



Welcome to **Issue 8** which this week takes a lead from the Chelsea Flower Show in showcasing readers' gardens when it's not possible for us to visit them physically - a virtual garden show! My request for photos yielded many photos, a selection of which you can see in this issue. I hope the 'show' raises your spirits and inspires you to 'grow'!

Geo**ff & Beverley** enjoy their garden and for Geoff it's a blessing to be able to sit outside and commune with nature, whilst enjoying coffee, listening to birdsong or perhaps catching up with some reading. The Church Times, maybe!



Gad is becoming an enthusiastic gardener, as you can see here, tending his courgette plants and getting to grips with his herbaceous border, under the watchful eyes of Revd Tim and Carol. Look after the plants well Gad and you will soon have plenty of delicious courgettes!

Navlet has been busy and worked hard in her garden despite having to work full-time from home in her demanding day job and an even more demanding boss!



Lilli's **Roses** are beautiful! Snapped by my assistant whilst delivering copies of Keep Connected! to readers without internet access - although I hasten to add, Lilli is very well connected!



Betty's **Corner** in Sue & Mick Wood's garden was unoccupied when this photo was taken. I hope you weren't having to make the tea again, Betty?

Jim's front garden was also snapped on the KC! delivery run. Lovely display of osteospermum aka African daises. There are many varieties - do you know which one it is Jim? Meanwhile, just around the corner ...



David & **Thelma's** wisteria looked wonderful again this year and with the beautiful sunny weather they have spent some time enjoying it. The disappointment of having to evict a two-year old rhododendron which had failed to bloom, to the rhubarb patch, turned to delight when it then produced huge, pink blooms! (*The evidence will be on our website - Ed*). Perhaps experts in Court Road can advise?

Tessa & **Ray** can answer that one! Their garden is looking splendid in the glorious May sunshine, as they beaver away at making bean bag supports for phones and tablets to raise money for Christian Aid! When do they find time to work on the garden? Perhaps they have a secret gardener?



Iris & **John**, a few doors up the road from Tessa & Ray, have a stunning display of clematis this year. (*It's obviously a good year for clematis if ours are anything to go by - Ed*).

Julia's **Mum, Linda** works tirelessly on her garden, by herself, and as an avid fan of the Chelsea Flower Show she can be justly proud of her efforts, as I'm sure you will agree!



Revd **Anne** wasn't able to send me a garden photo, but tells me that her tree peony has once again produced a stunning display. This is what it looked like this time last year. What a show! Is it down to special feeding or does the answer lay in the soil?



If you had been at Chelsea this year or had visited the above gardens you'd have wanted a coffee break by now! So this is a good opportunity to reveal the answers to last week's quiz and set a new one.

Answers to the Quiz on the resurrection story in numbers (David Mouqué) **3** women (Q1) discovered the stone was rolled away and **2** disciples (Q2) investigated the empty tomb. **1** person (Q3) met the risen Jesus in the garden and **2** people (Q4) met him on the road to Emmaus as well as the whole group of disciples in

the locked room. When the disciples met Jesus on the seashore they caught **153** fish (Q5). Jesus appeared to over **500** people (Q6) on one occasion and was witnessed by many others over a period of **40** days (Q7) convincing them that he really was alive.

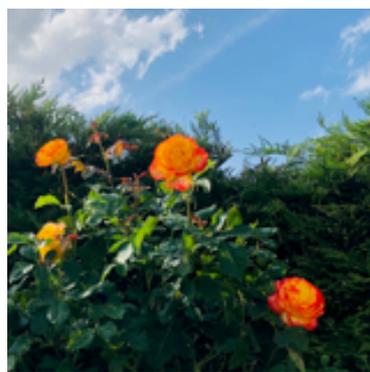
As C S Lewis said "Christ defeated death. The door, which had always been locked, had for the very first time had been forced open." Thank you David.

This week's quiz is on food anagrams (main course and dessert) set by Jane Cornish - answers in issue 9.

Main Course: 1. I lose face chew ruler 2. Health dine too 3. Shame Gran's band 4. Crack a town lip 5. He dip, he press 6. Best hole, gasping toe 7. "I yanked pen" said kite 8. Len, bake squab bud 9. Post her a chant oil 10. I flew Ben to Glen

Puddings/Desserts: 1. Raw leek at BLT 2. Ask a bad lake 3. K. Scott did P.E. 4. Gut pain, dad burn red debt 5. Green lace pots 6. Beer clap plum 7. Grind dice up 8. Mayor P. Jolly 9. Float tube ask Grace 10. Coco accelerate him.

Returning to the garden tour **Ruth Henschel**, who produces the Mottingham Methodist Messenger, kindly sent me a couple of 'peeps' into her garden which reveal some lovely, colourful blossom. The wisteria blooms this year have been beautiful!



Julia, Digby & Eliza have had little time available to work on their garden during lockdown due to ongoing house renovation and demanding jobs. Luckily, these beautiful blooms have materialised to raise their spirits.

Julia says "Here's a rose from our garden which I love. If anyone can tell me what it is, I'd be grateful!" So, all you rose experts, do email or phone Julia, if you know the answer!

Our new neighbours **Laura, Garf, Rosa and Roman** inherited an established south facing garden when they moved into their new home in Court Road earlier this year.



Imogen, Jack, Sophia, Theo & Rafe also recently moved into their new home - in Eltham Hill and have set about making their established garden more productive. Needs must!





Beryl & Norman sent me this photo of a lovely white clematis in their garden at 'Woodard Towers' in New Eltham. Sadly, Norman omitted to send me evidence of progress in the vegetable garden!
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Pat Hubbard enjoys sitting in her garden. Sadly she is no longer able to maintain it herself and relies on her gardener. I called by early and took this photo before Pat was about!

Jane & Bob Cornish devote much time to their garden in West Park under the watchful eye of Buddha! It's a large garden so takes some looking after. Somehow Bob manages to do that and also cultivate an allotment, not too far away, in Eltham Palace Road.



Round the corner in Court Road, opposite St Andrew's Rectory, **Hatty Man** sent me a photo of the pond at no. 238 and the

'Rambling Rector' rose at no 240 (*surely that belongs over the road - Ed!*). Mind you, the rose hedge in front of the rectory is beautiful when in flower!

Kay & John Ash in Orpington have a deceptively large, well stocked garden, including pond, which this year, is home to hundreds of tadpoles! Not to worry, the garden is more than big enough to accommodate hundreds of frogs!



This show finishes here in **Alison & Bob's** Court Road garden which was completely re-designed after the house was extensively refurbished in 2014. We can now bring our garden into the house, allowing us to fully appreciate it and the many birds that call in for food and water, as well as bathing in the pond!



Well, that's it for this week. I've managed to squeeze 40 photos into four pages; too small to appreciate fully, so I am opening a page on our website where you will be able to view larger versions of these and others I've not been able to include here. I'm planning to keep that live, so will welcome more photos from you all as the seasons change so we continue to share nature's beauty as a local, connected community. Next week will feature an update on Christian Aid fund raising efforts, **especially the Read & Sing-in event** (check the website in the meantime).

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