



## Editorial

The close off date for the May Newsletter is 19<sup>th</sup> April. Please send any news, photographs, or articles you have to [shirleybdraper@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybdraper@gmail.com) or leave in the box at the back of the church. Thank you.

## Sun sets

People are just as wonderful as sunsets if you let them be. When I look at a sunset, I don't find myself saying, "Soften the orange a bit on the righthand corner". I don't try to control a sunset. I just watch with awe as it unfolds.

*Carl R Rogers*

## Eileen Algate



It is with sympathy to Marilyn and family that we announce that Eileen died peacefully on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. She was 103. The family asked anyone joining them at the Cremation on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to wear

colourful clothing. St Johns will miss her presence at Church activities. Please pray for the family.

## Daffodowndilly by A.A. Milne

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,  
She wore her greenest gown;  
She turned to the South wind  
And curtsied up and down,  
She turned to the sunlight  
And shook her yellow head  
And whispered to her neighbours "Winter is dead"

## A Prayer for grandchildren

Lord, please keep my grandchildren safe in this world. Guide them away from harm and help them live wonderful lives.

## The Arrow and the Song

I shot an arrow into the air.  
It fell to earth I knew not where.  
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight  
could not follow it in its flight.  
I breathed a song into the air.  
It fell to earth I knew not where.  
For who has sight so keen and strong  
that it can follow the flight of song?  
Long, long afterwards, in an oak  
I found the arrow still unbroke;  
and the song, from beginning to end  
I found again in the heart of a friend.  
*Henry W. Longfellow 1807 – 1882*

## Some riddles

The more of this there is, the less you see.  
What is it?                      Darkness  
What did one hat say to the other?    Stay  
here, I'm going on ahead.

## Mothering Sunday

"What a lovely surprise when at the end of the Mothering Sunday service, every lady in the church was presented with a rose. Thank you very much for the surprise gift from the church. Words fail me".    *Brenda*

## Do you know?

An outside clothesline dries the washing using the very latest technology! A combination of solar and wind power!!

## A gift

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift, that's why they call it "the present".



## Worship Leaders (Sunday 11am)

March 31 Rev Stella Hayton Communion  
April 7<sup>th</sup> Rev Stella Hayton  
14<sup>th</sup> M/s Miriam Moules  
21<sup>st</sup> Rev Stella Hayton  
28<sup>th</sup> Mr Kevin Lewis  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Rev Stella Hayton Communion  
12<sup>th</sup> Mrs Kate Wolsey  
19<sup>th</sup> Rev Stella Hayton  
26<sup>th</sup> Mrs Melony Ablitt

## John and Stella Hayton

Have recently run in the St David's Day 10km run in Cardiff. John finished in 55 minutes and 14 seconds and Stella took only a little longer sixty two and two seconds. Thanks to



everyone who sponsored them, and helped to raise nearly £800 for Parkinsons UK (still counting). Stella's father and John's oldest

brother both suffered from this condition.

## Happenings in Tenby

Please read the digital noticeboard outside the De Valence Pavilion or look at noticeboards just inside the door. Tenby now has events planned for all ages, at night or during the day, interesting things to do. Please support these activities that so much time has gone into organising. Shirley went to the very professional 2 man "circus" in the afternoon at the De Valence which included a girl from the audience lying on a bed with the legs taken away so that a hoop could pass

along! Such magic! And yet there were only 2 children there.

## Youth at St Johns



On 10<sup>th</sup> March our trainee minister Kate Wolsey had her family at the service, and also the entire Counsell family attended that day. These two photos were taken at the cuppa after church.

## Counsell family



## Tenby Friendship Club

About 30 members came to St Johns on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March and thoroughly enjoyed a very short talk on the church's history, then Ieuan sang in Welsh, and Mollie played the organ. Thank you to these members for giving up their time. An afternoon tea was also enjoyed in the hall.

## Church History

When the church was built in 1868, rich families built houses on the Esplanade above South Beach, and in those days they all brought their servants with them on "holiday".



These servants were told to attend the boss's church, so St Johns, then only a Congregational Church, had seating sloping downwards to the front. Each pew was numbered and each family rented it from the church (money towards the church funds!) In those days the church was full each Sunday, the wall between the church and the hall behind the altar was left with three arches open. The servants sat on wooden benches in the hall. The minister's pulpit was on wheels so it could be moved to one side and the minister could speak to the church members on his left and the servants in the hall on his right. The three arches are now closed off. A few years back Ann, Laura, and Shirley went to a church hall to have a cuppa in Cornwall and found that the church was built exactly the same as St Johns even to doors on either side, one leading into the vestry and the hall, and the other door into the hall entrance from the street on the other side. Maybe it was the same architect?

## **The Craft Group**

About 18 turn up most weeks and lately some members, under Sharman's instructions, have made picture frames with a cross of ribbon, and Easter cards too. Some of the group are knitting a continuous square to make a blanket starting in the middle and working outwards around in an oblong.

## **Coffee morning**

Sue organised an extra coffee morning at the Church Hall on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March to help the Steps for Health group have morning coffee (£460 was made for church funds).

## **Palm Sunday**

St Mary's Church had two donkeys walking around Tenby on Palm Sunday. St Johns welcomed visitors to their Sunday service and gave everyone a palm cross.

## **Recipe of the month: Fudge Slice**

No bake...Melt 4oz butter, 1 tablespoon golden syrup and 2 tablespoons cocoa in saucepan – do not boil. Add 3/4lb crushed sweet biscuits and mix thoroughly before turning out into a shallow tin. Press together and put in fridge to harden. Ice with melted chocolate, chocolate icing or just a dusting of icing sugar when cold, and cut into squares. Optional- one or two beaten eggs can be added to the liquid in the saucepan and "cooked" before adding cake crumbs – makes it richer.

## **Easter thoughts**

St Johns has a cross outside at the front, and on the Communion table and on the wall. It is part of our identity as Reformed Christians that we have an "empty" cross because Christ is risen – a reminder that we are Easter people. While we treasure the symbol, do we sometimes shy away from its harsh reality?

Many years ago now there was a series of Lenten reflections on TV, performed as monologues by people from the time of the crucifixion. One was set in a carpenter's shop, with a man planing a plank of wood, making it beautifully smooth – furniture for the palace? a coffin for an important person? a chest for valuables? The carpenter was telling the story of his friend, who was a good man, but had got into trouble with the Romans and had been sentenced to death. He continued to smooth the wood as he went on to say that his friend was going to be crucified and he was preparing the wood for the cross: it was the last gift he would be able to give his friend – smooth wood without sharp edges or splinters. In reality the people the Romans put to death wouldn't have been so lucky. The cross was designed to be an excruciating punishment for rebels, to warn people of what would happen if they opposed Rome. It



was also simple to make – it only needed two bits of wood – and the condemned could carry it to the place of execution themselves, as an extra warning to spectators (and possibly a chance to watch the crowds to see if they had any supporters who hadn't been caught yet).

Crucifixion wasn't a quick, clean death. Matthew's gospel records Jesus crying out, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" – betrayed, unjustly condemned, tortured, deserted by his friends, feeling the depths of human weakness and despair, identifying fully with the human condition of hopelessness separated from God. This would be the moment when on TV Superman would stage a dramatic last-minute rescue, or it would turn out to be a dream after all, or perhaps there'd be a magic wand in it. But we live in the real world, where people suffer the effects of war, violence, disease and hunger, desperate poverty ... and we need a God who takes these things seriously, who understands the depths of human suffering and need and doesn't proffer easy answers but offers us the opportunity to become part of the solution.

The Jews had wanted their Messiah to be someone who would lead them in rebellion against Rome – and crucifixion was the punishment Rome chose for rebels. It was the fate that any potential Messiah might expect – with the added twist that it was particularly horrific for Jews because it was seen as signifying that they were under God's curse; it's no wonder that Paul described the cross as a stumbling block to the Jews. But God subverted human expectations – Jesus wasn't the Messiah that people were looking for but much more, and the cross wasn't the end to his ministry but its fulfilment.

It's tempting to gloss over the horror of the cross, to skip on to the resurrection, to

remember that it was "Good Friday" – good for us, and good because God was at work – but it's also good for us to remember the cost, the pain and the vulnerability that Jesus took on for us, because that will help us to treasure even more acutely the love that made him do it. So perhaps that's something for us to think about this Easter. Valentine's Day has hearts and flowers to help spread the message of human love for the price of a card, but God uses the cross to tell us how much he loves us, and that is both costly and priceless. How can we share that message – and receive it afresh ourselves – this Easter?

Stella

## Services for Easter

*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March:* Walk around Tenby's Churches starting at Deer Park at 10am with a short bible reading at each church, and ending with a short service in Tudor Square.

*Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>:* 7 am meet at the Bandstand  
8am Breakfast at the Salvation Army Church  
11am St Johns Easter service with Stella.

## Dates for your diary

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm Induction of Revd David Salsbury as Moderator of the National Synod of Wales at Beulah United Reformed Church. This will be live-streamed if you would like to join virtually, otherwise please give your support in prayer.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 8pm Tenby Male Voice Choir

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10am to 12.30 Coffee morning welcoming Steps for Health.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2pm Annual General Meeting. Please come!