



Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

They say all good things come to an end... I'm not sure that's really true; as Christians we'd surely want to say that God's love never does but some things that we have enjoyed serve their time and season and then come to a conclusion or a significant change.

This weekly newsletter has been faithfully created and curated for over 60 continuous weeks now and this will be the last edition (well, in this format, at least!). We are grateful to all the various contributors over that time – keeping us informed, encouraged and connected; not least Graham and Valerie who have contributed to every edition and Dan for arranging them to be sent by email and in the post. I'm sure you will join with me in thanking them for their hard work, creativity and perseverance!

The newsletter will then make a return in September in a new version helping us mark the beginning of a new church year and leading us into the new things that God has in store for us – so WATCH THIS SPACE!

In the spirit of new things – we'll also be starting (or re-starting) a few other things in September:

- Communion in church will once again be served at the front of the church, whilst continuing to take care with our Covid precautions. We hope this will be a positive step for our sharing in the Lord's Supper and for our fellowship together.
- We will also be able to include people at home with Communion too, following the changes that the Methodist Conference agreed this summer (YIPPEE!). This will mean that we can get you a supply of some of the little cups we've been using in church and when we share in a Communion service in the building, you will be able to share at home at the same time. I'm so pleased we finally got to this point, as I know many of you at home have felt left out of this important 'means of grace'. **If you would like to share in this, please let Allison or Shirley know and they will sort you out a supply.**
- September will also see the recommencement of the Benevolent Fund Offering. You may remember that this is the extra offering that we take at a Communion service to help those in need. As we are still taking care re: Covid, the plate will be placed in the Narthex, for people to make any contribution they wish to, as they arrive. This will help to distinguish it from the other, normal offering plate, by the door as you leave.

I hope this gives you a feeling of hope that we are moving in the right direction, whilst still taking care of each other. Life has been very strange for such a long time, all these adjustments need careful handling and time for us to adapt but we will, and as I said at the beginning, one thing we can be sure of is that God is with us through it all and God's love will never leave us!

Have a good August and see you (in newsletter terms!) in September.

Sam.

Grateful thanks to both Rev Sam, and Rev Jackie before her, for their weekly Thoughts - Ed x

Prayer for August

God of the summer – sun, sand and sea,
rain, mud and woodland;
grant us your peace.

God of the summer – holidays and rest,
work and sameness;
grant us your peace.

God of the summer:
in whatever we do, whoever we are, wherever we go –
may we know your presence and your peace. Amen.



Photo: Orford Ness, Daniela Warr Schori

A Word in Season 68 – ‘Special Moments’

‘For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured, (special), possession. (Deuteronomy 7:6 NRSVA (AV))

On Sunday as part of the reflections during the Communion Service, Rev Sam suggested we reflect upon some ‘Special Moments’ either spiritual or emotional. In all honesty, I have found that many ‘Special Moments’ are intrinsically, spiritually and emotionally linked.

Then I heard yesterday that the Newsletter will be changing in format and style from September.

I started these articles to share how the Lockdowns and Self-Isolation were affecting us, to share words of encouragement and understanding from the past and present and principally how these experiences showed that we were not alone in this Covid pandemic, but God was in it with us.

As this is the last ‘A Word in Season’, in this format, I decided to go back through the last sixty-seven issues and highlight some ‘special moments’ that I found helped me through.



Week 3, April 2020, Easter Memories - A Palm Cross

I was in on my own in lockdown, and when I received this cross, my heart was touched. It had been tucked in an envelope, in a box of food, Bernhard had delivered a couple of weeks before. The accompanying letter said,

‘Dear Opa, I want to give you a present. I hope that you like it because you can’t go to church. It’s made out of Palm leaves, Love Clara’

She explained that the day they broke up they hadn’t been able to have their end of term Easter service in the church and the crosses were given to them in class, to take home. There were some spare so she got one for me.

It is now attached to my homemade book rest next to my computer and it stands there as a constant reminder of the love of a granddaughter and the constant presence of God – the Father, Jesus the Son, and the, feminine, Holy Spirit, every day.



Weeks 22 & 24, August 2020 - Restoring the Soul – A week's break on a canal boat during last Summer's partial lifting of Covid restrictions.

Day Four: I woke early, as I often do. My bed was in the Saloon which was at the front of our boat Tasselweed. The door led out to the front deck. When I peered through the gap in the curtains the sun was just rising. Over the next half an hour I watched the sunrise. It was much cooler, but it was pleasant to sit with a cup of tea and celebrate the beauty around me. I thanked God for the peaceful aura and the quiet time to reflect upon his love.



Day Six: Whilst out for a walk we turned onto a footpath and within a few paces were surrounded by cornfields - with blackberry bushes around the edges, and we enjoyed the sweetness of the ripe fruit. As we walked around the edges of the fields or across them on the marked footpaths the Parable of the Sower became real. I could see at the edges where the wheat struggled against the vegetation. Where the ground was stony or dry the wheat was rather scrawny, in the field the grain ears were a golden brown, rich and full. As we continued along the path crossing the fields we saw fields of barley, oats, rye and wheat.

Week 27, September 2020 - Make a little cake

A few weeks ago Dan suggested to me that she would like to have a MacMillan Coffee morning, in memory of Christine, and she asked if Isobel and Clara would like to take part. We carefully considered all the risks and how we would not break any of the Covid rules and restrictions having a MacMillan Cake Sale, for an hour, on the drive.

On Saturday afternoon with Aunty Dan's help the girls printed out and posted invitations to each houses in our Close, and put posters on our front and back fences. They stayed overnight and on Sunday morning forty-eight cup-cakes, a mixture of Vanilla, Carrot Cake and Chocolate – duly iced and sprinkled, were produced. Dan made a Lemon Sponge as a demonstration and an order form was included in the invitation if anyone wanted a sponge made. The idea was a donation of 50p per cake and £5.00 per sponge. Isobel and I set up the table, and hung balloons and bunting and she chalked the arrows and 2 metre marks on the drive. By the end of the hour we had sold forty cakes, leaving enough for Mummy and Daddy to have one and take the others to share with work colleagues. Dan also had orders for three Lemon Sponges which were made and delivered that evening. We ended up making £80, including a very kind donation from a member of the Trinity family.



Week 36, November 2020 - Where do we go from here?

Today I feel like a batsman who has just scored a century and is taking guard again to start off for another. On Sunday I received my Certificate for achieving fifty years as a Local Preacher. For me, it was very moving and also, like the batsman, set a challenge for the future.

One of the special things about the Zoom Presentation was that my family, particularly my sister Sue, were able to share in the service from their homes in Chesham, and Selby. That would not have happened if the service had been in Church.

Week 43, January 2021 - Snow!

When I got up at 7.00 on Sunday morning the sky was a grey mist and looked cold. By 9.00 it was snowing hard with big white flakes settling everywhere. The playing fields behind the house were white with only a few dog walkers, but by 9.30 there were groups of adults and children out there making snowmen and playing snowballs. Almost all were family groups, keeping well apart, but having such fun. After the dreary start to the year it was such a pleasure to hear the excited shouts and screams of happy families. The pure joy lifted the heart.

Week 56, April 2021 - All in the April Evenings – Signs of Hope

On Wednesday afternoon last week the weather was beautiful – warm sunshine, blue sky and a cool breeze. Dan and I decided to enjoy the moment and drove out to Sheeplease, off Shere Road, on the Downs above East and West Horsley. We walked up through the woodlands to the viewpoint and stood looking out enjoying the view in the peace and sunshine. It was a real balm after so much of Covid and its frustrations. We ventured down across the meadows carpeted with cowslips, it was stunning. The birds singing, small creatures rustling in the undergrowth adding to the ambience. Eventually we arrived at the bottom of the hill and St Mary's Church. The churchyard was covered with little clumps of cowslips and primroses and the graves were bedecked with pots and vases of so many different varieties of flowers and plants, and then, there was the empty cross.

It put me in mind of the words of one of my favourite Easter hymns,

'All in the April evening, April airs are abroad, the sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road. All in the April evening I thought on the Lamb of God'.

Week 60, May 2021 - A Warmed Heart - Pentecost

Last Sunday 23rd May was Pentecost, and I preached at Knaphill. It was my first face to face service since the regulations were eased. It was wonderful to see a congregation, socially distanced and masked, but prepared and ready for worship. As I looked at them the anticipation oozed from their demeanour and attitude. My heart was lifted to be there, in person, to celebrate with them the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is one of my favourite Sundays along with Advent, Christmas and Easter. We shared the hymns/songs as the tunes were played; some singing quietly behind their masks, others mouthing the words, and some taking attitudes of praise. Like the Gospel account in Acts 2, they were alive and joyful. It really was a heart-warming experience.



Week 68, August 2021 - Special Moments

Over the past six Wednesday mornings IMM (Intergenerational Music Making) has been taking place outdoors around Trinity. Some school children, and elderly residents from a local Care Home, encouraged by members of Trinity, have been meeting for a creative couple of hours with music and movement as we painted a mural. The aim was to encourage those who were struggling with the constraints of Covid or needed some extra help to share some time together facilitated by the medium of music.

It was amazing; indeed there were many 'Special Moments' when both children and adults sharing and working together found success. For example, one of the boys struggled with concentration and getting involved. At his last session he spent half an hour working with Trevor. It was great to watch how Trevor, using all his knowledge and skills enabled the boy to focus and concentrate on producing an abstract painting full of colour and vitality. Trevor told me afterwards how much pleasure they had both shared. One of the ladies from the Care Home was very withdrawn when she first came and the way she changed over six weeks was amazing. For me the 'special moment' was when working with one of the older girls, in spite of her age and infirmity, she was happily 'finger painting', talking, and smiling full of 'enjoyment'! We hope more sessions will take place in the future. However my lasting memory will be of standing in the Sanctuary with two of the girls studying the stained glass window and the colours reflected on the floor. They stood looking in 'Awe and Wonder' as I explained the meaning of the images.

Yes that 'Special Moment' was both deeply emotional and spiritual. As writing these articles have been. God bless you all and remember –

There is no place where God is not, wherever you go, there God is.

Now and always he upholds you with his power and keeps you safe in his love. (Author unknown)

Graham

Thanks Graham/Dad for all the love and care you have put into your articles - Ed ☺

Valerie's Quiz Corner!

1. In which classic British novel is there a dog called Bullseye? *Oliver Twist*
2. Which river separates Devon from Cornwall? *The Tamar*
3. What is the name of the enclosed space in a Law court where the accused sits? *The Dock*
4. Which British chef is synonymous with Fish T.V. and Padstow? *Rick Stein*
5. What does O P E C stand for? *Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries*
6. What is the name of the oath taken by doctors? *Hippocratic Oath*
7. Who demanded a pound of flesh in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice? *Shylock*
8. What is the art of cutting shrubs into ornamental shapes called? *Topiary*
9. Which arm did Horatio Nelson lose in 1797? *Right*
10. What in the culinary name for a bag of herbs and used for flavouring in cooking? *Bouquet Garni*
11. What is the alternative name of a Mountain Ash Tree? *Rowan*
12. What is the capital of Germany? *Berlin*
13. What is the name of a word that can be spelt the same backwards and forwards? *Palindrome*
14. What type of animal is a Rhode Island Red? *Chicken*
15. Where will you find the Temperate House, the world's largest Victorian greenhouse? *Kew Gardens*



Thanks Valerie for all your brain teasing quiz questions – Ed!

Methodist Church Prayer of the Day - 1 August 2021

 Trinity Woking
4h · 🌐



Methodist Church
Yesterday at 07:30 · 🌐

#Prayer of the day:

Awesome God, thank you for giving us this wonderful earth and all its resources. We praise you for the amazing ways you have set everything to work according to your perfect plan.

<http://ow.ly/MzxZ50FFi33>

Methodist Church social media

See you in September!