Milborne Port Magazine



December 2026 50p

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The Longest Night

Christmas can be a difficult time if we have lost someone during the year, or if their anniversary falls at this time. We may want to remember Christmas but not celebrate it in the way much of the world does. If this fits you, please come to **The Longest Night Service on Saturday 19th December at 4.00pm at St. Johns.** We will read the bible passages and sing some carols, but in a way to help our feelings. There will be the chance to leave a lasting prayer.

A verse from the carol *It came upon a midnight clear*:

And ye beneath life's crushing load

Whose forms are bending low

Who toil along the climbing way

With painful steps and slow.

Look now, for glad and golden hours

Come swiftly on the wing

Oh, rest beside the weary road

And hear the angels sing.

I hope to see you.

Thoughts on Christmas:



I was at home this morning having had an adventure yesterday. So, I read the reading for the day to myself.

It was from The Revelation to John, the very last book of the Bible and written as he recalled his dreams. Today's portion included the phrase, 'heaven was silent for half an hour'. The commentator, I also read, had done some research on this and apparently there was a Jewish tradition that the angels stopped their constant worship of God to allow God to listen to the prayers from earth.

My adventure was having 'a bit of a do' in the church yesterday morning which resulted in a trip to A&E. All well now, I hasten to add. Nicky was with me and sort advice from 111 who sent an ambulance. Before it arrived, a Community Responder call Peter arrived to begin checking me. Thank you so much Peter and Nicky.

It has made me think about silence in life, the chances we give for others to speak to us one way or another. Christmas has become very inward looking, centred on family and overindulgence. Can we find time to be silent and listen to the world as it celebrates and groans? Two paramedics and a volunteer responder were waiting for someone to call, to break into their silence. The hospital is far from a place without sound, but it waits for us with our life stories.

Maybe amongst all the razzamatazz we can find some space to listen to the people around us. Much of the trouble on our streets and in our homes is there because we don't listen.

Frank Wright

Congratulations to Jane Hewitt for this crisp picture of a frosty river.

Don't forget that our Beautiful Milborne Port Calendar for 2027 reminds us of all the great pictures that have graced our magazine cover over this year. They are available after Church on Sundays or from Waynes butchers (or email see below) – just £5.00 - same as last year.

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

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Susan Kidd - Publicity

Our MP in Parliament *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.* **sarah.dyke.mp@parliament.uk**

- calls on the Government to strengthen investment in historic site conservation,
- *What's Defra doing to improve the accuracy of the testing so that cattle aren't slaughtered unnecessarily?*
- Sarah Dyke MP attended Castle Cary station to place a wreath on the Poppies to Paddington train on behalf of Glastonbury and Somerton.





Milborne Port's musical members of Sherborne Town Band (Andrea, Steve. Chris and Kirsty) were greeted by MP Sarah Dyke at the band's recent momentous concert in Sherborne Abbey, where they were joined by the wonderful Pendyrus Male Choir. Sarah was blown away by the talent and is obviously keen to support the local music and arts scene. Another Milborne Port musician is Seth Nordin trombone), who is the newly appointed director of Sherborne Town Band's FREE youth band. We hope Sarah will join one of our learner sessions!
For information about Sherborne Town Band and its FREE learning opportunities, visit

www.sherbornetownband.co.uk

A Partridge in a Pear Tree! The Red-legged Partridge was first introduced into the UK as a game bird in 1673. Since the 1930's it has increased in numbers while the Grey Partridge (once widespread) has declined. Possibly best known in illustrations of the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', Red-legged Partridge can be distinguished by their red eye-ring, beak and legs, and a striking white 'bib' edged with black. Although shy and easily spooked, small groups can sometimes be seen in fields off Goldings Lane, and around Milborne Wick. Male and female birds both incubate the eggs and, in some cases, the female bird will lay 2 clutches in succession. The parent birds incubate them simultaneously and initially lead their own broods. Eventually the 2 families unite to form a small 'convoy' which remain together through the first winter.



The exact origins of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' are unclear but we know that it was first published in England in 1780 in an illustrated children's book. Over the next 100 years many composers would write accompanying music; the tune we know today is a 1909 arrangement of a traditional folk melody. One theory suggests that the song was sung as a memory game for children. Each child would take it in turns to add a new 'gift' before repeating all the previous lyrics. Getting it wrong might have incurred a forfeit.

Perhaps the best-known lyric from the Christmas song is '……and a Partridge in a pear tree'. This is most likely to have been a Red-legged Partridge as, unlike the Grey, they have a habit of perching on fence posts, barn rooves and even in trees – including perhaps a Pear tree!



Happy Christmas All!

Jane Hewitt

Talking of Christmas:

Date	Time	Service type	Location
13th Dec	6pm	Carols	Stowell
16th Dec	6pm	Carols	Compton Pauncefoot
18th Dec	6pm	Carols	Milborne Wick
19th Dec	4pm	Longest night Service	Milborne Port
20th Dec	3pm	Carols	Goathill
	6pm	Carols	Milborne Port
21st Dec	6pm	Carols	Blackford
24th Dec	3pm	Crib Service	Milborne Port
	6pm	Carols	Charlton Horethorne
25th Dec	9am	Holy Communion	Compton Pauncefoot
	9.30	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne
	10.30	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
	11am	Holy Communion	Maperton

Come and join us for our Benefice Services this Christmas. There are lots to choose from, and all the Churches are beautiful and welcoming. Whether it's singing carols, bringing the littlies to the Crib Service, or having a quieter moment, there is something wonderful and a time for everyone. For those who don't like to be out after dark, note the 3 O' Clock service at Goathill.

ReBorne Community Church

And December is here! Everyone seems to be busy getting ready for events, celebrations and *the day* - and I certainly include myself in that! I hear some people say, “It’s just a day”, and I agree, it is just a day – but what a day!

As Christians, we make it a day to celebrate the arrival of the King. History and our calendars may tell us that Jesus wasn't actually born in December, but that really doesn't matter. What matters is that we take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the greatest gift of all: Jesus, God in human form, coming to earth.

I love Christmas! I love getting together with family and friends and seeing my grandchildren's excitement as they open their presents. But alongside all these lovely celebrations, I especially love taking time to acknowledge and celebrate all that Jesus has done for me.

Jesus, the Light of the World, the One who gives us life in all its fullness.
When the rubber hits the road, He is there.
When I can't see a clear pathway ahead, He is there.
When I have big decisions to make, He is there.

I was recently asked what my passion is. I would say it's being around people and being there for them. But, more than that, my passion is for you to know and experience that same assurance – that you too can say, “Jesus is there for me, whatever the situation”.

We would love you to come and join us for our Family Friendly Christmas Celebration Service on **Sunday, 13th December**. Our coffee shop will be open from 3.30pm, and from 5pm we will come together to celebrate the coming of the King. We will be joined by our primary school choir, with children taking part and some craft activities along the way. It promises to be a joyful occasion, full of fun, fellowship and celebration. **Everyone is welcome!**

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone in the community of Milborne Port and the surrounding villages a truly wonderful and blessed Christmas. **With love,** *Yvonne* x

News from the Parish Council

Ball Court back in shape!

We are delighted to report that we now have a small team of volunteers to care for our Grade II listed Ball Court, so you should be noticing some changes over the next few months! We welcome Leon, who is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, and Valerine, Melanie and Jane, all experienced gardeners. Many thanks to all of them, and if you see them at work, please make encouraging sounds!

December Meetings:

Full Council – Tuesday 1st;

Planning Committee - Tuesday 15th.

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.

This is about neighbours helping neighbours, supporting local trades and making sure nobody in Milborne Port feels they have to struggle alone.

CAN YOU HELP?

Whether you can volunteer your time, offer a trade or professional skill, help with fundraising, or simply want to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

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Based at the Gainsborough and it will be added to the business directory on Milborne Port.com

Firstly, I omitted to say in last month's issue that the amount raised at our Macmillan Coffee Morning in September was £620. We are very grateful to all those who donated by either attending the event or donating money. Thanks also to those of you who donated raffle prizes, including Wayne's Butchers and The Gainsborough. It was an extremely busy morning which was great. Thank you for helping us support this very worthy charity.



Our November meeting took place during the afternoon. Susan Wales brought a set of handbells and spoke to us about them. She 'inherited' them several years ago and made sure they were repaired and polished, so they were in perfect condition. We all had a go at ringing them and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. You may hear from the 'Glovelies Clangers' in the future!

Celia, our President, advised us that we will be decorating a tree in the church at the end of November, along with several other organisations and businesses, and I'm sure that will be well worth visiting. She also reminded members that our December meeting will take place from 7.00pm upstairs in Something Else Fishy when we will all enjoy a meal of their delicious fish & chips, washed down with a glass or two. This is for members only and is on 10th December. The preceding day some of us will be going to the Somerset Federation Carol Service at Wells Cathedral, which is when Christmas begins for me.

In the meantime, please remember that the Community Room at the town hall is open on Friday morning for coffee and chat.

Christine Porter MPWI

Your Village Hall – Come and Make the Most of It!

Did you know that **Milborne Port Village Hall** has three versatile spaces available to hire, with rates starting from just **£11 per hour**?

We're fortunate to have some wonderful regular groups, including **Yoga with Sarah** on Mondays and Thursdays, **Way Out West Line Dancing** on Tuesday evenings, and we're excited to welcome **Ceroc**, with a brand-new dance class launching on Thursday evenings in the New Year.

We currently host and have facilities for badminton, pickleball and short mat bowls, and are always looking to welcome new sports clubs, arts organisations, music, dance and drama groups, workshops and community activities.

Our facilities include a **spacious Main Hall, Camelot Room and Mezzanine** (ideal for smaller meetings, workshops or working away from home), along with **plenty of parking, kitchen facilities and an outdoor children's playground**.

Whether you're organising a celebration, looking for a regular home for your club or simply have an idea you'd like to explore, **get in touch!** All three spaces are available for regular or one-off bookings, during the week and at weekends.

Help support our Village Hall

Following the recent vandalism, we've launched a **GoFundMe appeal** to help cover the cost of repairs. A huge thank you to everyone who has already donated or shared our appeal. Every contribution, however small, is greatly appreciated. Please scan the QR code to find out more.



Enquiries and bookings

Contact Jemma at booking@milborneportvillagehall.org.uk.

It's your village hall – let's make the most of it together!

Milborne Port Primary School: Making a Difference Together

On Friday 13 November, our school came together to support **BBC Children in Need** through a highly successful fundraising day. Our Crackmore Charity Champions, working as part of our Leadership Strand, demonstrated exceptional initiative by organising a 'Break the Rules Day', encouraging pupils to make donations in exchange for enjoying some light-hearted changes to normal school routines. Crackmore Class also organised a fantastic cake sale. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day such a success. **Remembrance Day** provided an important opportunity for our pupils to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who have served our country. The children explored themes of remembrance, gratitude, peace and respect. We were grateful to Reborne Community Church for leading a thoughtful assembly to help pupils understand the significance of this occasion. Our whole school also observed a two-minute silence at 11am. **Promoting Kindness and Inclusion:** Anti-Bullying Week has been an important focus this term, when we were learning about respectful relationships, personal safety and positive behaviour. Pupils have explored cyberbullying, physical bullying, emotional and verbal bullying, and the importance of recognising and challenging unkind behaviour. A particular emphasis has been placed on encouraging children to become 'upstanders' rather than bystanders, developing the confidence to support others and speak out when something is wrong. We want every child to feel safe, valued, included and respected throughout their school experience. We are excited to introduce our **Great Family Group Maths Quiz**, which celebrated not only mathematical knowledge but also teamwork, support and pupil leadership. Over three stages, pupils will work within their family groups, supported by our House Captains and teachers, to prepare for an exciting whole-school competition. I (Mrs Danyali) have been working closely with our House Captains to develop this initiative.

Our Parent, Teacher and Friends Association recently organised a wonderful Halloween disco, thoroughly enjoyed by the children. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers, families and staff who generously contributed their time and energy. **Our Vision for the Future** is **"Making a difference through empowering and challenging the norm."** Our ten Cultural Capital Promises ensure that education extends beyond academic achievement, providing opportunities for leadership, creativity, residential experiences, community involvement and essential life skills. We believe every child deserves the opportunity to broaden their horizons, develop confidence and discover their individual potential. As Headteacher, I am immensely proud of our pupils and everything they continue to achieve. Thank you to our families, staff and wider Milborne Port community for your ongoing encouragement and support. Together, we are creating meaningful experiences today and opening doors to opportunities tomorrow. *Mrs Danyali - Headteacher*

Milborne Port Pupils Take the Lead on Recycling



"It's great to see our pupils taking responsibility for something that affects us all. By looking at what we can do better and encouraging others to make small changes, our eco warriors are showing that everyone has a part to play in looking after the environment."

The school's Sustainability Leaders have been carrying out recycling surveys as part of their leadership programme which are helping the children assess how well different materials are recycled and identify where improvements could be made. Their next steps include checking that waste is going into the correct bins, finding ways to reduce waste and single-use plastics, and sharing advice with other pupils to encourage better recycling habits. The Sustainability Leaders will also be exploring practical ways the whole school community can save resources and take better care of the environment.

Bede MacGowan

Church Services

(including the Principal Service Readings)
Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St John's: Weekdays at 9 a.m.

Wednesday 2nd December

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Sunday 6th December ***2nd Sunday of Advent***

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-18

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Blackford
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port

Wednesday 9th December

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Sunday 13th December ***3rd Sunday of Advent***

Isaiah 61:1-4 & 61:8-end, John 1:6-8 & 1:19-28

9:30 am	Morning Service for CP and B	Compton Pauncefoot
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	**Carol Service**	**Stowell**

Wednesday 16th December

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port
6:00 pm	**Carol Service**	**Compton Pauncefoot**

Friday 18th December

6:00 pm	**Carol Service**	**Milborne Wick**

Saturday 19th December

4:00 pm	**Longest Night**	**Milborne Port**

Sunday 20th December ***4th Sunday of Advent***

2 Samuel 7:1-11 & 7:16, Luke 1:26-38

10:30 am	Holy Communion	Maperton
3:00 pm	**Carol Service**	**Goathill**
6:00 pm	**Carol Service**	**Milborne Port**
6:00 pm	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne

For December

Monday 21st December

6:00 pm	**Carol Service**	**Blackford**

Wednesday 23rd December

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Thursday 24th December

3:00 pm	**Crib Service**	**Milborne Port**
6:00 pm	**Carol Service**	**Charlton Horethorne**

Friday 25th December ***Christmas***

Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Compton Pauncefoot
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne
10:30 am	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
11:00 am	Holy Communion	Maperton

Sunday 27th December ***1st Sunday of Christmas***

1 John 1:1-end, John 21:19-end

10:30 am	Holy Communion	MilbornePort

Wednesday 30th December

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Sunday 3rd January ***Epiphany Sunday***

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

Wednesday 6th January

10:30 am	Midweek Communion BCP	Milborne Port

Sunday 10th January ***The Baptism of Christ***

Year of Prayer - Grand Finale

Did you watch the final of Young Musician of the Year? No great surprise that we did! And while the violinist who won was amazingly talented, we also loved the young lady playing six different recorders. It was a superb finale to a competition, and a worthy celebration of young musicians so gifted I can barely get my head around it!

Many great events culminate in a grand finale and celebration, after which everyone takes a deep breath and looks forward to the next occasion. But not a Diocesan Year of Prayer. No fireworks or champagne celebrations, no applause for outstanding achievement. Bishop Michael introduced 2026 as a year with 'an especial focus on prayer'. Not that we weren't praying before, but as he explained, "we all wish and we probably could learn to pray more effectively."

Most of us take time to pray quietly on our own, but in prayer we can also help one another as we share our own experiences of the journey of faith. Focusing on prayer together strengthens us as a Christian community, and opens us to the reality of answered prayer, if not always how we'd imagined. Prayer isn't a technique to be mastered - there's no gold standard of achievement. It's not a vehicle for parading our spirituality to impress others and doesn't demand a launch event or grand finale. Rather, prayer is something we engage with 24/7, often without realising it. As we journey in faith and play our part in building God's kingdom, our prayers both form and inform us, making us more like Christ and strengthening us in serving others locally or much more widely.

Whether or not we've joined with any corporate prayer events, together we've been learning and growing in faith and love all through 2026. So, what have I learned from this focus on prayer? A few thoughts:

- I've tried to be more aware of prayer as something I'm doing unconsciously in my daily activities. Walking, reading, retail therapy, chance conversations….
- When I'm praying, I've tried to be more open to encountering God at work around me and joining in with that.
- I've allowed God (reluctantly!) to expose areas where my thinking and attitudes need to be challenged or revised.

- I've found renewed strength and energy to serve God however I'm called – often in ways I tend to resist!

So, what about 2027? We'll still be praying, but the year's focus will shift to mission - of which more before long. Until then we still focus on praying as we engage with our Lord, our Christian and local communities and the wider world with all its problems and needs. The Diocese is providing resources and help for this over the next year so keep an eye open for those as another New Year dawns. Until then all of us who are part of the ministry team wish you a very blessed Advent and Christmas, and a 2027 full of potential and hope. *Stuart Thomas*

Sherborne Literary Society – Winter Events Programme

9th December – Join us for a festive crime evening at Winstone's bookshop on Cheap Street. Author Mark Bridgeman will bring fresh insights into Sherborne's 1930's murderess revealed in his book "Arsenic and Ashes: The Trial of Charlotte Bryant". Decide whether she was guilty, or not, while sipping a complimentary glass of fizz and picking up some gifts for Christmas. Event runs 6pm to 8pm.

14th January 2027 – Daphne du Maurier's grandson, Paul de Zulueta, sifts through his family archives to paint an intensely personal account of the iconic author of *Rebecca*; a woman out of time whose unconventionality and turbulent private life informed her beloved work.

24th February – Join us in conversation with Luke Kennard, an award winning poet and now, a Booker Prize shortlisted novelist, as he chats about his comic novel Black Bag

The author events in January and February will be held at Cheap Street Church. Doors open 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start. TICKETS for talks are £10 members, £12 non-members, £8 for students and under 18s

Tickets available from Winstone's or via the Sherborne Literary Society website www.sherborneliterarysociety.com where you can also become a member for a mere £10 annual subscription, and receive discounted tickets, priority booking and 10% off books at Winstone's bookshop in Sherborne.

Dates for December 2026 and January 2027

Scrabble Club - Every Tuesday 2.30 to 3.30pm
Lego Club – Saturday 12th Dec

New activities will be announced as soon as they arise in the New Year

Christmas/New Year closures:

Friday 25th December
Saturday 26th December
Friday 1st January 2027

Normal hours resume Saturday 2nd January 2027



Jenny and Alana say a big thank you for the welcome they have received in Milborne Port and for your patience while they are "learning the ropes".

The British Library: This is the national library of the U.K. It is free and open to everyone. Have a browse and check out the facilities available to all.
The British Library - the national Library of the UK

Wishing all our Friends, Staff and Members a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and Happy Reading!



Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com

Milborne Port History & Heritage Group

On **Sunday 8th November**, we were very grateful to local historian James Plummer for exhibiting his impressive collection of World War Two artefacts in Church House, in aid of the Royal British Legion. This was a well-attended event, and donations totalled £120, which we were able to pass straight on to Maggie Pelly. The exhibition included the full equipment of the WW2 British infantryman; an example of the most common British small arms, accessories and inert ammunition; several named medals; photographs; British, American and German helmets; examples of frontline and home front medical equipment; German items such as landmines, battlefield awards and commendations, plus an MG42, the most famous and one of the most feared German weapons of the war. We also exhibited items from our museum, so many thanks to Hugh Vincent for organising these for us.



There will be no talk in December, but we look forward to telling you more about our January talk - ***Tom Cousens and Marine Archaeology on the South-west coast*** – in next month's edition.

Many thanks to our members and those who attended our talks and events in 2026. We are very grateful for your interest and support, and we look forward to seeing even more of you next year! Merry Christmas!

Nathalie Hetherington, MPH&H Group Secretary

Remember that you can follow us on Facebook - Milborne Port History and Heritage - 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

MILBORNE PORT GARDENING CLUB

This November the MPGC held its AGM at the comfortable and welcoming ReBorne Hall and a good turnout from the membership provided a happy evening with glasses of wine and hot drinks, plus a lovely display in a photo slide show of our events created by Jan Smith. This helped provide our usual review of the year, reminding ourselves of several very interesting and varied speakers as well as our Summer Gardens Visits arranged by Judith Lazell. Our income has remained healthy as has our membership, but as most of you will know we are now preparing to wind down the Club itself and will complete our series of talks in April 2027. From this point on we have decided to offer these talks for free, and members will not need to sign up and pay in January as before. All are welcome and we look forward very much to seeing everyone in the New Year. Although several members of the Committee have now officially retired, we are staying together to keep the club running smoothly until we close next year.

Our next Club meeting is on TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER, with doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start, at the Reborne Hall in North Street.

We are having the delightful and talented **Claire Raper who runs CC Flowers, who will be demonstrating Christmas Floral Displays for us.** She is well known locally as well as further afield for her regular work at Sherborne Abbey, Salisbury Cathedral and other major venues, plus special occasions (weddings, funerals etc.) for private clients, so this promises to be a real and festive treat. We will be serving hot drinks as usual but also wine and mince pies, at no charge.

Jane Daggett
MPGC Chair



EMAIL: mpgardeningclub@gmail.com

The December Night Sky

"Under the mistletoe, love finds its way even in the coldest winters."
Jane Austen

In the far north, the days can become very short, and the sun may set long before evening.

Ancient Scandinavian peoples explained this darkness through the myth of Baldur, the beloved god of light. His death, caused by Hodur, the god of darkness, was said to bring the deep gloom of winter.



According to the legend, Baldur dreamed that he would die. To protect him, his mother, Frigga, made everything in heaven and on Earth promise never to harm him. The gods then tested the promise by throwing objects at Baldur, all of which bounced away harmlessly.

But Frigga had forgotten mistletoe, thinking it too weak to be dangerous. Loki, the trickster god, used that mistake to make a spear from the plant and tricked Hodur into throwing it. Baldur was killed, and darkness spread through the world. In later versions of the myth, Frigga turned mistletoe into a sign of love and peace, saying that anyone who stood beneath it should receive a kiss.



Planets Visible

Evening Sky (West & East)

Saturn: Shines as the only bright light among the dim stars of Cetus to the west. It sets around 1:00 am.
Jupiter: Dominates the eastern sky all month, loitering near Regulus in Leo. The giant planet rises around 9:00 pm and shines gloriously.
Mars: Starts the month just below Jupiter and Regulus, moving steadily downward through **Leo** as December progresses. The Red Planet rises around 10:00 pm.

Morning Sky (Southeast)

Venus: Rules the pre-dawn sky as a brilliant Morning Star. It rises at 3:45 am, outshining all other stars and planets.
Mercury: Visible only during the first few days of December. Look low to the lower left of Venus around 6:00 am before it fades into the morning twilight.

Astronomical Events

1st: Start of meteorological winter. **Moon** near **Jupiter** and **Mars**. **Last Quarter Moon**
4th: Moon near **Venus**
5th: Moon near **Venus**
9th: **New Moon**
13th: Geminid meteor shower.
14th: Geminid meteor shower.
15th: Geminid meteor shower.
17th: First Quarter Moon near **Saturn**.
18th: Moon near **Saturn**.
21st: Winter Solstice, the Sun is at its lowest point in the sky. On this day we will have our shortest day and longest night. Also, the start of astronomical winter. - from this point forward, the days gradually grow longer until we reach the summer solstice. The lighting of bonfires at this time of year traditionally represents the slow return of the light.

24th: Full Moon: the last of this year's three supermoons and it's the brightest moon of the year. The Old English and Anglo-Saxon names are the Moon Before Yule or the Long Night Moon, referring to the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere: the December solstice. The Celts called it the Oak Moon or the Full Cold Moon.
27th: Moon near **Jupiter** and **Mars**
28th: Moon near **Mars** and **Jupiter**
30th: **Moon** at **Last Quarter**



Sunrise and Sunset

1st: Sunrise 7:51 am Sunset: 4:09 pm

31st: Sunrise 8:14 am Sunset: 4:14 pm

In Milborne Port, the first day of the month is 08 hours, 18 minutes long. The last day of December is 08 hours, so the length of the days gets 18 minutes shorter in December 2026.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas with the hope of good viewing conditions as there is lots to see.

Ganymede



No palace walls, no golden throne,
A child arrived in straw and stone.
Yet from that quiet stable place
The world received a gift of grace.

The Oxen

BY THOMAS HARDY

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

[little tree]



little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower

who found you in the green forest
and were you very sorry to come away?
see i will comfort you
because you smell so sweetly

i will kiss your cool bark
and hug you safe and tight
just as your mother would,
only don't be afraid

look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out and allowed to shine,
the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy threads,

put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't be a single place dark or unhappy

then when you're quite dressed
you'll stand in the window for everyone to see
and how they'll stare!
oh but you'll be very proud

and my little sister and i will take hands
and looking up at our beautiful tree
we'll dance and sing
"Noel Noel"

BY E. E. CUMMINGS



MAGAZINE DEADLINES

PLEASE NOTE EARLY DEADLINES BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS.

All entries for the January 2026 issue of the magazine to the editor please by **Saturday 12th.December at 12 noon latest.**
Distributors at the church on Friday 18th December at 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 (answering machine). **Email is preferred**.

Milborne Port Calendars 2027



Available at Waynes or after services in Church. Covers of the magazine from 2026 are reproduced for each month of 2027.

The Price remains the **same as last year at £5.00.** Postal envelopes available @25p each – they make great presents! Cash preferred please.

Thankyou - Felicity

You can donate to the ongoing St. John's Church Repair Appeal using this QR code.



MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS

PARISH CHURCH: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Staff

Priest in Charge	Vacancy	
Churchwarden	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
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 & Magazine Treasurer	Mr Robin Bawtree	251359
Tower Captain	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
Tower Correspondent	Anthony Hale	07930137448
PCC Secretary	Mrs Felicity John	250382
Church Treasurer & Stewardship Recorder	Mr Paul Springett	220790
Church House Treasurer	Mr Ben Grundy	bengrundy@mpchouse.org.uk
Parish Church of St Peter, Goathill	Church Warden: Mrs Trudy West	07350580914
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, Palanisamy, Robertson, Gray & Squire	250334
Vet	Southhill Veterinary Group, The Old Glove Factory, 1-2 North Street, Milborne Port	250255
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 Tuesday 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Friday and Saturday 9-12.30	07396 587767
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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