

In View – Lockdown Special

St John the Evangelist Milford

May 2020



Welcome to our first edition of “In View” while under lockdown. We might all be hoping that this is the first and last edition, but I don’t think any of us quite knows what is happening to us, nor where we are going. However, one thing is sure; God is with us and our Faith assures us that He will be for as long as we believe. Church, our Church, is not the building in Church Road but is us, the community around the Village. While the building is important as a place of gathering and worship, the all important act of worship and praise can, and does, go on around us and in our homes. So I implore you to pray as frequently as you feel able and stay connected as best you can to those around you and across the street. There are many forms of service and worship available on the radio, television and, of course, The Web. So far we have been publishing on our web page (<http://www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk/encouragement/>) thoughts, prayers and reflections on the Bible readings set for us Sunday by Sunday. We will be trying a remote morning prayer service via Zoom at 10am on 10th May, based on the set readings. And we will continue our now weekly Sunday 11am morning coffee & chat via Zoom as well. If you want to join us and need a link just send an email to stjohnsmilford@hotmail.com.

You are in all our thoughts and prayers, especially Janet Potter who is progressing well in the RSCH. Looking forward to seeing some of you on Zoom.

May God bless you.

Peter Hewson

Walks around the village

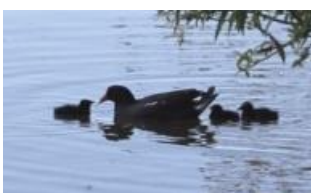
Some of us are getting out for walks, and have shared some pictures.

Brenda Tye has been around Secretts’ ponds, with geese, ducks and ducklings:



Judy Downing added a picture of moorhen chicks, and one of the church, just to show she has also been checking that all is well there.

Penny Clark provided photos of apple blossom and the woods near her house.





Missing hymns and services?

David Pepe, from our choir, has made his own home recording of Be Still for the Presence of the Lord:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-883060589/david-p-choir-member-hymn-be-still-for-the-presence-of-the-lord>

Many services are available online. Go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/> to find out what is on each week.

There is also a Church of England free phone number, to access the many services, reflections, hymns and prayers that are being posted online, at any time 24/7:



Anyone for tennis?

Virginia Bottomley has offered use of their isolated tennis court to any frustrated tennis players in our community. Email stjohnsmilford@hotmail.com for the contact number, to fix a time to use the court.

Rainbows

You will soon see the church grounds decorated with rainbow bunting. This is to brighten the community and show our support for the NHS, key workers and all families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nathalie Hinds has been coordinating the production of lots of knitted/crocheted rainbows, by lots of church members.



Challenges to church finances

With the church building closed, St John's is suffering a significant drop in income, with little change to ongoing expenses. If you would normally put cash in the offertory plate, maybe using the envelope scheme, please consider a **change to giving by standing order** instead. Several people have already done this.

You can set up a standing order through internet banking, if you use this facility. State your name clearly on the transfer, so we can still claim Gift Aid (if you have signed a Gift Aid form) or claim under the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS) if the donation is £30 or less.

St John's bank details are:

Bank: NatWest plc, Godalming Branch, 77 High St, Godalming, GU7 1AR

Account Name: St Johns Milford Parochial Church Council

Sort code: 60-09-04

Account number: 00752770

Cheques can be accepted but social distancing makes them more difficult to handle.

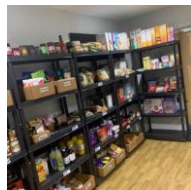
Thanking you for your support, whatever you decide to do. Nicholas O'Brien, Hon. Treasurer

Chandler School

Adrian and Lynn Graffham wanted to say, as a family, how wonderful the teachers and staff have and are being, supporting the children at this time. Thankfully, the wonders of the internet have enabled contact with school to continue, although in a different way. Lynn suspects the work that has been produced is wonderful too. Poems, art, as well as in some cases more reluctant maths and English. She writes, as with all of us, The Chandler is missing the physical presence of friends and family, and the children are missing being with their friends and teachers. One of our granddaughters said, "Nana, I don't expect you thought I would ever say this, but I want to go back to school! " (Lynn wishes she had recorded this).

Matilda has written a poem as part of her school work:

Came so fast we were not watching.
Over the world in a trice.
Voices told us to be safe and hide away like little mice.
Inspiration from communities, showed us how to care.
Did we do any good? in this history we will all share.



Bigger Food Bank

The Godalming & Villages Community Food Store located at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre now offers free food, toiletries and household products, in addition to the existing St Mark's foodbank. Call 01483 523575 if you need this help.

<http://www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk/practical-help/> has other details about using the store.

You can support the food banks with donations, on Tuesdays 9-11am only. Leave them in the shopping trolley outside Milford Village Hall, or the one outside Tesco, both clearly signed "Donations for Godalming food bank organised by the Godalming and Farncombe Community Corona Virus Assistance".

#twopointsixchallenge and the Hambly family

The whole Hambly family spent last week running/riding to raise yet more money for the Samson Centre for MS.



This is how Megan explained it in her Facebook post: "Last Sunday dad said "let's do 7 marathons in 7 days" and I thought he was being absolutely ridiculous, so we settled with 70 miles in 7 days. By day 3 we had already gone miles past 70, so we said we would carry on for the 7 days to see how far we would get...well, dad wasn't so ridiculous because today we completed 43.3 miles taking our total to 198 miles which equates to just over 7.5 marathons in 7 days - including dad completing a whole marathon himself today!"

John Hambly posted today: "I just wanted to pass on my sincere thanks for the incredible support you have provided to the girls and I over the course of last week. It has been an amazing effort that has benefited the Samson Centre to the tune of around £6,000. Just way beyond our initial hopes."

On the last day I was proud to don the black and gold of the Cornish rugby jersey and complete a full marathon on my trusty medi-bike. I am suffering for it now but as the emblem on the shirt says 'One and All' which seems entirely appropriate at this time. Hope that you are all staying happy and healthy. Best wishes. Hammers

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Hambly>

[Editor's Note: I am sure John would not turn down any retrospective donations you may wish to make - the total had topped £10,000 when I last looked!]

A Fond Farewell

Peggy Kearns is due to move away from the village on 18th May. She writes:

"I will shortly be moving to Gt Missenden, Bucks to be nearer my daughter and family. Packing and sorting out has kept me busy and enabled me to get through lockdown easier than might have been. I am very sorry to leave Milford, the USA, the friendly shops, Cross Roads Surgery, and where everything is within walking distance. The church where I have been made welcome, and have found everyone so kind and friendly. More recently since being on my own I have enjoyed the monthly lunches. Thank you Joyce and Wyn.

Through Godalming & Farncombe Community Corona Virus Assistance I have had two very kind ladies, both called Emma, who have shopped for me every week, nothing has been too much trouble, much appreciated, thank you.

Thanks also to Clive, Janet, Peter and so many others, not forgetting Peter Hills who twice visited my husband in the Care Home to help with his hearing aids. Bless you all, I will miss you."

Online classes

Penny Clark reports she has been doing an online Pilates class, with help from Howie, the Canine Partner staying with them at the moment!



Meanwhile Alison Turner has been joining Rock Choir rehearsals in her kitchen, over Zoom and YouTube. There are singing events at 3pm every day, that anyone can join in, on the Rock Choir Facebook page.



Books to recommend

Miranda O'Brien would like to recommend:
'Wilding' by Isabella Tree - A book that talks about returning a farm to its natural habitat.

Rest In Peace

Sadly, I have to report that the following members of St John's have died over the last few weeks. They will all be remembered and greatly missed:

- Tricia Elsey
- Marjorie Parkinson
- David Pollard

Prayers to share

Lynn Graffham recalls two prayers, from a little prayer book given her at Sunday school in 1965:

"Jesus, friend of little children,
Be a friend to me;
Take my hand and ever keep me
Close to Thee." Walter J Mathans

"At home or at school
Wherever I may go
One thought I remember
That is good to know.
It stays in my heart
A happy little song
That God takes care of me
The whole day long." Lilian Vandevere.

This prayer is by Susanna Wesley, mother of more well known sons John and Charles Wesley.

"Help me, Lord to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Your presence. So may my every word and action have a moral content. May all the happenings of my life prove useful and beneficial to me. May all things instruct me and afford me an opportunity of exercising some virtue and daily learning and growing toward Your likeness. Amen."

We all hope to be able to return, safely, to our church in the not too distant future. In the meantime you can find practical help and spiritual encouragement on our website <http://www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk/>

If you need any other help, contact us by email at stjohnsmilford@hotmail.com or call the vicarage on 01483 414710.

I hope this newsletter goes a little way towards keeping our church community in touch while we all stay home. Any errors or omissions are all mine.

Editor: Alison Turner