

# ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY UPDATE

No 33: 1.7.20

## INTRODUCTION

- If you want to be removed from this mailing list please let me know.
- If you have a friend or neighbour who would like to receive this please forward their details.
- I also invite you to send in items, especially humorous ones!
- For all correspondence please use [office@stombsands.org](mailto:office@stombsands.org)

## FUTURE EDITIONS AND CHURCH SERVICES

Thankfully we continue to come out of lockdown.

We are beginning to plan for Sunday Services but do not intend to restart before August, at the earliest. Watch this space.

Church will be open for individual prayer every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 11-12 Noon. Only 3 people/family groups will be allowed in church at any time.

-On Mondays we will show a video of the Sunday service at 11am and 11.30am.

-On Wednesdays there will be an organ recital 11-11.15 and 11.45-12 noon with time for quiet prayer between.

-On Saturdays there will be a mixture of classical music and time for quiet prayer

We will be sending out a Newsletter every other week and a service which you can watch on YOUTUBE every Sunday.

## WHAT DO THE EXPERTS MAKE OF IT ALL? – Submitted by Anita

Medical experts were asked if it is time to ease the lockdown.

Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve.

Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow.

Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, anaesthetists thought the whole idea was gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, dietitians digested the statistics and felt changes were unpalatable???

## QUIZ NIGHT

The next quiz will be Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30pm. If you have not played and would like to take part send an email to Richard: [blundellsands@icloud.com](mailto:blundellsands@icloud.com)

## INTERVIEW

Recently Neil interviewed Alison Perry OBE, Patron of Woodlands Hospice.

Neil: This must have been a very difficult time for the staff and volunteers at Woodlands Hospice. What have been the main challenges?

Alison: We have faced many challenges during this period, but as an organisation the staff and volunteers have been so supportive and committed to providing our services to our patients and their families during this unprecedented time.

Ensuring patients and their families receive the best possible care is always our priority at Woodlands Hospice and this hasn't changed. We have operated some of our services slightly differently including a lot more Zoom meetings.

Neil: How have you enabled loved ones to have contact?

Alison: As a hospice we have had to limit patient visiting which has been very difficult for everyone however we have been able to relax this slightly of late, which has been a welcomed decision. Patients and families have been very understanding. The use of technology has helped a great deal ensuring patients remain in contact with family members.

Neil: I know that a big challenge for all hospices is constantly having to raise money. How has Woodlands been affected?

Alison: All our shops closed at the end of March 2020 and are yet to re-open (planned for early July 2020). Our weekly lottery has continued through this period however, we haven't been able to increase our membership which affects our income greatly. We do offer online sign up for our lottery via our website (<https://www.woodlandshospice.org/lottery>) which has allowed some of our community to join our weekly lottery. Our fundraising team have all been working from home adapting new ways to connect with our community which has been great to keep the contact with our supporters. Woodlands Hospice requires £4,000 per day in order for us to continue to provide our care, free of charge to our community.

Neil: We were due to have a fundraising Barn Dance in St Michael's Church Hall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, but sadly that has had to be cancelled. Have you got an alternate plan?

Alison: We will certainly be re-arranging this event and are hopeful it can take place in the Autumn of 2021. Watch this space!

Neil: Do you think we will be going ahead with the Woodlands, Light up a Life service at St Michael's on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm.

Alison: Carole Riley, our Individual Giving Manager, is currently adapting plans for Light Up a Life (LUAL) 2020 services and we are hoping these will include a service at St Michael's 2020. LUAL was very well received at St Michael's in 2019 and we would relish an opportunity to have St Michael's Church and community, play a part for our LUAL 2020 campaign.

Neil: Our thoughts and prayers go to Alison and all the staff and volunteers at Woodlands Hospice who do such an amazing job.

## QUIZ

1. Who became known as 'The lady with the lamp'?
2. What is the real name of 'Petticoat Lane' in London?
3. How many cubic centimetres in a cubic metre?
4. St Margaret's Church in Westminster is the parish church of which institution?
5. Which letter of the alphabet is not in the Periodic tables?
6. What was Marilyn Monroe's natural born hair colour?
7. In which year was Crown Derby china renamed Royal Crown Derby?
8. What does a pedologist study?
9. Ping, Pang and Pong are characters in which Puccini opera?
10. Which two colours make the national flag of Austria?
11. 'The charge of the Light Brigade' was at which Crimea battle?
12. At which racecourse is 'Swinley Bottom'?
13. What is a barracuda?
14. What are the three primary colours in art?
15. Which country first used paper currency?
16. Phobos and Deimos are satellites of which celestial body?
17. Which world-wide magazine was conceived by DeWett Wallace?
18. Rachel Hayhoe Flint is a famous name in which sport?
19. Asuncion is the capital of which country?
20. By what name was New Zealand originally known?



### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY by Helen

Well we can go on holiday, we can stay with family and friends, we can go shopping, to restaurants and the pub, we can even go to church to pray, but will we be doing all or any of these things? What are the relative risks involved in each one and which risks are you prepared to take?

Life is a risky business; we often hear that it is more dangerous to cross the road than to do this or that. To justify our risk taking we may say "You could get run over by a bus tomorrow, so I'll do it". Of course, there has to be a limit to our risk-taking especially at the moment. It has to consider the risk to ourselves and to others too: wearing masks has been advised as much for the benefit of those around us as for ourselves

Recently I read "Faith is risking what is for what is yet to be." Sometimes it is extremely hard to risk what is for what is yet to be because we do not know what the "yet to be is exactly". We like guarantees and bottom lines. We like familiar things, secure things, and definite things. We live in a world that operates on security risk assessment and risk aversion so we can always be sure about what is going to happen and when.

Time and again in the Gospels, we see examples of people taking risks that are motivated by their faith in Jesus. In Matthew 9, for instance, we find several individuals who took a risk and stepped out in faith: the paralytic and his friends (9:1–8), the ruler whose daughter was ill and the haemorrhaging woman (9:18–26), and the two blind men (9:27–31). In nearly every situation, we are explicitly told that Jesus responded to the individual's faith—as it was manifested in risk-taking—by granting each what he or she desired.

Back in the 1990's Edward Patey, the Dean of Liverpool wrote a famous book called "Faith in a Risk taking God". God likes risk because risk involves faith. He asked the patriarchs, to be faithful and obedient to his leading of them, the Kings to rule with justice and mercy and the prophets, to speak truth to power. Some fulfilled what was asked of them and some fell at the first hurdle. Many would not risk popularity with the people for following God. Others like the shepherd boy David, facing the Philistines alone with just a few pebbles and a sling, took a huge risk and he was rewarded by success by killing the giant. Goliath. God's biggest risk was in sending Jesus as a human to live amongst us. Think about how many things could have gone wrong when Jesus was just a child. How, as an adult, he could have chosen the wrong disciples. How he could have, even at the last, not gone to Jerusalem, stopped causing trouble, or even taken early retirement! He risked all for our sakes, to bring us salvation from sin. He is the ultimate risk taker because he puts his faith in us humans

Living a life of faith requires taking risks, at least from our perspective, because we can't physically see what lies ahead, or hear what God's saying, or know what He's thinking, or feel what He's doing. We just have to trust Him as we choose to follow him. ...Paul, writing to his disciple and co- worker Timothy reminds him that "the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." When we take risks for God we can be assured of the strength of the Holy Spirit to guard and guide us in all we do.

## **PRAYER**

How generous is your goodness, O God,  
how great is your salvation,  
how faithful is your love;  
help us to trust you in trial  
and praise you in deliverance;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those who missed last Sunday's talk you will find it here:

<https://youtu.be/kUPNF6upGyc>

If you are new to accessing YouTube clips and need some help, just give Margaret or I a ring on 0151 378 0332 and we will help.

## **QUIZ ANSWERS**

1.Florence Nightingale 2.Middlesex Street 3.1,000,000 4.Palace of Westminster  
5.J 6.Ginger 7.1890 8.Soil 9.Turandot 10.Red & White 11.Balaclava 12.Ascot 13.Fish  
14.Red, Yellow, Blue 15.China 16. Moon 17.Readers Digest 18.Cricket 19.Paraguay  
20.Staten Landt

## ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

Hotels will be open for booking soon

<https://youtu.be/viFcM8fGjv8>

Submitted by Clare

Last night my wife sent me a text, saying she was in casualty. When I got home I watched all 50 minutes of it.....never saw her once. She still hasn't come home yet. I'm starving! :(

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services: Submitted by Cheryl

-Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

-At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

-The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

-The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

- This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

- Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And finally,

-The Vicar would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

**Together we will get through this.**

Revd Neil Short

1.7.20