The Pennant



Edition 595 November 2026

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Please email your entries for the December 2026 and January 2027 issues to: ThePennant@mail.com by 21st November 2026

Bradford Abbas Pre-School - Assistant Wanted

We are looking for a part-time Pre-School Assistant for our pack-away setting in the village hall. Min. L2 Early Years Practitioner preferred but can consider unqualified person with relevant experience. Hours are Mon 08:45 – 13:15; Tues 08:45 – 12:15; Wed 08:45 – 12:30; Thurs 08:45 – 12:30; and Fri 08:45 – 12:30 and with flexibility to cover sickness when required and to increase hours as numbers increase. Pay £12.71 per hour. Benefits: company pension and on-site parking. If you are interested in this position, please send your CV and covering letter to bradfordabbaspreschool@yahoo.co.uk

Bradford Abbas Pre-School – Spaces Available for children 12 months and over

We are a warm and nurturing pre-school set in the village hall where children learn through play, exploration and discovery. With options of morning/afternoon/all day sessions, our opening times are Mon 09:00 – 16:00; Tues 09:00- 16:00; Wed 09:00 – 13:00; Thurs 09:00 – 16:00 and Fri 09:00 – 16:00. We can also offer flexible start times of 8:30am or 12:00pm to suit your family. 15- and 30-hours of government funding is accepted. Please call 07722 705012 or email bradfordabbaspreschool@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Bingo Bradford Abbas Village Hall -Saturday 5th December 7pm

The Bradford Abbas Preschool Committee invite you to our fundraising Christmas Bingo! Lots of prizes to be won! Tea, coffee, soft drinks & snacks will be available to purchase. Bring your own alcohol. Game book £12; Flyer £6; and Raffle Tickets £2. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7:30pm. Grab your bingo dabbers and we'll see you there!

Bradford Abbas Village Hall

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER at 7.30 PM

Keeping our Village Hall in Bradford Abbas running smoothly has only been possible due to a small team dealing with the day-to-day management of bookings, repairs and maintenance, payment of bills and sharing other small tasks as required from time to time. Some members of the team have served for many years and are now stepping aside. We are looking for new members to join the team.

We meet about 6 times a year, for about an hour, usually on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Without a management team the Village Hall will not function – please come forward, participate and offer a small amount of your time to keep this valuable Village asset.

Everyone is welcome at the AGM – Wednesday 04th November 7.30 in the Village Hall

Yeovil Railway Centre

There are no public events this November. Once all the ghouls and ghosties are safely locked away for another year with the appropriate spells, our attention turns to Santa Specials which will be held on:

Saturday 6th December – diesel

Sunday 7th December - steam

Saturday 13th December -afternoon/early evening -steam

Sunday 14th December - steam

Saturday 20th December - steam

Sunday 21st December - steam

Tuesday 23rd December - steam this year

Bookings are already open (the first one was in August!) pre-booking is essential, please see our website for details and booking form. Details are on our website and Facebook pages - for further information see yeovilrailwaycentre.co.uk

Variety Show

Despite the efforts to recruit new talent for our Variety Show, sadly none were forthcoming. It is, therefore, with great disappointment that there will be no Show this year. This was not an easy decision to reach but the existing club members want to do something to raise money for the benefit of the Bradford Abbas community and Clubs, so will be holding a MUSIC QUIZ covering music from 1950s to present day. Teams of up to 6 people, £12 per table. Bar, raffle and food available. Cash prizes!
Saturday 21st November 2026, 7.30pm at Bradford Abbas Village Hall. Contact Merys – 07834 547578

Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club

Tuesday 10th November: Simon Caplan LRPS - 'Extraordinary - Ordinary: Simon explains his thinking and methods behind his 'found still life images' and urban abstracts. As well as digital images he will present high-quality prints which members of the audience can hold, study and discuss.

Tuesday 24th November: The annual black and white Overton Cup. The subject is open and 3 images may be submitted. The judge is Alan Denison. We meet on the second and fourth evenings of the month in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm from September through to May. For further information see **sbacameraclub.co.uk** and our Facebook page

Bradford Abbas and Clifton Maybank Village Hall - Bookings

Bradford Abbas Community Village Hall, with its central location opposite the St Marys Church, is a cosy space for Birthday Parties, young & older, family get togethers, wedding receptions and anything else you may be celebrating. Check the website for availability *https://bradford-abbas.uk/,* or email *bacmvh@gmail*.com and complete the booking form, or ring 01935 602279 for a form. A form must be completed to finalise booking the hall for insurance purposes.

The Chatty Crafters

The November meeting of the Chatty Crafters will be held on Friday, 20th November at The Rose & Crown, Bradford Abbas between 2-4pm. New members always welcome, come and join our crafting and chatting friendly little community.There won't be a meeting in December as we are holding our Christmas lunch, therefore the next meeting will be in on Friday, 15th January 2027.

Monday Night Bingo

Every Monday at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.00p.m at Bradford Abbas Sports and Social Club. Everyone 18 and over is welcome to our weekly light-hearted evening which also includes a small draw, a chance to win the SNOWBALL and, of course, a laugh and chat. We finish at about 8.30pm.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRADFORD ABBAS

CHRISTMAS CHOIR – CALLING ALL SINGERS

This year's Village Carol Service will be held at the church on Saturday 19th December at 4pm. Anybody who would like to join our Christmas choir is most welcome to come along to our first rehearsal on Wednesday 11th November in the church, starting at 7pm. (If you have been singing with us in the past few years, you will know we used to practice at Mill Farm - many thanks to Anne and Mark O'Reilly who made us so welcome when the church had no heating. But don't go there for rehearsals this year – the rest of us will be in the church!)

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our bible study group will be meeting again on Friday 20th November at 2:30pm and then three times in December to look at the Christmas story. If you would like to join us, please contact Gary for details (07799 430400).

SERVICES MOST SUNDAYS

We continue to offer services four Sundays a month in Bradford Abbas. We hope you will find time to join us. There are many other services at nearby churches, and we always have a list of services available in the church porch.

UPCOMING SERVICES AT ST MARY'S - EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 6pm Holy Communion (led by James Clark)
SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 10:50am Remembrance Service starts at the War Memorial, continues in church (lay-led)
WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 10:50am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial (led by Becky Ayers-Harris)
SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 10am Holy Communion (led by David Dunning)
SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 10am Morning Service (led by David Dunning)
SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 6pm Holy Communion (led by Rector George Moody)
SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 10am Morning Worship (lay-led)
SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 4pm Carol Service (led by Rector George Moody)
CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30pm Outdoor Carol Service (in front of the church) (lay-led)
CHRISTMAS DAY 10am Christmas Eucharist (led by Becky Ayers-Harris)
SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 10am Morning Service (led by David Dunning)

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY TRUST

Hello everybody. We're back and planning events for 2027, including an old-style CHURCH THAT ROCKS outside and inside the church on Saturday 19th June. We regret we will not be running a wreath-making evening this December as we have for the past few years, but we hope to offer this again in 2027. Here are a few events to help you through this winter…

FRIDAY CINEMA CLUB

Now that the church has its heating installed, we are offering four film nights in the church this November/December. You might like to bring a cushion to soften the wooden pews but you should be warm. Entrance fee on the door is £7 and this includes one free drink. Or, pay £20 for a pass to come to all four films. Doors open at 7pm and the films start at 7:30. If you would like to come but are unable to get to and from the church in the dark, email us on StMarysCommunityTrust@gmail.com and we will try to arrange transport for you. (If you are a lovely person and would like to help with offering lifts, please also email us so we can get your details.)

The provisional programme is:

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER – One Life (2023) – Hundreds of children are rescued from Nazis in the run-up to WW2. Starring Anthony Hopkins, Lena Olin, Johnny Flynn (cert 12A).

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER – Mother's Pride (2026) – Can a family save its failing pub? Starring Martin Clunes, James Buckley (cert 12A).

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER – I swear (2025) – The story of one person's life with Tourette's. Starring Robert Amarayo, Maxine Peake (15 cert).

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER – Power Ballad (2026) - Musical comedy drama. A wedding singer (Paul Rudd) fights to win recognition for a song he's written. (15 cert)

Under 18s are welcome if accompanied by parents.

Films are subject to change – look out for updates in posters around the village and on the Pennant Facebook page.

CHRISTMAS EVE – OUTDOOR CAROLS

For the seventh year, we'll be helping stage the Outdoor Carol Service in front of the church. This is a wonderful way to kickstart your Christmas. Come and be part of it. It starts at 5:30pm and when it ends, you'll find the pub is only a few paces away!

See you soon.
Jo, Alan, Rob, Ruth, Trevor and Gary
The ST MARY'S COMMUNITY TRUST team

ST MARY'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRADFORD ABBAS

This September we welcomed Ian Bartle as our new Head Teacher. Ian has worked in and led several schools in the Sherborne Area Schools Trust (SAST). We are delighted that he is now working with us.

On October 16th the school held their Harvest Celebration in the church. The children's impressive donations of food were then sent off to the Sherborne Food Bank for distribution to those in need. Big thanks to the Rev. Becky Ayers-Harris for leading the service.

Remembrance On the morning of Wednesday 11th November, the village will gather at the war memorial for the 2 minutes silence. Some of the staff and pupils will also be there to represent the school. Mr Bartle has kindly agreed to play the last post on the cornet for this short service.

Finally, many villagers have noticed and commented on the new security fencing around the top playground, which was put up during the summer holidays. We know that some people think this detracts from the traditional look of the school and we wish to let you all know that this was an Ofsted requirement and was paid for by a grant.

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR:

As the first rains of winter start to fall around me, I find myself torn between delight and sorrow. Let me be clear. I love the sun. I don't mean the great ball of fire in the sky, though I am grateful for that too. I mean the warmth of sunshine as it falls on my back. I love to sit in the shade with a cool drink on a hot day, or wallow in a warm corner of the garden with a book and a cup of coffee on a cooler one. I love the sun. Oddly, I also love the rain. Not that deary drizzle, or the freezing drench, no. I love the autumn downpour that produces lovely splashy puddles. Even the horizontal hurricane (or thereabouts) that forces you to lean into the gusts and hold onto your hat. Apologies to all you proper northerners, but I am not a fan of winter. And the first rains herald winter. Our farms need the rain, so we must give thanks. Our reservoirs are nearly empty, so we give thanks. But do think of all of us softies who find the cold miserable. Think more of those of our neighbours who find the cold positively dangerous. Welcome the rain, get ready for winter, and keep an eye on your neighbour. Jesus gave us two commandments (funny that), to love God with everything we've got, and to love our neighbours like we love ourselves on a good day. The first feels impossible - we need the miraculous work of the Spirit in our hearts for that - but sometimes it's okay to begin with the second. Start by looking after your neighbour this winter, and as the year turns, look up and ask the Spirit's help to love God too. It'll all make winter seem a little warmer.

George
The Reverend George Moody,
Team Rector, Three Valleys Benefice,
01935 872600 www.threevalleysteam.org.uk

Bradford Abbas Village Hall Cleaner Needed

We are looking for a self-employed person(s) to clean the Village Hall and help ensure it is a welcoming environment to its visitors and users. We anticipate 4 to 6 hours per week spread over a minimum of 2 days a week, for general cleaning. If you are interested in this position, please email bacmvh@gmail.com with any queries and your CV.

Rose & Crown News

Opening Hours
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday lunch: Closed
Wednesday: 5.00pm- Close
Thursday: 12.00pm–3.00pm and 5.00pm–Close
Friday: 12.00pm–Close
Saturday: 12.00pm–Close
Sunday: 12.00pm–6.00pm
Restaurant
Food is served:
Wednesday: 5.30pm- 8.30pm
Thursday: Saturday - 12.00pm–2.00pm and 5.30pm–8.30pm
Sunday: 12.00pm– 3.00pm
All meals are also available as takeaway.
Weekly Specials: Be sure to check out our specials board, available Wednesday to Saturday (subject to availability).
Wednesday – Pie Night
Enjoy a delicious pie for just £12, served from 5.30pm.
Thursday – Grill Night
Two grill meals and a bottle of wine for £35, from 5.30pm.
Friday Lunchtime – Fish & Chips
Friday Evening – Curry & Pint for £15.
Sunday Carvery Booking is recommended as availability is limited. **Sunday Meat Draw 4.30pm**
Live music - Sat 14th November at 7.30pm local artist - Maz Acoustic Entertainment
Join us for an evening of well-known classics, indie favourites, upbeat singalongs and modern covers, with a combination of acoustic guitar and backing tracks.
Christmas Music Bingo: Saturday 19th December 8.15pm. £2pp, Teams of up to 6.
Christmas Parties - look out on our social media for our Christmas Party Menu or pop in for a menu.
Christmas Day Carvery Limited spaces available. Please contact us to register your interest as it's very popular!
Our **skittle alley** is available to **hire** for parties, events and gatherings. Please pop in or contact us to discuss your requirements.
☎ 01935 423199 email: roseandcrownba@outlook.com

The Friendship Club

Our meetings are usually on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month at Bradford Abbas Sports and Social Club. Doors open at 13:45 for 2pm start. There is Bingo, a small draw, tea & biscuits and a chance to have a chat and a laugh with fellow villagers. New members are warmly welcomed.

Feel Good Fitness Classes in the Village Hall

One hour of full body work **every Thursday in the Village Hall 6.30 – 7.30 pm.** Any level of fitness. £6 per person. Bring a mat and lots of enthusiasm. We would love to welcome you and grow the group. Let's get the village fit!

Mixed Ability Yoga on Saturdays 8.30am-9.30am Bradford Abbas Village Hall

If you'd like to give Yoga a try, classes are held at Bradford Abbas Village Hall on Saturday mornings 8.30 to 9.30 am - come and join us. £10 a class Emmarileyyoga@gmail.com.

Mixed Ability Pilates at the Village Hall, Mondays 6-7 pm

Come and join this friendly class, all abilities and ages welcome. Equipment supplied (mats excluded). All sessions £10 Pay as you go. Lisa Brett 07760-169707 *befitbewellwithlisa@gmail.com*