

# St Peter & St Paul West Mersea Newsletter – August 2020



## What does it mean to retire?

**Do Christians ever retire?**

**John Pantry has recently retired from his work on Premier Christian Radio, what does it mean to him?**

Ask any recently retired person how things are and they'll tell you " I don't know how I ever found time to work" and for me at present it really does feel like that. All those practical jobs that I've been putting off for years from updating our bathroom to re-building a collapsing shed are now crying out 'me first!!'

Then there are the inevitable life challenges faced by our three married children and eight Grandchildren for which Jackie and I now have the chance to offer a hand.

I am still working about eight hours a week for Premier Christian Radio on line and recording some radio scripts for a company in California once a month.

I certainly don't miss the very early starts and the twice weekly drive to London but I do miss the team that worked with me on the Breakfast show for many years. However I do enjoy the opportunity to start the day reading and taking some time to talk to God rather than trying to stay awake praying at the end of the day!

Once the Covid 19 restrictions are finally lifted we are looking forward to spending more time in person with the children and Grandchildren who live in place as far apart as Yorkshire and the Dordogne in France. We're also looking forward to the birth of our first Great Grandchild in October and no doubt by the time the New Year arrives I will have settled down into the new routine. Do Christians ever retire? You'd better ask me again in a year's time!



Our Church is open on Sundays for Holy Communion at 08:00, and on Wednesdays from 09:30 until 12:00 for private prayer as well as a short service at 10:00.

## A Poem by John Helliwell

### Who was John Helliwell?

John Helliwell attended St Peter & St Pauls for many years.

Here is Johns testimony

'Sometime during March this year (1998) I became a Christian after attending Church on and off for most of my life, I believe the Holy Spirit entered my life and did not come empty handed giving me the gift of writing, not just any kind of writing, it had to be to the Glory of God and in praise of His name.'

John and his wife Ros worked with the young people of the Church and he trained as a lay reader. They retired to North Yorkshire.

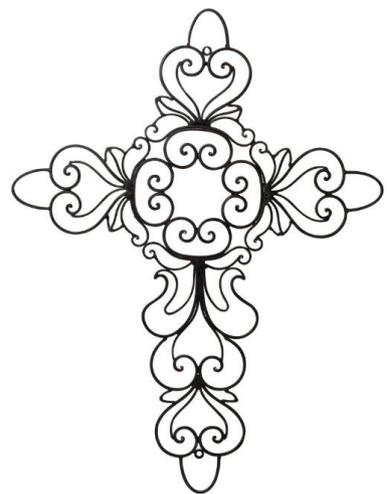
If you would like to know more about him, please ask Pat Kirby

### Three routes to Blessing

Blessed are they who receive the Spirit  
Poured out, as at Pentecost;  
Then, in an upper room,  
Now, in other rooms throughout the world;  
Who have felt the thrilling winds of Heaven  
And burned with tongues of holy fire.

Blessed are those who meet their Lord  
In dread, upon Damascus road  
Or any road down which he walks,  
Blinded by the light of flashing suns,  
Cast down sightless,  
Abject before the glory of the Lord.

Yet just as blessed perhaps are those  
Who, like the Ethiopian, Gaza bent,  
Find faith through scripture and the Spirit's gentle leading ,  
Beckoned on by hand of fellow men;  
Who meet our Lord in quiet contemplation,  
And never leave his side again.



## PCC Jottings 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Accounts.** Roland Gardiner, reported that regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders has meant that Covid-19 has not had a significant impact, though the absence of cash offerings in Church has been missed.

**Charitable giving.** A list of suggested charities was made regarding the Charitable giving for the year. These will be considered for approval by email before the next meeting. It was also agreed to increase our giving, to reflect an unexpectedly generous bequest.

**Bequest.** The Treasurer has received notification of a bequest from the estate of the late Sheila Chatters to the value of £50,000. We are extremely thankful for this generous gift.

**Roland Gardener** requested the urgent need of an assistant, someone he can train up, in advance of his retirement, so that a second person will be able to deal with the Church Finances. The PCC expressed their appreciation to Roland for his work.

**Annual Report and Electoral Roll.** These were accepted by the PCC for presentation at the APCM.

**Fabric Report and A/V Faculty.** The Faculty certificate has arrived, so the A/V equipment installation will go ahead. It was also agreed that the Wi-Fi should be extended to cover the church by cable connection to the office. This will allow internet access for services and facilitate 'contactless' giving.

**Health and Safety. – Re-Opening of the Church.** Cathy Roberts and the Church Wardens had worked on risk assessments which will be ongoing for use in the Church in relation to the Covid-19 Pandemic. One requirement is that names of those attending services will need to be retained for track and trace purposes. Alan Brook confirmed bells would continue to be rung for Sunday 08:00 am services

The Sunday morning service of Holy Communion at 8.00am has now resumed as has a service of Prayer at 10.00am on Wednesday morning. Those seeking Baptism should speak to Heather King with a view to Services being resumed in September. At the moment the maximum number of guests that can attend a Funeral, Wedding or Baptism is thirty.

**The Way Ahead – New Rector** The search for a new Rector is ongoing. We hope the post will be advertised again very soon.

In addition to help for Roland, the PCC will also need to elect three new PCC members at the APCM..

The next PCC meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup>. September at 7.30pm.

We plan to hold the APCM on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>. September at 11.30am.

## Missionary Giving – Recipients 2020

### International:

Barnabus Fund  
Tear Fund  
Christian Aid  
Leprosy Mission

### National

Church of England Children's Society  
Essex Clergy Charity (Retired Priests)  
Mission to Seafarers (Felixstowe)

### Local

Fellowship Afloat (Tollesbury)  
Beacon House (Colchester)  
Christians Against Poverty (CAP Colchester)  
Christian Youth Outreach (Colchester)

Beach Club not happening this year – Money available when needed next year

## In The Community



Sue and Alan Brook have been very busy nurturing these great blooms



Is this the tallest Sunflower?? Grown by David & Liz Willey



Who is hiding behind her Sunflowers?!

Rosemarie Gardener!



How many spots does this ladybird that Val Bocking captured have?

Usually 7, but many have more or less



What is the name of this blue flower growing in Sandra Wheelers garden?

Agapanthus!



What animal is having a dust bath??

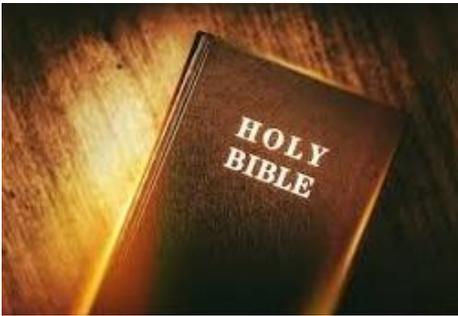
The Allotments resident Hare!

## Some interesting answers by Children



Q: Who built the Ark?

A: Noah built the Ark, his wife was Joan of Ark!



Q: What is the first book of the Bible?

A: The first book is Guinness



Q: How do you make unleavened bread?

A: It's bread made without any ingredients!



Q: Which old testament King had a lot of wives?

A: King Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines!

## Notices

We are planning to hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 11:30 in the Church after our Zoom service.  
More next month!

### East Mersea

We are opening on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.  
Sunday Morning: 09:30 service only at present.  
There will be a one way system in place, books and service sheets are not available and the whole of the north side of the Church has been roped off.

### Great Wigborough

St.Stephen's will remain closed due to ongoing refurbishments and concerns regarding safety for private prayer.

### West Mersea

The Sunday Morning Zoom Services of United Worship & Spiritual Communion will continue for the foreseeable future.

**Sundays 8am** We have started our 8am service. This will be a book of common prayer communion service. Only the bread shall be offered to all, there will be strict social distancing in place and the priest will wear a mask when offering bread.

### **Wednesday 10am**

The Church will be open for prayer on Wednesday mornings from 09:30-12:00, and we have started a short prayer service at 10am to replace our midweek communion.

It is up to individuals to decide if they feel it is safe for them to attend these services, wearing a face covering is optional.

If you have any questions, please speak to Val

**When attending any service at Church it is strongly advised that you should wear a mask**

If you have any news and/or photos for our September Newsletter, please send them to Val Bocking on [bocking@keme.co.uk](mailto:bocking@keme.co.uk) or phone 01206 386750

Stay Safe, Keep Praying and thank God for all the positives  
**Val Bocking - Churchwarden**