

May 2020

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH

Virtual Tea, Coffee and Biscuits Catch-Up



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

HELLO AND WELCOME!

We all know how much we love our socialising here at St Thomas's - none more so during our tea, coffee and biscuits after Sunday morning worship.

As we cannot meet in person at the moment as we **stay at home**, it is so important we keep connected.

So go and get yourself a cuppa and enjoy catching up on what we have all been up to at home. There are no prizes for guessing that a lot of painting and gardening have been done!



We are constantly trying to find ways to keep together as a church. From the weekly worship sheets, weekly Skype prayer services, videos and newsletters, it is showing that our church is alive even when the doors are shut temporarily. If you have any ideas and want to get in touch, please email us: stthomasdenbigh@gmail.com.

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” *Joshua 1:9*



PAINTING AND ZOOM

by David Crawford

During the lockdown I have painted the shed, painted the outside benches for the first time in several years, decorated inside the house and learned about Zoom software as we have had an online lecture in the radio museum. I am preparing an online lecture for 5th June - "The Great Famine of 1315 - a climate change disaster".

I relearned how to use Skype, very important for the prayer meeting and tidied up various online accounts.

Spoke to family via Facetime.

KEEPFIT WITH JOE!

by Nigel and Iona Thomas

We have developed a sort of routine.

Morning starts with a keepfit session for both of us led by Joe Wicks on YouTube then we take the dog for her walk and daily swim.

Io spends a great deal of time gardening particularly in her greenhouse. She has grown a large number of tomatoes from seed and has so far managed to give away by our front gate over eighty!

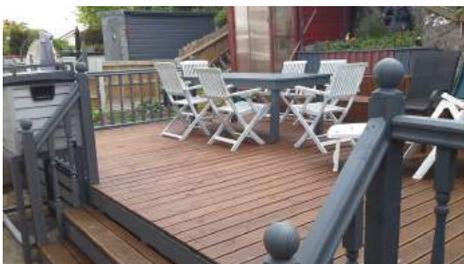


FRENCH POLISH AND VEG GARDENS

by Elfed Hughes

During lockdown I did a job that I've been wanting to do for a long time; stripped dining room table and French polished. Before and after photos are here.

I have also been busy in the veg garden and oiled decking and painted rails, table and chairs.





NEW ARRIVAL!

by *Mary Jones*

Baby Johnny, my first great-grandson, born 18 March 2020, lying on my blanket and wearing my booties and looking adorable! I cannot wait to see him!



GREEN FINGERS

by *Phil & Juliet Jones*

We have been very busy with doing all of the jobs that we have meant to have done so for ages but we have put all of the flower pots into very good use and have planted a range of herbs and vegetables ready for later in the year.

May 2020

A LETTER TO CHURCH FRIENDS

by *Brenda Williams*

Hi St Thomas's,

I like the idea of the virtual tea and coffee after Church. It does bring us all together and have a good catch up.

What have I been doing these past few weeks? Like everyone; cleaning, reading and it is only these past three weeks that I have had my energy levels back after my radiotherapy sessions. I had no energy at all; sat down and I was "away with the fairies". So I have not caught up like most of you.

I have had my tea delivered every Sunday which is very nice. On Wednesdays I go to virtual choir. We learn a song every Wednesday. Tuesdays I have enjoyed the prayer meeting. They say it is the first time for every thing. I have never used Skype before! I am learning something new which is great. Sunday morning I have been enjoying the Sunday services very much. I have noticed that some of the services I follow from the Salvation Army, and Bangor, have the same theme, with different readings and hymns but the message is similar. It is uplifting in these dark days and HOPE that one day soon we can look back on this. HOPE is the key word that I am getting from all the services.

I HOPE it will not be too long before we meet up again. I HOPE you all stay safe.

Love and God Bless
Brenda xx

KEEPING IN TOUCH

by Rhiannon Jones

I have been spending lockdown keeping in touch with family and friends in Scotland and Wrexham.

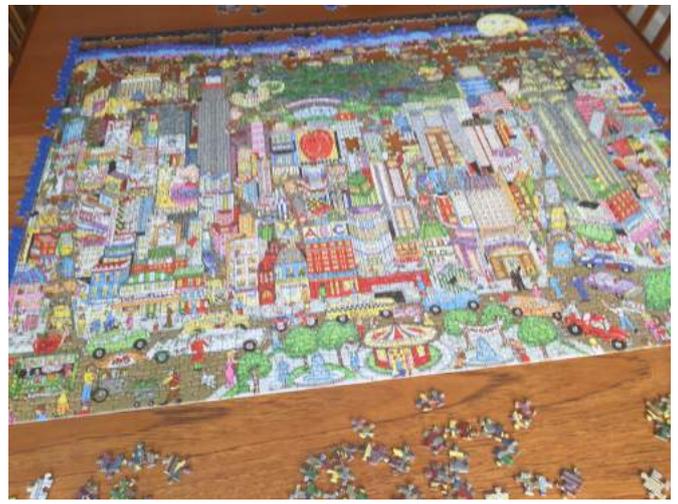
I enjoy watching television, especially documentaries, and recently I was pleased to discover by accident a channel which was new to me, PBS America.

The first two programmes which I watched on it, surprisingly, were programmes on Henry VIII and William Tyndale.

I have also watched very interesting programmes on the Hubble Space Telescope and Jodrell Bank recently, from another network.

During normal times, I enjoy following proceedings at BBC Parliament.

Kind regards to everyone
Rhiannon



JIGSAW!

by Mary Dent

Nearly finished a 2000 piece jigsaw!

However it is so big that the only suitable surface is the dining room table so "dining" is a bit cramped!

Would anyone like to borrow it?

BLESSED IN DENBIGH

by Barbara Crawford

Hello, everybody. Hope you are all keeping well. David and I have spent the past few weeks catching up on chores we should have done a year or two ago. We have painted two bedrooms, and spring-cleaned and decluttered. The weather has been wonderful, and so

I've done a lot of gardening. The blackcurrants, raspberries and tomatoes look very promising. I don't think I'm the only one to have had to sow the runner beans three times this year (a mouse in the greenhouse didn't help) and I've had to grow peas from a packet of Batchelor's Quick Soak Dried Peas as there were none left in the garden centre or shops. They are doing well so far. It's been lovely to listen to the birds and here's hoping we get to hear a cuckoo this year. The photograph shows our 39 year-old Amaryllis, which is in bloom at the moment. We bought it in Edinburgh, and it has moved house a few times. We are very blessed living in Denbigh, in such a beautiful place, and with such good friends and church fellowship. The phone, Facetime and Skype have been well used and isn't it wonderful to be able to 'attend' major Christian festivals, like Spring Harvest, without leaving the house? Take care everyone. Praying for you, as always, Barbara.





CRAFTY WORK!

by Mona Meares

We have been blessed through the services Gareth has produced since the lockdown. Thank you Gareth for them. We have had wonderful weather and must be grateful for that. I'm sure people have found out what talents they have and looking forward to seeing them.

Yes we do miss our morning coffee and biscuits following the service. I pray that everyone is keeping well and ask Gods blessing on each and everyone. Just a few things I've been doing; it's been very relaxing for me doing craft work of which I enjoy. Maybe a jigsaw is the next thing to do, outdoors I hope. Blessings to you all. Mona.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

by Pat Squire

Between the back of my property on Bodfari Road in Trefnant and the main Trefnant – Denbigh road, there's a wood surrounding quite a large pond, known as the Brickworks Pond - or "Gwaith Brics" as it is commonly known locally. Although I have lived in Trefnant for a considerable length of time, I'd only visited the site a couple of times –

until recently. A few weeks ago I decided to take the 5 minute walk to the wood, as part of my permitted daily exercise, and was delighted to discover a well-defined path through the woods, all around the pond, and a smart memorial bench overlooking the main body of water. On this visit I saw a large bird on the far bank of the pond which a neighbour subsequently told me was a cormorant. The following day, armed with a bird book and binoculars, I saw 2 cormorants, one on either side of the pond. Last week I discovered some tadpoles and am eagerly waiting to see them develop their hind legs (memories of Primary school lessons!). A few days ago, I saw a moorhen eating dandelions on the far bank of the pond (it's welcome to come to feast on my lawn any time!). When it went into the water, I noticed it had a baby "in tow" and at one point turned round to feed the little one - with an insect, presumably. So delightful to witness. Although working in the garden whenever it's fine, gives me plenty of fresh air and exercise, a walk round the pond provides an ideal opportunity to "Stop, Look and Listen". It has taken a "lockdown" to unlock this treasure on my doorstep!



BAKING SKETCHING GARDENING

by Sandra & Tim Webb

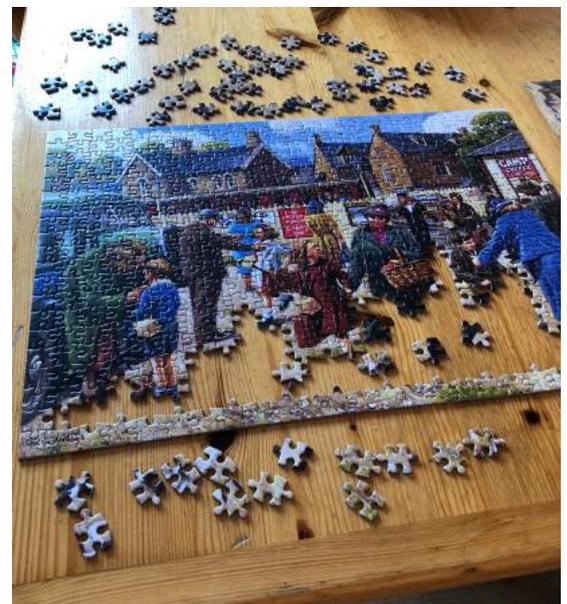
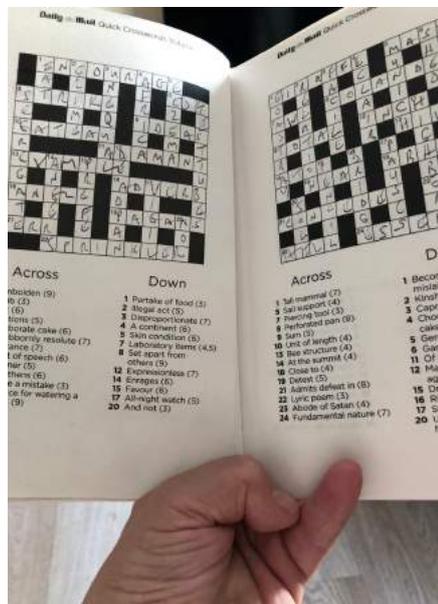


Hello all,
 “Yes” to baking - sometimes swap cake with Haf via doorsteps. Every day since 16th March I (Sandra) have been doing a sketch diary to put on Facebook. (My page is a community page attached to Tim’s - “Sandra Webb”). Over 50 pages now! I have attached one of my pages. Hope you enjoy it. Tim has been working in the garden, the compost heaps are the growing and some things planted. I have discovered how versatile the camera in my phone is and been posting pictures of the garden.
 Love to all
 Sandra and Tim

PUZZLES AND PRAISE!

by Andy & Sandra Smith

We have been doing crosswords and jigsaws, with a lot of tea and coffee drunk. We shared communion with the Rev Adrian Pratt virtually at Mount Hebron Church. You can do this yourself by visiting Adrian’s video: <https://youtu.be/nfKjNIXf3WU>. Miss you all and looking forward to when we can meet again. Keep safe.



“WHAT DID WE DO IN CORONAVIRUS?”

by Richard & Lucy Lake

Try singing “What did we do in Coronavirus?” to “What shall we do with the drunken sailor?” and put your own words to it!!

Lucy has done a lot of reading of classic novels, completed several jigsaws, successfully solved lots of Su Doku and other puzzles, telephoned to lots of family and friends. She has also re-organised bookshelves (of which there are a LOT!) and brought a lot of filing up to date AND she has cut Richard’s hair!!! In addition, we have had some lovely meals!! And enjoyed the beauty and peace of the garden. Richard has battled with the weeds growing at an amazing rate, (some with roots a foot deep!) become frustrated with problems that have developed when trying to record music for the services (Thank you David for riding in to the rescue!!) and frustrated with the complexities of getting groceries delivered, and with online banking!!



On the other hand, he has had the joy of creating his first Yorkshire Puddings!!! And of having Lucy cut his hair! (But we won’t share a photograph of that!!) And been delighted at the ways that we as a church are reaching out to each other and supporting each other in different ways at this difficult time.

BUT we miss meeting everybody face to face at St Thomas’s and hearing us sharing in worship together. Peace be with you all.



WORK, REST & PLAY

by Mark and Connie

Mark and Vicky have still been busy in work; Mark in Police Headquarters and Vicky, uniform policing in Denbigh and surrounding area. Very challenging times! Connie has been working hard at home with her school work and chose to name home school as “Unicorn School”!

Outside of that Connie has enjoyed lots of play in the garden with the sunshine. We miss you all and send you our love and best wishes.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY 2020



Building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week

In the space of just a few months, the coronavirus pandemic has caused a seismic shift in society.

The outbreak has affected all spheres of life. It has brought suffering and uncertainty for so many, both here and overseas, taking centre stage in our thoughts, conversations and prayers. As individuals, families, communities and organisations, this crisis continues to have a significant impact on how we go about our daily business. We have all had to adapt to new ways of living.

In these challenging times, many churches have already made bold steps, streaming services online and harnessing technology and social media to reach out to communities. In the same way, Christian Aid has also been thinking creatively about how best to ensure we can continue to stand together with the most vulnerable and marginalised people during this time of global crisis. This is particularly important as Christian Aid Week 2020 approaches.

Christian Aid Week is going online!

Each year, Christian Aid Week brings together tens of thousands of committed volunteers across Britain and Ireland to raise millions of pounds in support of people living in poverty, injustice and inequality across the world.

Now, more so than ever, Christian Aid Week provides an important opportunity to celebrate and share the life-saving work that brings hope to people the world over.

In 2019 Christian Aid Week raised over £7.5m through a combination of church collections, house-to-house, delivery-only fundraising and events such as Big Brekkies.

This year, many Christian Aid supporters will have already dedicated a significant amount of their time and energy planning these initiatives. Not surprisingly, the coronavirus situation has meant that much of this usual fundraising cannot go ahead for Christian Aid Week 2020 (10-16 May).

We value our volunteers enormously and want to ensure people's safety when fundraising. With this in mind, we are building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week to help people in Britain and Ireland show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family, in these challenging times. We have developed a suite of creative new ideas, guides and resources, to inspire people to fundraise and connect with their community, creatively and virtually, while respecting social distancing measures. The resources include guides to help people run their own virtual event or fundraiser, organise a virtual quiz evening, and even hold a virtual church service using a range of specially prepared worship resources.

Individuals will be able to sign up for unique events during Christian Aid Week from 10-16 May, such as a daily quiz and live stream worship events. We also have an E-envelope, offering a digital way for people to share the Christian Aid Week story with family and friends, and ask for a donation. In this way, we hope that our dedicated supporters will be able to continue their support, prayer, engagement and fundraising.

Christian Aid Week Programme Manager Sophie Brightwell said: 'In recent weeks, we have been overwhelmed by the messages of solidarity we've received for our sisters and brothers overseas, and also by messages of support from our fundraising community, looking for guidance on how they can support us this Christian Aid Week. 'I very much hope that you feel empowered and supported to join us in celebration of Christian Aid Week this year, and that some of the virtual ideas on offer can strengthen individuals and communities as we pray for all those affected by this new virus. 'Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. It's during crises like these that the vulnerabilities of those living in extreme poverty are even more evident. This Christian Aid Week we can fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.' We are inviting people to unite in prayer at this time: a collection of prayers for the current coronavirus situation are available online. These include: prayers of thanksgiving and intercession; a prayer for times of isolation; a prayer for medical workers everywhere; a prayer for the global pandemic; a prayer for the church. Find new prayers online at caid.org.uk/loveneverfails