



Interim Issue (13). 19 July 2020

Dear Reader, welcome to this interim issue, which comes midway through the July survey I am now conducting. I wanted to keep you up to date and reassure you that I haven't forgotten you! In issue 12, I asked the following questions:

1. Have you found Keep Connected! helpful, relevant and entertaining? - Y/N
2. Do you want it to continue? - Y/N
3. What changes would improve it in your view? - Comments and views please

So far, I've received responses from more than half of the readership and the phone survey is under way. I will complete this and produce a paper by the end of July for PCC consideration and agreement on the future of Keep Connected!. My thanks to all who have responded to date and I will let you know the outcome in due course.

Keep Connected! has its own page on the parish website. It is also posted on the St Andrew's Facebook page, which readers can view on the website without the need to have a Facebook account.

Readers with smart phones can also take advantage of the WhatsApp groups organised by Revd Ian Welch. Please ask him for more information if you are interested.

Whatever means of communication you use, it is essential to have collaborative thinking and action when it comes to keeping the community connected and involved. My paper will focus on this and highlight how we can move forward *by working together*.

Local News!

Geoﬀ Howard was spotted out and about in Mottingham in his newly acquired electric wheelchair under the watchful eye of a be-masked Beverley. Geoff wouldn't disclose its top speed or if he could do 'wheelies', but he is really enjoying the greater mobility and freedom. It has given him a new lease of life!



Our neighbour, Lilli Taylor, called by to say hello and joined us in the garden for a socially-distanced cup of tea and some home-baked cakes. Lovely to share time with Lilli as the lockdown eases and catch up on some of the news. Lilli misses Songs of Praise sessions, often held in her studio, and also the Home Group meetings held here. None of us are sure when these can re-commence, but we are looking forward to the day!



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have taken advantage of modern technology to hold their meetings and earn their badges during the lockdown, reports Sue Wood. Rainbows have been using WhatsApp and Zoom; Brownies and Guides are using Zoom. Sue says she's been really impressed by the range of activities the girls have been doing, including growing and making things, as well as learning new skills. She has loved joining the Rainbows and Brownies in their Zoom meetings!



Thelma & David contacted us to say that Marley had been unwell for a few days. Thelma said, "It came as a great shock when, after a week of tests, an ultrasound revealed a massive tumour on his spleen! We have a wonderful vet, Katie, who rearranged the next day's operating schedule to fit him in. She called a colleague with experience in this kind of surgery who agreed to come and operate in the afternoon. The surgery was much more difficult than expected and there was a real risk of pancreatitis developing over the week-end. He needed intensive care treatment so Katie offered to take

him home with her to nurse him until we saw how things might develop. At this point there was a very real danger that we would lose him. Much prayer was offered by many of our family and friends who know and love Marley and we are so very grateful to the Lord for all his goodness and for holding all three of us "with cords of human kindness" (Hosea 11:4). "Fortunately, pancreatitis did not develop and Marley is now back home recovering well. We are waiting for the results of the biopsy test, so will let you know anon."



Mary Sylvester and her daughter have been unable to see one another whilst Fiona has been self-isolating and undergoing treatment for breast cancer. However, last Sunday's Zoom service provided an ideal opportunity for Fiona to meet her mother, brother Alan and granddaughter Claire while they were visiting. Mary said it was lovely to meet as a family and apologises if their family conversation prevented others from talking (*I'm sure all there would have understood and approved - Ed*). We hope Fiona's recovery continues apace and wish her well for the future.



Sue & Mick Wood joined us for afternoon tea in the garden the other day. Sue, our parish office administrator, was prevented from entering the office during the lockdown, so has been unable to carry out her usual duties. She and Mick exercise by visiting the Tarn and walking around the lake three times daily. At the same time, they keep their eyes open, look at the wildlife and the lake and report any problems to Alison, who is secretary to the Tarn Volunteer group. Sue also reports that her Mum, Betty is coping with the lockdown and is now venturing out!



Diane Hudson enjoyed some home-baked gluten-free chocolate brownies whilst telling us about the many and varied Zoom meetings in which she participates. We recalled the very successful recent Zoom quiz organised and hosted by Mick Wood for Churches Together in Nottingham coordinator, Diane, on behalf of Christian Aid.

Greenwich & Bexley
Community Hospice

Rev Ian's Performing Arts Showcase took place on Saturday 11 July over Zoom. The two and a half hour programme featured 20 performances including singing, monologues, readings, comic sketches, dancing and acting. To date the event has raised more than £1100 (inc. gift aid) for the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice - a worthy and deserving cause. See the news report and review on the website here - <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk/news/performing-arts-showcase>.

The River Quaggy. Having written about the Quaggy in issues 11 & 12, imagine my surprise when Alison handed me this booklet courtesy of one of the Tarn volunteers - *The Quaggy River and its Catchment Area* by Ken White. If you're interested in our local rivers then look no further. The booklet is available from QWAG - Quaggy Waterways Action Group for £4:50. Check their website for more information www.qwag.org.uk or follow on social media.



Summer is here (we think), especially in our garden! These photos feature a peacock butterfly on one of our buddleias and also goldfinches feeding on specially grown seed bearing plants!. It's been a real pleasure to see these beautiful little birds feeding on the flowers, which are closer to the house than the bird feeders, and there are no pigeons! *Don't forget the Big Butterfly Count 17 July - 9 August!*



Last word - for now. Lockdown has brought change; dramatic change for many and it's impacted significantly on the way we live, work, play and worship. Online worship is now commonplace and will likely continue if and when 'normality' ever returns. Offerings are varied and variable. Some people like them, but others prefer 'real live' church. Now lockdown is easing, the prospect of having live services again is near. But, the pandemic has also brought the realisation that real change is needed. The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said in his Presidential address to the Synod recently, '*Church must learn afresh to share the gospel*'. You can watch it on the CoFE website at - <https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/church-must-learn-afresh-how-share-gospel-archbishop-york-tells-synod>. The link is also available from the home page of the parish website.

Bob Lawrie E: bob@standrewandstalban.org.uk T: 020 8857 0685