

# BODMIN WAY

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

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Why not visit us online @  
**[www.bodminway.org](http://www.bodminway.org)**



# SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS

In October, the Bodmin Way started their biggest project to support local business and in collaboration with the Bodmin Chamber of Commerce on the 21st of October Dave Birch (your editor) set up a Facebook Group called **Bodmin Virtual Market**.

The objective was to create a free easy to use community-based platform where local businesses, food producers and crafters in Bodmin and surrounding villages can connect with people and boost their business.

Joy Bassett, Chair of Bodmin Chamber explained "With Christmas, and a lot of uncertainty, around the corner, we wanted

to encourage buyers to support local businesses as much as possible when they are shopping."

Businesses can also join a Twitter campaign on Saturday mornings between 8am -9am, to help drive traffic and attention to the Facebook group. Follow @bodminmarket and join in for an hour of tweeting about your business.

**Now is your opportunity to support our local businesses. Pop onto the Bodmin Virtual Market on Facebook invite all your friends to join and buy many of the fantastic crafts, goods, services, and special offers that you will find there.**



**Viraj**

**CURRY LIFE A-W-A-R-D-S**  
Winner of the Curry Life Awards 2019

Four small images showing the interior of the restaurant, including the kitchen, dining area, and food displays.

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# Welcome to Your Bodmin Way Newsletter

At the end of a Christmas Carol service, we always read this: 'The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out'. We refer of course to the light that came through the birth of Christ. We affirm year after year that this light still shines no matter the darkness upon us.

Amidst the short days of winter, we get much less sunlight. We put up our bright decorations to cheer us up. In our nativity scenes we recall the story of the wise men following a special star. Angels in 'bright raiment' shone before the shepherds. The glint of gold lit up a dim stable. And amidst all this was the love of a mother and father for their new-born baby, lighting their lives.

This year more than any other we need to see light at the end of the tunnel.

Perhaps this classic Christmas story will touch us, especially in the coming days. May its glad tidings shed light and warmth on us all.

*Revd Paul Holley*

Team Rector, Bodmin Team Ministry



**The image on the front cover has been kindly provided by Cheryl Cooper and was taken in Lanhydrock.**

Bodmin Way is the social enterprise created by the Bodmin Team Ministry, including St. Petroc's and the parishes of Lanhydrock, Cardinham and Lanivet with Nanstallon.



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# intoBodmin & A brighter future

## BODMIN'S WINDOW WANDERLAND

Sat 5th-Sun 13th Dec | 5:30-8:30pm  
daily | Free

intoBodmin with Bodmin Christmas Lights Committee need your help to transform our streets into a magical outdoor gallery for everyone to enjoy. Decorate a window between the 5th and 13th Dec and register to add it to the free downloadable map so that everyone can enjoy a magical

walk around Bodmin this Christmas. Make a display for your flat, house,

business, school, campervan, shop, or in your front garden! It could be as simple as a candle in a window, or you could go all out and decorate the whole house! Anything goes... as long as it's family friendly! Let's light up Bodmin!



## DECEMBER EVENTS



We have got lots of fantastic things happening in December! Keep an eye on our box office for

details of performances in The Old Library including DAVID MYNNE'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL and Coppice Theatre's JACK FROST'S STORYTIME. Plus, get your craft on with our FELT SOAP WORKSHOP and PAINT & PINOT EVENING

## Help to build a Brighter Future for Bodmin's young people

The Bodmin Rotary Club are starting an ambitious new initiative, the Brighter Future Fundraiser. This combines a competition, starting in January 2021, to showcase the creative talents of youngsters in Bodmin with fund raising in March to May 2021 to help local disadvantaged and vulnerable young people achieve their potential.

Bodmin Jail Hotel has generously donated £500 as a seed fund to help us get started. We need the community to work together to achieve a significant difference. We are

keen to hear from anyone interested to get involved, and especially from schools and youth organisations who can help encourage young people living in Bodmin and surrounding areas aged 5 -24, to enter the competition.

We also need to hear from potential sponsors. We have sponsorship opportunities from a value of £10 upwards for rewards for our Crowdfund campaign in April/May next year.

To learn more about the project visit the website at [www.bodminbrighterfuture.org](http://www.bodminbrighterfuture.org) or email us at [carol.randall2013@gmail.com](mailto:carol.randall2013@gmail.com)



# BODMIN COLLEGE SIXTH FORM SUCCESS

## LET US CELEBRATE THEIR SUPERB RESULTS

Results day was hugely different this year at Bodmin College Sixth Form. Due to schools being shut and exams being cancelled back in March, both GCSE and A-Level students were awarded grades based on calculations from previous teacher assessments and standardised through a national algorithm.

Principal Emmie Seward-Adams was full of praise for her students and staff, saying "It's been a difficult time for students everywhere. Throughout the two years of sixth form, they are constantly gearing up for their final exams and for these to be suddenly cancelled has been tough. But they have shown incredible resilience, commitment and fantastic independence of which we are immensely proud."

For another year running students at Bodmin College Sixth Form celebrated exceptional grades with all students securing exciting future pathways including:

**Bart** achieved 3 grade As in Biology, Chemistry and Maths. He is going on to study Medicine at University College London.



**Leah** celebrates A\* Fine Art and A\* Art & Design progressing to University of the Arts London to study Fine Art.



**Hannah** goes on to study Dance at the prestigious Laban Conservatoire having achieved Distinction\* in both Performing Arts and Fashion Art & Design, along with A English Literature and B Psychology.



**George** celebrated A Maths, A Physics and B Chemistry and now is looking forward to studying Economics at Bath University.



Mr Joe Crane, Head of Sixth Form, added "Many of these students will move forward with their results to achieve amazing things, be that in further study or beginning a career. Regardless of what they choose to do, I'm incredibly proud of each and every one of them, and will miss everything they have brought to Bodmin College over the last two years."

**For more information regarding Bodmin College Sixth Form, please visit our website**  
[www.bodmincollegesixthform.co.uk](http://www.bodmincollegesixthform.co.uk)

# BODMIN OLD CORNWALL SOCIETY

## CORNISH CROSS ON THE OLD CALLYWITH ROAD, BODMIN

The Cross is a Grade II listed building which marks the boundary between Bodmin and Cardinham. It was first recorded in 1613 as the "Greedetch Cross" because it stands at the junction with the Great Ditch which bounded land owned by Bodmin Priory. The Cross has a decorated wheel-head and stands to an approximate height of 1.8 metres.

It is a Wayside Cross whose main function was to mark the route to the Parish Church. It was also used to mark tracks to the sites of pilgrimages, monastic sites, ancient Chapels and Holy Wells.

On an 1840 tithe map can be seen a track from Callywith to Clerkenwater known as

"The Church Path". There is a mention of a "Chapel over the hill" recorded in 1157. It is also stated that there is a site of an old Holy Well at Penbugle.

Callywith is just outside the borough boundary and gave its name to one of the toll gates on the 1769 Bodmin Moor turnpike (now the A30). The road leading from Bodmin Moor to Castle Street which was the main route into Bodmin until the Launceston Road was cut through Barn Park in 1834.

The word Callywith was derived from the Cornish word "Kellywyth" meaning "wood".



# THE BODMIN WASSAIL 2021

The Bodmin Wassail looks like being very different on Wednesday 6th January 2021 than it has been for the last 397 years. For those who are unaware we are in the habit of entering, (on invitation) homes or businesses to bring good health and good cheer for the coming year. With the current Covid 19 regulations we cannot enter homes and are limited to six people. The latter is a difficult decision for our dedicated wassailers; some willing to travel from Dorset, London and even New Zealand.

Never-the-less the wassail will take place in some form, it has survived world wars, we are not going to let this virus be the break in a very long chain. As far as we know we are the only visiting wassail left in the country, certainly the only one with an unbroken tradition. So how are we going to continue?

If things return to normal, so will we. If the Covid rules remain we will reduce to six and remain outside properties regardless of the weather, observing always the distancing guidelines. If total

lock down occurs our only course will be to go virtual via the media.

A problem arising will be the lack of generous Bodminers who would normally donate to our chosen charity **<https://hugsfoundation.org.uk>**

Their survival through these troubled times is extremely difficult and they are doing such a caring and valued job. We urge you to donate at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/the-bodmin-wassail>

So please keep an eye out for us on the 6th January 2021 as we perambulate the town but please help us by observing distancing guidelines. If in future years you would like a visit from the wassailers please let us know, our only restriction is being able to fit you into our scheduled route.

*Wassail, Paul Scoble*

The two photos were taken at the 2020 Wassail by Jocelyn Murgatroyd



# INVESTING IN LOCAL BUS SERVICES

## Biggest investment for 50 years

Bodmin has 3 brand new routes, brand new buses and 4 new bus shelters, all with up to the minute information when your bus will arrive.

This has been years in planning. It is part of a major public transport boost by Cornwall council also including new trains and train services so people can leave their cars behind and help the planet.

The new bus services are the 176 from Bodmin Parkway through Bodmin to Launceston every 2 hours. The 89 with

useful links across Bodmin before a more direct link to Truro than before. The 10 from Bodmin Parkway through Bodmin, Wadebridge, Polzeath and Camelford to Launceston, every hour to Wadebridge. Together there is a much improved service to Bodmin Parkway especially as the 11a evening service has resumed.



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# CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM GOD

This month as we search for the perfect gifts for family and friends, we might find ourselves wishing we could give them more than money can buy: peace, happiness, and laughter, for instance. So, when you wrap their gifts, why not send up a prayer for them too, since God is able to give more than we can even imagine?



For the person who is anxious, we pray for the gift of peace.  
For the person who is lonely, we pray for the gift of friendship.  
For the person who is hurting, we pray for the gift of comfort.  
For the person who is poor, we pray for the gift of provision.  
For the person who is sick, we pray for the gift of healing.  
For the person who is desperate, we pray for the gift of hope.  
For the person who is sad, we pray for the gift of joy.  
For the person who has made mistakes, we pray for the gift of a new start.  
For every last one of us – young or not-so-young, faith-filled or cynical, chatterbox or quiet thinker, busy parent or empty nester, TikTok maker or technology hater – we pray for God's love to fill our lives and homes this Christmas time. Amen.



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# CHURCH NEWS

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

With lockdown due to end at the start of December we have planned a socially distanced event at St.Petroc's Church.



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The parish churches of Lanivet, Cardinham, Lanhydrock and Bodmin will be offering Christmas services for all the family on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Due to Covid restrictions these will be ticket-only. Check out the church websites and social media channels for the latest information or contact our administrator, Sara, on 01208 832477.

We aim to provide as much capacity as possible so do join us for these special celebrations.

[www.bodminteam.church](http://www.bodminteam.church)  
[www.bodminchurch.com](http://www.bodminchurch.com)

**St Petroc's Church Bodmin**

# Christmas Tree Festival

**- OPEN DAILY -**  
**FROM Wed 9th - 26th**  
**10.30 to 4.30pm**

COVID compliant and with social distancing measures in place

**Market Stall,  
Raffle Prizes Supporting Local Traders,**

## St. Petroc's

**Christmas Eve Family  
Services at**

**2pm, 3.30pm, 5pm**  
(Max 100 people in each)

**Midnight Communion  
11.30pm**

**Christmas Day Family  
Communion at 11.30pm**

# GIVING PEOPLE A LIFT

**‘Time Together’** the Wednesday café and day centre at St Petroc’s Church has given people an opportunity to meet with friends and meet new people. The lovely time we have been having has had to stop due to lockdown but we feel that keeping in touch with people is important; whether they attended the café, came to church on Sundays or those who used to but are now housebound.

On three Wednesdays in November, **a little gift bag to give a little lift**, was delivered to people’s homes, in and around Bodmin and Lanivet, hopefully bringing smiles all round! Inside each bag was a slice of delicious cake, a craft / activity, a copy of the Bodmin Voice newspaper and

postcards. It is also a way of updating people about the **Christmas Tree Festival**, that is due to be held at St Petroc’s Church, and the chances we have to meet in December. Time Together will hopefully resume on **Wednesday 20th January 2021!**

Thanks to the generosity of the Team’s Churches, nearly 90 wrapped **Christmas Gifts** have been handed over to one of Bodmin’s Social Workers, for onward distribution to many children of needy Families.

Thank you to everyone who joined in or donated to our **Wear It Pink** walks and runs during October. £492 was raised and has all been given to the charity - with gift aid added where possible. Thank you to Barbara Brittain who superbly organised the event and thank you to the helpers on route.



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



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# MAYORALTY HOUSE (AND ASSIZE COURTS)

In 1837, upon the removal of the summer assizes from Launceston to Bodmin and because of an Act of Parliament, it became desirable to provide additional accommodation for the Courts.

Accordingly, the old church of the Grey Friars (usually called the Refectory) was taken down, and new courts with convenient accommodation for the grand jury etc, re erected on the site. The front is built of granite ashlar, and, though plain, has a good and substantial appearance. At the same time the Judges' Lodgings were rebuilt in a similar manner from a design by Mr Joseph Pascoe of this town. The expense was borne by the County. The architect and contractor was Mr Burt of Launceston.

In 1874 an advertisement appeared in the West Briton: to let Mayoralty House for a term of fourteen years. The house having been expressly built as lodgings for the judges, the taker will be required to furnish the same to the satisfaction of the Town Council, and to accommodate the judges

and their retinue at the Lent and Summer assizes, from which a large pecuniary advantage annually accrues to the tenant. Bodmin having been selected as the military depot centre for the county of Cornwall, an excellent opportunity now offers itself to any one desirous of keeping a high class lodging-house, for which purpose the above property is admirably adapted”.

Nb: The Mayoralty always had a resident family. The House stands on the right-hand side of the entrance to the Priory Park and is where the Town Council Offices are

Picture of Mayoralty House – in 1945 and today.



Source:

Parochial & Family History of the Parish & Borough of Bodmin; Life in Cornwall 1874  
Researched by Stephanie Thomas, President, Bodmin Old Cornwall Society

## DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE HISTORY OF BODMIN?

Have a look at the Bodmin Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal of 1999

[https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/reports\\_conservation\\_areas/Bodmin\\_CA\\_Statement.pdf](https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/reports_conservation_areas/Bodmin_CA_Statement.pdf)

# OUR BEAUTIFUL PLACES

**St Petroc's church** in Bodmin is one of our beautiful places. Many associate it with worship or numerous events both private and public. Have you really looked around inside though? Have you shown your children the hundreds of years of history within its walls and outside? The church is open and full of historically important contents. Here are three to look out for:

The **Norman Font** (see picture) with its intricate masonry carving displaying a message in itself – many people have been baptised here.

Displayed within a somewhat tarnished glazed case on the West wall of the South Aisle are copies of some pages of the **Bodmin Gospels** which dates from the end of the 9th century to the early part of the 11th. It is mainly written in Latin and Old English but also has the earliest written examples of the Cornish language. In addition, records were added to the Book recording the freeing of slaves. The original Book is held at the British Library, but much more information can be found via Google or YouTube. One of the many proposed Plans to enhance the Visitor experience in St. Petroc's is to create an interactive display of the Bodmin Gospels, so as to be of benefit to history students and scholars alike.



Numerous memories of the **Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (DCLI)**, which was a light infantry regiment of the British Army in existence from 1881 to 1959, can be found. 22 individual DCLI memorials are sited at various locations around the Church, and descriptive 'handouts' are available for visitor's information. There are also intricate stained-glass windows, in memory of families but also the Fallen of the DCLI. Looking up in the roof space of the Soldiers Chapel, dating from the 19th century, you will see the DCLI colours suspended.

# CORNWALL SAMARITANS

## 50 YEARS AND STILL LISTENING

Back in 1970 Samaritans opened its Cornwall branch at Treyew Road in Truro and celebrates its 50th birthday this year. Over the past year, the centre took over 30,000 contacts by telephone, email or from face-to-face visitors. The branch is staffed by over 100 listening volunteers, and an additional 25 support volunteers.

Sue Wright (Director) commented "I know Samaritans provide such a vital service for so many people, particularly during the last six months, and I have the greatest respect for all our volunteers and what they do."

The centre has been able to function during this difficult time, but all Outreach events and fundraising initiatives, including the Samaritans National Walk and branch birthday celebrations have been cancelled. Every volunteer, however, has been given a medallion of Cornish tin to mark this important milestone.

Jeremy Gilbert, of St Justin, said "As a Cornish company we were extremely honoured to be asked to design a medallion



for the local branch of the Samaritans, who have done such an amazing job in Cornwall for the past 50 years."

Volunteer Penny 191 a volunteer, at the Truro centre, for over forty-five years. "We're let into our callers' lives when they are troubled and feel that they are unable to share their concerns with anyone else."

The comprehensive Samaritan training programme has been online, and one of the latest cohort of volunteers Rachel

NS41, commented "I've called Samaritans as a last resort, knowing they'd helped me so much before. I can't remember the name of the volunteer I spoke to. I'm so grateful to someone I'll never meet. I wanted to become 'that person' for as many people as I could, and 2020 seems like the perfect year to start my training."

Samaritans can be contacted for free on 116123 or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)



# SMALL DONATIONS DELIVER GREAT VALUE

There are two baskets in St. Petroc's Church, a large container for items destined for the Food Bank, and you will be aware of how an increased number of people have need of food since the Covid pandemic took hold, and the smaller one for used postage stamps and other collectables (e.g. postcards or any coins) for the Leprosy Mission.



Leprosy causes nerve damage which makes hands and feet numb. As a result cuts and burns easily go unnoticed and ulcers can develop. The trials of a new treatment are promising and healing time is halved. Caring for leprosy patients and the new trial need funding and by cutting the stamps from your Christmas card envelopes, with a small amount of paper around each stamp, will provide income at no cost to you except a little effort.

As you visit the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Petroc's Church, from 9th December, please place your Food Bank offerings, such as tinned salmon, Christmas puddings, chocolates, biscuits, cranberry

sauce, stuffing, pickles and long life milk, and stamps in the appropriate basket and they will be gratefully appreciated by those who benefit.



Two collections of 5p coins have been handed in to help the growing but struggling Anglican church in Peru. The fund has now topped £100 which will be sent out to Peru, with pleasure as soon as lock down has lifted. Many thanks to all who save the collections, it is surprising how those little coins mount up and do good work.





# ST LAWRENCE HOSPITAL

## **A town within a town!**

Growing up in Bodmin I realise how important the hospital was for employment! Our family alone had twelve members working there!

There was a Pharmacy, providing all medication. The main stores ordered all provisions, a butchers was at the rear and supplied the kitchen. A store upstairs catered for every clothing and linen request from Ward Sisters.

The Laundry cleaned everything, dry cleaned if necessary, several Domestics were employed. There was a cobblers and a Fire Station and at one time the mortuary was in this area.

Foster Building was where you would find the kitchen, Bakers, Cooks and Kitchen assistants. They provided all the food for the wards and the Staff dining room where there were several more employed. In the Builders yard were Builders, Painters, Electricians, Plumbers and Carpenters. There were two shops (called Male and Female Canteens) most things could be bought from these.

Now come the therapies, in the Occupational Therapy building there was a Hairdressers, Barbers, and a cookery kitchen for patients who liked to cook. Recreation Therapy were responsible for organising Dances, Parties, Entertainment and Sport activities. There

was a Hospital Farm down in the valley below the hospital, often teams of staff and patients would go there to work. The Overall running of the hospital was from the Front Office, this included Wages Office, Patients Finance Office and the Typist pool. In Kendall block Medical Records were kept, and next door were the Medical Secretaries.

The church at town end is called St Lawrence's Church, if you have never visited it I would recommend you do so even if just to see the lovely glass windows behind the altar! When I first worked in the hospital Rev Jenkins visited the wards and took the services in the church, the congregation consisted of patients who wished to attend and local townsfolk. After Mr Jenkins retirement the Rev. Roger Mitchell came with his wife and family, he was well known and well-liked by patients and Staff alike!

## **LIZ CAPP**

The photo is an AERO pictorial postcard of the Foster building contributed to the website of photographer Jon Deacon. See more at <http://slhphotosbodmin.blogspot.com/>



# BODMIN KEEP

New COVID secure First World War, Second World War and Remembrance **loans boxes** for local schools and colleges are now offered by Bodmin Keep. The boxes support teaching in the classroom, link to the national curriculum and are an ideal starting point for promoting and developing observation, critical thinking, problem solving, questioning and empathising skills. Object handling encourages learners to engage their senses by feeling weights and textures, examining mechanisms and surface finishes, listening to sounds and even smelling for clues about use. Each of the boxes includes a mixture of original and reproduction objects some of which are over one hundred years old! Each box comes with teachers' notes which give context and historical information about the objects and ready to use resources.


## Child of War session loans box

Schools and colleges can also hire a loans box where learners will explore what it was like to be a child during World War Two. During group work and investigative activities with real and replica objects, themes including rationing, evacuation and play are explored. This box includes all the resources needed to deliver the session including a lesson plan, PowerPoint showing what life would have been like for children in Cornwall during the war and teachers' notes. *"The resources*

*accompanied with the session plan made everything so easy to run and helped to bring the topic to life. In the current climate with it being difficult to get children out on school trips, this was a superb way of bringing the trip to the children. I'd recommend this to other teachers as having the session plan with the activity resources saves so much time and enables you to maximise the resources."* **KS2 Bodmin teacher**

**To find out more about our loans box scheme for your school, just contact Jo Keenan at [education@bodminkeep.org](mailto:education@bodminkeep.org)**

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IN YOUR CLASSROOM!**



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# BODMIN FUNERAL SERVICES

## Christmas Tree Festival 2020

We can hardly believe it has been 17 years since the start of the fabulous Christmas Tree Festival in St Petroc's Church, where annually with other organisations in the community we have displayed our Tree of Remembrance.

The BFS tree in silver and blues is usually situated close to the altar in the smaller Soldiers aisle and due to demand is increasing in size every year. Initially we decorate the tree by placing a bauble with the name of every person we have had the privilege of looking after during that year. However, our wish is to give everyone visiting the festival the chance to remember their loved ones. To this purpose, we provide a large basket of spare decorations and labels to allow people to add the names of their family members who have died.

Christmas is a particular time of year for remembering with fondness those who are no longer with us, but we also recognise that it is the most difficult time for those recently bereaved and we hope that this small act offers comfort to honour treasured memories. Many people have commented how special the BFS tree has become to them and how they return every year to include their loved ones.

We are delighted to have our tree on display again this year and although we have put in place precautions, please bring your own pens so we can stay COVID friendly!

Angus, Paula and their staff send warmest greetings for Christmas and our wishes for a happy, peaceful and safer 2021.  
01208 78300 [www.bodminfunerals.com](http://www.bodminfunerals.com)





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