



Editorial

The close off date for the March 2024 Newsletter will be Friday 23rd February. Please send news, photos and comments to Shirleybdraper@gmail.com or leave in box at back of church.

Wedding Blessing: The New Mr & Mrs Woods

Rachel and Mike were married on the 25th



November aboard the SS Great Britain, the museum ship in drydock in Bristol. It was a magical atmosphere with the wedding party arriving just as the sun was setting.

On the 29th December family, church family and friends were delighted to witness the Blessing of the marriage amongst the Christmas trees at St Johns. Stella conducted a truly beautiful service and Mollie played the newly-restored organ. Following the service, and the throwing of rose and lavender confetti, a reception was held in the hall where the walls shimmered with tinsel curtains and pearl-balloon garlands. Rachel and Mike thank everyone for cards, gifts, best wishes and for celebrating with them.

Christmas Crackers jokes

What type of athlete is warmest in winter?
Trivia: What singer's birth name is Reginald Dwight?

Bobby's mother had 3 children, the first was called April, the second was called May. What was the third called?

(Answers A Jumper, Elton John and Bobby)

Winter Solstice Blessing

May the longest night and the shortest day

Bring rest to your mind and, I pray
May you find guidance and may you find
peace as the cycle of light slowly increases
Embrace the magic that darkness bears
Breathe deep in the chill and shift in the air
May you always be blessed with the light from
within you
And may well-being be yours as the new cycle
begins.

Memories

Memories remind us that nothing lasts forever. Time is precious and should not be wasted. Enjoy life and remember, don't count the days, make the days count!

News of Members

Ann M and Laura were at North Beach on Boxing Day to cheer on all Ann's family who did the Boxing Day Swim.



In the middle of January, we enjoyed "SNOW" even if it only lasted a few hours. This is the

view of Merlins Gardens. Something that happens every five years or so. Last time was in March 2018 when Stella and John were visiting Tenby for the first time.

Craft group Christmas Afternoon

On Monday 18th December, the craft group met together for a Christmas party. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. On arrival the tables were set with cardboard crowns ready for us to decorate with beads, ribbons, berries, etc. On completion of this activity, we donned our crowns and paraded into the church to view the Christmas Tree Festival and then to sing carols accompanied by Mollie on the piano. We were also treated to a mini nativity play.



Stella came in dressed as Gabriel, the angel, with beautiful wings, and halo. Then Hannah as Mary dressed in blue and carrying a doll, with her mother Helen as Joseph. Carol BT represented the 3 Wise men, but dressed as a Welsh lady, and Shirley wearing a New Zealand Maori skirt came as a shepherd.



Carol

Carols were sung as the players came in, and Stella told the story of the Nativity, except that the Welsh Wise woman came locally and the Shepherd came from afar. The craft group went back into the hall for the magnificent afternoon tea that been had brought along. Then Father Christmas arrived and everyone had a little present out of his sack. The afternoon finished with a "Pass the Parcel" round organised by Sharman. Our thanks go to Peter and Mollie for their contribution to the fun and we all went home feeling that we had spent a lovely relaxed afternoon together, organised by Sharman.

Sue and Shirley

The Stars

Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious, and however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up.

Stephen Hawking 1941 – 2018

Nativity service on 24th Christmas

The Nativity service was held on Christmas Eve morning led by the worship group. Liz, Carol, Judy, Sue, Rachel, Peter, Dilys and Mike. The fourth advent candle was lit by Rachel and Mike at the beginning of the service. The story of the Nativity was told in verse and scripture readings and the tableau formed around the crib to end the service.



The Sun

Bread is like the sun. It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist!

Candy Cane Service.

Kate Wolsey was in her element leading the service. It was packed with families old and new attracted by the Christmas Tree Festival and visiting Tenby at Christmas. They were treated to a short video by the Bible Society on the meaning of Christmas. The children were eager to answer questions posed and more eager to receive reward stickers and a candy cane, of course. It was a mistake to give the candy cane out first as those sticky fingers got everywhere. It might be Kate's last Christmas service with us. So thank you Kate for all your hard work and the enthusiasm you have put into our Christmas Services.



Lunch on Monday 8th January

Sharman and her helpers produced a lovely lunch, and some fun games in the Church Hall. The Editor received the following:

"Just a note to thank Sharman and her gang for a delicious meal served to us on Monday 8th January. What a super way to start the New Year. Many thanks and best wishes. Brenda."

Go on a Cruise, they said!

'It's like a fantastic, floating hotel and you never feel any movement' they said! so off we went on 'the Anthem of the Sea' 'a holiday of a lifetime' they said.

The weather wasn't that good as we set off from Southampton, we were to visit Casablanca, Marrakesh, Las Palmas, Lanzarote, Barbados, the Bahamas, staying on a private Island for 2 days then to New York for 3 days and then fly home.



Well, the weather got worse and worse, so bad the waves were 50 feet high hitting the decks so the safest first stop was Lanzarote where we stayed for just 3 hours! I was still feeling optimistic (or naive) and expected the weather to improve and maybe the jacuzzis and swimming pools would be open and I would be able to wear my new, posh, costume, and the sun would shine and I would be able to sit out on the deck. Fortunately, even though the ship rolled around A LOT, I was not ill, but very many people were, and many bones were broken.

Because we never docked anywhere planned, the entertainers were not refreshed so the evening shows were repeated again and again! so much so that I came to know the

entire script of 'we will rock you' so if ever I get the opportunity to audition, I feel that I could probably take the main part and be word perfect! The daytime activities on offer were napkin folding or cup cake decorating! There was no internet connection or any form of contacting the outside world, very surreal. After many days at sea in the grip of Hurricane "Tammy" we were told that we were not heading south but north to Canada!!! we stopped somewhere in America where all 5,000 passengers had to get off to get visas then get back on plus 500 American children ready to party (it was Halloween) - what a nightmare! We docked in Halifax and whilst disembarking we noticed a lot of information about the 'Titanic'! at this point I felt very lucky. We spent a day looking at the graves and information about the 209 people who had drowned at Sea on the Titanic. The next few days sailing were just as harrowing as the previous weeks. We disembarked in New York and were escorted to the wrong coach and then I was told that I was in the wrong seat, at this point I almost lost the will.

Eventually we arrived at a fabulous Hotel for three days, now this I really enjoyed, next time I'll just fly direct!

I met some very interesting people who suggested we meet up for another cruise, Really?!

Am I a cruiser? I don't think so!! The finale - there is no compensation because the weather is an act of God. *Sharman*

HHI Clarification

In the January newsletter the editor used the initials, so in case you don't know what they stand for - HHI is Health Help International, and is organised from Newport in Wales.



Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day!

On 13th February John Hayton will be doing his “three frying pan” trick and cooking lots of pancakes. He will need lots of people to come and help eat them. Sugar and lemons will be provided, if you want anything more adventurous, bring and share. Donations for church funds. 3 to 5pm.

St David’s Day cawl lunch

Sue will be making traditional cawl. Do come and celebrate St David’s Day (1st March) with us. Lunch at 12.30 (cawl, bread and cheese followed by Welsh cakes) and entertainment arranged by Mollie and Penny, all for just £10!

World Day of Prayer

This year’s service has been put together by the women of Palestine, and will be at St Mary’s at 2pm on Friday 1st March. Given what going on, it should be quite poignant.

Bible and Faith Chat

A chance to learn and discover, chat and share thoughts about the Bible and Christian living today. This is on Mondays at 11am, alternating with “The Whole People of God.” Come!

A right time for...

Stella and John always find the run up to Christmas very busy, especially with John’s other duties in the Methodist Circuit. This year after the Christmas services, we just collapsed when we got home. It is a good job the dinner was on the timer in the oven! We enjoyed just relaxing together over the next few days ready for Rachel and Mike wedding blessing and a Saundersfoot Funeral.

The Bible reminds us that there is a right time for everything and it is such privilege as ministers to share these with you.

3 For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.

² A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

³ A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

⁴ A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

⁵ A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.

A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

⁶ A time to search and a time to quit searching.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

⁷ A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

⁸ A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1- 8 New Living Translation

Worship Leaders

February

4th Rev Stella Hayton

11th TBA

18th Rev Stella Hayton

25th Rev Jason Askew

March

3rd Rev Adrian Davies

10th Mrs Kate Wolsey

17th Deacon Jon Miller

24th Mr Norman Gilbert

31st Rev Stella Hayton (Easter)

Diary dates

Mondays 11am Bible and Faith Chat

Mondays 2-4pm, Craft club

Wednesday 10-12, Welshcake Wednesday and Coffee morning

Tuesday, 13th February, 3-5pm, Pancake Party

Friday, 1st March, 12:30pm, Cawl Lunch

Friday, 1st March, 2:00pm, World day of Prayer, service at St Marys.

And finally, the induction service of Revd David Salsbury as Moderator of the URC National Synod of Wales, will take place on Saturday 6 April at Beulah URC, Rhiwbina, Cardiff (details to follow). It will be live streamed too.