

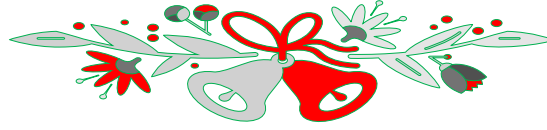


BRATTON PARISH NEWS



Issue No. 595

December/January 2023/24



WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2024

YOUR VIEWS ON YOUR PARISH NEWS PLEASE!

We have an opportunity to refresh the Bratton Parish News and we'd appreciate your input. It's currently delivered by volunteers to every home in the village most months of the year and we'd love your views on what should be in it. What would you like to see more or less of? If you don't read it, tell us why. Would you like to help with it? Please email your thoughts to editorbratton@outlook.com or you can post your ideas in the Bratton Jubilee Hall post box by the front door.

OPEN DAY: FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN BRATTON

People have to live somewhere. And where they could live in our village is in the scope of the Bratton Neighbourhood Plan.

Developers have put forward options for development sites. If we agree to any of the proposed development sites, we need to consider the broader impact on Bratton, and reflect that in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Who should care about the Neighbourhood Plan? We should all care because, Wiltshire County's planners will be legally obliged to take note of it in their decisions.

Does what I have to say matter? Your views are vital to steer how the Neighbourhood Plan responds to the suggested development sites.

So, please drop-in to the Jubilee Hall any time between **10am and 4pm on December 2nd**, to review the options, ask questions and fill in a simple questionnaire while you enjoy a hot drink and a piece of cake. It's quick, easy and very, very important for our village.

If you cannot attend on December 2nd then please request a questionnaire by emailing neighbourhoodplan@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk or drop a note in the Neighbourhood Plan box in Bratton Stores with your name and address.

REMEMBRANCETIDE 2023

The Bratton Branch of the Royal British Legion would like to thank all of those in the village that attended the commemorations on Armistice day and Remembrance Sunday. Both occasions were well supported and provided a dignified and appropriate opportunity for us to remember those that paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy the lives we have today. These things don't happen without a great deal of planning and preparation and thanks are due to The Parish Council and its team of traffic marshals, Master of Ceremonies, Peter Sharland, the Women's Institute for their stunning display of poppies, the Town Crier, Ray Davis, Bratton Community Brass Bands, cornetist, Faye Coussens, the Rev Malcolm Wieck, Mrs Esther McManus, the RBL Standard Bearers Tracey Butt, Caitlin Butt, Jemima Burton and Poppy Dyson, the veterans who marched, the wreath layers and the youth organisations which were joined this year by a contingent from Matravers School CCF. Lastly, special mention must be made of Bratton School and The Little Troopers represented by Oliver Hawke who recited the Kohima Epitaph.

THE POPPY APPEAL 2023

The House-to House collection and the various collecting points in the village and surrounds raised £1,939.60 thanks to the generosity of people in the village. This is not the final total but this amount is already in excess of last year's total of £1,567.40 which is magnificent. It also does not include the sum raised by The Little Troopers of Bratton Primary School in their sponsored Hill Walk which was a terrific effort. Your donations help us continue our vital work supporting the Armed Forces community throughout their lives, whenever they need us. And we couldn't do it without our dedicated Poppy Appeal collectors to whom I would like to say a special thank you. Mike O'Donoghue, Bratton Poppy Appeal Organiser.

CHRISTMAS PUB SING-ALONG - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13th

Join Bratton's musicians and singers from 8pm at the Duke for a mulled evening of Christmas-flavoured song. We'll be playing popular hits and some of your favourite festive tunes so come sing-along!

BRATTON FIRLING!

The much loved Christmas Tree Throwing Competition will take place on Saturday January 6th 2024 on the Village Green from 11.00am-12.30pm.

Bring your tree along to be recycled and have a go "firling" (fir hurling) our aerodynamic competition tree. Classes include Longest, Loudest, Funniest and Best Junior throw. Winner of the Longest throw will be awarded the Golden Fir Cone and will take the title of Bratton's Firling Champion.

Trophies, Prizes and lots of fun. £2 entry fee. Proceeds to CRUK.

(Check out YouTube - Bratton Firling Jan 2022 for an idea of what's involved!) All warmly welcome.

POPPY TALK DATES – NOTE ONE DATE CHANGE

The dates, speakers and subjects for the Poppy Talks in 2024 have been agreed:

Saturday January 20th, Mark Aston, an ex-SAS soldier, will speak about "Special Forces in the Falklands War".

Saturday February 17th, Dr Paul Fox, an ex-infantry and Intelligence Corps officer and art historian, will speak about "What to do with cultural artefacts acquired on military campaigns during our imperial era?"

Saturday March 2nd (NEW DATE), Roy Zaman, an ex-cavalry officer, will speak about "Experiences of a British Army Support Officer in Fiji".

Saturday April 20th, Jonathan Bailey will speak about the Special Operations Executive as a "follow-on" to his talk early this year.

All talks will be in the Church Institute. Doors will open at 5.40 pm. The talks will start at 6 pm and will end between 7.15 pm and 7.30 pm. Entry is by donation to the Poppy Appeal and at least £5 is suggested. Wine and soft drinks will be available to purchase before the talks.

CHRISTMAS TEABAGS - TUESDAY DECEMBER 19TH

Come to the Church Institute for the Christmas edition of TeaBags! Starting at 2.30, there will be tea and homemade cakes as ever– and Christmas music played by Debby Bailey, who apparently has a rousing finale up her sleeve. Join old friends and make some new ones and bring the kids for tea!

BRATTON HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Our much anticipated **2024 Calendar** focussing on the *Lost Buildings of Bratton* is **NOW ON SALE** for £10 each in the Village Shop! Buy early to avoid disappointment as there is only a limited print run. The calendar is a great way of getting to know the village's enigmatic past, month by month.

Spring 2024 Talks Programme:

Sunday January 21st at 4pm: Dated Features in North Wiltshire by Paul Jack. Followed by the AGM

Sunday February 25th at 4pm: Beyond the Pale: Lost Landscapes of Hunting in Wiltshire by Eloise Kane

Sunday March 24th at 4pm: Along the Line: My Life in Archaeology by Archaeologist and TV personality, Phil Harding.

Sunday April 21st at 5pm: More than 200 Years of Education in Bratton by Mike Manson

Sunday May 19th at 5pm: Wiltshire Holidaymakers in the Past: What Were The Options? by Allan Brodie

All talks take place at the Bratton Church Institute apart from March which will be in the Jubilee Hall. New members and guests are always welcome. For more information on how to join, visit the website at brattonhistory.co.uk

BRATTON FOLK MUSIC SESSION

The folk music and song session continues on the first Thursday of the month in the Duke Inn from 8pm. All instruments and abilities welcome. The December event will be quite special as we also have some traditional Carol singing planned. Next dates are Thursday December 7th and Thursday January 4th.

For further details or to join the mailing list, please contact: daniel.loughran@gmail.com

IN MEMORY OF MARY FRANCIS

Joan and Sheila would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of the late Mary Francis of Manor Fields. It was a beautiful November day and Mary was laid to rest at Edington Priory to be with her beloved husband, Alan.

BRATTON COMMUNITY BRASS BANDS

We'd like to invite you to come along and enjoy our forthcoming concerts:

Silver Band presents 'A Bratton Christmas Carol' Saturday December 2nd 2.30pm St James Church Trowbridge

Tickets are free but please book in advance by phoning 07400608659 or go to ticketsource.co.uk

Saturday December 9th 7pm The Laverton, Westbury

Tickets are free but need to be booked in advance: Please phone 07400608659 or go to ticketsource.co.uk

Brass Band and Brass Roots Concert Christmas Concert Sunday December 17th 2.30pm Bratton Jubilee Hall

For free tickets: Please phone 07400608659 or go to ticketsource.co.uk

We will also be playing at St James Carol Service on Sunday December 17th.

Saturday November 4th saw the Silver Band come a respectable 8th out of 17 bands in their section at Wychavon Festival of Brass Entertainment Contest. Members of Bratton Community Brass Bands were honoured to perform on Remembrance Sunday in Bratton. Principal Cornet, Faye Coussens, performed the Last Post and Reveille in both St James Church and at the village War Memorial.

We are delighted at how well our new young players are learning and our thanks goes to Wiltshire Area Board, Westbury Lions and Music for All for their support enabling us to purchase instruments and music books.

JUBILEE HALL

December Breakfast Sunday 3rd - don't miss our delicious 3 course feast with added fizz! Expect music, decorations and service with festive smiles. Call 07897 011887, email: jubileehall87@yahoo.com or <https://www.brattonjubileehall.info/contact-us>

If you can't make this one the next ones will be on Sunday January 7th 2024 and Sunday February 4th.

Please note that the event on Dec 15th mentioned in last month's BPN has been cancelled.

Village Halls Week March 18-24 - we plan to hold several events and raise some money towards installing energy saving measures. There will be an open day on one of the weekends where anyone running a local business, craft group or club is invited to showcase and sell their wares. Please make contact as above if you are interested. If you have any great ideas for events do let us know!

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

For the past eight years I have organised a coffee morning for the annual collection and counting of the Children's Society's home collecting boxes. Sadly, this annual event has been affected by coins being replaced by online payments, cards or the mobile phone. Another difficulty is a majority of the local banks are now closed making it very difficult to pay in the money and Post Offices cannot take the cash.

Therefore I have decided to make the next annual collection my final one which will take place in the Spring of 2024. If you would still like to continue to support them the information on how to do this is on their website.

Christingle Service will be February 4th 2024 - Since the early nineties the Bratton Benefice Support Group (which includes Edington) have collected over £86,000 through many different fund-raising events. Lord Spencer Loch who was living in Bratton House in 1985 suggested we held a Christingle Service at our Family Service in February (close to Candlemas) in St James Church where everyone receives a Christingle orange, and the collection is for The Children's Society, we have done so every year since 1986!

DO YOU HAVE ANY FOREIGN COINS TO SPARE?

As a result of these collections, I have a quantity of foreign coins and notes which the Children's Society do not collect. However, the Royal National Institute for the Blind have a scheme for collecting these. They will provide a pre-paid box enabling me to forward these coins providing I have more than 3kg in weight. I currently have 2.75 kg! Please help me reach the 3kg by looking around your home for any notes and coins that you may have from your holidays abroad and helping the RNIB at the same time, I will be happy to collect! Gill Humphrey 830149/aiglenicher@icloud.com.

FOUR VILLAGES LINK

With the Christmas season upon us, do contact us if you would like help with shopping or putting up decorations. Or taking them down in January! We will of course continue with trips to appointments. Best wishes to all clients and volunteers for the festive season and New Year. The coordinator is reached on 07852 256939.

CHURCH VIEWS

Advent, which this year begins on December 3rd, marks the start of the Christian year – a year that tells a story. We begin with Advent, awaiting the birth of Christ, then make our way through Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost ... until we get to the end of the year, which looks forward to the end of time, the final coming of Christ and the Kingdom of God. We're invited to find ourselves inside this story.

What does it mean to live within this story? It tells us two things: Who we are and what we hope for.

First, who we are. One of the ways in which we understand ourselves is by telling stories about ourselves and others. When we come home at the end of the day, we tell stories of what we have done and the people we've seen. We tell stories of our childhood and our friendships, of our holidays and school days – all of these explore and express our identity.

There are other stories that explore the identity we share with larger groups, as members of a family, a community or a nation, as the supporter of a particular football club or a member of a choir. I discover who I am by exploring with others who 'we' are. Each year, through the drama of the Christian year, from Advent when we wait for the birth of Christ, through all the seasons to the feast of Christ the King in November. To live within this story is to express and explore an identity. On one level this identity is that of being a Christian, rather than belonging to another faith or a non-believer.

But the Christian faith is an odd one, because it is not fundamentally about being a Christian but about being *human*. It points us towards a Kingdom in which all of humanity will be reconciled and united. Each year we live through this long story, and it stretches open our little identities, pointing us towards a larger identity, as a member of the whole of humanity in Christ.

The second thing that this story of the Christian year does is to give us hope – hope that one day we may enjoy a better future, free from poverty, disease, disasters both human and natural. So many people today live with despair and depression. Where have our dreams gone in this world of 'cost of living' crises, global pandemic and wars?

In the face of this temptation to despair, what is the hope that the Christian story offers? At the heart of the Christian faith is the story of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection at Easter. Here is a story of life overcoming the power of death, of good winning out over evil. Without Easter, we would not celebrate Christmas, for Easter is about God leading us through our sufferings to a better place. Christmas marks the time when God comes and lives among us, showing us the way towards Easter.

May God bless you all this Christmastime. **Andrew Sinclair, Rector**

THE THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS

We run regular return trips as below. These trips are open to **all** residents and all these journeys accept concessionary passes. We 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: 830426).

Shopping Trips starting at Bratton:

| Destination | December | January | Start Time |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Devizes - £3.20 | 7 th | 4 th | 8.45am. |
| Warminster - £2.80 | 19 th | 16 th | 1.30am. |
| Westbury -£2.30 | Every Thursday | Every Thursday | 1.30pm. |
| Salisbury - £5.00 | 9 th | 13 th | 9.15am. |

BRATTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Bratton Baby & Toddler Group runs at Bratton Church Institute on Wednesdays, school term time only from 9am until 11.30am. £2 per child and 50p per additional sibling or child with childminder. All children up to school age. Parents, guardians, childminders all welcome to stay & play with their little ones. We offer a friendly relaxed setting with plenty of toys, a craft table each week, books, a baby area, plus a snack and drink for all! Seasonal games/parties are also held. Plenty of outside play space too. Do come along, we would love to have you!

DAUNTSEY'S CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT – FRIDAY DECEMBER 8th

7.30pm at St Matthew's Church, Rushall. Free admission. Refreshments. Let us help you get into the festive spirit with an evening of Carols and Christmas music.

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, January 9th, 7.15pm in the Jubilee Hall. All are welcome.

Parish Council website and Facebook page

A reminder to check out our new website <https://brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk> and Facebook page. Please contact us on editorial@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk to share information or send in material. We're particularly keen to hear from local clubs and societies. We're also looking for a Bratton resident to become part of our website group to help us connect with the community. Please email the parish clerk if you're interested.

Salt Spreader

We're buying a new salt spreader for our roads this winter. Do get in touch if your area would benefit from using it.

Christmas Tree

The parish council will be providing a Christmas Tree for outside The Duke.

We'd like to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year!

TIDYING THE VILLAGE IN WINTER

The next two Tidy Bratton dates will be on Saturday December 16th and Saturday January 27th, both from 10.00. We will meet, as usual, in The Duke's car park.

We're anticipating that our tasks will mainly be leaf sweeping and pathway clearance. Everyone is welcome to join this winter workout.

It has been wonderful to see how many people have responded to the idea of weeding the street gutters outside their homes, allowing rainwater to flow freely into the drains, thus reducing the danger of flooding. If you haven't had time to do this yet (or would like to help your neighbour out!) it isn't too late.

Chris and April Tarling 830468

BRATTON CHURCH INSTITUTE

Season's greetings from the BCI team!

Christmas Market – Saturday December 2nd at 10.30am to 2pm. Flowering winter bulbs, hand crafted gifts, Pre-loved toys, Books, Cakes, Bric-a-brac, Pre-loved Christmas decorations, Children's games. Grand Raffle. All with coffee/tea, spice biscuits and bacon butties!

Carol Praise – Sunday December 10th at 6pm. As well as mulled wine and mince pies we have a special visitor - Charlie the donkey. Our usual musicians Charlotte and Richard will be there along with Bratton Silver Band. Come and join in this lovely family seasonal service. A warm welcome is guaranteed.

Coffee Pot – Thursday December 21st at 10.30am. Our last coffee pot is a Christmas special in the Institute. A warm welcome awaits you with real coffee, hot chocolate, mince pies AND a free raffle. The coffee pot team

Village Halls Week - The Institute will be taking part in Village Halls Week again in 2024, ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) have decided March instead of January could be a better month for halls to open their doors. The focus this year is on environmental sustainability. We are so grateful to everybody who has helped us repair our roof which should have an impact on the warmth in our hall this winter and hopefully our fuel bills!

The BCI will be open on March 23rd with our usual refreshments of tea, coffee and cake plus the Soup Kitchen! We would like to combine it this year with a tabletop sale. So book your table with our caretaker Joan Martin. (01380 830744 and 07576851267). Put the date in your diary and please come and join us!

We will continue to have our collection for the Warminster Food Bank of toiletries and household cleaning products which previously you have all been so generous in supporting. We look forward to seeing you!

Easter 2024 date for the diary – February 13th - Shrove Tuesday is the traditional Feast Day before the beginning of Lent and in 2024 it falls during Half Term. It is traditional to use up your eggs and milk and make pancakes so we will be holding a Pancake Morning in the BCI from 10.30am so come along and enjoy a pancake or two plus a choice of toppings and bring the family! Weather permitting, we may be able to have some races in the garden for the children too.

Lent Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday 14th February 12.00pm/2.00pm (Valentines Day too!) and for the six weeks leading up to Holy Week, all details will be in St James Church in the New Year, it will be necessary to book with the host. Gill Humphrey 830149

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

I recently attended a meeting with some members of Bratton Parish Council and Wiltshire Council Highways Team, to discuss and clarify roles and responsibilities for all the groups who work towards keeping the village clean, tidy and as safe as possible for pedestrians and road users. This discussion is relevant to all the villages of Ethandune.

You may have seen a Parish Steward in your village, he or she is responsible for specific aspects of general maintenance. Within our villages we are all very lucky to also have wonderful volunteers who arrange litter picking, leaf clearing, cutting back vegetation and generally keeping our villages looking good. This benefits everyone and without this work our communities would be much less pleasant places to live.

At the meeting we discussed the huge task of keeping our verges clear of weeds and drains clear of leaves and other blockages. When you consider the huge County that Wiltshire is, and the vast amount of highway, both urban and rural, you will understand that this is not a task that can only fall to the local authority or volunteer groups to undertake.

You may already have a scheme in your area where you have 'Adopted a drain'. Put simply, if we could all make sure that the drains close to our homes, and where we walk in our villages are clear of leaves and any accumulated debris, excess water would flow better and keep pavements and the surrounding area free of standing water. This also applies to weeds at the edge of the road or pavement, where build-up of weeds can prevent rainwater flowing to the nearest drain.

If you do have a blocked drain that you cannot clear, please report it on the MyWilts App.

If you can't join one of the Community groups in your area, please do consider keeping the verges and drains near to your home clear of fallen leaves and debris. We can all do our bit to help keep the water moving.

Christmas will soon be upon us, and I hope that everyone manages to spend time with loved ones and have a well-earned rest from our usual busy lives.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is any local issue that you think I can help with.

Best wishes. Suzanne Wickham. Wiltshire Councillor – Ethandune

Contact: Email – Suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel- 07967 213336

BRATTON ORCHARD WASSAIL - SUNDAY JANUARY 14th

Wassail! Drink Hail! You are cordially invited to the inaugural village Wassail. Wassailing is an ancient tradition which involves celebrating apple trees and waking them up after their winter slumber. There will be singing, general noise making, Morris dancing, refreshments, and children wielding toast. Bring pots, pans, wooden spoons, instruments, and noisy things. The Wassail will commence at 2pm in the Village Orchard, then end up at the Duke Inn around 3pm to warm up with folk music and songs.

We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up and take-down, to decorate the orchard, and bake apple cake.

Please contact Dan and Anya (daniel.loughran@gmail.com) if you can help!

MICK JOGGER AND THE STONES EXPERIENCE

For one night only and back by popular demand, Mick Jogger will be appearing at The Corn Exchange in Devizes with his amazing Band of musicians on Friday December 29th. So, put on your dancing shoes and come and join us for a great evening of entertainment. Ring Adrienne on 01380 871890 for details. Tickets £20

EDINGTON ARTS

Online booking for the Edington Arts Advent Concert in the Priory Church at 7.30pm on Saturday December 16th is now live. By clicking the 'Book Tickets' button on the website (www.edingtonarts.org) you can choose and pay for your seats. Alternatively you can telephone Box Office at 01380 831256, and we will allocate your seats in the usual way. Seats are going quickly for this concert. The choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, is a mixed voice ensemble of choral and music scholars, and they have put together a lovely programme of music not only from Advent, but also of beautiful music for Christmas.

2024 will be Edington Arts' tenth season, and to celebrate they have programmed a really high-profile season of events. The first is on March 23rd during Lent, and full information is in the new leaflet which will be launched at the Advent concert on December 16th.

Online booking for this will open for Angels on January 7th, and for the general mailing list on January 14th. Telephone booking will open on the same dates, and the leaflet, and the season's events, will be uploaded onto the Edington Arts website (www.edingtonarts.org) at the beginning of January.

WREATH WORKSHOP – DECEMBER 9th

There are still a few places left for the Christmas Wreath workshop being held from 10am to 1pm in Bratton Church Institute. All materials and accessories provided, including coffee, tea & mince pie. Places are £40 each. Please call Lucy Ellis on 01380 831469. All profits to St James Church.

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

The Charities for December and January are Devizes Open Door and Break Through, Trowbridge, our two local 'homeless' charities. Winter is contributing to the misery of homelessness, in addition to the visible consumerism of the festive season. Both Charities are centres for advice and assistance for their clients - lack of accommodation, providing hot meals, laundry facilities as well as fellowship, and a warm place to discuss life's problems over a cuppa. At Christmas, both organizations put on a special festive meal. So please help us to help them by placing a contribution into the Pot in the Church. Thank you all for your generosity to all our causes, month after month. Christmas blessings to all and a happy, active New Year.

BRATTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Join us **every Sunday morning at 11am** for worship and fellowship. Activities for young and old are provided, and we finish each service with refreshments. Details about services and events will also be on our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as our church noticeboard.

Christmas activities:

Advent calendar trail Join us in sharing joy and peace this Christmas. Join our advent celebration and decorate your window. Contact Allison for more information. Join us on Friday 22nd December at 4pm: collect a trail map and explore the excitement of Christmas by visiting the advent window displays around the village. We will be serving hot drinks and Christmas treats.

Christmas Eve Outdoor Carol Service Sunday December 24th at 6:30pm. Join with us in gathering outside at the chapel to sing Christmas Carols and experience the wonder of the Christmas story, with mulled wine and mince pies served after.

Christmas Day Service Sunday December 25th at 10am. All are welcome to come and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Messy Church: 4pm on Sunday December 17th/Sunday January 21st. Fun for all the family: Crafts, story, songs and prayer, followed by refreshments.

Tea-time Service 4pm on Sunday January 28th. A short informal Sunday service, followed by tea and cake.

Revive Café Every Monday afternoon in term time, 2.30 – 4.30pm at the Chapel. Dates for December are 4th, 11th, and 18th. Dates for January are 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. Pop in for a cup of tea or freshly brewed coffee and cake, with craft activities for the children.

Well-being Revive Every Monday from 1 – 2.30pm (except for December 25th and January 1st). 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, upstairs at Pickleberry Coffee Shop from 11am.

Connect 2pm on Thursdays December 14th, January 4th and 18th at the Chapel. A short Bible study with tea and biscuits.

Bratton Bugs Fridays December 8th, 15th and January 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th at 1.45-3pm at the Chapel. Bring your under 5s to enjoy a time of music making, singing and play. £1.50 per family.

Comets Friday December 8th/January 19th at 6:30pm. Comets is a club for children in school years 3, 4, 5 & 6, with games, crafts, activities, and a refreshment break.

Fusion Friday December 1st/January 5th at 6:30. A youth club for 11 – 14s. A space to hang out and have fun, with pool, games, tuck shop and Wii.

Alpha Are you curious about who Jesus is? Don't know whether you believe in God? Do you have questions about Christianity? Alpha provides an opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith. A new course will begin again in January. Call Allison or Esther for more details.

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

The Benefice of Bratton, Edington and Imber, Erlestone and Coulston
SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

| DECEMBER | Bratton | Edington | Erlestone | Coulston |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>1st Sunday</i> Dec 3rd -1st Sunday of Advent | 8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Toy Service | 09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Advent Service of Light | | 11.00 Parish Communion |
| <i>2nd Sunday</i> Dec 10th – 2nd Sunday of Advent | 11. 00 Parish Communion 18.00 Carol Praise <i>Bratton Church Institute</i> | 8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Service | | |
| <i>3rd Sunday</i> Dec 17th – 3rd Sunday of Advent | 8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Footprints <i>Christmas Tree Decoration St James' Church</i> 18.00 Carol Service <i>with Bratton Silver Band</i> | 09.30 Parish Communion | 18.30 Carol Service | 18.00 Carol Service |
| <i>4th Sunday</i> Dec 24th – 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve | 08.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Parish Communion 17.00 Crib Service 22.00 Christmas Communion | 09.30 Parish Communion 16.00 Crib Service 23.30 Midnight Mass | 22.00 Christmas Communion Service | |
| Dec 25th - Christmas Day | 11.00 Family Communion | 09.30 Family Communion | | 11.00 Family Communion |
| <i>5th Sunday Dec 31st</i> | 11.00 Benefice Service Coulston | | | |
| JANUARY | Bratton | Edington | Erlestone | Coulston |
| <i>1st Sunday</i> Jan 6th The Epiphany | 8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Service | 09.30 Solemn Eucharist for Epiphany 18.30 Evensong | | 11.00 Parish Communion |
| <i>2nd Sunday</i> Jan 14th – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany | 11.00 Parish Communion 18.00 Sing Praise | 8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Service <i>Plough Sunday</i> | | |
| <i>3rd Sunday</i> Jan 21st - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany | 8.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Café Church, <i>Bratton Church Institute</i> | 09.30 Parish Communion 18.30 Evensong | | 11 00 Parish Communion |
| <i>4th Sunday</i> Jan 28th - 4th Sunday of Epiphany | 08.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Parish Communion | 09.30 Parish Communion | 11.00 Morning Service | |

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Public Morning Prayer Thursdays at 8.30am Edington

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

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, BRATTON - Key contacts

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| 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 |
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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
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Please submit Items for the February issue of Bratton Parish News by **Wednesday January 24th 2024** to the Editor:
editorbratton@outlook.com (Font - Calibri 11points, if possible). Thank you.