



## Editorial

There is a lot of zoom discussion going on about when St Johns should open again. So many rules and regulations have to be carried out that it may be a while. But keeping looking at the flower arrangements on the cross outside for inspiration.

IF any one has stories to tell about their experiences in the war time, or in this lock down I would be pleased to have them by the 15<sup>th</sup> or so of the month, send them to me at [shirleybdraper@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybdraper@gmail.com) or drop them in my letter box like Mollie did!

"Alright, does everyone have sound?"



## Recipe of the Month - Floddies

Very basic but very nice.

4oz chopped ham or bacon, ½ lb peeled potatoes 1 onion peeled, 2 eggs, 2oz plain flour, salt and pepper.

Grate potatoes and onion into basin, add meat and rest of ingredients. Mix until well mixed. Fry spoonfuls of mixture in hot fat in frying pan until golden brown on both sides.

## Tony Scullard Obituary

The love of holidaying in Pembrokeshire was behind the decision of Tony and Audrey deciding on the purchase of property first in St. Florence and then the move to Penally for their retirement. The welcome given to them at St. Johns on their first visit ensured they

stayed and the fellowship greatly benefited from their gifts.

Tony as an ordained elder of the United Reform Church was called to St. Johns eldership where he became a valued member and responded to the request after a few years to become secretary.

Tony was born in Hampshire and leaving school at 15 was apprenticed as a motor mechanic but his plan was always to join the police force. He was in the Ministry of Defence and became an Inspector. His career took him to a number of communities in England and Scotland.

Within the church & community here Tony fully committed himself in living life to the full and everyday grateful for the gift of life and the joy of being able to help others. He was very practical being able to turn his hands to most jobs. At home creating a beautiful garden and loved growing vegetables and enjoyed also the view from the garden. Amongst his hobbies there was photography, walking, reading, music, travel and his computer skills.

We give thanks for his contribution to the church community and all the gifts he brought through organisation, leadership, guidance and wisdom. He brought his deep faith in Christ and a love of the scriptures and prayers. And always worked and witnessed to a faith to be shared in community.

We give thanks for his rich contribution.

At this time we send love, prayers and blessings to Audrey and sons Philip & Andrew and their whole family.

May the strength and love of God in Christ surround you and all who are part of our lives on the journey of faith.

## War time memories

Mollie says, I haven't many memories of the war years, like Alma has, because I was only 3 on VE Day but my older siblings have. My



sister, Anne, remembers being dressed up as Boudica to celebrate VE Day, using my pushchair as her chariot. Apparently, I whinged all day because I wanted to get in the pushchair.



My much older brother John (13 on VE day) was, he says sorry when the war ended, because he dreamed of becoming a Spitfire pilot! He has lots of vivid memories,

reminding us of an anti-aircraft battery in Brynna Woods. We lived in the small village of Brynna in the Vale of Glamorgan. At the battery was a search-light and a large gun. Because we were a very large family in a very small house, we could not house refugees or billet soldiers, but my parents befriended a soldier from London and he often shared meals with us, particularly Sunday roasts. He (and his wife) continued to visit us long after the war was over. I remember struggling to understand his accent. There was also an American contingent camping a few miles away. All the kids called them "yanks" and would call out "Got any gum, chum?" when they marched through the village.

As my father, grandfather and uncles were miners, they were in reserved occupations, so did not "go to War", but Dad was in the Home Guard, and I can remember his Greatcoat on the bed as an extra "blanket" in the winters for many years. No central heating then. Peter's father, likewise was in a reserved occupation, in an iron-ore mine and working on a farm. He was in the Home Guard cavalry unit. He rode an enormous cart-horse!

## Americans

Shirley's husband, Bryn lived in Treforest, Pontypridd, and was 4 when the war started. He used to go for messages for the coloured Americans who were camped up on the hill behind where he lived. The white American

soldiers were camped on the other side of Pontypridd and the two didn't meet. One of Bryn's mates picked up a grenade one day, up on the hill, and it blew up, killing him in front of Bryn and his friends.

Shirley, in NZ, same age as Mollie and Peter, remembers more that there was no toys, comics or books, even shoes came from the UK. When books and comics did come, they were American ones, or Film Fun but none of the characters meant any thing. Blackout curtains were used. The Japanese were always expected to invade.

## The Church Mouse said ... A Good Life

This is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realise now blessed you are for what you have.

## 10 things I want to instil in my kids :-

If you are thankful, show it

If you love someone, tell them

If you are wrong, 'fess up

If you are confused, ask questions

If you learn something, teach others

If you are stuck, ask for help

If you made a mistake, apologise

If you trip, get back up

If someone needs help, help them

If you see wrong, take a stance.

## Children's Corner

The home school teacher/parent asked "Give me a sentence using the words Defence, Defeat, and Default."

The child replied "When a horse jumps over defence, defeat goes before detail."

## Dandelion

The dandelion does not stop growing because it is told it is a weed. The dandelion does not care what others see. It says "One day they'll be making wishes upon me" *B. Atkinson*



## Richness

If you have a family that loves you, a few good friends, food on your table and a roof over your head, you are richer than you think.

Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God

## 5 things to give up

1. Trying to please everyone
2. Fearing change
3. Living in the past
4. Putting yourself down
5. Over thinking

## I believe

I believe in the ocean curing all bad moods.  
I believe in the waves wiping away worries.  
I believe in seashells bringing good luck.  
I believe in toes in the sand grounding my soul.

## Jokes from Graham Powell

This lady lived next door to the same guy for 3 years. Thought his name was Steve, called him Steve. Steve is his name on her phone. She's been to his flat and had dinner with him. His name is Brian. His dog is Steve!

A man started to snore in his pew during the service in church. Please stop your snoring," the warden pleaded. "You are disturbing the others..."

"But this is my pew," the man said testily, "and I'll do whatever I want!"

"OK," replied the warden, "but please be considerate. You are keeping everybody else awake!"

I've just found £20 in Tesco's car park  
I thought, what would Jesus do?

So I turned it into wine.

My friend says I'm getting fat, but in my defence, I've had a lot on my plate recently.

When my wife caught me standing on the bathroom scales, sucking in my stomach, she laughed, "Haha! That's not going to help!"

"Of course it does," I said, "It's the only way I can see the numbers!"

During a sermon a mother with a fidgety seven-year-old boy told me how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet: About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, "If you don't be quiet, the vicar is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!" - It worked!

## Garden love

What is the difference between I like you and I love you?

Beautifully answered by Buddha - When you like a flower you just pluck it, but when you love a flower, you water it daily, etc. One who understands this...understands life.

## Exercise

1. If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
  2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, only drinks water and is fat.
  3. A rabbit only eats vegetables, runs and hops all day long, and only lives five years.
  4. A tortoise doesn't run, and does nothing energetic, yet it lives for 450 years.
- And you tell me to exercise. I don't think so!

## The six best doctors in the world:-

Sunlight, Rest, Exercise, Diet, Self-confidence, and friends.

One day a zookeeper noticed that the orang-utan was reading two books - the Bible and Darwin's "Origin of the Species". In surprise he asked the ape, "Why are you reading both those books?" "Well," said the orang-utan, "I just have to find out whether I am my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."



Dear Friends,

Over the past few months, the Ministers in our Circuit have been contributing items for the Morning Worship available on the website. I decided to embrace my quirky side and most of my reflections have been focused around a picture of a mug. I think it was the BBC2 ident of a virtual tea break that started me off, but I came to the end of the run and found that I still had two mugs left ...

The first is just an ordinary white mug, nothing unusual about it at all, except that when you hold it up to the light you can see, very faintly, "COFFEE". When we first got it the letters were big and red, but through the years the message has worn off. Looking at it reminded me of Mark 9:50: "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavour, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other." Sometimes we can feel a bit worn down by worries, or even about returning to the "new normal" we hear about, but are still God's people, and we need to let his message stand out and be legible in us as we live in his light.



The next mug is a nice reassuring message for trying times, but it does beg quite an important question – at a time when the Black Lives Matter movement has revealed deep-seated

bias; when many families are now facing the challenge of surviving on Universal Credit; when Mental Health and Community Care, seen by some as the "Cinderella services" are facing a continuing lack of resources; when the Government's attention is fixed on delivering HS2 in the face of an increase in home working, virtual meetings and the impact on the environment - how calm should we be? Or should we be raising

our concerns, offering our support and asking questions of those in power? "Christ is the head of his body, the church; he is the source of the body's life" (Colossians 1: 18), so we need to use our heads, hearts (and tea breaks!) as we look to the future, and remember all those who are suffering in so many ways in our prayers, and take any action we can to offer support and encouragement.

**Sad News:** We have heard from Audrey Scullard that Tony died on 8th July. Audrey writes, "So now he is with his Lord, out of pain and at peace... Later, when more people can come together, we will have a Thanksgiving Service at the local church that we had attended. The family have been wonderful, very helpful and all working together... My love to all our friends in Tenby, I still miss you all. God bless from Audrey". Please keep Audrey and the family in your prayers.

The Elders are working their way through the Risk Assessments and all the other necessary tasks before we can think about reopening in a way that will keep everyone safe. Please keep us in your prayers, because it's important that we get this right first time! We will keep you posted.

Some of us have been meeting for a Virtual Coffee Morning on Wednesdays at 10am. If you would like to join us you can download Zoom on to a PC, iPad or smartphone, or you can join by phone for the cost of a national rate call (up to 1 hour free on most phone packages). Whether you join by "device" or phone you will need to enter the meeting ID [327 283 5805] and password [547304]. If you're joining by phone, you can ring in on either 0203 481 5237 or 0203 051 2874. Any problems, speak to John [01834 845 398/0784 0905010].

Keep safe, keep well.

God bless, Stella and John