



Editorial

Please have all write ups etc. in by the 17th February for the March Newsletter to shirleybdraper@gmail.com or in the box at the back of the church.

News of Members

Anne Embrey's daughter Ruth writes that "Anne is doing well at Yew Tree Nursing Home in Romsley. She isn't mobile at all and has little dexterity, but still has her sense of humour and enjoys banter with the care team, and telling me off! Mum knows who I am most of time, and we are grateful that she doesn't seem agitated or worried. Ruth, and family, and Anne send everybody the best wishes of the season."

Shirley received a Christmas Card from Janet Drogan, commenting on the "Pilots Club" of 20 odd years ago for the young folk of St Johns and how great to get an update on their lives now. She also said how lovely it is to get the newsletters every month – a great reach out for people.



Ron Hurlow has been in hospital with covid. Judith Keller sent an email..." Melanie and I began Christmas Eve listening to 9 Lessons and Carols broadcast live from Kings College. The major storm brought deep cold

and high winds but only a couple of inches of snow. We were happily snug in Melanie's apartment with her 2 kittens."

Laura Davies fell just before Christmas. She has a sprain to her knee, not broken or

fractured – very painful, and needs crutches. The local Tenby Hospital were marvellous. The fracture clinic came back with the result very quickly, and an appointment also arrived for a visit to Withybush Hospital in due course.

Midwives

On a recent programme of "Call the Midwife" Vanessa Redgrave's character says "Certainty isn't everything...the world would have us falter, but kindness in chaos amounts to so much".

"Kindness in chaos" – these words, in a programme depicting the time just after World War 2 seem so apt today.

Maybe for you the past couple of years have caused you to "wobble" a bit. Nothing is as it was pre-2020. The world is rapidly changing. But in life there is one constant and that is God and His Word. He promises never to leave us. He says (in effect) you are chosen, not rejected. The Bible tells us He is the anchor for our souls and God knows we need an anchor in these uncertain times.

St David's Presbyterian Church, Carterton.

Friends

A friend is one who listens, doesn't judge and somehow makes everything right.

People who can hold their tongues, rarely have any trouble holding their friends.

Good friends will stick with you until you're unstuck. *Winnie the Pooh*

Lent Course

Kate will be leading a Lent Course based on the film "The King's Speech" on Thursdays at 2.30pm at St Johns (also on Fridays at 10.30am at Tabernacle). The first session, with an opportunity to watch the film, will be on 23rd February (24th at Tabernacle).



Families in Mourning

Audrey Myfanwy Hilling, says Ann M, was a wife to Duncan for 72 years, and they created an open-door policy in their home with their 4 children. There was never a dull moment with Audrey, she was always full of fun and laughter, and loved being mistaken for the Queen whom she resembled in looks, height and dress. She had a phenomenal memory for rendering poetry and an entertainment talent. A great Christian lady whose 97 years were full of love and dedication to God, it was a privilege to know and be able to enjoy a small part of her life. Our loving sympathy is sent to Duncan and family.

Mair Davies (Templeton) passed away on 21st December 2022. Her funeral took place on 17th January 2023 and was attended by a large number of family and friends. Mair was a very faithful member at Templeton for many, many years, the chapel being a very important part of her life. She will be missed by everyone at Templeton for her dedication, wisdom and friendship.

We are sad to report that Mrs Val Bowling, a mainstay at Tabernacle for many years, died on 25th January. Our thoughts and prayers are with John, Helen and all her family.

Pancake Party

21st February is Shrove Tuesday, so John and Ian will be cooking lots of pancakes at St Johns between 3 and 5pm. Bring a hearty appetite and some of your favourite toppings and enjoy some quizzes/games/chat together.

Around the Pastorate

Wednesday 15th February Beetle Drive at Tabernacle, Pembroke (3–5pm followed by fish and chips). Let Kathryn know you're coming or be chipless!

Saturday 25th February Spring Coffee Morning at Templeton (10.30–12.30) – warm welsh cakes plus one of Meirion's quizzes.

Warm Hub

The Hub is open on each Wednesday morning 9:30 to 12:30.

The Nativity play on Sunday 18th December



The play was performed with Kate Wolsey's son, Ben being Joseph and Jessica being Mary, Angels were Stella, accompanied by Megan, Ffion, Maria and Samantha, including the youngest William dressed as a cow. Rhys and Peter were the Narrators. We had John, Ian and Rachel as the kings, and Carol and Sue as shepherds. Mollie played the piano. The Advent candle was lit by Ann and Laura. Refreshments were served in the hall at the end of the service with the children having crackers, pop, and presents.

24th December Christingle

This was at 4pm on Christmas Eve and about 100 people came. It was a great service with Kate demonstrating light and sparks from a lighted candle by sprinkling iron dust on the flame – this represented Jesus the light of the world and we are the dust so when we encounter Christ we will sparkle.

Christmas Day

Communion was led by Stella Hayton with about 40 people coming.

The Observer's photographer had put a lovely photo of the Christmas Tree Festival on the front page - publicity is a marvellous thing!



Count your Blessings

Every day, be thankful for everything, from waking up (woo-hoo, I'm alive!) to falling asleep (in a warm comfy bed). Gratitude is like fertiliser for happiness.

Services for February

Feb 5 Rev Stella Hayton

12 Norman Gilbert

19 Rev Stella Hayton

26 Rev Adrian Davies

March 5 Rev Stella Hayton/Mrs Kate Wolsey

Happiness

This keeps you sweet, trials keep you strong; sorrow keeps you human; failure keeps you humble and courage keeps you going.

Simple Reminders.com

Happiness

When you spend money on a gift for someone; pop into a neighbour for a cuppa and a chat; or just smile as you pass someone in the street. These give happiness to you!

Thank you Cards

Have you written your Christmas Present thank you's...what about writing another thank you card for someone who has been great to you during the last year, with a little bit of extra service for you maybe, or someone in a local shop? On the bus? Give it anonymously if you want! But think of their pleasure at being appreciated.

John and Helen

John spent time at the Bristol Blind Centre, getting to know Eddy, his guide dog. Then Instructors came to Tenby and they followed routes that Eddy had to learn. On the Friday before Christmas John passed all his tests, and although Eddy always belongs to the Blind Centre, John paid £10 for him. If you see John with guide dog Eddy wearing his harness or

lead, please ask John's permission to touch his dog. But do enjoy talking to John and Helen when you see them out and about!

Words

Words are so powerful; they can't be unsaid and can have a huge positive or negative impact on those around you. As Thumper said in Bambi, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say nothing at all."

Children's names

People have always named children after expensive things, Mercedes, Dior, Chardonnay. Next year watch out for Electric, Gas, Petrol and Egg.

The Christmas tree festival



This attracted a lot of folk to the church, including on the first Saturday about 40 from the walkers group! There were at least two people on duty for the three shifts every day. It was great to see how members responded to the "call". The Christmas Trees do look so lovely from outside, and through the glass doors, even when the church is closed. The trees were taken down on 2nd and 3rd January with about a dozen people helping. The church looked bare and bigger till we got used to the space again!

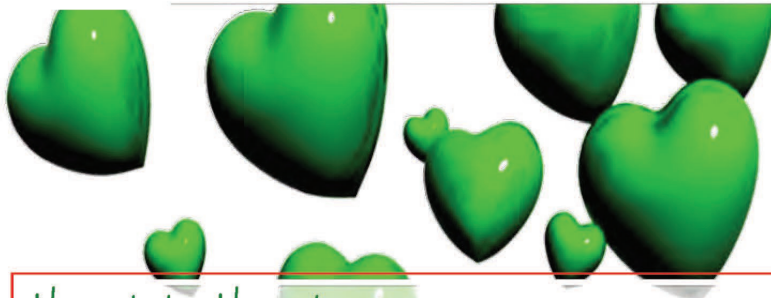
Church Membership – what's it about?

Want to know more? Chat to Stella and Kate at the manse (2 Lamack Vale), Thursday 2nd March, at 10.30am.



Show the Love

February 2023



The Lord "loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD."

(Psalm 33:5)



Heart to Heart

Rejoice, Sing, Praise the Lord! So begins Psalm 33. Why? Well, because of God's *Hesed* that is God's steadfast love, mercy, kindness. Hosea speaks God's word against the people because of their corruption, the injustice and unfairness with which they treat the poor and the marginalised. But into this judgement, in ch 12: comes hope, in the echo of words spoken to Jacob at Bethel, "*The Lord God is Almighty and you must return to your God*" . . . How do you *return* to God? Hosea continues "*commit yourselves to love and justice and never give up on God!*"

The focus for February are two campaigns: Climate Coalition's "Show the Love" and Fairtrade's campaign to emphasise the need for justice with Fairtrade Fortnight. But we do not want to pick up these things for a couple of weeks, we want these things at the centre of our heart. Fairness, justice, mercy, steadfast love, this is God's love, this is Jesus' love shown on the cross—where love and justice meet and evil is defeated.

Jesus said "a new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all people know that you are my disciples." (Jn 13:34)



Let us pray:

Reflect on the words of Psalm 33.

Sing for joy; Praise the Lord; Sing to him.
Then sit in silence and wait for the Lord, the
God of steadfast love and justice.

God is the awesome creator of all things. Pray
for creation. Pray for the people. Pray for the
nations. Pray for those suffering famine and
disease.

Wait again on the Lord and
pray the words of Psalm
33:20-22 together.



Get Active:

Two websites for ideas and actions:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

[https://](https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/)

www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/

- ✿ Get crafting, make some green hearts and turn the page for lots more ideas on the Show the Love website.
- ✿ Let your MP get to know you and your passion to see love and justice prevail when it comes to climate matters in our nation and our world.
- ✿ If you are not already then commit to becoming a Fairtrade Church.

HAVE A CHURCH SERVICE
THAT FOCUSES ON
"FAIRTRADE". SEE THE
WEBSITE FOR RESOURCES.

