

St Peter & St Paul West Mersea Newsletter – June 2020



Grow! Grow! **GROW!**

Message from David Willey



It's going to be a bumper harvest this year as everyone grows their own vegetables and fruit. So how about spiritual fruit? "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control." Galatians 5:22

Of course the mistake is to think that we can make these grow in us by our own efforts alone. These are the fruit of the Holy Spirit working in us. Prayer is the watering they need to allow the Spirit to work. So let's pray that we'll be more fruitful than the vegetable patch, with all the praise going to the Master Gardener!

Question: "Are you growing Sunflowers?"

Here are some people who are



Brenda Diprose



June Hammond



Liz Willey
(David made the planters!)

Let us know if you are growing some. Whose will grow the tallest? Photos Please!!

Many People have allotments, great for exercise, the veggies taste good and it's a chance to catch up and chat (at a distance!)



Ray with a tray of spinach plants to share



Sandra Game grows flowers and veg in her garden



Pauline Low has launched into grow your own in her garden with all kinds of creative ways to grow

Gardening in Lockdown!

In lockdown at home, probably like many others, I have actually been persuaded to take a bit more interest in our garden over the past few weeks, particularly as the weather has been so fantastic, even if, what with all the sunshine, that has meant a bit more effort in the watering than usual. It is no good living by the seaside, in the balm of the southerly onshore breezes that cross the Blackwater Estuary onto our beaches, and fighting that, if you can't stand your pot plants drying out!

Anyway, your churchwarden has finally been brought to his knees by the necessity, and, it must be admitted, the desire, to have fresh strawberries to eat at home, lockdown or no lockdown, supermarket delivery slot or none! In any case, there are no strawberries as sweet and as tasty as your own, home-grown, Essex strawberries, are there? Tiptree comes a close second, but all their best ones go up to Wimbledon, or would do if it was being played.....

The idea to plant a few more came from a recent visit to check on the internal state of the Rectory and to clear up any outstanding mail that might need forwarding on to Rev. Sam.



After just a few weeks of no visits since just after Christmas, it was surprising just how much junk mail had been acquired. The heap on the doormat of the Rectory was pretty impressive! But there was also a good deal of stuff Sam really should probably see and deal with, too. So a long list of letters were re-addressed and sent off, but an online Seed Catalogue was spotted and retained, as it seemed interesting.

A special deal of 40 new strawberry plants, from 4 different varieties, piqued my curiosity and was ordered. Far too many for us two alone, of course, but the excess were soon shared out around the three children, who can give them to our four grandchildren on the island. We also need to reckon on those fruits we will certainly also be losing to our resident pond family of moorhens. Last year proved the four of them had the cheek to come right up to the house and eat themselves silly with any early ripe berries, tomatoes, too.



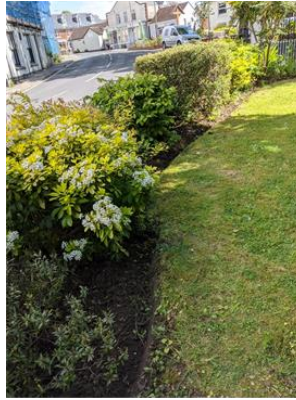
So far this summer seems to be too good not to go for some fresh sweetness, so here I am, seen on my knees, planting out two dozen new strawberry plants in our old herb garden plot. I know it looks like 'stony ground', but this is just cover and there is good soil beneath. The rosemary bush got too long-legged and was cut right back.

The chives that are in flower by the bird table, in the second photo, are just so beautiful we cannot bring ourselves to stop them going to seed, which means they cover the strawberries in there with them. This, of course, means we have a ridiculous surfeit of chives all over the place now, as they're remarkably good at self-seeding, so bring on summer potato salads!

The only catch to all this is - the notes on the strawberry plant packaging said: "It is advisable to pick off most of the first season's flower buds and allow the root stock to strengthen before it bears too many fruit, then you will get more fruit in the second and subsequent season." Oh no! We're going to have to wait until next year.....the patience of Job.....

Growth

Parts of the overgrown (with weeds!) churchyard sprung to mind because, amongst many other things, the usual spring gathering of volunteer “Lay Weeders” could not happen this year. An appeal did go out, however, for regular supporters to do their churchyard ‘bit’ individually and within the rules of social distancing. Thankfully several people have done just that and made a difference. Thank you to all involved, and keeping our rectory garden tidy.



It was also noticed that an unknown artist had topically ‘decorated’ our soldier with chalk. It should wash off naturally in due course!

News in our Church Community!

Malcolm and Barbara Peter enjoy walking their new dog Phoebe

Phoebe, named after the disciple of St Paul, helping in the garden. She is a Bernese Mountain Dog and was 7 months when this was taken.



Remember Wigborough in Lockdown!

A message from Peter and Ann Owen

The church of St Nicholas in Little Wigborough is closed because of subsidence. It is being monitored by the structural engineer and its future is uncertain at present.

The church of St Stephen in Great Wigborough is having its Nave refurbished for wider community use. The work started in December 2019, and was shut down because of the virus lockdown, but was re-started on May 20th with diocesan approval. Please pray that the new floor, heating and lighting will bring great blessing to the village community. The Wigborough church is not holding services at present, so Peter and I have been pleased to be included and involved in the West Mersea Zoom services.

Peter and I will have been married for 30 years on May 26th. This may not sound very long to couples celebrating 50, 60 or 70 years of marriage, but considering Peter had already been married for 25 years to his first wife, Pat, who was taken by cancer, we are celebrating with very grateful thanks to the Lord!

Some people in the West Mersea congregation may not know us, so it may be worth mentioning that we live in West Mersea and serve as Lay Ministers (Readers) on the staff team.

A story from America shared on a Zoom Sunday Service

"Good morning to you all.

Have you ever had someone send you something that is too good not to share, but maybe a little too much to type?

Well my Dad sent me something the other day and I thought it was awesome, so I am just going to share it with you.

You take this football, right here, and you put it in my hands, yeah, it is worth about £15, but, if you put that football in the hands of Gordon Banks, or Peter Shilton, in his day, it would have been worth about £5-£10 million.



Well, if you take this tennis ball right here. You put it in my hands, it is worth about, I don't know, about £10-£11 of my money, maybe. You put it in the hands of Roger Federer, it is worth about £50 - 60 million. It depends upon whose hands it is in.

You take this golf club right here. You put it in my hands, aah, it might be worth £50 quid, maybe.

You put it in the hands of Tiger Woods, though, it's worth £80 million.

You see, it depends upon whose hands it is in.



If I have a stick in my hand, a rod in my hand, I might beat away an animal, a wild animal, or something about to come at me, but, you put it in the hands of Moses, and it parted the Red Sea!

You put a slingshot in my hands, it just becomes a kid's toy.

You put it in the hands of King David, and he slays a giant with it.

You see, it depends on whose hands it is in.

And 2 fishes and 5 loaves of bread, that would feed me, with some bread left over.

You put it in the hands of Jesus and it feeds thousands.

Depends upon whose hands it is in.

If I had a couple of nails in my hands, I might build you a bird house, if you're lucky, or I might nail together a couple of pieces of wood.

But you put them same nails in Jesus's hands, and it leads to salvation, and eternal life, for folks who love Him and folks who trust Him.

You see, it depends upon whose hands that it is in.

And your worries and your cares, and the things that's got you stressed out, well, if you leave them in your hands, that's all they're ever going to do.

But, if you put those same cares and worries, and your problems, in the hands of Christ, He's going to see you through it and He's going to take care of every need that we've got.

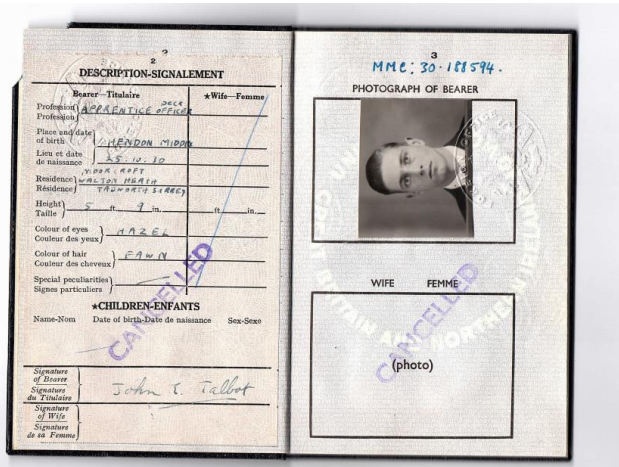
You all take care and have a blessed day. But just remember - it depends on whose hands that it is in.

Give everything you've got to God and let Him handle it for you."

We were all reminded of the end of World War 2 with various celebrations broadcast on TV. Here are John Talbot's personal thoughts

The showing of the war film 'Battle of the River Plate' has particular significance for me. Captain 'Paddy' Dove, Master of the Africa Shell (Shell Tankers) was prisoner on the 'Graff Spee' after his ship had been sunk in the South Atlantic in 1939 at the start of the war. In the film Capt. Dove featured quite prominently as he established a liaison with Commandant Hans Langsdorf, Captain to Captain!

Back in the 1950's I served my Deck Apprenticeship with the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company (Shell Tankers) and from July 1951 to January 1952 I was Apprentice on board S.T.S. (Steam Turbine Ship) 'Caprella', 28,000 ton bulk oil carrier; the Master being none other than Capt. 'Paddy' Dove himself!!!!!! He was quite a character! Hence the film brought back some interesting memories. Captain Dove continued with Anglo-Saxon Co. until his death at sea 1958.



Passport pictures, then and now

Notices.....

Seafarers Mission

The Felixstowe Seafarers Centre is closed at the moment. At such time as the Centre re-opens, bags of woolly hats and jig-saws are ready to wind their way Felixstowe-wards once more!

Beach Club

In order that Beach Club run, a license is required and granted by Colchester Borough Council. They are not willing to grant this license so it is with regret that we are to advise that Beach Club will not be going ahead in 2020.

Thank you

A Big Thank you to Jo Thomapson who has deep cleaned our hall, kitchen, office, vestry and Church in the last two months. Thank you Jo!

If you have any news and/or photos for our July Newsletter, please send them to Val Bocking on bocking@keme.co.uk or phone 01206 386750

Any Questions?? We will answer them if we can

Stay Safe, Keep Praying and thank God for all the positives

Val Bocking - Churchwarden