



Dear Reader, welcome to issue 23 and yet another banner image, taken yesterday whilst in the Tarn (again) for an online iPhone photography course assignment. I'm told I no longer need my 'proper' camera, as the phone can do everything it can do - if I know how. That could possibly be true if were younger, fitter and more flexible. Viewing the phone screen at ground level is harder now, but much it's easier using my camera with its articulating screen. The moral surely, is use the right tool and the job is easier!

Church Matters

St Andrew's Day, was marked by a specially recorded Patronal Festival Service which is available on the parish website - <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk/st-andrews-day> and on its YouTube Chanel - <https://youtu.be/egnA8bj3dxg>. Since uploading it the 40 minute video has, at the time of publication, had 113 views. Introduced by Rector, Revd Ian Welch the service features members of the choir, congregation and our organist, Anne Clements. The homily is given by the Rt Revd Dr Karowei Dorgu, Bishop of Woolwich. The video was expertly curated by Thomas Bridges, producer of online services for Eltham Virtual Church.



Huge thanks to Beverley Howard, whose inspiration and drive made the whole thing happen, including the short online questionnaire completed by 65% of the electoral roll. The responses to 'what do you appreciate, enjoy and value about St Andrew's' are summarised in the word cloud image (above) produced by PCC secretary Imogen Roose. Please visit the aforementioned web page for more detail and a larger and more detailed photo of the word cloud image.

Ane Piper contacted me saying, "It was a lovely surprise to walk past the church and see the Saint Andrew's flag flying in the wind with the blue and white balloons on the church wall behind it. It meant a lot to me, because when the old flagpole was broken (see left) I donated some money towards the installation of a new one in memory of my late husband Don, who many readers may remember was churchwarden during Revd George Davis's tenure. A few weeks later the pole was broken by vandals trying to climb it and was replaced by the current one. Don was very keen to see the flag being flown on the relevant days, and made sure that this also happened at The NatWest bank in Beckenham, where he was the manager until retirement in 1992. A big thank you to all involved in making it happen this St Andrew's Day." (News Shopper 19/01/2000 - Ed).



Revd Tim Ndegwa contacted St Alban's churchwarden, Kay Ash - "Advent greetings from Pompey! I'm settling down after a very rigorous training course, having just returned from the Arctic and six weeks initial sea time. Apart from the severe cold, seeing the Northern lights was such a

comforting sight. Gad has settled at his new school; however, he doesn't understand why St. Albans Church didn't move with us!! Carol is hoping to start working at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in the New year.

Kindly pass our love to John and the entire Church family we miss you all. Blessings, Tim.” (*Good to hear from you Tim and do keep in touch when you can! - Ed*).

S t Edward's: Revd Catherine at St Ed's would like to pass on the thanks of all running the foodbank for the donations, both the regular donations and those for Christmas Hampers, that have been flowing in from St Andrews and St Albans. We have been amazed and delighted by the generosity of giving and anticipate being able to distribute over 200 Christmas hampers and parcels from the various sources of donations.

For those who have expressed an interest in getting the hampers out to recipients we will be gathering to pack hampers on the afternoon of Saturday 19th December from 2pm onwards and will then distribute them over the following couple of days from 20th to 22nd December. A couple of people have already signed up to help; it would help with planning if any others wanting to be involved in the packing and/or distribution could send a WhatsApp or text message to Catherine at 07711 611201, with your name, phone number and when you're available to help.

C T Community Matters

Thelma & David are keen supporters of 'Guide Dogs' and Thelma hopes to have a replacement for Marley some time in the new year. They will be participating in the 'Christmas Wishes Virtual Event' which takes place at 6:30pm on Saturday 12 December 2020. If you would like to join them in helping to raise funds for 'Guide Dogs' please visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/christmaswishes to get your ticket. Special guests include Adrian Chiles, Aled Jones and Alan Titchmarsh. Contact David & Thelma for more information.



Julia, Digby & Eliza have been out and about: "Last Saturday (28 November) the Robinsons decided to vary the location of our weekend walk with a trip out to Chartwell, near Westerham. Having overcome the minor challenge of having to remember to book tickets at least a week before our visit, and despite not being able to



visit the house, the excursion was well worth the journey. The landscape is stunning, and just as beautiful in late autumn as it is in summer. We were blessed with a wonderful sunset and as well as exploring the camp, treehouse, bomb crater and playground, Eliza managed to take some lovely photos for one of her school projects." Julia said, "Here's (above left) the fabulous photo Eliza took at Chartwell - I don't know how she managed it on my phone!" (*Larger, clearer versions of Mottingham Family Robinson's photos can be viewed in the website version of this issue -Ed*).

Stan Drew a longstanding community member, has been in touch with one of his thoughts again - "Last night I dreamt that I was at a PCC meeting, and when I woke up I found I was!" (*Easier to do that now with meetings on Zoom! - Ed*).



Kay Ash, St Alban's churchwarden and a Friend of the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) reports on the Zoom Quiz held on 29 November to raise funds, "On behalf of the Friends of PRUH I would like to thank all readers who supported our recent Zoom Christmas Quiz and I hope you all enjoyed the event. We are still waiting for some donations and gift aid forms but we hope to have raised around £600.

Special thanks to Zoom host for the evening, Brenda Parsons and of course, to Mick Wood, famous for his IT expertise, for being such a skilled and excellent quizmaster. Some of the contestants were in the USA, so Mick's fame is now international!

The Friends' aim is to improve the lives of patients and staff within the hospital. We provide extra facilities for wards and departments and small gifts for patients at Christmas and on special occasions." (Please email Kay at kayash118@gmail.com for further information - Ed)



Beverly Howard asks - "What would a child in Kisumu value for Christmas? During the past few months the children from Cherry Brierley Children's Home in Kisumu have been scattered around Kisumu County staying with relatives or friends because the Kenyan Government closed the Home and all schools due to the pandemic. As you can imagine, the families who took them in were not always able to feed themselves, let alone another mouth, and Philemon, the manager and his team are travelling miles to get food boxes to them. The staff have now been allowed to cook one hot meal for 100 of the poorest children in the area who come to the Home every day. The matrons supply much needed emotional and physical health checks as well.



The team are determined that every child, the resident absentees and the very poor local children, will get a Christmas gift of food,

soap, toiletries, flip flops and a towel and some new shoes or clothes if money allows. We traditionally give half the proceeds of the collection at the Ecumenical Carol Service to them and often supplement it with coffee morning money as well. Needless to say these functions are not happening so we are hoping that you will feel moved to give a donation via our website or a cheque payable to St. Andrews PCC with "for Kisumu" on the back. Alison and Beverley will make sure that it goes to them. Thank you." (Information on how to donate is on the parish website at <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk/st-andrews-day> or phone Beverley - Ed).

On the home front, Beverley recommends taking a look at Eltham Arts latest project *Creating Connections* which is focused on the wellbeing of young children and older citizens in the SE9 area to create dialogue through letter writing. More information on the Eltham Arts website www.elthamarts.org and on Facebook www.facebook.com/ElthamArt or Beverley, of course!

Ray Andrew keeps me up to date on a range of activities including 'Silver Voices' (SV) and its campaign to restore free TV licences for the over 75s (recently removed by the Beeb. The current amnesty has caused problems in the administration of TV licensing resulting in breaches of the amnesty. The BBC has agreed now to investigate breaches referred to them by SV.

Ray's humour is well-known, Here are a couple of nuggets:

One of the hazards of celebrity status is finding yourself misquoted at times. Such was the fate of Lord Fisher when, as Archbishop of Canterbury, he visited the United States for the first time. He was warned to be wary of the press and was determined to meet their questions with aloofness and dignity.

As expected he was met at the airport by a crowd of photographers and reporters, one of whom asked flippantly, "Do you intend to visit any nightclubs during your stay, my lord, "Are there any nightclubs in New York", Fisher replied with lordly sarcasm.

But the next morning the pressman had the last laugh in the headline which read, ARCHBISHOP'S FIRST QUESTION ON UNITED STATES SOIL: "ARE THERE ANY NIGHTCLUBS IN NEW YORK?" (Thanks Ray, keep them coming! - Ed)



Looks like this Christmas 🌲
We have a VAC Scene 🤪

Mottingham Matters

Mr Will Rowlands writes - As we enter Advent and draw closer to the time which symbolises the coming together of friends and families, I think that this year, given the isolation we have all experienced, will make seeing loved ones more meaningful than in previous years. Sociable creatures that we have been since the dawn of civilisation, our progression and survival has been built on a coming together of nations, communities and people. Sharing trade, intelligence and security in order to help us and others remain safe and prosper.

There have been times like the Reformation and now our departure from the European Union, when community and alliances have been broken. This is fine when new relationships with other and wider communities are sought. However, when it is with the intention of causing isolation to themselves or others, causing chaos and division, people must oppose this.

Alliances and communities have to evolve over time to embrace continual change in meeting each 'new age'. The gradual evolution from British Empire to Commonwealth is a good example of this. You may wonder what this has to do with the local community? What goes on globally affects us all just as much as local events do. Just as a president or diplomat needs to understand what's going on internationally, local figureheads have to understand what's going on locally.

We all serve the community of Mottingham; police, local councillors, vicars, or local businessmen. It's essential that all get involved - sharing in creating the prosperity in which we all aspire to live. We should want to do this to serve and support the people of Mottingham. If it were ever a burden a chore, or reluctance I would encourage anyone involved to find another more suitable course.

As a sociable species we are better together than alone.

We have a wonderfully close-knit community throughout Mottingham and I hope that once we are able to socialise normally again, our community will grow and prosper further and we will all be able to share in the rewards it will bring.

Mottingham Library - is open again for browsing and borrowing. You can also buy your food caddy waste bags here as well as a variety of other items such as greeting cards, local history books and maps, activity books, wall charts and other gifts for children. Don't forget that at the moment payment can only be made by card.

Current opening hours are Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays 10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00 - 5.00pm and on Wednesdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm. Don't forget your mask!

We are lucky to have such a dedicated team in our local library who have been running book groups, travel talks and children's activities via Zoom during the past nine months. Thanks to all of you.

Environment Matters:

Local Walk on a bright, sunny 1 December was the perfect opportunity for **Alison & Bob** to explore a local walk shown in pictures here. A brisk walk up Court Road,

admiring the tree opposite St Andrew's; on to and around the Tarn (where would be without it); crossing Court Road into Middle Park Avenue and turning right by the allotments onto the Green Chain Walk;



passing the dead tree (named 'Still Standing' in my Instagram post); on to the donkeys who seemed to know that Alison came bearing gifts; then turning left onto King John's Walk, over the railway and the A20 back to the village, pausing to take the final carefully aligned photo ('Holy Smoke' on Instagram) and then home a welcome cup of coffee! How lucky we are to live so close to the countryside. Next time we'll take our 'bins' to get a closer view of the abundant bird life!

Last Word: Thank you all for your contributions to this and the preceding 22 issues. I welcome and appreciate your continuing input and support. Let me know if you look forward to reading Keep Connected - or not! Your suggestions are always welcome. The next issue (20 December) will be a Christmas Special, so please send me your input and ideas as soon as possible!

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