



BRATTON PARISH NEWS



Issue No. 593

October 2023

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT TO THE WEST OF THE VILLAGE

An extra-ordinary meeting of Bratton Parish Council was held on 28th September to consider Ashford Homes' planning application to build 31 new residences on land north of Westbury Road and West of Court Orchard. The principle to build and to access from the B3098 having been previously agreed by Wiltshire Council.

The meeting was well attended by over 120 people. Ashford Homes answered all the questions raised about their designs in an open and helpful manner, and these will be recorded in the minutes from the meeting.

It is clear that there remain several concerns about the development and the discussions afforded the BPC the opportunity to better gauge what should go into the BPC submission to the planning application. This will be submitted to Wiltshire Council's Planning Department in time for the **3rd October deadline**. Anyone wishing to submit their own comments can do so on Wiltshire Council's Planning Portal, meeting the deadline. To do this, use the link on the Parish Website or search: 'Wiltshire development planning application PL/2023/07170'.

The BPC would like to thank the Jubilee Players for the use of their sound system; Sian Morgan, who ensured that the whole village was made aware of the significance of the meeting, and the BPN team for distributing leaflets to all the homes in the Parish.

Further information can be accessed on the Parish Website: <https://brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

POPPY APPEAL 2023/4

This year's house-to-house collection will take place over the weekend **28/29th October**. Our collectors will call at every house in the village that is not displaying a 'no callers' sign. If parishioners would like the collector to call even though they have a sign displayed, please could they make this clear by showing a sign to that effect. Poppies will be available in the usual places in the village. Please note that all poppy-related items are free of charge apart from wreaths but it is hoped that people will donate to the Poppy Appeal. There is no recommended amount of the donation for any item. Lastly, if you would like to join Bratton's team of dedicated Poppy Appeal Collectors, please contact the Poppy Appeal Organiser, Mike O'Donoghue (01380 831208). All of our collectors say that it is a rewarding thing to do and that they are always received warmly by residents.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting of the Bratton Branch of the **Royal British Legion** will take place on **Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 8:00 pm** in the Bratton Church Institute. The meeting is open to members and non-members.

HAPPY VALLEY HILLY 11K WALK FOR JUDE - A THANK YOU

Sincere thanks to everyone who turned up on Saturday 16th to walk the Hilly 11K route in memory of Jude Curtis.

We were delighted by the response from locals who knew Jude and from family and friends who had travelled far and near to support this event. Around one hundred people of all ages joined us - and quite a few four legged friends that kept Shearer company too. The event was testament to Jude's standing in the village community.

Thankfully, we had dry weather and had the opportunity to meet and chat to lots of you either during the walk or afterwards at The Duke. We were overwhelmed with the generosity shown by all of you, with donations totalling £825 to date, which will be divided between two projects close to Jude's heart. Thank you, Bratton, you really are such a supportive and generous community. Best wishes, Dot and Bev.

HEARTFELT THANKS

The Curtis family would like to give heartfelt thanks to all villagers and friends who attended and gave so generously, both at the walk, and at Jude's funeral. In particular big thanks to Bev Salter and Dot Reeves for both the idea of the walk and the hard graft in organising it. It was such a great day and their efforts, and the sentiment behind the walk, were much appreciated. The money raised will be equally divided between the BCI 'Raise the Roof' Fund and Alabaré, a charity supporting homeless, vulnerable and marginalised people.

FROM GLOVES TO THE PROMS

Bratton Women's Institute enjoyed a very interesting talk at Dents glove factory on 14 September, given by Mr John Roberts, about both the history of the company and the very special gloves on show in the on-site museum. Dents has been making gloves since 1777, including for HM Queen Elizabeth's Coronation, Queen Victoria in mourning, and Daniel Craig as James Bond!

Our next meeting is at **2.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd October** in Bratton Church Institute, with a talk about The Proms by Stephen James-Yeoman

CELEBRATE WITH US

We would like to invite you all to our Coffee Morning on **Saturday 21st October at 10.30 am** to say thank you and celebrate the success in raising the funds required to repair the roof of our **Church Institute**. Work began on July 17th, so by October it will be well and truly finished, we want to celebrate and say thank you to all who helped to make this possible with complimentary tea, coffee and lovely, homemade cakes!

This 'Raise the roof' coffee morning was the idea of Jude Curtis who was Chair of Bratton Church Institute Committee but sadly is no longer with us. She was passionate about the building and what it had to offer the Bratton community and therefore felt very strongly that we should raise the additional funding required to repair and restore the roof. We raised an incredible amount that morning, and she would have been so pleased to know that one year on we managed to reach our target. Please put the date on your calendar or in your diary and come and join us to celebrate. Gill Humphrey 830149.

COFFEE POT.

Calling all new Mums and Dads, on **Thursday 26th October between 10.30 and 12.00** we have a special event for you and your baby in the **Church Institute**, where there will be a Baby Sensory Event. Most babies learn best when they see, hear, feel, touch, taste and smell. The event will be part of our usual coffee morning. If you have older children, there are toys for them to play with as well. Please do and come to see what goes on and enjoy the coffee and homemade cakes. All we ask is that if you would like, to please make a donation. Looking forward to meeting you all. Marie Nunn

STAY AND PLAY

Our toddler stay and playgroup is open from the new time of 9.30 until 11.30. We are a stay and play group held in the Bratton Church Institute every Wednesday, term time only. We would love to see some new faces, as some of our older children have now started school – please spread the word! Anybody new to the village would be very welcome, along with anybody from surrounding villages or further afield. Parents, guardians, grandparents, childminders alike are all welcome to bring their babies through to school age children to stay and play in this beautiful setting. We have a wonderful garden and offer a variety of crafting each week, lots of alternating play set-ups for your little ones to enjoy, with snacks and seasonal parties for parents and children. We would love to see you all! The price is £2 per child, and 50p per each additional sibling. Updates will be given on our Facebook page – Bratton Toddlers. Becky Breakwell

BCI NOTES:

As the weather becomes autumnal, please be aware of closing windows / doors inside and out to conserve the heat. Our cupboards, sheds and store room are full to capacity. Please don't leave unwanted items in the hall (linen, crockery, toys, cutlery). Why not take them to our local Imperial Charity shop in Westbury, as they run free trips for the special needs groups.

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES/BOOKINGS Contact Joan Martin joanmartin147@gmail.com 01380 830 744 07576 851 267

OUR COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Orchard volunteers had a successful summer clearance day in August with the grassed area being mowed/strimmed and the thatch raked around the trees; the day concluded with a BBQ and well-earned drink. The Orchard volunteers are always on the lookout for new members, so if you are interested in learning more about this marvellous village asset and would like to get involved in its upkeep, please contact Steve Crosby 07969 017704.

APPLE JUICE!

Everyone is invited to Apple Day for apple juicing on **Saturday 21st October, 10.00 to 12.00** in the **Community Orchard**.

You can bring your own apples or pick them in the orchard. Please bring containers to take your juice home.

Any queries, please contact Amanda at amandacallard@yahoo.co.uk or 830 815 07552 464 017

HARVEST: NEWS FROM THE RECTOR

With the strange weather we've been having this year – hot in June, wet in July and August and then hot at the beginning of September – it's hardly surprising to hear complaints from farmers about the difficulties of this year's harvest. Having to harvest wheat in between spells of wet weather means extra costs drying the crop afterwards. It's hard to tell how much this is due to global warming. After all, there is plenty of evidence from the past of good years and bad years on the farm.

However, there is plenty of scientific evidence that our climate is changing. It is now warmer than it was a generation ago, and when it rains, it comes down harder. Periods of drought can be followed by times of flooding. Both these make planning the agricultural year more hazardous. There is all the more reason these days to breathe a sigh of relief when the harvest is finally in, and give thanks both to God and to those who work on the land.

There remains the challenge of what to do about climate change. If global temperatures keep rising, and the weather becomes less predictable, then other areas of life as well as agriculture will be affected. Wildlife and nature as we know it will be at risk, the countryside will change, and the way most of us live. It may be that the growing trend of immigration from parts of Africa and the Middle East may be partly due to climate change. We live in a time when, unless we begin to change our lifestyle radically, it will be too late to avoid some of the worst effects of climate change.

It's not surprising that climate change is among the most important issues for the younger generation today. They will have to face up to the long-term consequences of it. Yet we *all* have a responsibility for caring for the future of our planet. We need to make conscious decisions about moving away from burning carbon to run our transport system and to heat our homes and workplaces. It is an issue that all our major political parties need to promote, as it will take considerable time and money to achieve.

Whatever one's feelings about climate change demonstrators or the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in London, climate change must not become a political football for short-term populist gains at the next General Election. Combatting climate change needs a united commitment from each one of us to make a real difference for generations to come. So when, next time, you need to replace your car or your boiler, think about how you can do your bit to help the environment and conserve our farmland and countryside for years to come.

Andrew Sinclair, Rector

ST JAMES' HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2023

This year to celebrate Harvest on **Sunday 1st October at 12.30 pm**, we will be serving a "Ploughman's Lunch" followed by fruit crumbles and custard in Bratton Church Institute. This style of old English meal has been eaten for hundreds of years. There will be crusty bread, local butter, pork pie, local cheese, cucumber, pickles and tomatoes. Please come and join us for our lunch served with a glass of cider or fruit juice and celebrate together the season of Harvest.

To help with catering, please add your name to the list in the Church or contact Gill Humphrey 01380 830 149

FROM HOUSE HISTORY TO THE WORKHOUSE

Bratton History Association talks are given at the Bratton Church Institute- all welcome!

Sunday 15 October at 4.00 pm: *A Beginner's Guide to House History* by Julie Davis

Sunday 19 November at 4.00 pm: *Life in the Westbury Workhouse* by Sally Hendry

NO NEED TO FORGET A DATE!

The Bratton History Association calendar for 2024 is titled "Lost Buildings of Bratton". It features 12 buildings and sites that have disappeared or changed a lot in the last 100 years or so. Each month is illustrated with a photo or photos of the buildings and a short history of them.

The calendar will be on sale in the Hillworth Stores from mid-October and costs £10 per copy. There is a limited print run so buy your copy or copies soon!

THE FRIENDS OF ERLESTOKE PRISON VOLUNTEER DRIVERS' TEAM

Our volunteer drivers collect families and friends of the prisoners from Westbury Station or Devizes Market Place and drive them to and from the Visitor Centre at HMP Erlestoke to visit their menfolk.

The rota is arranged week by week so there is no need for the journeys to clash with your diary. Your commitment can be extremely flexible and helping in just a small way will make a difference.

Travel expenses can be claimed. Our Transport Scheme is increasingly popular with visitors and we need more drivers to strengthen our bank of volunteers. We know that prison visits help with prisoner rehabilitation. If you are interested in helping with this valuable and rewarding role and would like to learn more, please email: friendstransportscheme@gmail.com or call: 07504 987 190 Eve McBride

BRATTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Contact the Clerk on 01373 864 127, email parish.clerk@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk or the Chair on 01380 831 199, email parish.chair@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: <https://brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Next Parish Council meeting

The next Bratton Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday, November 14th, 7.15pm**. All are welcome to attend.

Parish Council website and Facebook page

As well as our new website <https://brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk> we now also have a Bratton Parish Council Facebook page. Please contact us on editorial@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk if you would like to share information or send in material.

Dog Owners

Please will dog owners remember to clean up after their dogs. Most are diligent but there have been an increasing number of incidents where mess is left. Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner up to £1,000. Please remember that dogs are not allowed on the Village Green.

Woods above St James' Church

The woods above St James' Church are owned by the MoD and leased to a local farmer. Introducing metal or plastic objects (corrugated iron, supermarket trolleys, rubbish bins) could result in injury to or death of livestock. Please can parents alert their children to this.

Castle Road Bus Stop

Bratton Parish Council apologises to all those affected by the continuing lack of a replacement bus shelter at the junction with Castle Road. We are working hard to have a replacement installed but have run into unexpected problems causing delay. We will update as soon as we have further information.

Village Green

We hope that your children are enjoying the newly painted climbing frame! A new activity trail will be installed, beginning 9th October, with funding from the PC and Hills Waste Management. It will run parallel to the existing play equipment. This means the area may be out of bounds for 2-3 days.

Four Villages Link

Demand is high and we are still in need of volunteers. Please call the coordinator on 07852 256939 if you can help, or if you are a client requiring any assistance. We can also do small jobs around the house and garden.

Jubilee Hall

Breakfasts: The next breakfasts are **1st October** and **5th November**. They are increasingly popular so book your time slot by going to <https://www.brattonjubileehall.info/> or calling 07897 011 887 by 6pm the previous Friday to reserve your table.

BRATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING: CONSULTATION CONTINUES

FINDINGS SO FAR: People value the green spaces and views in and around the village including strong support for areas nominated for exercise and relaxation, which are well used and have mental health benefits;

Support for the nominated heritage assets was overwhelming with a number of new suggestions put forward; our footpath network is valued and there is strong support for a footpath to Fitzroy farm (which is beyond our parish boundary) and a cycle route to Westbury Railway Station was strongly supported.

The strongest theme lay in opposition to the potential development sites; there is, however, support for additional houses; the character of the village is keenly valued and there is concern that new builds could damage it and a number of suggestions to improve it were put forward. The suggestion of a 'Village Trail' was strongly supported.

Increased traffic due to new builds, together with speeding drivers and problems parking, particularly in Stradbrook plus the use of Court Lane by HGVs were all issues of concern. More dog poo bins are needed.

Consultations are not over. This is your plan!

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will hold a drop-in session at the Jubilee Hall on **2nd December 10.00 am - 4.00pm**. for all residents of the village who would like to hear about progress on the assessment of development sites which were submitted to us earlier this year as we started work on the plan. We would love to hear your thoughts on which, if any, sites you think are the most suitable or, if you have suggestions for how the sites could contribute to the facilities in the village. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, if you would like to **get in touch**, please write to: neighbourhoodplan@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk. **Your opinion matters.** You can find more detailed information on the new **parish council website:** <https://www.brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

REMEMBRANCETIDE 2023

Under the auspices of the Parish Council, the Bratton Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding an Armistice Day Act of Remembrance and observation of the Two-Minute Silence at Bratton Village War memorial, with a bugler sounding, on **Saturday 11th November beginning at 10:55 am.**

On **Sunday 12th November at 9:30 am** the Annual Remembrance Service will be held at St James' Church. You are then all welcome to gather at the Village War Memorial by 10.45. The Two-Minute Silence will be observed at **11:00 am.** This will be followed by wreath laying and a short ecumenical service. At the end of the ceremony everyone is invited to coffee in the Baptist Church. Bratton Community Brass Bands will be playing at both the Church and the War Memorial. Sunday lunch will be available at The Duke, with a curry option on the menu. Please book directly with The Duke (830 242).

YOUR COMMUNITY MINIBUS- THE THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)

We run regular return trips to Westbury, Devizes, Warminster and Salisbury and will pick you up at the bus stop (or elsewhere) and deliver you home to your door. You would be most welcome to join us, but please book your seat through Joy Fraser (tel: 830 426).

Shopping Trips starting at Bratton in October:

Destination	October	Start Time
Devizes - £3.20	5 th	8.45am.
Warminster - £2.80	17 th	1.30pm.
Westbury - £2.30	Every Thursday	1.30pm.
Salisbury - £5.00	14 th	9.15am.

All these journeys accept concessionary passes and will return you to your door.

These trips are open to **all** residents of our villages; we welcome everyone, of any age.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

We meet on the **last Tuesday of the month** in the Church Institute at **7.20pm** – Everyone is very welcome to join us just to see who we are and what we do, and you do not have to have been in the Services, just willing to help support past, present and future Service Personnel and their Families.

We are so proud of our Standard Bearers and our Regional Lady, Amanda, who is also Deputy National Standard Bearer. We are holding the County Branch's Annual General Meeting in the Church Institute on **Saturday 28th October at 2.00pm.** Some of our members have been invited to visit Berkshire County A.G.M. on the 14th October. At our Branch Meeting on **31st October**, we have a gentleman from the village coming to talk to us about Nepal. Please do contact one of us if you would like further details.

Chairman: Marie Nunn 01380 830 505 m.nunn321@gmail.com or Secretary: Sandy Perry 01380 830 536 s.perry505@gmail.com

AHOY THERE, ME HEARTIES!

Ahoy there me hearties! Rehearsals are well underway, sets are being built and songs are being sung for our sea faring panto adventure 'Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates'. Tickets will be available at the end of this month via the website. Come and join us in the hunt for the treasure...there be gold across them there seas!
<https://jubileeplayers.com>

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO JOIN A CHOIR?

Dauntsey's Choral Society rehearses on a **Monday evening 7.30-9pm** (during school term time) in the Old Hall, Dauntsey's School, West Lavington. No audition is required, just enthusiasm, so if you would like to challenge your vocal chords in a fun and relaxed choir, please do come along and join us! This term we will be rehearsing Mozart's Requiem together with the Chichester Psalms. Please contact the Choral Society Secretary, Caroline Haywood, at dauntseychoralsociety@gmail.com for further details.

KEEPING BRATTON TIDY

What a fabulous village we live in! Due to the efforts of so many people, our village is recognised for being the best kept (large) village in Wiltshire. The next **Tidy Bratton Group** morning will be on **Friday 20th October, 10am to 12.30pm.** Whether you are a regular 'tidier' or you'd like to give it a go, please join us, it's fun! We meet in the Duke car park; please provide your own gardening gloves and we'll supply the rest of the tools. Chris and April Tarling 01380 830 468

DO YOU NEED TO CUT YOUR HEDGE?

Wiltshire Councillor Suzanne Wickham writes: hedges alongside footpaths can be a hazard to pedestrians, especially to people who are disabled, visually impaired or to young children who risk injury or damage to their faces or clothing from thorns and branches. If the pavement or footway is narrow or the obstruction is excessive, they may be forced into the road. This is particularly dangerous for wheelchair users or for people pushing a pram or buggy. On junctions and bends overgrown hedges may obstruct sight lines and the clear view of motorists. They can also obscure traffic signs or streetlights and with many of our country lanes being narrow, increase the risk of accidents.

Where hedges grow on the edge of the highway a footpath and mark its boundary with private property, it is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner or occupier to properly maintain them, and any trees or other vegetation the hedge contains. Landowners and occupiers are required by law to trim any hedge next to public highways **where the growth is preventing safe passage.**

Please check hedges on your land bordering the highway regularly and cut them back if they are obstructing visibility or the passage of vehicles or pedestrians along the lanes. Also check vegetation is not obscuring signs or streetlights. If Wiltshire Council, exercising its powers as the Highway Authority, identify an obstructive hedge or potentially dangerous tree on your land, they can send a letter saying what work you need to carry out to make the vegetation safe. If you don't deal with the obstruction, they may do the work and claim back the cost from you.

Dates of interest – Local Plan Review.

If you would like more information about the Local Plan Review, there is a live Webinar on **Tuesday 10th October 6.30 – 8pm**. You must book a place beforehand, so please log into Wiltshire Council website to register your interest.

There are also drop-in sessions around the County and the nearest to us is at the Leighton Recreation Centre **4.30 – 8.30pm on Monday 16th October.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help with any local issues. Suzanne Wickham Wiltshire Councillor for Ethandune. Email: Suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk – Tel: 07967 213 336

BRATTON COMMUNITY BRASS BANDS

Members of the band were pleased to attend the National Brass Band Championships to watch the Third Section Finals held in Cheltenham on Sunday 23rd September. The twenty qualifying brass bands performed the music 'The Lost Village of Imber' which was commissioned to mark Bratton Silver Band's 160th Anniversary. This musical composition can be heard at the band's Autumn Concert at Edington Priory Church on **Saturday 28th October 2.30pm**. (Entry is free). The band will also perform 'Imber Variations', a selection of music telling the story of some of the people who lived at Imber and marking the 80th Anniversary of the evacuation of the village. Other programme items will include music from Beethoven's 5th Symphony performed by the Brass Band as well as music from Holst, Esenwald and Philip Sparke.

After a busy summer schedule with many performances, the sounds of Christmas music have been heard coming out of the Church Institute in Bratton where the band rehearse twice a week. The Silver Band have been rehearsing hard and have undertaken the recording of a Christmas CD, 'Jingle Brass' at Edington Priory Church which will be released in the coming weeks.

Back in the summer, the band visited 5 local primary schools to give 'Proms in the Playground' performances to inspire children to learn a brass instrument. This was followed by a very successful Open Day where children could find out more and try out brass instruments. A full cohort of children has been recruited for a Brass Roots group which is starting at the beginning of October.

FROM THE AIR AMBULANCE TO THE HISTORY OF JAZZ with the u3a

John, a volunteer for Wiltshire Air Ambulance, gave a fascinating talk about this much-needed service, that costs £4 million a year (£11,000 per day) to keep operational, with no regular direct funding from the Government or National Lottery - it is supported mainly by public donations. The helicopter is a Bell 429, carrying out the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS), with a highly-qualified crew comprising a pilot and two critical care personnel (a Doctor and Paramedic, or two Paramedics). The Mission Map for 2022 shows that 1,061 missions were carried out that year, including 69 in Salisbury, 83 in Bath and 173 in Swindon. Wiltshire and surrounding counties share their air ambulances as required in emergencies. On average, 3 potentially lifesaving missions are carried out each day! As well as essential lifesaving equipment, the Air Ambulance carries 4 units of plasma, 2 units of O negative and 2 of O positive blood, which the critical care crew are qualified to use for blood transfusions. If you are interested in supporting the Air Ambulance, you can find details on their website: www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk

Our meeting at **2.00 p.m. on 10th October** has Roger Browne on the History of Jazz Piano - sounds like fun! We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall, Warminster Road, Westbury BA13 3PJ. Park at the rear, off The Butts via Hospital Road; please ignore the Car Park Closed sign. £2 payable on entry - bring a friend and consider joining the u3a! Chris Crosby 07599 966 597

BRATTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Our time together is relaxed and informal with people of all ages meeting **every Sunday morning at 11am** for worship and fellowship. Activities for both young and old are provided, and we finish each service with refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you! Details about services and events will also be on our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as our noticeboard outside the church.

Activities for October:

Messy Church: 4pm on Sunday 15th October. We warmly welcome you to participate in a time of creativity, exploring a biblical theme, through getting messy; a short celebration time involving story, prayer and song; and a traditional Sunday teatime meal. Messy Church is for all ages and all members of the community.

Tea-time Service, 4pm on Sunday 22nd October. A short informal Sunday service, followed by tea & cake.

Revive Café is open **every Monday afternoon in term time, 2.30 – 4.30pm** @ the Chapel. Dates for **October are 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd**. Pop in for a cup of tea, fresh coffee and a slice of cake. Craft activities for the children provided.

Well-being Revive opens from **Monday 9th October, 1pm** and every Monday thereafter. Enjoy a calm, welcoming and inclusive space to find refreshment for mind and soul. Mindful and creative activities provided in a space where it is ok not to be ok!

Early Bird Prayer every Wednesday, 7am at the Chapel.

Pickleberry Ladies every Thursday, come and meet upstairs at Pickleberry Coffee Shop from 11am - all ages welcome!

Connect: Thursday 12th October, 2pm at the Chapel. Come and make friends, chat over coffee and study the Bible together.

Bratton Bugs Fridays 6th & 13th October at 1.45 – 3pm @ the Chapel. Bring your under 5s to enjoy a time of music making, singing and play. £1.50 per family.

Comets: Friday 13th October at 6.30pm. Comets is a club for children in school years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Each club night is themed, and the children engage in games and craft activities, and includes a refreshment break.

Fusion: A youth club for 11 – 14s, every 1st Friday of the month. A space to hang out, chat, have some fun and relax. The date for the next Fusion is **6th October**.

We are currently running an **Alpha** course. **Alpha** provides an opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith. Call Allison or Esther for more details. A new course will begin again in January. We'll keep you posted.

For support or information, please call Esther (Minister in training) or Allison (Children and Families worker) on 01380 830746 or contact by email: esther@brattonbaptistchurch.org.uk or allison@brattonbaptistchurch.org.uk

TREATS ONLY: Bratton Baptist Church annual family event. Fun and games, hot dogs and hot chocolate for all the family. **Tuesday 31st October 6 – 8pm** @ The Chapel.

Step out of the darkness into the light!

CHARITY OF THE MONTH - THE CHURCH OF ST JAMES THE GREAT

October is the month we reflect on Harvest, acknowledging the wonderful work done by our farmers gathering in the harvest. Our charity of the month is Farming Community Network (FCN) – a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community. FCN run a confidential, national helpline and e-helpline which is open every day of the year from 7am to 11pm and their volunteers provide free, confidential support to anyone who seeks help. Over 6,000 people a year benefit from FCN's support and they help with a variety of issues both personal and business-related. FCN is part of the National Suicide Prevention Alliance (nspa.org.uk). Farming is one of the occupations that has a very high suicide rate, so anything we can do to help is especially worthwhile. The pot is in the usual place in church.

ANIMAL PRAISE.

On **Sunday 15th October** St James' Church will be holding our now annual Animal Praise Service.

This is held in the Church starting at **11.00**, and is a very informal service where you can bring your pets or even farm animals to be blessed and for them to enjoy meeting their friends. Don't worry if they make a noise, we are all there to worship God in our own way. If they need a bed or blanket to be comfy then bring one. It would be lovely to have some larger animals. We have had horses, chickens, dogs of all sizes, even a soft toy. We would all love to meet you and your family with either none, two, four, or even eight legs.

BENEFICE TOGETHER DAY -ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 18th November will be a meeting to look at the comments made on the 'Your Point of View' questionnaires which were sent out and to award the winner from amongst those who added contact details. Thank you so much to those of you who filled this in either on paper or on line. If you would like to join in the meeting, please sign up on the list in Church (for catering purposes).

**The Benefice of Bratton, Edington and Imber, Erlestoke and Coulston
SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – OCTOBER 2023**

	Bratton	Edington	Erlestoke	Coulston
<i>1st Sunday</i> 1st October <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Harvest Festival	09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Evensong		11.00 Harvest Festival
<i>2nd Sunday</i> 8th October <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11.00 Parish Communion with Baptism	08.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Service Harvest		
<i>3rd Sunday</i> 15th October <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	08.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Animal Praise St James' Church	09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Evensong		11.00 Parish Communion
<i>4th Sunday</i> 22nd October <i>Twentieth Sunday after Trinity</i>	08.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Matins	09.30 Parish Communion		
<i>5th Sunday</i> 29th October <i>The Last Sunday after Trinity</i>		11.00 Benefice Service Erlestoke – Dedication Service		

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Public Morning Prayer Thursdays at 8.30am Edington

Evening Prayer 5.30pm at Erlestoke (Mondays), Coulston (Tuesdays), Edington (Wednesdays), the Vicarage for Imber (Thursdays), St James' Bratton (Fridays).

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, BRATTON - Key contacts

For pastoral matters please call: Rector: Rev'd Andrew Sinclair 830374 Honorary Associate Priest: Revd Malcolm Wieck 830256; Revd Ann Ilsley 830651; Licensed Lay Minister (LLM): Andrew King 831227	Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA) Lynn Noble 830036 Jill Forbes 830577 Chloe Watts 830600	For other matters please call Church Wardens: Kitty Cole 830869 or Marie Nunn 830505 Tower Captain (Bells): Dusty Millier 830696 Verger: Sandy Perry 830536 Organist: Brian Martin 830060 BCI Caretaker: Joan Martin 830744
--	--	--

WHAT'S ON

To keep up with the latest events in our village please check the Parish website: www.brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Or on the Bratton Parish Council Facebook page

**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE BRATTON PARISH NEWS
ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE PCC**

The BPN is published by Bratton Parish Council and St James' Church

Please submit Items for the **November 2023** issue of Bratton Parish News by **Wednesday 25th October** to the Editor: editorbratton@outlook.com (Font - Calibri 11points, if possible). Thank you.