |
hello@sayaphasia.org 9 Gatton Park Lane, Brighton, BN15BQ

My name is **Leah Pollard** I am part of the team here at **Say Aphasia**, a national charity dedicated to providing peer support for people living with **Aphasia - a communication disability caused by brain injury such as a stroke.**

We have recently established a drop-in group in Sherborne free of charge **the last Wednesday of every month** to be held at

Abbey View, Bristol Road, Sherborne, DT9 4HD

10am-12pm.

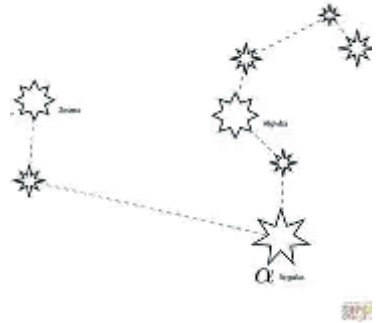
Aphasia is a common but little-known communication disability, usually caused by stroke or brain injury. More people in the UK live with aphasia than Parkinson's, MS, and MND combined. It can affect speech, understanding, reading, and writing, often alongside physical disabilities. This profound disability suddenly disconnects people from family, work, and community, leading to loss of income, identity, and independence – causing long-term frustration, confusion, loneliness, and isolation. Despite unchanged intelligence, people with aphasia are frequently misunderstood, dismissed, and discriminated against. Once NHS support ends, many are left with lifelong, invisible challenges.

To learn more about the Say Aphasia charity, and to find a group near you, visit www.sayaphasia.org.

The February Night Sky

“The night was nippy and a few stars were out, dimmed by the grin of a crescent moon.” – E.E. Giorgi

February is not only the shortest calendar month; it can also be one of the coldest months of the year. The evening sky is dominated by the feline constellations of the Lynx, Leo minor (small lion) and Leo major (large lion) who are vaulting over Gemini the twins. The cats seem to be on the trail of the constellation of Camelopardalis the camel leopard or better known today as a giraffe. There is a



tradition that it was a giraffe that brought Rebekah to Isaac. The constellation stands as one of the few references in the night sky to the Bible. Located in the constellation of Camelopardalis is the star Alpha Camelopardalis which at 5,000 light-years from the Earth, is one of the most distant stars that can be seen with the naked eye. The Lynx constellation is alleged to be so named because you need the eyesight of a lynx to see it!

February Visible Planets

At the start of the month **Saturn** is the only planet visible to the naked eye, setting about 8 pm. From the 8th you can spot **Mercury** to the lower right of **Saturn**. After the 17th **Mercury** will be setting by 7pm. This is **Mercury's** best show of the year. Around the middle of the month **Venus** appears below **Mercury**. By the end of the month **Mercury** will have faded and **Venus** will be dominant in the evening sky. **Jupiter** sets around 5.30 am and towards the end of the month **Jupiter** is close to the **Moon**.

On 28th February, a planetary alignment will occur featuring **Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune**. **Mercury (Venus, Saturn and Jupiter** will be visible to the naked eye. For **Uranus and Neptune** you will need binoculars to observe). The alignment will peak at around sunset.

The **Moon** will also be present, appearing very close to **Jupiter**. This alignment is a rare event, occurring roughly every 10 to 20 years. Let's hope we have a clear night!

1st: Full Moon - February is often the coldest month of the year with snow a possibility. The February Full Moon is often called the Snow Moon. Some North American tribes called it the Hunger Moon due to the scarcity of food during the depths of winter.

9th: Moon at Last Quarter

17th: New Moon

18th: Moon near **Mercury** and **Venus**

19th: Mercury at greatest elongation east. **Moon** near **Saturn**

20th: Saturn near **Neptune**

21st: Mercury at highest altitude in evening sky

24th: Moon at First Quarter

26th: Moon near **Jupiter**

27th: Moon near **Jupiter**

Sunrise and Sunset

1st: Dawn 7:12 am Dusk: 5:36 pm

28th: Dawn 6:25 am Dusk: 6:22 pm

In Milborne Port, the first day of the month is 10 hours, 24 minutes long. The last day of February is 11 hours, 57 minutes, so the length of the days gets 1 hour 33 minutes longer in February 2026.

Hoping for good viewing especially on the 28th.

Ganymede

~ ~

A Message from the Editor

Contributors –

please only send Word documents **NOT** pdfs.

Organisations - please send a copy of your logo with the information – these images are often blocked online.

Thankyou

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the January 2026 issue of the magazine to the editor please by Saturday **21st February at 12 noon latest.**

Distributors at the church on
Friday 27th February 2 p.m.

Editor's email :
magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk



All email contributions will be acknowledged. If you do not receive a reply, or if you are unable to use email, please ring 01963 250382 (answer machine)

MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS

PARISH CHURCH: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Staff

Priest in Charge	Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne	845278
Churchwardens	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
	Mrs Nicki Edwards	nickiedwards19@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Ms Helen Solomon	250248

Other Useful Church contacts

Organist	Mrs Rachel Willetts	01935 813958
Vergers	Vacancy	
Magazine Editor	Mrs Felicity John	250382
Magazine Advertising	Mr Robin Bawtree	251359
& Magazine Treasurer		
Tower Captain & Sec	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
PCC Secretary	Mrs Felicity John	250382
Church Treasurer	Mr Paul Springett	220790
& Stewardship Recorder		
Church House Treasurer	Mr Ben Grundy	bengrundy@mpchouse.org.uk
Parish Church of St Peter, Goathill	Church Warden: Mrs Trudy West	250611
Milborne Wick Church	Amanda MacIntosh	mackintoshamanda@hotmail.co.uk
Church House Bookings	www.mpchouse.org.uk or Christine Porter	250821

OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES

Roman Catholic Church (Wincanton)		34408
ReBorne Community Church	Minister Adrian Bright	07975 755032

OTHER INFORMATION

Doctors	Drs Wyer, Bulley, Smith, Esteves,	250334
	Palanisamy, Robertson, Gray & Squire	
Vet	Southhill Veterinary Group,	250255
	The Old Glove Factory,	
	1-2 North Street, Milborne Port	
Primary School	Head Teacher Carmen Danyali	250366
Clerk to Parish Council	Mr Simon Pritchard, Town Hall	251268
Registrar	Ms S Shire	435008
Spirit of Milborne Port	Claire Andrews	07729 582 669
Village Hall		booking@milborneportvillagehall.org.uk
WI Contact	Millie Furby	07738 229322
Police	Non Emergency	101
	Emergencies	999
PCSO on duty (Wincanton)		101
Library	At the Town Hall	07396 587767
	Tuesday 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Friday	
	and Saturday 9-12.30	
Pharmacist	Ty and Mansur Lawal,	
	Milborne Port Pharmacy	250259
Over 65s Tuesday Lunch Club	Anne Salkeld	250529
	Alison Flynn	07896 678267
	Chris Chiswell	07713 030782

Milborne Port community website and diary www.milborneport.org.uk

Parish Council website <https://milborneport-pc.gov.uk/>

Benefice website: www.milborneportchurches.org.uk

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