



Issue 14, 29 July 2020

**D**ear Reader, welcome to issue 14, which brings news of my recent readership survey, other developments, local notices and news in brief on what some of us have been up to in the last couple of weeks!

**R**eadership survey: I can report that I received responses to the short survey in issue 12 from around 60% of Keep Connected! readers. All have found it helpful, relevant and entertaining and what's more, they want it to continue. I received a number of suggestions for improving future issues which I'll include in my position paper for St Andrew with St Alban's PCC to consider and agree in the near future. So, watch this space for news on future developments!

In the meantime, it's not too late to comment if you didn't get round to responding. Email or phone me when you have time.

**M**arley Update - **Thelma & David** report, "Marley had a major operation just over two weeks ago and is making a remarkable recovery. We are taking him on shorter walks during his convalescence but he has started to trot along with his tail in the air and is now eating well. In the operation his spleen and a very large tumour were removed but unfortunately the tumour proved to be malignant and cancer cells could already be travelling around the rest of his body. So Katie the vet is planning to begin a daily low-dose course of 'chemo' tablets, which are not expected to cause any adverse side effects. We really appreciate all your good wishes, love and prayers at this time."



**L**ibrary News! **Ray Andrew** forwarded an email from the MRA on the re-opening of the Library. It opened its doors again on Monday 27 July with these Temporary Opening Hours: 10am-2pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Librarians Chris and Claire would like to encourage you and your friends to use and appreciate this valuable local asset. All footfall data is collected and used to justify the existence of the service. There will be 30 minute sessions available on two computers, plus browsing and borrowing, but there will be no activities. Online activities will continue as established in March 2020. This information is on the MRA website - <http://www.yourmra.org/library-services-to-reopen-27th-july-message-from-chris-davis/>.



**I**mogen, welcomed me for a socially distanced coffee and muffin (baked by daughter **Sophia**) the other day. Sadly, Imogen had fractured her left ankle a few days earlier, when she tripped and fell whilst videoing Sophia on the family trampoline. The accident happened while husband/dad Jack was meeting fellow opera singers in Covent Garden, so he wasn't around to help. Rafe, Theo and Sophia helped mum by applying frozen peas (in the bag!) to mum's ankle while she phoned a friend for help. The friend arrived quickly, drove Imogen to Queen Mary's where X-rays confirmed the fracture. Imogen is now sporting a trendy boot!

**L**ocal News: **Ray Andrew** has asked me to spread the word on this scam: “Straight from the City of London Police fraud team – an extremely sophisticated scam is going about, involving all banks. You get a message saying a payment hasn’t been taken e.g. by O2, Vodafone, 3, Giffgaff or EE and to ‘click here’. As soon as you touch it your money is gone! They already have all your bank details and it’s the most advanced scam the banks have seen, yet. Pass this one to everyone please.” Reported on 23 July the email went on to say, “the banks are being inundated with calls and thousands of pounds are flying out of people’s accounts!” (Thanks Ray - Ed)

More locally, **Dr Mary Sylvester** alerted me to a robbery in Mottingham Gardens during the early hours of Sunday 26 July. Money was taken from a van parked outside No. 13. CCTV on local houses showed two lads roaming around the street and driveways. The news is on the St Andrew’s Facebook page and has been circulated to WhatsApp groups and also by email. Please spread the word and stay alert!

**A**lison & I had a close encounter (of an undesirable kind) on Friday 17 July with a truck transporting this ‘cherry picker’ soon after we drove off to see a friend near Ashford in Kent. Look closely and you will see the truck driver returning with the metal cover which fell off and hit our car while the truck was overtaking us. A loud bang confirmed the impact, but amazingly no damage was visible at the time. Later inspection revealed damage to the underside of our almost new car and repairs are now in hand. We’re not so new, but are, fortunately, undamaged! Larger photos available on my Instagram account.



**Y**our Editor is feeling re-invigorated since a recurring health condition became apparent a few weeks ago and is now being treated. *Polymyalgia Rheumatica* (PMR) usually affects older people - like me. Literally translated as ‘muscle pain all over the place’, it’s a debilitating auto-immune condition, which is only ‘relieved’ by taking a slowly decreasing dose of prednisolone (a steroid) over a long period of time. Yes, I’m taking the tablets again, and I feel so much better! This item is here to highlight the condition and also promote the charity **PMRGCAuk** which funds vital research, promotes awareness

and provides understanding for sufferers, GPs and the medical profession. As a member for several years I’ve undertaken voluntary work and belong to the Orpington group which now has to meet via Zoom. You can discover much more on the charity’s website [www.pmrcca.co.uk](http://www.pmrcca.co.uk) and its online community [www.healthunlocked.com](http://www.healthunlocked.com)

**S**t Andrew’s and St Alban’s churches are due to re-open on 13 September and it is hoped to open the halls again before then. The parish office, which has been closed throughout the lockdown, remains closed for the foreseeable future because it is situated in the rectory. It’s been there since the 1980s, but the CofE’s current code of practice requires it to be sited elsewhere, as other spaces are available within the church buildings. The office will therefore have to be moved. Rector, Revd Ian Welch will organise this as soon as practicable and appropriate. For further information please check the website and/or contact Revd Ian on T: 020 8851 1109 or E: [standrewsmottingham@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:standrewsmottingham@tiscali.co.uk).

**C**ovid-19 - Strategic Review: a report on how the parish of Mottingham has responded so far to the pandemic in terms of mission, ministry and outreach has been circulated by Revd Ian, see - <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/Covid19%20Strategic%20Review%202.pdf>.

Given that the pandemic is likely to persist for some time, with consequent impact on our usual ways of being church, it would be helpful to hear your views on the following:

- a) What aspects of church life have worked well for you during the last four months March - July?
- b) What you feel might be improved regarding patterns of ministry and spiritual life as we continue to respond to the pandemic?
- c) Your hopes and expectations for church life in the future, looking beyond the pandemic?

Please send your thoughts and responses to these questions to Revd Ian (contact details above) or directly to me and I’ll pass them on. Thank you for your participation. **Until the next issue...**

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