

# St Johns Church Newsletter

## November 2019



### **The Church Mouse says:**

What soap is to the body, laughter is for the soul. Old Yiddish proverb.

### **Editorial**

The cut off date for December Newsletter is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Please send all news items, articles, photos etc to [shirleybdraper@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybdraper@gmail.com) or put in box at back of church. Shirley is going to visit her relations in New Zealand for 6 weeks 13<sup>th</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020. Help will be needed to bring the Newsletters in to being, and also for writing up the Sunday report in the Observer. Please talk to Carol B-T if you can help in any way.

### **Recipe of the month : Gluten-free Blueberry and Honey**

**Cornbread** *As made by Sue Powell for the Harvest lunch.*

150g softened unsalted butter plus extra for greasing. 3 eggs, 160g runny honey, 200g ground almonds, 100g quick-cook polenta, 1½tsp baking powder, ½ tsp fine sea salt, grated zest of 1 lemon, 150g blueberries.

For the honey butter glaze: 20g runny honey, 20g unsalted butter. Preheat the oven to 160C Gas 3. Lightly grease a 20cm tin and line it with baking parchment. Separate the eggs, putting the whites into a large mixing bowl and the yolks into a small bowl. Measure the honey and butter into another large bowl, then measure the almonds, polenta, BP, and salt into a 4<sup>th</sup> bowl. Using electric beaters whisk the egg whites until they form stiff peaks,

then set aside. Next use the beaters (there is no need to clean them) to cream the butter and honey together until light and combined. Beat in the egg yolks, then the lemon zest, then fold in the dry ingredients until just combined.

Finally, gently fold the egg whites into the cake mixture, trying to lose as little air as possible, but ensuring they're completely incorporated. Tip into cake tin smoothing top, and sprinkle the blueberries on top. Bake on lower shelf of oven 45 min until golden and a skewer inserted in middle comes out clean.

Just before the cake comes out of the oven make the glaze by heating the honey and butter in saucepan till combined. When the cake comes out of oven, pierce with a skewer any area not covered by blueberries. Spoon the honey butter all over the top. Cool in the tin for 15 min, then remove and leave to cool on a wire.

### **Harvest Festival**

This was held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October and contributions were collected for Patch Food Bank. Stella said it is the most practical harvest she has ever seen. Stella invited Jessica who had very neat hand writing to write on the paper board all the words made out of the word "harvest" the congregation gave. Little Megan stood watching by the side of Jessica. The service ended with Communion, and then moved into the hall for the Bring and Share Faith Lunch, which all enjoyed.

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Graham slicing Melanie's Harvest Loaf

### **Graham Powell**

Graham is retiring as Secretary on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, after 10 years. He has worked hard for the Church, and accomplished such a lot. It is hard for us members of the congregation to be able to thank him enough for all these years devoted to the church

### **Needed a Secretary!**

Would you like to commit yourself to St Johns and do the Secretary's work? Would you like to become an Elder and help organise St Johns? Please see an Elder for advice.

### **The Church Summer Fete**

£635 was raised from all the stalls and the coffee morning refreshments. Thank you to every one who helped last August. The **Christmas** Fete is on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

### **News of members**

Ron Hurlow improving daily.  
Ann Embrey has brought a flat closer to her son and daughter at Halesowen and will be moving in shortly. She is doing fine - Val Adams talks to her regularly.



### **Church Dates coming up**

5<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service Albany Church, Haverfordwest 2pm  
12<sup>th</sup> December Cwmradorian Carol Service, St Johns.  
13<sup>th</sup> December St Johns Church Christmas Tea.

### **Definition of commitment:**

Think of a plate of Bacon and Eggs. The hen is involved, but the pig is committed.

### **Almost there**

I threw in the towel. God threw it back, and said "Wipe your face, you're almost there"!

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Starts on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Think of ideas for a Christmas Tree for yourself or your group/club, and let Ann Maggs know.

### **Autumn**

The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let thing go.

### **Size of a Pizza**

A wise man once told his son "My boy, when you accumulate the understanding to know why a pizza is made round, to be put into a square box, and is eaten in triangles, then

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and only then will you be able to understand women.

### **You are going to make it**

You and your family will be just fine. Just stand and let God fight this battle.

### **Children's corner**

Christmas is around the corner and just in case you are crafting Christmas crackers here is some jokes for them:

What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree? A pineapple

What game do four reindeer play in the back of a Mini? Squash.

Why did the Christmas cake go to the doctor? Because he was feeling crummy.

What did the elf say when he was teaching Santa Claus to use the computer? First, yule log in! Where does Santa stay when he's on holiday? At a ho-ho-hotel!!

**Loose Change Smartie Tubes** in aid of the West Wall Restoration Fund will continue until Christmas. If anyone would like to eat the Smarties in a tube, and then fill container with loose change, please see Suzanne Tolley for a tube of Smarties!!!

### **Nobody's Perfect**

We make mistakes, we say wrong things, we do wrong things, we fall, we get up, we learn, we grow, we move on, we live!

### **Did you know?**

When you hang eucalyptus in the shower, the steam will activate the oils in the eucalyptus to help your decongestion, headaches, inflammation, stress, and muscle tightness.

### **Carew Methodist Church Worship Group**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September Graham, Carol and Elvina took the 11am service. The theme was "Hands". At the end of the service Graham gave everybody 2 drawings of a hand, and asked us all to write on them something we could do for St Johns. One we took home, the other was glued to a drawing of a tree which was left for St Johns to display. The well-known hymns chosen were all about hands. Our thanks must go to this Worship Group for their very enjoyable service.



### **Diary of Church Mouse**

Lean and alone I spend my days  
Behind this Church of England baize.  
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;  
My jam is polish for the floor.  
Christmas and Easter may be feasts  
For congregations and for priests,  
And so may Whitsun. All the same,  
They do not fill my meagre frame.

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For me the only feast at all  
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,  
When I can satisfy my want  
With ears of corn around the font  
I climb the eagle's brazen head  
To burrow through a loaf of bread  
I scramble up the pulpit stairs  
And gnaw the marrows hanging  
there.  
It is enjoyable to taste  
These items ere they go to waste,  
But how annoying when one finds  
That other mice with pagan minds  
Come into my church my food to  
share  
Who have no proper business there.  
Two field mice who have no desire  
To be baptized, invade the choir.  
A large and most unfriendly rat  
Comes in to see what we are at.  
He says he thinks there is no God  
And yet he comes.....it's rather odd.  
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat  
(It screened our special preacher's  
seat),  
And prosperous mice from fields  
away  
Come in to hear the organ play,  
And under cover of its notes  
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.  
Yet somehow they don't think it  
wrong  
To munch through Harvest  
Evensong,  
While I, who starve the whole year  
through,  
Must share my food with rodents who  
Except at this time of year  
Not once inside the church appear.  
Within the human world I know  
Such goings-on could not be so,  
For human beings only do  
What their religion tells them to  
They read the Bible every day

And always, night and morning, pray,  
And just like me, the good church  
mouse,  
Worship each week in God's own  
house.  
But all the same it's strange to me  
How very full the church can be  
With people I don't see at all  
Except at Harvest Festival.  
*Part of a poem by John Betjeman.*