



## Editorial

Sorry this newsletter is a little bit late, but what with Christmas Teas, Christmas Trees, etc time seems to fly by. Stories/news in by 20<sup>th</sup> January for the February Newsletter, in the box at the back of the church or to [shirleybdraper@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybdraper@gmail.com) Thanks to everybody who has contributed during 2022.

## News of members

Graham Powell is home again, after a few days in hospital, and doing as well as can be expected. He came with Sue to the Christmas afternoon tea on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This was also attended by Eileen Algate with her daughter Marilyn and husband. It was lovely to see Eileen, now 102, who isn't able to come to the church service anymore. The boxed afternoon tea was full of sandwiches, savouries, and all sorts of Christmassy cake goodies, and enjoyed by all who attended. Again, grateful thanks to the organisers.



## Mike Dixon

Sadly, we announce the death of Mike Dixon. He continued coming to Coffee mornings after Margaret, his wife, died. We will miss him and his stories of late-night fishing.

## Trust

A bird sitting in a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking because her trust is not in the branch but in her wings. Always believe in yourself.

**A new game** Many years ago in Scotland a new game was invented. It was ruled

"Gentlemen Only. Ladies Forbidden" and thus the word GOLF entered the English Language.

## Ministers Preaching Schedule

Jan 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Rev Stella Hayton  
8<sup>th</sup> Rev Stella Hayton with Inner Wheel  
15<sup>th</sup> Mrs Kate Wolsey  
22<sup>nd</sup> Rev John Hayton  
29<sup>th</sup> Covenant Service Rev Lorette Hinson  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Rev Stella Hayton/Mrs Kate Wolsey  
12<sup>th</sup> Mr Norman Gilbert  
19<sup>th</sup> Rev Stella Hayton  
21<sup>st</sup> Rev Adrian Davies

## The Craft Club's Christmas Party

The last meeting of 2022 was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, with Christmas crackers, party hats, party food, Christmas Quizzes, and even a "pass the parcel" so all took a gift home. Craft club will be back, on, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Sunshine

Sunshine to me means happiness, warm breezes, and seaside bands, your own small children laughing, and digging in the sand. A boat upon the water, sunlit ripples spreading wide, and drowsy scents of summer, and the murmur of the tide.

*June Ashdown*

## Life is too Short!

Grudges are a waste of happiness. Laugh when you can, apologize when you should, and let go of what you can't change. Love deeply and forgive quickly. Life is too short to be unhappy!!!!

## Church Service Leaflet

The chairperson at the Ladies Fellowship meeting announced, "Following our next poetry reading, Mrs Adamson will sing, "I will not pass this way again", which will give much pleasure to us all."



For your information in church leaflet, "Our toilet is situated in the room adjoining the altar. Also, if you prefer you may receive communion while seated."

## **Carol service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

This was very sparsely attended due to the sharp frost. It was taken by Mrs Kate Wolsey, who travelled from Milford Haven. The Counsell family came from their village. Megan was sung Happy Birthday in Welsh, and given a present for her 7<sup>th</sup> birthday, with everyone remembering when she was laid in the manger only weeks old, 7 years ago!

## **The Christmas Fayre**

Raised £1,700 due to the wonderful effort of lots of people. The raffle was a huge success.

## **(Mis)Information Age**

Once we used to just consult an encyclopaedia or visit the library. Libraries can still access information for you, and they are careful to be accurate. If they are unsure, they will say so. But the internet is much more daunting when you are overwhelmed with masses of information. When in doubt apply the CRAAP test:-

Is it Current? (When was it written/posted)

Is it Relevant? (How does it compare with similar information elsewhere)

Is it Authoritative? (Who wrote it)

Is it Accurate? (Are sources cited; pay attention to grammatical errors)

What is its Purpose? (Is it promoting something).

## **Count your blessings**

This hymn was sung at a St Johns Service recently. The Chorus goes:-

Count your blessings, name them one by one  
Count your blessings, see what God has done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

The trees are delighting many visitors again this year. The Welsh Cakes tree with stars, etc. made from Welsh Cakes. The Majesty tree with a teddy bear Queen, a jar of marmalade and Paddington Bear. The recycling tree. The Ironman tree. St Johns wish everyone could see them. Bless the workers who have made them so beautiful. Open from 10am-4pm until Christmas Eve.



## **Recipe of the month: Marzipan No Bake Slice**

Left over marzipan from your Christmas Cake!  
Or because everyone who loves marzipan will love this, buy a lb block!

Roll marzipan out in icing sugar to cover the base of a slice tin, and a second one for a top to cover.

Filling:  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of berry jam,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of coconut,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of biscuit crumbs finely crushed,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of chopped dried fruit and nuts, 1 tablespoon icing sugar, 1 dessertspoon cocoa, optional 1 tablespoon sherry.

Combine the filling ingredients and place on top of the marzipan base, cover with marzipan top. Cover that with melted chocolate icing. When set cut into squares and if you didn't want to do chocolate icing, sprinkle a little icing sugar on top. This slice will keep for a while if the marzipan lovers let it!



## Fact

It is scientifically proven that people with more birthdays live longer.

## Our next Church Meeting

Will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm in the large schoolroom.

## The Tenby Friendship Club Coach Trip

Several members of St Johns joined this trip which left Tenby on 5<sup>th</sup> December. On the way to Novotel Hotel in Sheffield they were to stop at Chipping Camden, but the road in was closed, so Bob, the driver, took us around to the top road. But it was closed too, while thinking what to do next it was noticed that workmen were taking the closed signs away, so we did have lunch in Chipping Camden!



Back on the coach we were caught in a motorway queue just before the turnoff to Sheffield caused by a large accident. Two hours wait, and a road diversion and we arrived at the hotel 2 hours late for dinner. Next day, we had a great time in York, only to get caught in a queue again with another accident on the motorway. We arrived back for dinner 1 hour late! The third day we had a tour of the Peak district, with a lunch break at Bakewell, before going on to Chatsworth House for our tour. Leaving the estate after dark, the driver refused to use the motorways, and drove back to Sheffield via country lanes and – guess what – we arrived in time to change before dinner!! The return trip to Tenby was via Trentham Gardens and

Shopping Centre near Stoke on Trent. A remarkable holiday, one that won't be forgotten in a hurry!

## Warm Space

During the winter we are opening up as a Warm Space on Wednesdays from 9.30 to 12.30, running alongside our Welshcake Wednesdays. We will be open on 28<sup>th</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> January (no Welshcakes!) for coffee and chat. We can't guarantee it will be warm outside but our welcome will be.

## What is (who is) church?

Church family or church member – or not sure about the difference? Do you have questions about faith – or want to become more involved in life and work at St Johns? Stella is happy to chat any time and will be holding some discussion sessions, along with Kate, in the New Year for anyone who might be interested – or you can always ring Stella on 01834 845398 and fix a time to meet up!

## Barbara Stredder thanks for tea and carols

Delicate sandwiches, mouthwatering cakes, chocolate treats and many other edible delights filled the large cake box which St Johns delivered to my home. I had also one for my good friend and neighbour as not much fun to Xmas tea on your own. So we enjoyed a festive tea and thank Sue and Ian and all who helped with this sumptuous feast.

The carols were much enjoyed and fortunately the weather was fine for the carol singers who gathered around my door.

## Please sing Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!



The Lord God planted a garden in Eden and he put the human he had formed in it. In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:8,9)



### Getting back to our roots

If there is one occupation that all human beings should be involved in it has to be gardening. Caring, tending, weeding, cultivating, it is in our DNA, it is where we belong. Strange then that the 21st century idea of a front garden is paving for parking. Look around your neighbourhood, see just how many front gardens that once were gardens are now carparks. This destruction of hedges, flowerbeds and trees so that we can park our pollution wagons is largely ignored as part of the problem, but the loss of habitat for birds and beetles, worms and weevils, moths and mice is incredible, particularly in our cities. Furthermore, look at the trend for back gardens, patios, decking, hot-tubs and wicker furniture. It is time to get back to our roots, to return to the good garden God had planted. To get back to where we belong. Let the adjacent poem be an inspiration, for prayer and for planting. See what habitats you can create, what animals and birds you can befriend.

*"Then he took the human being and put them in the garden to work it and to care for it." (Gen 2:15)*



### Get Active:

The 'go-to' website for this month is

**ECOGREENLOVE**

<https://ecogreenlove.com/2016/02/19/ecofriendly-garden/>

- ✿ Church gardens are wonderful wildlife spaces. Develop a more wildlife friendly church.
- ✿ Put in place bird boxes, hedgehog homes, bat boxes, insect hotels, composting areas.
- ✿ Have a wild flower area.
- ✿ Plant a fruit tree.

HAVE GARDEN PARTIES AT CHURCH AND IN YOUR HOME GARDEN.  
SHARE IDEAS, SKILLS AND LABOUR—COFFEE AND CAKE, CULTIVATE A  
CONVERSATION—JOIN TOGETHER AND HELP ONE ANOTHER.



### Let us pray:

THE Lord God planted a garden  
In the first white days of the world,  
And He set there an angel warden  
In a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,  
That the hawk might nest with the wren,  
For there in the cool of the even  
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden closes  
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod  
And their lilies and bowers of roses,  
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth, —  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.

(Dorothy Frances Gurney 1858-1932)

