



Thank you, Stella and John Hayton.

Each week a short article is going in the Observer written by either John or Stella. It is great and I hope everyone is buying an Observer just to read it. They have also just had a holiday (at home). It is lovely to read the articles other churches put in the Observer too.

Lock Down

We are all surviving...lots of phone calls around different groups. If you haven't had a phone call from someone...why not just ring a church member yourself. Lots of people welcome a phone call and a chance to talk but don't have the courage to call in case they are not wanted. You can ring anybody!!

Quiz

Graham Powell's Quiz for members, on email, was well received...if you want a copy let me know. Thank you, Graham, for all the work you put in.

Scientific Fact

Do you know how Cancer got its name? The cells are crab like. Coronavirus got its name as the cell has a corona around it like the sun. It is like a halo, or aura around the virus cell.

Church Flowers

Laura and Ann decided to keep the flowers on the cross renewed each week in lieu of any flowers inside the church. Have you noticed their great displays?



Garden hint

Everyone who has a garden has been "working" in their garden. Everyone's garden will be the best ever this year! Put 1 teaspoon of Epsom salt in 4 cups warm water, spray, and then spray again 10 days later. Produces more tomatoes, peppers and roses!

Recipe of the Month: Naan Bread

found on the computer, and tested by Anne.
4 cups of Self Raising flour, 3 cups of plain yoghurt. Mix together well. Make 4 large patties and fry, turning over to do both sides. Makes 4 large thick breads.

The Church Mouse says:

When you are going through something hard and wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.

Children's Corner

Are these IKEA products or Lord of the rings characters?

1. Faramir
2. Freden
3. Grundral
4. Boromir
5. Molger
6. Galdor
7. Freda
8. Agerum
9. Babord
10. Frodo
11. Grima
12. Akurum
13. Brunkrissia
14. Sultan Hugbo

Answers:

Lord of the Rings: 1,4,6,7,10,11.

IKEA 2,3,5,8,9,12,13,14.

Editorial

I am always looking for news from St Johns to add into the newsletter. If you have a photo we could use please email it to me, shirleybdraper@gmail.com. Stories about your VE day would be appreciated. The newsletter will still come out as I have now an email list of about 25 members. For anybody who would like a copy, or the quiz, please give me their email. If you have the means to print out the newsletter and pass it on to other



members with no computer, or even neighbours, please do. It doesn't matter if they don't come to St Johns....it is still keeping people in touch.

Eileen's story

It was January 1943 when I was called up to the WAAF. I was in a reserved occupation in the Goods Office on Tenby Station and I'd been there for two and a half years, costing goods coming and going by rail; it was a very busy time with three men each with horse and gambo (low two-wheeled cart) delivering goods around the town. The Station Master made every effort to keep me, as he would then need to train someone else in my place, but all his efforts failed. I went to Compton Bassett in Wiltshire, given a series of injections and kitted out with my uniform and was then "square bashing" in the snow. From there it was back to Wales to St Athan, a peacetime station with good accommodation in permanent houses. First day there I made friends with someone called Mavis from St Dogmaels, North Pembrokeshire. My sister, Vera, was working in Cardiff at the time (in a "tool tipping" factory). It wasn't all work. There were special occasions when on Sunday evenings we could go to the Tabernacle Church in The Hayes, Cardiff for community hymn singing. Anyone in uniform did not have to queue, but go straight in onto the balcony and all were given a cup of tea and a sandwich at the end. Some of the presidents for the evening would be people like Jack Peterson (the boxer), Rachel Thomas (actress) and Jack Jones (author). We also went to the Empire Theatre; on one occasion we saw Richard Tauber the well-known Austrian tenor. I was woken very early on 8th May by Mavis to tell me that everyone was gathering in the Barrack square, celebrating the end of the war. From there we went into Cardiff which

was already full of people dancing and rejoicing, which went on for hours. Mavis and I decided to take the Mail Train from Cardiff at 3am to Pembrokeshire. Arriving in Kilgetty at 7am, I walked home to Amroth, spent the day with my surprised parents, then walked back to Kilgetty by 7pm to catch the Mail Train back to Cardiff (I met up with Mavis at Carmarthen) and after changing trains at Cardiff, arrived back at Barracks about 12.30am. So many of us took leave without permission that day, no one was punished. I didn't want to join up, but it was an experience that I would not want to have missed and never did I think then that I would still be here to see the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Eileen Algate

Steve's Story (Ann Maggs' son)

A positive story in these scary times.....

After 6 months of various tests I was diagnosed with testicular cancer in November 2019. Three months of heavy-duty chemo, (with complications over infections and possible blood clots) plus an operation followed. The all clear on 6th March was such a relief, and I gradually built up my strength and returned to work 'at home'. Unfortunately, on 8th April after having a fever and breathing problems I was taken into hospital and diagnosed with Covid 19 and spent twelve days on oxygen and antibiotics, fighting the disease. Not being able to have visitors also made it an anxious and very lonely time. (It was a frightening experience for me and my family, that sadly is being repeated across the world). On 20th April I was so thankful to return home, that although recovery is slow, I am making good progress. Cancer treatment, side effects and prognosis are all well understood. The newness of Covid 19 is a lot different, owing to its unpredictability. My gratitude to

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the N.H Service's Doctors, Nurses, Cleaners, Catering, Porters, Orderly's, Volunteers, Paramedics, Reception, cannot be under estimated, as they put themselves at risk to care for their patients under these unprecedented circumstances.

Footnote from Ann Maggs and family.....

We give thanks for God's Love, which has surrounded us during this time, and to everyone for your prayers and support.



This is a photo Ann took of St Johns spire from North Beach. A very unusual photo looking at Paxton Court on the right.

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is strange with its twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a failure comes about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow –
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell just how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit –

It's when things seem worst, you must not quit.

John Greenleaf Whittier 1807 - 1892

Graham Powell's Funnies

*I just saw a burglar kicking his own door in.
I asked, "What are you doing?" He said,
"Working from home."*

My teenage son treats me like a god.
He behaves as if I don't exist until he wants something!

How many people boarded the Ark before Noah? Three. The Bible tells us that "Noah went forth"!

What kind of lights did Noah use on the ark?
Flood lights!

*A 50p coin and a £50 note met in a man's wallet. The 50p coin asked the £50 note,
"Have you been anywhere nice lately?"*

The £50 note replied, "I get taken to the best restaurants and the grandest hotels. How about you?"

"Oh, I go to church a lot," said the 50p

News from Audrey.

Audrey Scullard, has written to Mollie and Peter asking us to clarify the situation regarding Tony's health. Sadly, it's not good news. She writes, "From what we understand people think he will get better and are saying that they hope he is making good progress. The fact is however that he has terminal cancer, the doctor cannot operate and Tony is too weak for chemo, so now he is at home and everything is in place for palliative care. He spends most of each day in bed. On a good day he has a little walk round the garden but is soon out of breath and back in bed. He may be with us for quite a while or only a short while. Our family and our neighbours are very good."

The Editor says 'Stay safe! God Bless.'

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Dear Friends

This week I've moved my computer from the study into the dining room. It's the place where we get the strongest signal for Zoom or Skype, and while most of the time we've been using John's computer I thought it was time I took control of the mouse occasionally instead of always relying on him. I'll let you know how it works out! But in the meantime I'm quite enjoying the change. It feels very different. I have to clear the table for meals and put everything away, so there isn't the usual pile of paperwork, books, and folders to work my way around; there are fewer distractions, and without other things to catch my eye I have to be more focused; if I want to refer to something, I have to go upstairs to fetch it and put it back afterwards; with fewer things around me there aren't so many places for things to hide when I want them; and I only have a notepad beside me, no odd scraps of paper for me to write down my passing thoughts.

Of course, it could be suggested that the real reason for moving into the dining room was to get away from the mess on my desk – which may well be partly true. Lockdown had seemed like the ideal opportunity to get down to tidying the study, but there's always the stage when you're halfway through sorting out when the muddle is even worse than before and then you're interrupted. I can't remember now whether it was a phone call or a parcel delivery, but then there were other things to do, and it got left ... and I'm going to have to get back to it eventually, but in the meantime I'm enjoying the change!

Of course, there are all kinds of changes that many of us haven't been particularly enjoying recently, and we'd like to get back to normal – to gathering for worship, to having the chance

to chat over coffee, to being able to welcome visitors, to being able to plan for the future! One of the things I've been surprised to find that I've been missing particularly has been taking up the offering. It may seem strange (particularly as it had become a bit of a moveable feast at St Johns), but for me it represents a time of intentional focus on our response to God, not just with our money, but with our whole lives ... so I thought I'd take the opportunity to pass on a prayer you might like to use week by week:

We give in different ways, through our actions as well as our money. For many of us, staying at home and being less active is a gift given to our community. For others it may be taking up a new commitment. You may be giving to local charities, or directly to those in need, it may be you are filling and keeping your offering envelopes each week, or are giving to the church via standing order or paying directly in the church bank account. However we choose to give, it's important to continue - to offer our money and ourselves to God. So let us pray together:

O God as your people we praise you and we bring our offerings – our money and our lives, given freely and in grateful thanks for all that you have done for us. Bless them and use them for the building up of your Kingdom and the sharing of your love, God in unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. [contributed to URC service by Revd Lythan Nevard]

Keep well, keep safe.

God bless,

Stella and John