

**HAMWORTHY  
CHURCH**

**THE BRIDGE  
APRIL/MAY 2026**

**St Michael's Blandford Road Hamworthy  
St Gabriel's Keyworth Road Hamworthy  
Parish of Hamworthy Poole  
Reg Charity 1163697**

[www.hamworthychurch.co.uk](http://www.hamworthychurch.co.uk)

## **Clergy**

Rector: Rev. Tessa Nisbet

St Michael's Rectory - 1 St Michael's Close, Hamworthy,  
BH15 4QW

01202 674878

[Tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:Tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

Day Off: Friday

**Associate Minister:** Rev. Ashley Ross

07897182602

[Ashley.ross@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:Ashley.ross@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**Curate:** Rev. Ruth Peers

07748097832

[Ruth.peers@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:Ruth.peers@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

Day Off: Thursday

**Licensed Lay Minister**

Jenny Baldock 01202 976846

**Church Wardens**

Jude Perring

Ian Davey

[wardens@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:wardens@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**Parish administrator**

Naomi Whayman

07300232703

[Hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto>Hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**Office Hours Monday - Thursday**

**PCC Treasurer:** Dave Coates  
[treasurer@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**PCC Secretary:** Michele Hardwick  
[pcc@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:pcc@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**PCC Electoral Roll Officer:** Joanna Sims

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:**  
Tracey Lee - [safeguarding@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@hamworthychurch.co.uk)  
07758673067

**Wedding Baptism and Funeral Enquires**  
**Contact:** Rev. Tessa Nisbet  
[Tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:Tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**Churchyard Enquires**  
**Contact:** Jan Davies [hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**Worship Team**  
Steve Perring/Kathryn Holt  
[Worshipteam@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:Worshipteam@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**Hall and Church Centre Hire** [www.hamworthychurch.co.uk](http://www.hamworthychurch.co.uk)

# VERSE OF THE YEAR 2026



# OUR VISION AND VALUES

## HAMWORTHY CHURCH VALUES



### **BE ROOTED IN PRAYER**

WE RECOGNISE THAT WE ARE DEPENDENT UPON GOD AND CAN ACHIEVE NOTHING WITHOUT HIM.



### **DEMONSTRATE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY**

WE LOVE AND VALUE EACH OTHER, RECOGNISING THAT THE WAY WE TREAT PEOPLE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT WE GET DONE.



### **CHOOSE BEAUTIFUL SIMPLICITY**

WE DELIGHT IN CREATING BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENTS THAT ENABLE US TO WORSHIP IN SIMPLICITY, SEEKING TO FIND THE BEAUTY OF CHRIST IN IT ALL.



### **PRACTISE COMMITTED DISCIPLESHIP**

WE SEE DISCIPLESHIP AS A CONTINUAL, LIFELONG PROCESS, WHERE WE CHOOSE TO BE SHAPED BY THE SPIRIT AND SCRIPTURE.



### **BOLDLY BRING HOPE**

WE CHOOSE TO LIVE GOSPEL-SHAPED LIVES, UNAPOLOGETICALLY SHARING OUR CONFIDENCE THAT JESUS IS RESTORING AND TRANSFORMING ALL THINGS.

# OUR VISION AND VALUES

## DEFINITIONS & VERSES

BEING IN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THE TRINITY IS CENTRAL TO BOTH OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL FAITH JOURNEYS. COMMUNICATING WITH HIM INFORMS AND SHAPES ALL THAT WE ARE AND ALL THAT WE DO.

**JOHN 15:5 / EPHESIANS 6:18**

WE WANT TO BE COMPASSIONATE HOSTS WHO EMBODY A GENEROUS SPIRIT; SHARING WHAT WE HAVE AND CREATING SPACES WHERE PEOPLE FEEL ABUNDANTLY WELCOME AND ABLE TO BELONG.

**LUKE 14:13-14 / HEBREWS 13:1-2**

INTENTIONAL, UNCOMPLICATED, DEEPLY ATTENTIVE WORSHIP, GROUNDED IN WORD AND SPIRIT, IS KEY TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES. WE COMMIT TO CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION AND WE TAKE JOY IN THE BEAUTY OF THE TRINITY REFLECTED IN NATURE.

**ROMANS 12:1-2 / MATTHEW 22:37-39**

WE ARE PLAYERS NOT SPECTATORS. WE ARE JOINED TO ONE ANOTHER THROUGH DEEP TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY, SHARING IN ONE ANOTHERS JOYS AND SORROWS AS WE LIVE AS APPRENTICES TO JESUS. TOGETHER WE DEVELOP DAILY HABITS AND RHYTHMS WHICH ENABLE US TO ENJOY LIFE IN GOD'S PRESENCE AND AT HIS PACE.

**LUKE 9:23-24 / 2 TIMOTHY 1:6-8**

WE SEEK TO GO AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER AND OUR NEIGHBOURS, BELIEVING IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO HIMSELF. WE PARTNER WITH CHRIST IN SHARING THE SHALOM [WHOLENESS] HE WON IN HIS DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION WITH THOSE WHO DON'T YET KNOW HIM.

**MICAH 6:8 / ISAIAH 61:1-3**



**Wednesday 1st** Holy Communion 9.30am

**Good Friday 3rd** Walk of Witness followed by short service  
9.45 am from St Gabriel's

**Sunday 5th** Easter Sunday All Age 10am St Michael's

**Wednesday 8th** Holy Communion 9.30am

**Sunday 12th** Holy Communion 10am St Michael's

**Sunday 12th** The Well 3pm St Gabriel's

**Tuesday 14th** Prayers 7pm St Gabriel's

**Wednesday 16th** Morning Worship 9.30am

**Sunday 19th** All Age 10am St Michael's

**Sunday 19th** 4 o'clock 4pm St Michael's

**Wednesday 22nd** Holy Communion 9.30am

**Sunday 26th** Morning Worship 10am St Michael's

**Tuesday 28th** Prayers 7pm St Michael's

**Wednesday 29th** Morning Worship 9.30am



**Sunday 3rd** Holy Communion 10am St Michael's

**Wednesday 6th** Holy Communion 9.30am St Michael's

**Sunday 10th** Morning Worship 10am St Michael's

**Sunday 10th** The Well 3pm St Gabriel's

**Tuesday 12th** Prayers 7pm St Gabriel's

**Wednesday 13th** Morning Worship 9.30am St Michael's

**Sunday 17th** All Age 10am St Michael's

**Sunday 17th** The 4 o'clock 4pm St Michael's

**Wednesday 20th** Holy Communion 9.30am St Michael's

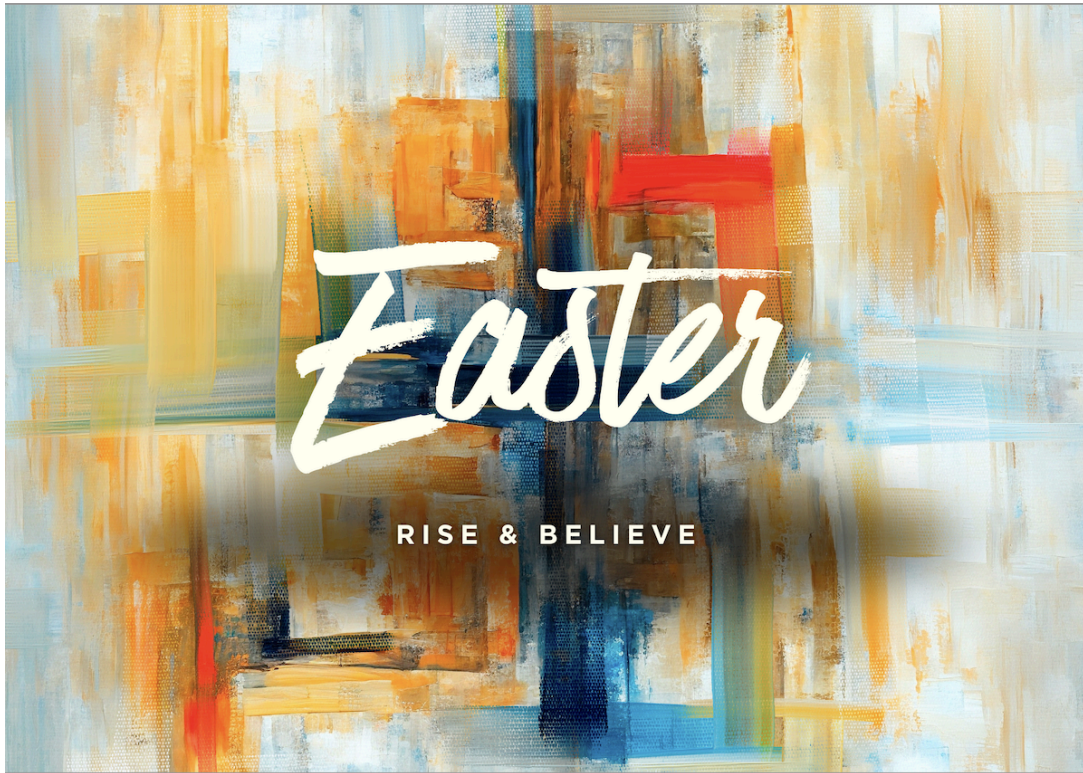
**Sunday 24th** Morning Worship 10am St Michael's

**Tuesday 26th** Prayers 7pm St Gabriel's

**Wednesday 27th** Morning Worship 9.30am St Michael's

**Sunday 31st** Holy Communion 10am St Michael's

# EASTER



## WHATS ON @ ST MICHAEL'S

### PALM SUNDAY

10am All age service

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

3-4pm Interactive storytime for families

7-8pm Prayer Stations open

### GOOD FRIDAY

9:45am Walk of Witness  
from St Gabriel's to St Michael's and  
short service at 10.30am

2pm Hour at the Cross

### EASTER SATURDAY

Church open from 10am- 12noon

### EASTER SUNDAY

10am All Age Service



[www.hamworthychurch.co.uk](http://www.hamworthychurch.co.uk)  
[hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk)



## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (TERM TIME ONLY)**

**Sunday** - 10am "Hillside" St Michael's Church Lounge - our intergenerational group that meets during our morning services.

**Monday** - 10am-11am Little Acorns St Michael's Church Lounge  
This is a baby and toddler group.

Followed by Picnic and Prayer 11am-12noon

Please contact Ashley

[Ashley.ross@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:Ashley.ross@hamworthychurch.co.uk)

**Wednesday** - 4.30pm-6pm "The Hangout" at St Gabriel's Church  
Games, chat and a bring and share community meal.

Please contact Ruth ([ruth.peers@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:ruth.peers@hamworthychurch.co.uk))

**Thursday** - 6.30pm-7.30pm Kid's Club, School Years 3-6  
7.45pm-8.45pm "God and Grub" 11-14 Year olds  
St Michael's Church Centre

Please contact Tess ([tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk))

## **WHAT'S ON AT ST GABRIEL'S**

**2nd Sunday of the month**

The Well: 3pm

**Tuesdays**

Food Bank: 1.30pm-3pm

**Wednesdays** (Term time)

The Hangout: 4.30-6pm. A space for games, chat and a bring and share meal.

## **WHAT'S ON AT ST MICHAEL'S**

**Wednesdays** - Coffee Time: Join us for coffee after the service from 10.30am

### **First Friday of the month**

First Friday: 10.30am

Join us in St Michael's Lounge to enjoy a cuppa, chat and maybe cake.

With a time for fellowship, a short time of reflection and prayer.

## **GIVING**

We do not usually take a "collection" at our services, but plates are available for your gifts on tables at St Michael's.

Gift Aid envelopes are also available. We also have a card reader if you would like to make a donation using your card or phone..

Hillside (our intergenerational ministry for families) will be running each Sunday in the church lounge except for all age services when we welcome our young people to stay.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Would you like to receive our weekly parish email? This usually is sent every Friday. Please contact [hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:hello@hamworthychurch.co.uk) to be added to the distribution list

## TESS WRITES

The season of Easter is upon us and it has struck me this year how easy it is to forget what a momentous moment this was for all humankind!

Jesus rising from the dead changed the course of history!

This poem by Dave Hopwood retells the Easter story beautifully and succinctly:

Judas betrayed Jesus,  
Peter denied Jesus,  
Thomas doubted Jesus:  
Jesus died for them.

Pilate rejected Jesus,  
Herod taunted Jesus,  
Caiaphas framed Jesus:  
Jesus died for them.

The soldiers crucified Jesus,  
the disciples deserted Jesus,  
the people laughed at Jesus:  
Jesus died for them.

Mary wept for Jesus,  
the women anointed Jesus,  
Joseph buried Jesus:  
Jesus rose for them.

We have doubted Jesus,  
we have denied Jesus,  
we rejected Jesus:  
but Jesus died for us.

As we enjoy lighter days and the warmer sunshine of Spring, let it be a reminder of the hope of the resurrection. Jesus said 'I am the Light of the World.' His mission was to enable us to have the joy and peace of reconciliation with our Heavenly Father. He died on that cross for those mentioned in the poem, and he died for you and me because of his great love for each one of us.

Romans 8: 37-39 reminds us:

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

May you have a wonderfully blessed Easter, and please come along to one (or all!) of our services mentioned in the Easter flyer if you would like to.

With love in Christ.

Tessa

# HAMWORTHY AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN GUILD



PRESS REPORT

19 March 2026

Chairman Andrea Johnson opened the March meeting of Hamworthy Afternoon TG and welcomed everyone. She was pleased to announce that we had been joined by another member from the now closed down Newtown TG.

The speaker for the afternoon was Jan Davies who gave a very interesting and illustrated talk of the Poole Wau Partnership work in South Sudan and her visit there in February 2025. A vote of thanks was given to Jan by Sue Diaper.

Andrea presented a 10 years membership badge and certificate to Angela Rose. She also presented Sue Diaper with a certificate marking her 20 years membership.

Various reports were read by the leaders of the craft group, drama, reading group and grumpy old ladies discussion group.

Members were able to enjoy refreshments and to chatting to friends. The drawing of the raffle took place kindly arranged by Judith Ambrose and Kay Griffiee.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at St Michaels Church Hall Hamworthy at 2pm when the drama group will be entertaining the members. The following meeting will be on Tuesday 19 May 2026 when Jason Edwards will be giving his talk on Royal Flowers. New members are welcome.

Sue Diaper – Press Officer

# **The History of Pilgrimage by Steve Perring**

## **Early Pilgrimage**

The people of Israel were a pilgrim people from their formation, travelling through the desert for 40 years to find the promised land. Eventually they were settled in the land of Israel and the Ark of the Covenant secured in its permanent home in the Temple of Jerusalem, but still the rhythm of Jewish worship required that they travel to the holy city of Jerusalem several times a year, such as for the Passover. This gathering in Jerusalem was given the Hebrew word “Khag” (with a pronounced “h”), which sounds surprisingly similar to the Arabic word “Hajj”, which describes the Islamic tradition of pilgrimage to Mecca. The rituals of this pilgrimage to Jerusalem included worship and sacrifice to God in the temple.

In contrast the new followers of Jesus did not have the same imperative to pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Through Jesus’ sacrifice once for all there was no need for temple sacrifice, as indeed Jesus’ followers are the temple (1 Corinthians 6:19) and we are the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:5). Paul put no such requirement on any of the people he converted to Christianity throughout his travels. However as time went on a pattern developed of visiting the places where Jesus lived and died, to experience something of what Jesus experienced, feel closer to Him in that place, and worship Him there in churches that were built at various important sites in Israel. Emperor Constantine’s mother Helena popularised

this early pilgrim movement. The crusades of the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries were fought at least nominally to protect pilgrims travelling from Europe to Israel as this journey was becoming more dangerous. The Knights Templar, before they were banished in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (and purloined as a plot point by Dan Brown in the Da Vinci Code!) were an order of knights dedicated to protecting pilgrims to the Holy Land.

As time went on other (somewhat less risky) places of pilgrimage began to be established. These tended to be places associated with the lives and deaths of prominent saints, most commonly their burial sites. Rome was where Peter became the first bishop and was martyred. Santiago de Compostella was the final resting place of St James. In Britain the tombs of Thomas Becket in Canterbury or St Etheldreda in Ely became prominent pilgrimage sites. These sites often had sacred relics held there which were thought to hold great spiritual power, the most famous of which was the Turin Shroud.

### **Pilgrimage in Medieval Times**

In medieval times reading was virtually absent except in learned places such as priories and the royal courts. Services were held in Latin and with the priest separated from the congregation, often behind a rood screen that stood between the chancel and the high altar to block-off even sight of what the priest was doing. Therefore, I imagine it would have been difficult for your average congregant to feel fully part of the worship or even understand

much of what was going on. But the Church had a huge influence on the population because it had the monopoly on saying who would go to Heaven or Hell. Life then was “nasty, brutish and short”, and the route to Heaven complicated by the Church’s promotion of Purgatory, a sort of half-way house to Heaven from which you could win time off (known as an indulgence) by an act of penance such as a pilgrimage.

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer is a sometimes-riotous tale of a group of pilgrims travelling from London to Canterbury to worship at the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket. It beautifully represents the somewhat rag-tag group of ordinary folks performing this ritual. Given that the Plague was severely affecting the population of England at the time of writing it is likely that they were doing this religious service in order to ask for protection from that disease as well as caring for their immortal souls.

### **The (Temporary) End of Pilgrimage**

This somewhat transactional arrangement of doing certain tasks to gain favour with the Church and thus gain favour with God to aid your journey to Heaven did not survive the protestant reformation. In 1538 Henry VIII banned pilgrimage. This was part of a wider protestant plan which included closing the monasteries (and handily transferring their wealth to the crown!), changing the churches by removing much of the ornamentation including the rood screens, and most fundamentally the new technology of

printing increasingly allowed normal people to read the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer in English. Religion was no longer something you observed other people doing, it was something you joined-in with as you worshiped God and asked for His salvation. It was no longer important to go to a place of great significance to worship; instead, the worship was most important, the place less so. Pilgrimages to far-off places to pray to a long-dead saint or to touch a relic seemed to the protestant fathers too much like superstition to countenance and the tradition of pilgrimage was dead in Britain. Until it wasn't!

Next time I will discuss what has changed to bring pilgrimage back to life in modern times.



# St Gabriel's Pre-School

We treasure our Children

St Gabriel's Pre-School  
Keysworth Road, Turlin Moor BH16 5BH  
Opening Times 7.30am - 6pm

We offer high quality learning opportunities, through a child led approach with responsive adults in a fun and engaging environment.

We are delighted to share that our preschool is now welcoming babies.

We welcome you to pop in and have a look around our play areas.

**St Gabriel's Pre School Manager:** Kerry Clemons  
manager@stgabrielspreschool.com  
01202 678333  
**Ofsted: 2643918**



January 2023 - January 2026

# OUR LOCAL FIRE STATION



Our local fire station needs your support.

“Hamworthy Fire Station has been proposed for closure. It plays a vital role in protecting not just our local area, but Poole, Bournemouth and our neighbouring communities too. This front-line cut will weaken emergency cover across Dorset and put lives at risk. A 13-week public consultation is now open and we have a chance to stop this. Join the campaign and speak up now to protect the future of our emergency services!”

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!



### WRITE A LETTER

To your local MP and councillors expressing your thoughts and concerns.



### COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Scan here to complete the Public Consultation Survey.



### SIGN THE PETITION

Scan here to sign the Fire Brigades Union petition.

## NEW CHURCHYARD GRASS CUTTING

For many years we have had two gentlemen who have volunteered to mow the grass in the new churchyard. One of these lovely men would like to step down after many years of faithful service and Robert could do with some help as he finds it a big job on his own. It would be lovely if we could find a couple of people who are willing to do a section and therefore it would be a case of many hands making light work! We have a lawnmower, but you could bring your own! Please contact Tess if you would like to know more. Thank you so much!



([tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk](mailto:tessa.nisbet@hamworthychurch.co.uk))

# WHO'S WHO

## **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

Jan Davies

Bryan and Elaine Sullivan

Audrey Stayman

## **Verger and Sacristan (St Michael's)**

Audrey Stayman

## **Sub-Chairs of PCC Committees and Teams**

**Standing Committee & Finance:** Tessa Nisbet

**Worship:** Tessa Nisbet

**St Gabriel's Pre School:** Jude Perring

**Mission:** Jan Davies

**Fabric:** Jim Fagan-King

**The Green Team (Eco Church):** Ruth Dollerson

**Hillside Children:** Ashley Ross

## **Deanery Synod Representatives**

Dave Coates

Jan Davies

Elaine Sullivan

## **Home Groups**

Please contact Tess or Ashley

## **Open the Book**

Christine Lim - 07813188336

# CHURCH & USEFUL CONTACTS

## **St Gabriel's Church**

The Hangout - Ruth Peers

The Well - Ruth Peers

## **Hillside Sundays Children's Group**

Ashley Ross

## **Bible Reading Notes**

Christine Lim

## **Gift Aid Secretary**

Treasurer - Treasurer@hamworthychurch.co.uk

**CAP Team** - [help@cap-poole.org](mailto:help@cap-poole.org)

## **Mother's Union Enrolling Member**

Elaine Sullivan

## **Hamworthy Satellite Food Bank St Gabriel's Church** Every

Tuesday 1.30pm-3pm

## **Moor Community Food Store** - Tuesdays 12.30pm-4pm St

Gabriel's Hall, Keyworth Road

Mel 07714450180

## **Waste Not Want Not** Fresh food for those on low incomes

07968903063

**Prama Care** Friendship Line - 01202 022987

## **Local Councillors Contacts**

Cllr Julie Bagwell - 07540332435

Cllr Brian Hitchcock - 0776812778

Cllr Peter Cooper - 01202 126764

**Home Library Service - 07811787963 (David)**

**BCP Council Helpline - 0300 123 7052**

**Domestic Abuse 24hr Helpline BCP 01202 710777**

**Win on Waste -1st Saturday of the month 10am-12pm**  
Hamworthy Library (See website)

## **MISSION GROUP CONTACTS**

**Children's Society - Jan Davies**

**Samaritan's Purse - Audrey Stayman**

**Church Mission Society - Jan Davies**

**World Horizons - Jan Davies**

**Routes to Roots - tbc**

**MAF - Dave Coates**

**RespectEd - Tess Nisbet**

**Poole/Wau Partnership - Jan Davies**

**Open Doors - Dave Coates**

**PACE - Ruth Peers**

**DORSET  
HOUSE**

A Care South home for  
residential and dementia care

## Your trusted local care home in the heart of your community

**FOOD  
FUN  
FRIENDSHIP**

Rated  
**9.8\***  
out of 10 on  
carehome.co.uk

CQC rating

**Good**

September 2022

**Coles Avenue | Hamworthy | Poole | BH15 4HL  
01202 712463 | care-south.co.uk**

Proud to be part of Care South, a not-for-profit charity and leading provider of residential, dementia and nursing care, as well as care at home services across the south of England. Registered Charity No. 1014697.

\* Correct at time of print.

**Care  
South**  
*It's the care that counts...*

The Bridge magazine is published free of charge bi monthly. The information contacted is produced in good faith. We welcome articles and information from readers.

The Bridge is available free of charge, from St Michael's & St Gabriel's, Port of Call Cafe, Coles Ave and Hamworthy Library