



Response to Life in Lockdown - was such, that it meant I needed a four page issue to cover it all! So, by popular demand, it will now be a regular item and I encourage you all to continue sending your snippets. Do keep it brief if possible, but I will edit as needed anyway! I aim to continue with four pages, but obviously it takes longer to put together. Therefore, please let me have your pieces by 6pm on a Friday at the latest for inclusion the following Sunday. Remember, I'm only the compiler; without you, I'd be out of a job; thank you all for your items and keeping me employed!

Christian Aid  **Week 10-16 May 2020** commences today! A Zoom Quiz will be held at **8pm on Friday 15 May** - full details are on our website here - <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk/christian-aid-week-zoom-quiz?date=friday%2015th%20may%202020>. Instructions for joining the quiz and on how to make donations through the Churches Together In Mottingham (CTIM) JustGiving web page are there too. These are difficult times, but please be generous for this very worthwhile cause. The quiz is open to anyone and you don't have to participate to donate! Our able Quizmaster, Mick Wood will ensure you enjoy yourselves and have some fun! Any questions, then contact Diane Hudson, CTIM coordinator. If you are interested in taking part in a sponsored 'Read-In and Sing-in' via Zoom from **noon-6pm on Saturday 23 May** please contact Revd Ian Welch for details.

Geoff Howard says, "Now, just a year after my stroke in May 2019, I have become accustomed to my lack of independence. There is no taking the bus with Thelma and David to Eltham or Bromley for a coffee, however! But otherwise I still have my carers coming four times a day and I am continually grateful that they come cheerfully and regularly. With Beverley's encouragement (those of you who know her understand that code), we sing every day and do my exercises. So the effect of the lockdown has not been as traumatic on us as for others. Also in common with most Mottingham residents we have a garden not to mention Fairy Hill, Foxes Field and the lovely Tarn. Our hearts go out to those in flats in denser populations. Beverley is addicted to her jigsaw and I am addicted to sitting in the sunshine, of which we have fortunately had plenty!" Geoff uses an iPad app linked to a grip controller to help him develop and regain the use of his right hand; all part of his physiotherapy.



Jim Thomas enjoys Keep Connected! and sent me a letter, as he doesn't have Internet access. Jim wrote this, "I am fortunate to live in a house with a large garden. Looking after the garden keeps me busy and active and it is a place for pleasant relaxation on a sunny day. However, there is a problem looming on the horizon; when do I get a haircut?! (A problem shared by many of us! Ed).

Life in lockdown 2000 years ago - answers to last week's quiz, courtesy of David Mouqué.
Paul was busy sending letters to friends when under house arrest.

John saw life in a new perspective in social isolation on the island of Patmos.

Paul and Barnabas broke into songs of praise in a dungeon.

Peter had an amazing escape from prison through the prayers of the Christian community. Thank you David for signposting the passages and encouraging us to read them!

Court Road Cheerleader John Miller stepped forward last Thursday evening, egging us on after the church bell signalled time (thank you Revd Ian) for us to go out and give thanks to the NHS and Key Workers.



(it's the first time in 36 years of living here that we've seen all of our neighbours - Ed). The occasion is usually marked by an increase of traffic, accompanied by the honking of car, van and bus horns. So much for the peace and quiet of the lockdown! Mind you, it was really quiet 115 years ago! (Thanks Ray).



Local sleuths **Sylvester & Houlston** report on a recent crime in the area. Connected by a local WhatsApp group the two Marys are keeping an eye on the situation. Here's the story, as reported on 5 May; **Man charged after three guns and class A drugs seized by police in Mottingham** -

Jody Hall, 46, of Carters Hill Close, off Mottingham Lane, was arrested along with two other men yesterday. As part of the investigation, detectives seized firearms, ammunition and a quantity of cocaine. Hall was today charged with three counts of possession of a firearm and one count of possession of a class A drug with intent to supply. Harry El Araby, 32, of Berkhamsted, Herts, was charged with possession of a firearm. Both will appear in custody at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court later today. Thank you both for alerting us. There are increasing reports of crime in our area so please be watchful!



Rare sightings! A brief visit to Eltham Hill to hand over some pea plants led us to find Jack and Imogen. As you can see, Jack has had a visit from the local sheep shearer - he is an Aussie after all!



And last Thursday in Court Road, Garfield, Laura and Rosa joined the applause for NHS and key workers (Garfield is one!). It was good to see, albeit briefly, the younger members of St Andrew's community. As you can imagine they continue to have their hands full at this challenging time!

VE Day on 8 May was celebrated nationally and locally in a very different way because of the lockdown. I have had quite a few submissions and photos, too many to include here. However, I will publish a supplement later this coming week to mark the 75th anniversary as it had a direct impact on the lives of the many older people in our own community. So, if you have any stories and/or photos please send them to me as soon as possible for inclusion. In the meantime, here's evidence of David & Thelma celebrating VE Day and remembering *Frank Harry Mouqué* of the Royal Engineers who landed in France on D Day and built the bridge at Arromanches; also *Leonard Frank Mouqué* who organised Barrage Balloons to help protect London from enemy aircraft; and *Frank William Mouqué* who was a key worker on the railways. *David Frank Mouqué* was a doodlebug baby and less than a year old on VE Day 1945! (And I was less than 6 months old - Ed!)



Revd Anne sent me her favourite Shakespearean piece on the subject of true love: **Sonnet 116**. Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets which were first published all together in 1609.

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.
O no! it is an ever fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wand'ring bark...

...Whose word's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even on the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me prov'd,
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

Liz Keable, past chairman and supporter of Mottingham Residents Association (MRA) enjoyed issue 5, knowing many of the people featured in it. Liz's view of lockdown is summed up in her poem;

A Silver Lining..... the birds in the garden.

The woodpeckers tapping on the path to bring up the ants.
The crows and magpies wheeling, squabbling, stealing food,
And generally disrupting life.
The starlings, six at a time, trying to bathe in the birdbath.
The great tit flapping at the window begging for breakfast,
Or maybe she wants to build her nest in my uncut hair!
For me, the time to watch and enjoy it all.

Liz Keable



Talking of birds -

Look **very** closely and you'll see a goldcrest enjoying a bath at the top of our pond's waterfall two weeks ago! So privileged to see and photograph it. *Ed*

Revd Ian sends the following message; Dear Friends, As we progress through this second month of lock-down it is heartening to reflect how we have been able to keep linked to one another in worship during these challenging times. 'Zoom' and 'YouTube' have come in to their own, and it has been a great joy to join together for our Sunday Communion services. Despite being physically separated, live-streaming enables us to be in fellowship and interact in real time, which is a great joy and blessing. None of us can predict at this juncture how long it will be necessary to adhere to social distancing measures, but despite this challenge and the uncertainty of these times, it is a great reassurance to know that we can be meaningfully united in sharing God's word and Holy Communion week by week. If you haven't already done so, do join us at 10am on Sunday – you just need to Google 'Zoom', click 'Join a Meeting', and type in the meeting ID (922-961-665) and Password (360859). Last week there were 60 of us, plus a number of children, and there is still room for many more! We look forward to seeing you soon! All Blessings, Ian. *Revd Ian Welch*.

Church Finances: Alison and Beverley, St Andrew's Account Managers send this message: "We should like to say 'Thank you very much' for so many positive responses to our letter about church finances, sent to members of St Andrew's congregation. We have received a number of donations, some being weekly amounts totted up and paid by cheque, and some being extra gifts, all of which are highly valued and help to keep us solvent. It seems timely to clarify the roles we have undertaken. This would normally have been explained at an APCM, which wasn't possible this year."

When our Churchwarden, Navlet, stepped down from her position as Acting Treasurer last December, PCC members Beverley and Alison offered to take over the role as joint Account Managers - not actual Treasurers. The original aim was to put the church accounts onto a computerised system, rather than the previously used manual ledger. It was felt that the PCC and congregation needed more detailed information on income and expenditure to inform the budgeting process. This will enable the church to set a realistic future pledge for the Diocesan Parish Support Fund.

The next important task is to transfer the accounts to online banking, to enable payments to be made without relying on cheques. So far, this attempt has been thwarted by inefficiencies in the banking system; who'd have thought it! We are gradually mastering the basic input of data, acknowledging the valuable help of Kay, who uses the same system at St Alban's. We are keeping track of income and spending, but as there has not been a Finance Committee meeting or PCC meeting since February, all future financial planning is on hold. Fortunately the PCC had earlier voted to reduce our 2020 Diocesan contribution, well before this latest crisis occurred. We are pleased to be working closely with Sue Wood, the Parish Administrator, and Ann Piper who, importantly, is still administering the Gift Aid scheme, which she has been doing very efficiently for many years.

Sue Wood says the Wood household had a bit of excitement last Thursday morning when they were woken at 6.15am by the door bell! To her surprise she was greeted by a fireman and two fire engines. It turned out that someone in the road behind them had phoned because they thought there were flames coming out of their house. Luckily they were wrong and all was fine! Sue said "It's nice to know that neighbours are looking out for others." Presumably the neighbours in question live in Porcupine Close!

R

AIBOWS at Home The uniformed groups might not be able to meet in person at the moment but that doesn't mean they haven't been busy! The 1st Mottingham Rainbows' leaders have set the group the challenge of completing their 'Home Sweet Home' badge whilst in lockdown. So far, challenges have included helping with household tasks like cleaning and laundry, cooking, gardening and now, DIY! Here's Eliza mending a picture frame, learning how to chop food safely and making lavender bags to send to her grandparents.



Well done Eliza - you must be well on the way to gaining your 'Home Sweet Home' badge by now. When the lockdown is over hopefully you will be able to collect it and sew it on your

uniform! Thank you Julia, for sending this inspiring report. (Perhaps Eliza can have a regular column! Ed).

N

orman sent me one of his puzzles - drawn on a piece of paper. He calls it 'Think Outside the Box'. Well done Norman - that's what I'm having to do to transfer from your paper to this item! Well here it is and Norman says 'Join the nine dots up with just four straight lines, your pen/pencil not leaving the paper. It's easy - when you know!'

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Thank you Norman and the answer will be in the next issue of Keep Connected!

M

ottingham Post Office Thelma brings good news. Owner Vin and his wife, Karina, now have a baby boy who was born on the evening of 4 May. Dylan weighed in at 6lb 7oz and is brother to Savannah. Congratulations from us all!

A

Wider Perspective

After nearly two months of lockdown we seem no nearer to returning to normality, as we had come to view it. The Prime Minister will announce measures this evening for the next phase of the lockdown - too late for this issue of Keep Connected! However, as some people are observing, this dreadful pandemic is an indication that change is needed and that it also presents real opportunity to change things for the better. That will be an immense challenge because it will need to be addressed globally, if it is to succeed.

The BBC Radio 4 programme 'A Point of View' aired at 8:50am on Sunday mornings, features well-known personalities (often philosophers and authors) giving their points of view. This morning's (10 May) broadcast given by A L Kennedy, is poignant and I encourage you to listen here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hwsz>. The Scottish writer, academic and stand-up comedian ponders why we're bad at assessing risks.

"We prioritise them according to emotion and information," she says, "but our emotions cloud our judgement and our information may be absent or misleading." She argues that one risk, though, is incontrovertible - the risk to the planet - and we need to find a way to ensure its survival. We, those of us of more mature years, have only to look at how much things have changed over the last half century to understand and concur with her observations. In concluding, I guess it comes down to clarity of vision, the desire to pursue that vision and the leadership to achieve it. All very well, you might say, but how can I influence that at the global level?

Revd Dr Sam Wells 7th May message echos this theme - <https://mailchi.mp/smitf.org/p7ehptetvm-568577?e=92b53717f3>. It's not an easy question to answer, but I'd love to hear your thoughts on the matter, as I will return to this theme in future issues.