



### The Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Graham Powell



On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023, St Johns was full of family and friends to give thanks to God for Graham's life.

Earlier in the day the family attended a service led by Rev Nanette Lewis Head at the Crematorium. Then at St Johns Rev Stella Hayton led a moving and memory stirring service, as we heard the story of Graham's life spoken by members of his family. A devoted Christian husband, brother, father, grandfather and friend. Skilled in many fields, Graham gave of his time, patience and abilities to others, performing numerous jobs and duties at St Johns, which included the office of Church Secretary with which he held us together for many years.

As well as bringing up his family with Sue in a Christian home and accepting new challenges with his work, Graham enjoyed many interests - steam and trains featured greatly. The children of the Sunday school and Pilots Club have never forgotten the outing to Graham and Sue's home to enjoy tea and cake and rides on the steam train that ran on tracks that circled their garden.

Love, sympathy and good memories will be shared with Sue and the family for many years to come.

### Editorial

The close off date for the May Newsletter is 21<sup>st</sup> April and Shirley would appreciate any

news, write ups, etc. from anyone!

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### How do bees make honey?

Summer is coming and the bees become busy. The female worker bees fly from flower to flower, sucking out a sugary juice called nectar with their tongues.

Back at the hive, other bees chew the nectar until it turns into a very wet honey. To make it less watery, the bees fan it with their wings until it becomes drier and stickier. Over its lifetime, a single bee makes less than half a teaspoon of honey!

### Mark 11 v 24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

### Did I?

Did I put my phone on charge?

Yes I did...I am sure I did...I hope I did...

Oh no I didn't!

### Poetry for the soul

May we raise children who love the unloved things – the dandelion, the worms, and spiderlings

Children who sense that the rose needs the thorn, and run into rain on wet days the same way they turn towards the sun.....

And when they're grown and someone has to speak for those who have no voice

May they draw upon that wilder bond,

Those days of tending things and be the ones.

*Nicolette Sowder*

### Easter

The most joyful day of the Christian calendar will this year be celebrated on April 9<sup>th</sup>, and it is on this day that we get a chance to really contemplate the meaning of that rather well-known passage from John's gospel; 'for God



so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16). Christians across the world proclaim; Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

As we prepare to celebrate Easter this year here are some interesting facts:

Did you know that the earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration comes from the 2nd century? It is likely, however that commemorations of Jesus' Resurrection probably occurred earlier.

At the meal we call 'the last supper', Jesus and his friends were celebrating the Jewish Passover meal which commemorates the exodus from Egypt. This explains why in many languages the word for Easter is related to Passover. In Latin it is Pascha, Greek it is Pascha and in Welsh, Pasg.

The English word 'Easter' has a disputed origin, but it is likely to have been derived from the Christian designation of Easter week as in albis, a Latin phrase that was understood as the plural of alba ("dawn") and became eostarum in Old High German, the precursor of the modern German and English term. The first recorded use of painted 'Easter eggs' is from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The egg has become a symbol of resurrection and new life.

In the orthodox tradition eggs are sometimes painted red to symbolise Jesus' blood (source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Easter-holiday>).

It seems we now really enjoy eating chocolate Easter eggs with over 80 million being sold in the UK each year. So, if you choose to celebrate with a chocolate Easter egg (or two!) it seems you are not alone! As I enjoy mine this year my prayer will be a for renewed and energetic faith and I will joyfully proclaim the words from Luke 24: 6-7, 'He is not here. He is risen!'

Have a joyful Easter.

Kate

## We say goodbye to

Rev Bob and Gill Lewis have left Tenby to live in Southampton. Gill has played the piano in St Johns at times, and Bob has preached to us. They have lived in Pembrokeshire 25 years.



## Ministers for April

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Kate Wolsey Palm Sunday
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Hayton Easter
16	Rev Stella Hayton
23	Kate Wolsey
30	Rev Stella Hayton

## Rev Boddy, New Zealand

*This gentleman and his wife visited St Johns Church one Sunday, a long time ago. Shirley showed them round Tenby, and ever since they have received an email copy of St Johns newsletter. For the first time since their visit Shirley received an email....17 February 2023*

"Thank you for keeping in touch through the monthly church newsletter, which we do enjoy. With you being a New Zealander, you have probably had reports of Cyclone Gabrielle hitting NZ. The rain deluge causing more problems than the wind. Vast areas have been ruined by floods in the Gisborne, Napier and Hastings areas. There have been 7 deaths and still about 3,500 people unaccounted for. Gisborne has just put out an order to stop using water as their water supply has been damaged and compromised with contamination. The crops in Hawkes Bay are ruined. The main area where people are



missing is in the River valley at the lower end of the Napier/Taupo highway.

Jeanette and I are fine. We live in Palmerston North and of the North Island towns our area was affected the least. Jeanette's family live in Napier and Hastings. We have heard from them, although they have not had electric power, and phones, wifi and cellphones have been down. Her younger brother Trevor went to work on Tuesday and then couldn't get home that night, but he is home now. We can't get in touch with her older brother in Hastings but that is probably a phone outage – he's not in a flood zone. Thought you would like to know that we are ok."

*Editor: I have since heard from Ian that the older brother is safe. Also, the death toll went up to 11. Hastings didn't have any power for a week! There was a lot of slips and roads blocked. My family all ok.*

*Also about the same time there was an earthquake size 6 off the coast of Wellington but fairly deep therefore no casualties. The UK heard all about the Turkish/Syrian one, a size 7, as it was very close to the surface. It is just a fluke of nature the damage an earthquake can do.*

## **Amendment of Hedgehog Pattern in last month's newsletter.**

Sorry the "cutting into 4" is for the baby hoglet's pattern of prickles.

For the bigger hedgehog's prickles "Fold page in ½ and then in ½ again, then fold again into 4. Cut some points and slits along the open edge, open out and cut into 2 pieces. Push into gaps between the folded pages. Add as many as you want. Go to YouTube and search for channel True Colours Tenby for complete pattern.

## **Churches Together in Tenby**

Walk of witness on Good Friday starts at Deer Park at 10am.

Easter sunrise service at 6.30am at the bandstand.

## **Pianist for Sunday mornings.**

Perhaps someone knows a guitar player who might accompany our hymns on the days when Mollie is unable to come? We had a Church service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> when Mr and Mrs Birch came from their Methodist Church in Kidwelly and Mr Birch accompanied the hymns on his guitar. We all enjoyed his playing.



## **News of members**

Alma, of Paxton Court, has been in hospital again. We wish her all the best.

Alma also had her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Penblwydd Hapus Alma

## **Celebrating the Coronation**

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May a picnic is being held in the Community Gardens, Tenby. Please bring your own picnic, but hot tea/etc will be provided. This is open to all Tenby people and visitors. On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May the King has asked everyone to do a kind thing, so come along to our garden party at St Johns (3–5pm) and help us all to enjoy the afternoon!

## **Five vintage words of advice**

Be CLEAN, or nothing will be right and good.

Nothing be nice in house, or dress, or food.

Be TIDY, keeping all the things in their place - a homely, yet a far from common grace.

PUNCTUAL, or time lost and temper spoiled.

COURTEOUS, for so the wheels of life are oiled.

THOROUGH, tho' slow it seems at first, will tend to make work quickest, surest in the end.





These five, my parting words, I leave with you  
“Try them” and you will find them to be true.

### John's Epic Run

I am recovering from the aches and pains after completing my first half marathon at the age of 62. I trained for three days a week for six months gradually increasing the distance I could run. At the start of the race the going was easy, cheered on by the crowds and buoyed on by the other runners, but bit by bit it got harder and harder as the way got steeper and steeper until I could run no more and had to stop and walk. I tried in vain to regain my stride but to no avail - it looked like I would have to walk the last 4 miles home. I was despondent and felt all alone but then I recalled the times when it had been difficult to restart but I had done it and made it home. So after a few minutes I plucked up the courage to start running again and buoyed on by others around ran the last miles home. Only to be welcome by Stella and my two sisters at the finish line. What a surprise and what a day.



Our journey of faith can be like an endurance race. At times it is easy going but the hills of life can come thick and fast weakening our faith and we can feel lost, alone and without hope. And retrying to rekindle our faith can

seem hard work and useless. We can feel like giving up until words from scripture come flooding back.



“So since we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before, an enormous cloud of witnesses, let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us.

We may feel alone, but we aren't. We are surrounded by an army of witnesses that have gone before us. They have run the race of faith and finished well. It is now our turn. ”

Hebrews 12:1-3, The Voice.

In my half marathon every finisher received a medal, and everyone with faith will receive theirs, cheered home by a great cloud of witnesses.

The song that came to mind was “Keep right on to the end of the road” by Kenneth McKellar