

# St Johns Church Newsletter

## December 2019



### News of Members

It was lovely to have Ann Embrey, her daughter in law, and granddaughter Anna with us in church one Sunday in November, and for them to come to the "25" café afterwards for lunch with some of the church ladies. They were returning to Halesowen in the afternoon.  
Ron Hurlow is still getting better. Janice's husband Vincent is back in hospital.

### What's on in January

15<sup>th</sup> 2pm Christian Unity Service at St Teilos.

18<sup>th</sup> 3pm Churches together at St Teilos.

22<sup>nd</sup> pm Church Meeting

### February

1st Induction of John Hayton.

### The Church mouse says:

Conscience (as defined by a small boy) "Something that makes me tell my mother before my sister does".

### Great sayings

Bread is like the sun, it rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.  
Experience enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.  
Hospitality is the art of making your guests feel at home when you wish they were.  
A true gentleman is one who knows how to play the bagpipes, but doesn't.  
Chocolate is clearly God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

Sometimes the greatest gift you can give to another person is to simply include them!

Football is 90 minutes of pretending you're hurt. Rugby is 80 minutes of pretending you're not.

### Beth's Favourite poem

Somewhere there is a happy land  
Where all the odd socks go.

You never see it happen, but they  
Vanish, that I know.

I put in two, I take out one,  
The other is never seen.

Perhaps my modern washer  
Is a kind of time machine

That whisks them off, but singly  
To a place that knows no holes,  
Where they don't get worn and  
smelly

And have happy little soles.

*(from G.B.Duncan in Daily Mail June 16<sup>th</sup> 2004)*

### Christening of Theodore Oliver Beau Gill-Heaven

Teddy was christened on October



20<sup>th</sup>  
2019 by  
Rev  
Stella  
Hayton.  
During  
the  
service  
all

Teddy's friends were asked to surround the font, and his parents Vanessa and Alex said the vows alongside his Godparents.

**Children's Corner:** Go to Bed by  
Candlelight

*Little folks at bedtime go*

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*Longer journeys than you know,  
Drowsily upstairs they tread....  
But their shadows dance instead  
From the bedroom to the hall,  
Frolicking on the staircase wall!*  
Why not experience these dark nights by getting your parents to help you go to bed by candlelight and see all the shadows. Blow it out before you sleep!

**Recipe of the month:** Christmas Pudding Sandwiches  
An unusual and surprisingly delicious way to use up left over cold Christmas pud. Cut it into wafer-like slices and place between thin slices of brown or malt bread well buttered.  
*From Home Notes 1895*

### **Churches Together Quiz**

St John's fielded two teams for the quiz held at Deer Park on 8th November. Team A: Ann, Laura, Stella and Sue P, and Team B: Ian & Sue, Janice and John. Team A were the winners, closely followed by Team B, so a great result for St John's. Graham was the Quizmaster and set us some testing questions which required much racking of brains. Due to the St Mary's Choir performing at the Arts Club, we were missing their team(s), but we would have beaten them anyway, wouldn't we?! The next Churches Together quiz is due to be held in January.

### **Get to know your neighbours**

Christmas is a good time to know your neighbours better. Perhaps hold a wine and mince pies hour at your home - a drop in event over a few hours. Or perhaps a Christmas Coffee

morning, and use the event as a fundraiser?

### **Mince Pies**

Did you know that at one time it was thought particularly lucky to eat a mince pie each day of Christmas in a different house!

### **The Laughing Game**

Play this with the family: Sit in a circle or round the table, and the first player begins the game by saying "ha". The next player must say "ha ha", the 3<sup>rd</sup> player "ha ha ha" and so on. These must be pronounced with the utmost solemnity and any player exhibiting the faintest sign of hilarity is expelled from the circle (a forfeit can be given). See how far you can get before everyone is laughing.

### **Editorial**

The cut off date for January Newsletter will be Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please leave articles and news etc in the box at the back of the church, or send to [Shirleybdraper@gmail.com](mailto:Shirleybdraper@gmail.com)  
Carol and Graham need your help to produce the February and March Newsletters whilst Shirley is in New Zealand.

### **Creative Arts Project**

"What are we going to do about it?" was the cry at the really successful, thought provoking, and moving performance given by the students of this autumn's Arts Project, at St Johns. During the three-day workshops they had explored their surroundings using drama, photography, music, dance and

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words. We who saw the finished presentation felt the message, some were close to tears, reawakening the fears that if we do not heed these warnings of the dangers we are impacting on the climate with plastics and other pollutants. What will become of our planet? And so the question "What are we going to do about it?"

### **Craft Group**

The ladies and gentleman who meet in the hall on Mondays at 2pm, had great fun one week making Bird Feasts. The ladies are now knitting squares to make blankets for the 3 Narberth ladies to send away.



### **The Birth of Jesus by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus

That we may share in the song of angels,

The gladness of the shepherds,  
And the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open  
The door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift  
And good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings.

And teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us  
happy to be like children,  
And the Christmas evening bring us  
to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
Forgiving and forgiven,  
For Jesus' sake. Amen!

### **Christmas Trees**

The Festival starts on 13<sup>th</sup> December and finishes Xmas Day. Trees are being decorated on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact Ann Maggs if you wish to help or want to decorate your own or a club's tree.



### **National Synod of Wales, at Llandrindod Wells by Mollie Neate.**

On Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Oct Mollie Neate was pleased to represent St Johns with Peter and Suzanne. Stella, John and Nanette were also there and lots of others we knew too. After the welcome coffee, the opening worship at 11am, was led by the local Pastoral Committee. Amongst the three commemorations, Bron was mentioned, and a Minister celebrating his ministry of 50 years made an amusing speech. We also met a young German woman, here in a "Time for God" initiative.

The General Assembly dates for July 2020 were given, and if any lay person is interested have a word with Stella or me.

We had a presentation from the Mission and Discipleship Board asking "Can we become an 'Eco' Church? Can we start opening our church for people to have a place to go for quiet reflection or prayer? Can we develop a mission?"

Stephen Best, Bethesda, Tongwynlais, told us his church had used their strengths, even though they were tiny in number, to use their hall for community involvement. A member of Beulah Church in Rhiwbina put forward a resolution that we should disinvest in companies that were engaged with fossil fuels. I spoke to this resolution, and after discussion the motion was passed. Bronwen Rees showed photos and spoke about a trip she had made to Israel/Palestine.

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After a tasty lunch we heard from the Missional Development Fund about a revised policy and procedure for applying for grants. I have all the details if anyone wants to know more.

Another local church story was about Dan-y-Graig United Church in Risca where 3 struggling churches came together and now have 55 members, 22 adherents and 16 children. There is a committee instead of elders.

The Synod Treasurer, Chris Alherton, took us through 2018 accounts and 2020 budget, and a resolution was passed about United Reform Church Ministers' Pension Scheme.

Iris Williams of St John's, Flint – with Bagillt Church, spoke about their welcome and hospitality work at "The Well Centre" which provides refreshments "for body and soul".

A resolution about St David's Ecumenical Church, Pentwyn was formally recognised, that as there are no United Reform Church members left, it will close as an L.E.P.

Adrian Bulley, Synod Clerk, put forward 2 resolutions regarding constitutional amendments and they were passed.

Kathryn Price of St John's, Buckley, spoke about a special weekend of invitation under the heading "Be our guest". All members gave out a least one invitation and others were sent to local dignitaries, etc.

Adrian Bulley spoke about a Cwm grant available to help churches "become more inclusive". Applications are invited, but I'm not sure of the details of this.

In papers I received on arrival at Synod, there were notices about the movement of Officers. Sally Thomas our ecumenical officer retires this month; Gareth Dyer has resigned as Training officer, and a day for Elders is being planned for June 2020, details to follow.

It was good to meet again Ron Prosser, HHI; Colin Foreman; Tom and Megan who have translated part of the Gospel into Malagasy/Welsh, speak English, French and Malagasy fluently, and who were at the Malagasy/Welsh 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Aberaeron. We met a young Malagasy man, recently appointed as Mid-Wales Regional Officer and realised he knows my daughter Penny and husband, Ferrand.

Incidentally, in the paperwork was the news that Horeb United Reform Church, Martletwy has now been sold. Please feel free to ask me any questions. Mollie.

Enjoy all that goes on during the Christmas season, keep in touch with old friends and pray that our politicians do their best for our country.

### Christmas