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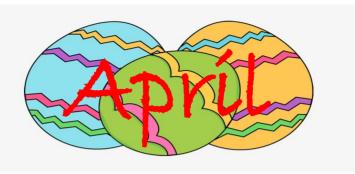
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Firstly, please accept my apologies for the lateness of this month's Pilot. For the first time in my life I have missed a deadline—and it's all thanks to Covid!

Both my husband and myself went down with it during a birthday trip to Paris, so that was the full editorial staff of your community magazine hit hard by the virus despite full vaccinations.

New editor

But we're now (slowly) up and running again, although hopefully not for long. You will see on page 13 that I have decided to hang up my reporter's hat and chuck away my editing pencil after two and a half years at the Pilot's helm and so we're looking for someone to take over and keep this cracking little magazine on the road.

But for now, we're pressing on with

Easter, the Platinum village fete plans and the big clear-up after the storms earlier in the year. Talking of clearing up, don't forget the village litter-pick on April 3 when there's a chance to get Charminster and Charlton Down spruced up and spring cleaned.

Jumble Trail

That's the same day at the Pre-School Jumble Trail when you can set up stall outside your house and get rid of some of those outgrown and unwanted items currently filling your lofts and cupboards.

We remain grateful for the support from our advertisers, contributors and those in the Pilot delivery network. Thanks everyone. Copy for the May edition of The Pilot should be sent to editor@charpilot.com by Friday April 8.

Marilyn Kay (Editor)



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Generosity for Ukrainian refugees

A huge collection of donations for Ukrainian refugees has built up in Charminster.

An appeal by the Polish Club in Dorchester for practical aid was spotted on Facebook by Jack Lawford of Charlton Down, whose mum Vicky is the family worker at St Mary's.

He set about organising a village appeal—and the response has been fantastic. "It's been quite overwhelming", said Jack. Goods will be transported to Poland by members of the Polish community.

You can continue to leave your donations at St Mary's Church until Easter Sunday.

Items needed include over the counter medical supplies, camping roll mats, foil survival blankets and first aid kits. Female sanitary products, hand-

warmers, torches, batteries and lamps are also wanted along with Thermos flasks, baby formula, nappies, baby cream and wipes, instant soups and nonperishable foodstuffs.

And if you can pop a small teddy bear into the mix, you could bring some joy to a small person who's lost their home.

Right, Jack Lawford (27) among the mountain of donated goods.



Effects of recent storms linger on

Householders continue to count the cost of storms Dudley and Eunice which swept across Dorset last month. Winds, which were forecast to reach speeds of up to 80 mph brought down trees, powerlines and garden fences.

While Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford appeared to miss the worst of the power cuts, some homes in Godmanstone, Frampton and Cerne Abbas were without electricity for more than 48 hours.



Jess at her food stall

In the days that followed the storm, power company Scottish and South-

ern Electricity Networks set up a welfare vehicle in the car park outside Redwood House in Charlton Down. Catering manager Jess Symonds prepared hot meals and drinks for families who had lost their power supplies.

Jess told The Pilot that people had come from across West Dorset to make use of the service. "Cooked breakfasts and burgers were most popular, together with hot drinks. Several people brought flasks so that they could make a drink at home."

Cricket Club worst hit

Charlton Down cricket club appears to have been one of the worst-hit local organisations. When groundsman John Pallister went down to the ground to inspect possible damage, he discovered that most of the wooden boundary fence had been smashed to the ground, and tall metal poles bent at right angles. John said the damage was too extensive for the

fence to be repaired. He says it will have to be replaced and first estimates suggest the cost will be in the region of £5,000. "There's a real urgency about this," he said. "We start practising here in April."



Groundsman John points out the damage

But families who lost garden fences and sheds may face a longer wait. One local fencing contractor told The Pilot that they had never had so many calls for help.

Unforeseen results

The storm left a trail of damage across a broad swathe of Dorset. Fortunately, there's no shortage of timber, but it may take contractors several weeks to put right the damage caused by Dudley and Eunice.

And there were some unforeseen results of the storms.

When a neighbours' fence blew down, suddenly their cat came face to face with our dog—resulting in a regular evening stand off.

There was no barking, no feline claws on show, just a good old "who do you think you are" from both sides.



Above, Theo (the dog) on hind legs, and Fluffy the cat go eyeball to eyeball in the wake of the storm.



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Happy Birthday Charminster WI!

We gathered together at the Community Hall to celebrate our 104th

birthday!

It was lovely to see so many members, and some guests from Charlton Down WI. Our tables were beautifully decorated with Spring flowers in the colours of Ukraine.

Snowdrops

Members were reminded of upcoming events, including our Craft Coffee Morning (with the usual 'make & take' for adults and children) at the Community Hall on Saturday 9th April. A visit to Minterne for a house and garden tour, plus lunch, is scheduled for May and there is a plan to plant snowdrops in the churchyard at St Mary's.

Our groups are still going strong – Walking, Book, Drama, Craft and Lunches. Our current 'Whispers' challenge is due to finish at the end of March. We based our latest efforts



on the subject of the Church and it will be interesting to see the many and varied entries. We recently had a history walk in Cerne Abbas and were blessed with good weather. The next one is being planned for Sherborne.

After the business part of the meeting, a light buffet was served which included two birthday cakes! Members pored over a table quiz based on plants and gardening, whilst chatting and eating and drinking we're women you know, we can multi -task! Entertainment was provided by a local ladies ukulele band and we had a great time singing along to some well-known songs (helped by the provision of song sheets). We all agreed it was a great birthday party the best thing though was seeing so many smiling faces and hearing lots of happy chatter!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th April and will be our AGM. It will be held in the Community Hall at 7.30pm.

Judy Bird



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Skimmity protest march

Campaigners opposed to plans to build 4,000 houses in Stinsford parish are organising a protest march through Dorchester on Saturday, April 2nd.

They hope to draw attention to their campaign by recreating one of Thomas Hardy's most memorable scenes — the Skimmity Ride from The Mayor of Casterbridge.

Effigies

This rural tradition was intended to heap shame on adulterers or other miscreants. Effigies of the offending couple would be strapped to a donkey and paraded through the village while locals would create a din by banging pans and pails. In the novel, effigies of Lucetta and Henchard are tied back-to-back on the donkey.

When the protestors march through the town centre, they will recreate the ride to draw attention to Dorset Council's plans to "desecrate" the countryside which inspired so much of Hardy's writing. They're protesting against a massive new development in open countryside between Charminster and Stinsford, which STAND (Save the Area North of Dorchester) says will blight the environment and change the character of the county town for good. When the council invited views on the draft plan to build a total of 39,000 houses across Dorset, there were 60,000 mostly negative comments. It's opposed by Dorchester Town Council, Dorchester Civic Society, CPRE and a network of 54 campaign groups.

So if you want to join the protest, meet at Maumbury Rings at 10am on Saturday, April 2nd and march through the town centre. There'll be music, speeches and, of course, that Skimmity ride.



A section of a Hogarth Skimmity Ride print







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The Pilot needs a new Editor

The time has come for me to say farewell to The Pilot and give up the editor's chair.

After two and a half years and (so far) 30 editions of our community magazine, I have decided that I'd like to take a break and hand over the reins to someone else.

It's been an interesting time—most of my work has been during Covid lockdowns and restrictions where many organisations and events faced cancellations and limitations. Not really what you want as a reporter!

But we've soldiered on, and I hope that you have enjoyed my efforts at making The Pilot a vibrant, newsy and colourful magazine.

However, a big birthday rather concentrates the mind, and so we're looking for another person to wield the blue subbing pencil and take our publication to the next level.

Whoever takes it on can rest assured that I will do everything I can to make the transition as smooth as possible and will offer every help and assistance.

At the moment, The Pilot is produced using Microsoft Publisher which is really a non-techy format. It is sent to our printer in Sherborne via We Transfer. You don't have to be a whizz-kid graphic designer to do the layout with this programme.

Obviously you need to have an eye for detail, a sense of news, a thickish skin and to be literate!

It would be great if there is someone else out there with a journalism or PR background as they are more likely to be able to hit the ground running, but anyone with an interest in creating a magazine might feel they could give it a go.

So if you think you'd like to have a stab at editing our magazine, please email me, or Tim Yarker at editor@charpilot.com and we can arrange a chat about exactly what's involved.

It is, of course, totally unpaid, but go on, have a go. It's quite good fun!

Marilyn Kay



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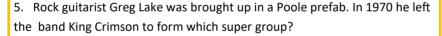
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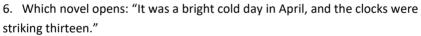


Your PILOT Easter Quiz!

Welcome to this bumper seasonal quiz. We think it's eggsceptionally easy but see how you get on.

- 1. April Come She Will (on the soundtrack to The Graduate) is a song by which American singer/songwriter?
- 2. Dinosaur Adventure Live is at Weymouth Pavilion in April. How much did a T Rex weigh?
- 3. Which BBC programme first reported on the Swiss spaghetti crop?
- 4. Chococo is a Dorset-based Easter Egg producer. But which company made the UK's first chocolate Easter Egg?







- 7. The hot cross bun commemorates the crucifixion. Which Queen tried to have them banned?
- 8. Who are commemorated on Anzac Day, April 25th?
- 9. The Mutiny on The Bounty took place in

April 1789. What was the name of the ship's captain?

10. Coldplay's Chris Martin met the band's manager Phil Harvey at which Dorset school?

Answers on page 43

Brownies take to the stage and Guides mix mocktails!

This term the girls have chosen to work on their Performers badge.

We have watched a movie and been working on the meaning behind it and what story it has to tell, plus a bit of a review. We also had great fun making sun-catcher style tigers and Chinese hats to celebrate the Chinese new year. It has been an enjoyable beginning to our term.

During our first week back we talked about our Promise and made an edible garden with sweet rocks, biscuit soil and sugar paste flowers, which we made.

Looking for leaders

We do have a few spaces for girls aged between the age of 7 and 10 but we are also looking for anyone who would like to become a leader. While we have lots of help and support we need someone to train now to be able to share the responsibility of running the unit. If you are interested, please contact us on our website Girlguid-

ing.org.co.uk. You are welcome to email me for more information about what you'd have to do.

From Alli, and the Charminster Guiding team

07483429596 email: charminstergirl-guiding21@aol.com

Charminster Guides have also made a great start to the term!



The Guides have made journals, after looking at different binding techniques, practising sewing and designing their journal.

Mixology

We also had a planning session that once done, ended with games and fun. The girls decided to do some work from their badge book this term. We spent an evening doing some painting, and making wooden Chinese Lanterns and have also started work on our Mixology Badge by designing mocktails which we will then test and try different mixes using different ingredients. We are looking forward to the end result. It'll be a mocktail party!

Charminster Guiding Team



Trefoil have been saying it with flowers! Our new Chairperson is Jeane Holmes (left) - I'm on the right.

By the time this edition of The Pilot is through your letterbox, we will have made another donation of approximately 25 memory/lap blankets, 10 shawls and 12 twiddlemuffs to the Stroke, Day-Lewis and Barnes wards of DCH – it's amazing how a bit of knitting or crocheting can produce so much. Our donation has been helped by Project Linus as they have volunteers who enjoy knitting as well as making patchwork cuddle quilts.

If anyone is interested in knitting or crocheting squares, blankets, shawls or knitting Twiddlemuffs or donating wool, I'd love to hear from you. We collected a large donation of wool from Weymouth 10 days ago and most of it is now out with knitters.

Our knit and natter groups have started up again, we celebrated Thinking Day in the Relax café and have been hearing about the Born Free charity. Some of our members visited Kingston Lacy to look at the snowdrops with the Trefoil County walking group

If you would like details of our April meeting, please contact me as there has been a bit of a mix-up with our St George's hall booking and it may not be on the first Wednesday afternoon that month.

Judy Thompson
01305 263783. Email:jct231@outlook.com



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Popular Pene moves on (messily!)

Rev'd Pene Kennedy has delivered her final sermon at St Mary's, Charminster. More than 100 people joined the congregation to say their farewells, and a Messy Church party kept the fun and games going later in the day.

Now Pene is taking six months off but may then apply to the Bishop for permission to officiate in a different benefice.





"I have loved the years I've had in the ministry— apart, perhaps, from the paperwork! But that was the same in my pervious life as a hospital sister and district nurse."

Pene pictured above, preaching her final sermon and left, the queen of messy church cuts her cake!

A date for your Stinsford diary.

The Stinsford Annual Church Parochial Meeting, for all on the church's electoral roll, will be on April 26 2022 at 6.00 p.m.at St Michael's Church, Stinsford.





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Referendum to finalise Stinsford Plan

After four years of work by community volunteers, local people and businesses, Stinsford's Neighbourhood Plan [SNP] faces its very last stage—a referendum on Thursday 5th May when voters will be asked to approve and agree the plan in its final form. If approved, the SNP will become planning policy for the village, ahead of Dorset's Local Plan which is still undergoing revision.

There will be a drop-in information day towards the end of April, and copies of the final version of SNP will be available to view throughout the parish. Please keep an eye on the parish noticeboards and on



www.stinsfordnplan.org.uk for details. Dorset Council will also publish information on its website.

The Plan has a shared vision, reflecting the community's values, hopes and needs today and into the future until 2038. SNP focuses mainly on protecting and supporting Stinsford's natural and historic heritage, whilst recognising that development, where necessary, should be built sensitively and sustainably.

A series of consultations with local people, organisations and businesses have been held since 2018, culminating in a formal consultation overseen by Dorset. The plan, and the results of all the consultations, were then put before an independent Examiner, who announced in February that he was satisfied that the plan had been properly prepared. Stinsford Parish Council accepted the Examiner's proposed modifications and incorporated them into the SNP. For more information or to ask questions about SNP contact any Stinsford parish councillor, or the steering group on stinsfordnplan@gmail.com , tel 07794 432 297, or visit www.stinsfordnplan.org.uk

Sally Cooke, SNP steering group

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Easter message from the Clergy...

When Jesus' followers saw that the men had come to arrest Jesus, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

A couple of months ago I was watching the situation in the Ukraine and, like many, feeling pretty helpless. I was worried that war would break out, as it did, but also that after two years of having to close our homes and workplaces to our friends, family and everyone else, the world would refuse to offer refuge to those who might have to flee. But I was wrong, and just like when we first went into lockdown, the community response globally and local to us has been immense. People have signed up as a pledge for 'Sanctuary', or other refugee housing, help and rehabilitation schemes. Huge amounts of goods have been shipped from our villages to help people at the borders. It seems like every single person and family in our communities has looked

...with Rev'd Leila Mather

for something they can do to support those who have lost so much through this war.

The quote above is from the story of Jesus' arrest, just before he was tried and put to death. This moment in the bible has inspired people to become pacifists, but it isn't a particularly passive scene. Jesus demands the laying down of weapons from his own friends, and then heals the person who has been wounded, before giving himself over to a cruel and torturous death. Christians take a huge amount of hope in Jesus' death and resurrection as the ultimate defeat of evil. but we still live with the painful chasm between the world we long for, and the broken world we're part of.

As we move towards Holy Week and Easter, come and join us in our annual journey alongside Jesus, from the pain of loss into the sudden celebration of Easter Sunday morning - not ignoring the pain in the world, but praying for those affected by it, actively trying to help them, and hoping for a better world to come.

Charlton Down Cricket Club ready for action

The cricket season starts! April is a great month for many reasons, but mostly because it sees the start of the cricket season.

Charlton Down's cricketers have now been practising indoors for a month and will soon move their training outdoors. Our first match is on Saturday 23rd April, a friendly game vs Abbotsbury.

League season

The following weekend we are on tour to Somerset, taking in a day of county cricket at Taunton and a Sunday friendly vs Cheddar CC. After that, the league season starts and the cricket will be pretty much non-stop through the summer. All fixtures will be publicised on village noticeboards and outside the pavilion.

The ground is looking the best it has ever looked, despite the battering our

poor fence took from Storm Eunice. This is thanks to the tremendous efforts of our dynamic duo John Pallister and Rick Hermans (as well as others who chip in when they can). We like to tease them, but they devote a huge amount of time to the club for no personal gain except the compliments they receive from visitors and passers-by. Their efforts ensure that the cricketers get to play on a good pitch, which improves the standard of cricket played (in theory at least), and enriches the surroundings for everyone in the community. From the club we would like to say a very big THANK YOU.



The beaten-down boundary fence

And we have some upcoming events:

Jumble Trail – Sunday 3rd April, 10 am to 2pm. The cricket club is serving as the start and end point for the Charlton Down Jumble Trail. You can pick up your trail map at the club and maybe also pick up a bacon sandwich and coffee while you're there.

Coffee mornings at the club – every Thursday, 10 am to 12.30.

Good Friday, 15th April – Cheese and wine night at the club. Keep your eyes peeled for details on the village notice boards and social media.

Jubilee picnic – Sunday 5th June. The club will be hosting a 'picnic in the park' style event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Much more detail in coming months, but good to get the date in your diary nice and early.

If you have any enquiries about the cricket club or suggestions for our social calendar, please contact james.pretty@charltondowncc.co.uk or come and have a chat when we are at the ground.

James Pretty



APRIL 2022 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHARMINSTER

Sunday 3rd April - 5th Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Thursday 14th April - Maundy Thursday

4.00 pm Sticky Church (with Messy Team)

7.00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday 15th April - Good Friday

2.00 pm Stations of the Cross

Sunday 17th April - Easter Day

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 24th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

4.00 pm Messy Church (with Messy Team)



APRIL 2022 AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, STINSFORD

Sunday 3rd April - 5th Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday

11.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Saturday 16th April - Easter Eve

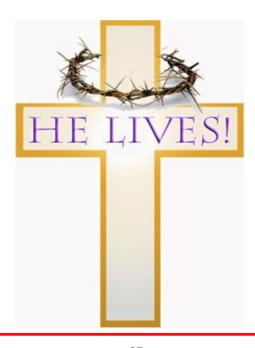
8.00 pm Service of Light

Sunday 17th April - Easter Day

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 24th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

6.00 pm Evensong



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Stinsford News...

... from Michael Clarke

It would have been good to have seen a little more sun recently, but all around there are bright daffodils, pure white snowdrops, colourful crocuses in full bloom and the birds singing again noticeably loudly.

The renewed Bockhampton Cross finger post is in position! This is as a result of work by the KMC Blacksmith and Welding Department students under the tutelage of Robert and Kevin and the helpful support of the AONB scheme which aims to retain these valuable signposts.

Sunday 5th June will see the Thomas Hardy Birthday Service. It is also Pentecost and importantly the Queens' Jubilee Platinum Anniversary celebratory weekend. So, as a start to this event, a Flower Festival is planned for St. Michaels.

The PCC has also come up with some new ideas, including the use of contactless giving for visitors. For this scheme we can hopefully use a neighbours WIFI access.

We'd also like to place a stone record- Day buttonhole on the 23rd.

ing the friendship and work of Bill Jesty did for St Michaels: This will require a List B Faculty provided by the Archdeacon.

And there are plans to clear the area around the felled Yew: For both somewhere to sit and possibly a further spot for the burial of Ashes.

Easter church services (see centre pages) include Palm Sunday when you can renew your Palms for the forthcoming year. If the old were not burnt on Ash Wednesday you can bury them to assist the forthcoming crops and offer up a good harvest, and you should plant your seed potatoes on Good Friday (so it is said).

Our Easter vigil is held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. A procession carrying lighted candles moves inside to bring light into the darkened church.

Then there's an Easter egg hunt after the Sunday service, and don't forget to find a red rose for your St George's Day buttonhole on the 23rd.



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First "Inter-house" quiz raises cash for Alzheimer's

After delays caused by Covid, the inaugural 'Inter-House' Quiz in aid of Alzheimer's Society took place at Charminster Community Hall between the residents of Greenwood House, Herrison House and Redwood House at Charlton Down, writes Richard Wareham.

Pictured is the Winning Team 'Redwooden Tops' with a total of 72 points.

'Napoleon Solo' Nigel Pashley, deserves a special mention for coming second with 65 points, who was happy to have a table on his own!

The Winning House was Greenwood House, with an aggregate percentage of 20%, with Herrison House & Redwood House jointly second with 15%

Aside from it being a fun evening, £ 345.50 was raised for Alzheimer's Society.

The Winning Team will decide their chosen Charity for next year's event.

Below, winners Peter Austin, Richard Wareham, John Austin (no relation to Peter), and Loraine Kerridge



Platinum Jubilee fete sets out its stall

Plans are coming together for a super celebration in the gardens of Charminster House, where the first village fete was held in Coronation year nearly 70 years ago.

Now the hope is that the whole local community will come together to enjoy a whole host of activities that should appeal to those old enough and lucky enough to remember the Coronation, as well as those young enough to have no idea what all the fuss is about.

Changes

There have been so many changes since then, globally as well as in our own village, where we have welcomed so many new people into our thriving community. The fête now offers a wonderful opportunity for everyone to gather.

Owners of Charminster House, Gwen and Tim Yarker, have been overwhelmed by the many offers of help to organise stalls, but would welcome more helpers on the day to take charge of the many different stalls and activities including a Dog Show, a Punch & Judy show and a Grand Draw, along with tea and cakes, hot food, live music, and a bar.

Sponsors

Support from local businesses has also been welcomed and this year's main sponsors are Hardy Tree Surgeons, Charminster Store & Post Office and M. Christopher Buildings & Ground Maintenance. There are other sponsorship opportunities available, so please do get in touch with the fete committee if you would like your business to be involved. They would welcome your support.





And a straw poll among local pooches would suggest there's some tail-wagging excitement in the village as they wait to find out who looks most like his or her owner, has the waggiest tail or the biggest doggy grin!



If you would like to donate anything in the way of books, jigsaw puzzles, bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, preserves, etc, then please do keep hold of any bits and pieces until nearer the day, when various drop-off points around the village will be published.

And if you could spare an hour or two on the day itself, either to set up during the morning, or during the event, itself then please do get in touch.

Another plan is to provide a platinum cream tea for some of the more elderly or infirm residents who are house-bound and simply will otherwise miss out on all the fun. If you know of someone—a relative or neighbour—who you think should be a recipient, please let the team know. And if you'd like to help deliver those goodies on a day close to the fete, then of course everyone would love to hear from you.

Contact details for Tim and Gwen are - 01305 265942; timyarker@btinternet.com; gwenyarker@btinternet.com or follow us on Facebook "Charminster Fete".

Let's see if we can keep alive a little something of the past, whilst also looking forward to a brilliant future for steadily growing community.





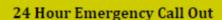


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It's all about family for Vicky

Vicky Lawford, who has recently been appointed the family worker for Charminster, takes her role quite literally—by roping in son, daughter and husband to help out with all activities!

Part of the St Mary's team, her job largely involves local children, but a recent groundwork in counselling means she's there for everyone in a family who might need a shoulder to lean on.

Married to Tony, who finds himself as refuse collector when Vicky takes on gardening club at the school, she gets son Jack involved with the heavy lifting when it comes to setting up church events, while daughter Tiger Lily puts her artistic talents to good use creating collages for the children to work on.

"I'm often up at the school for gardening club and to listen to readers. Now I'm trying to build bridges with St Osmund's so that we don't lose contact with our children as they move on. "I'd like to set up an after-school club for those kids and we could tailor a club to meet their wants and needs.



Vicky with a collage partly created by daughter Tiger Lily

The Lawford family have been living in Charlton Down for about 10 years having spent a decade in France renovating farmhouses to provide B&B holidays particularly to families who have children with learning difficulties or other problems. A spell in Florida followed before their move back to the UK.

"I'd never set foot in Dorset in my life but this just felt right. I firmly believe in the power of prayer and out of the blue this job came up. The answer to my prayers!"



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Answers to Easter Quiz

- 1. Paul Simon
- 2. Between 5.5 and eight tons according to National Geographic
- 3. Panorama in April 1957 one of the most famous April Fool jokes of all time.
- 4. J S Fry and Sons in Bristol in 1873.
- 5. Emerson, Lake and Palmer
- 6. 1984 by George Orwell
- 7. Queen Elizabeth I, supposedly on religious grounds.
- 8. Anzac Day was originally devised to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who served in the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915.



10. Sherborne School

Right, mutiny on the Bounty





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