

GRAPEVINE

GRAPEVINE@STJOHNSWELLING.ORG.UK WWW.STJOHNSWELLING.ORG.UK 020 8303 1107 EDITORS: MCC & NC

Think on these things,...

Have you been enjoying our Sermon and Housegroup series on Philippians? What an encouragement over these past few months, as we continue our journey through this Inter-regnum, to be discovering exciting new ideas and concepts within Paul's letter, such as being citizens of heaven whilst living in the colony of St John's Church, here on earth! I wonder if, like me you were challenged by Chapter 1, with Paul's exhorting us to live and be fruitful for Christ? And, did you find Chapter 2 inspiring you to *'have the same attitude as Christ Jesus'* in those wonderful verses, which we so often use as our Creed? The New Living Translation gives Chapter 3 the title *'The Priceless Value of Knowing Christ'*, which I have found so personally comforting, in recent months. Paul ends his letter, of course, on such a joyful note in Chapter 4:4, when he seems to be positively shouting at us, so much so, that he says it twice: *"Always*



be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice!"

I don't know about you, but I find the news so depressing these days, reporting atrocities, war, famine, poverty, disease, corrupt governments, slavery and all kinds of evil. So, especially as we continue to look forward to the coming of our new Vicar, and as we keep working together as a church family, let me encourage you to take one of my all-time favourite New Testament verses into your hearts and minds, quoting from Philippians 4:8 in the King James version:

"...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Miriam Giles
St. John's Welling

St John's News

As I write, we are just at that point in the year when, for different reasons,

Teachers, parents and children are anticipating the end of term and Summer Holidays!.

As a Church we are heading towards completing a year since we bade Adam and Kate farewell and are looking ahead several more months at least before we welcome our New Vicar. It seems He or she, does not yet know this is the Church to which they will soon be called to by God!

Sunday services have continued to be great times of worship, prayer and teaching. The 10.30 am service and House Groups have studied Paul's letter to the Philippians. The Life Service have used James' letter as a basis for their series and the 6.30pm Congregation have been thinking through Jesus last teaching to his Disciples before his Crucifixion.

In our monthly All Age Services, including the Fathers Day Parade Service, we have continued our theme of Questions Jesus asked. Whichever services we attend we are being well fed!

Kate Finney and Cathy Claridge shared the challenging work of Street Pastors at the Fathers Day Parade.

We have appreciated our Archdeacon Allie Kerr and our Area Dean Jim Bennett and Tim Hatwell presiding and preaching at Communion services and will be welcoming other clergy in the future.

Our APCM (Annual Business meeting) at the end of May was a gracious and efficient meeting excellently chaired by Val Gompers.

Breakfasts and Curry nights continue to be great times for growing friendship.

Since it began, The Life Service have had really helpful welcome cards, and cards suggesting ways of serving .. Linzi Golding has designed similar for the Morning Service.... and, thanks to Alison Read, like at the Life Service, there will be welcome bags for first attendees!

Another exciting piece of news is that after much planning, many meetings and challenging decisions, the Hall refurbishment will take place during the school Holidays!

We have much of the finance required but Ken Woodcock shared that £10,000 is still needed

St Johns I Family Events

Doreen Pride has reached the amazing age of 95!

Cathy Claridge is recovering from a nasty accident sustained whilst on holiday

It was a privilege to share with Rita Palmer's family at her lovely Memorial service.

By the time you read this, Bev Beaumont and family will have said goodbye on 21st July, to Gwen, Bev's Mum who died after a mercifully short illness at the end of June.

Mushi remains in hospital and Twink has moved to a Care Home in Sidcup.

So on to Holidays, Spark in the Park and our 4th, 5th 6th Heatwave?

Until September,

Estelle Woodcock

Church Mission Society: Mirna Paulo, Argentina

Amtena St. John the Evangelist Church in London! (Amtena is a Wichí greeting) Many blessings! How are you? First, I want to ex-



press my joy and gratitude to Our Eternal Father for His goodness in

every situation, challenge, and achievement throughout this journey of life. Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you how grateful I am for your support and affection. Thank you so much for your offerings and your testimonies of service to the Lord! All of this makes my daily tasks much easier. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to express myself and tell you what our God is doing in these places where I live. Here in Northern Argentina, in the Diocese of the Anglican Church, I am working in my local church called The Holy Trinity (this name was proposed by Bishop Mauricio Sinclair when he served in these places). My father, Donoso Paulo, known as

Silas, is pastoring it. I fulfil a leadership role together with the others. We organize meetings to accompany preachers, Sunday school teachers, tutors of the "Abundant Life" and the "love of God" courses in our language, women, a group of students from the virtual Bible seminar, home visits with the screening of excerpts of the Jesus film in Wichí, and visits to other churches.



(Continued on page 4)

St John's Singing Group

The church Singing Group is a small choir that contributes from time to time in the services held in the church. In particular it takes a leading role in the main Carol service each year, plus other key dates in the Christian calendar – Good Friday, Easter, Ascension. When all are present, the current membership totals seventeen – consisting of nine sopranos, four altos, one tenor and three basses. Leading up to events, rehearsals are usually held on Friday evenings. At Christmas a few extras join us for Carol service.

Our repertoire is varied – from anthems to simple descants to enhance the hymn words, but we are well aware of our limitations, and so music is planned/arranged accordingly. I am sure all members of the group would say they joined because they

enjoy singing and praising our Lord and Saviour. We have also had fun over the years. Pre-Covid there was an annual local church choir competition, which we entered several times, and twice won the mixed group category. We also had much enjoyment



taking part in the celebrations we held in the church for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Churches Together in Welling Celebration Concerts that used to be held at the FCI church.

New members are always welcome, so if you enjoy singing, do

have a word with one of the group to find out what is involved.

I finish with words from Psalm 96:

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord,
all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim
his salvation day after day.

Doug Snow

Born at home in a house just off Penhill Road, I was taken to church as a baby and continued through to Sunday school at the Congregational Church in Bexley Village. My early life was affected by 3 major events – 3 days before I was due to start Secondary school we moved just over 100 miles to

Nuneaton, as I started my A levels my Dad walked out on us in the January and in the summer of the same year, 1970, I went to a Scripture Union camp in Harrow. Each of these events shaped my life dramatically and caused me to consider the reality of faith

in my life. The camp was my first encounter with leaders and fellow teenagers who had lively debates about the Christian faith. It was also led by one Roger Finney who 4 years later became my husband.

Roger had more influence on my faith journey than anyone. His very solid background of Biblical teaching, being used to rigorous debate with friends

My Faith Journey: Kate Finney

meant he was always ready to explain scripture and discuss with me thorny issues of faith. He led me as I committed my life to Christ and though all the ups

and downs of our next 50 years.

And so to the most recent major event affecting my journey. With Roger's death at the beginning of lockdown in 2020, I questioned how much of my beliefs had been dependant on him, my soul mate. Alone and with much time to think, I eventu-



ally emerged, with the support of my Christian family, into this new phase of my journey confident (to appropriate what Paul says to the Philippians) ..**that God who began the good work within me will keep right on helping me grow in his grace until his task within me is finally finished.**

People, Planet, Profit

Hi, I've been asked to share a few thoughts on sustainability which is not just about recycling or saving the planet. For us, it's about a way of life that touches everything: from the food we eat to how we care for others and the world around us.

You can't really talk about sustainability without mentioning the Triple Bottom Line: People, Planet, and Profit.

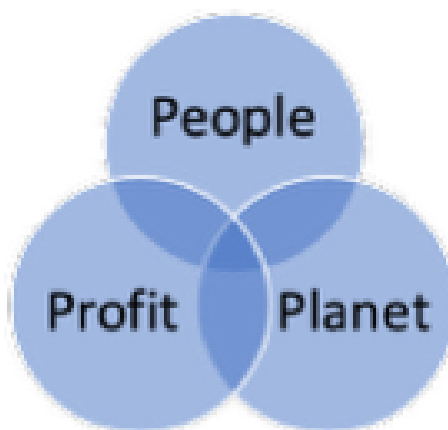
People:

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

Our lives should show how much we care about those around us. It's about actively working to make a difference in others' lives through what we say and what we do. The Church does this by loving and serving every individual in the community.

Planet:

"The Lord God took the man and put him



in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it." (Genesis 2:15)

We've been given the responsibility to care for God's creation. It's about being mindful of how we use resources like energy and water as well as reducing waste, and choosing more sustainable op-

tions whenever possible. Whether it's recycling, placing our waste in the correct bins, or supporting eco-friendly projects like the Eco Market, every little bit counts.

Profit:

"For the love of money is the root of all evil." (1 Timothy 6:10)

Profit isn't just about making money but about ensuring we live in a way that doesn't harm people or the planet. Supporting businesses that prioritize both the environment and people's well-being, while still being financially responsible, is key.

In the end, sustainability isn't just something we talk about; it's a way of life that honours God and supports one another. It's about being good stewards of everything God has entrusted to us.

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

John Kurowski

In the Potrillo zone, I make trips to communities or strategic locations to participate in meetings and/or training sessions for the Aboriginal Pastoral Commission, tutors of the "Abundant Life," the "Love of God," and "Capable to Serve" courses, the AMARE (Women's ministry) Zonal Team, the AMARE Diocesan Team, and CeFA



(Anglican Training Centre). I also participate in virtual meetings with EPSA (the Province of South America's Women's ministry), the Indigenous Mission Hub with CMS, the Alliance of Evangelical Churches of Argentina, and the Argentine Bible Society Translators' Roundtable.



These days, we're working hard to prepare new leaders, and your contributions make this much easier.

Best regards,
Mirna

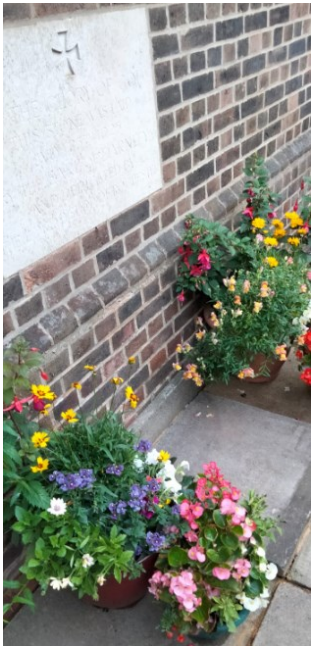
Mirna Paulo
Church Mission Society- Argentina
(letter translated with thanks to Paul Tester)

Foundation Centenary celebration weekend 25th to 27th July 2025

Many thanks to those heroes who prepared the area around the Foundation Stone, laid a new paved area, and set out plants for the Foundation Stone celebration Service.

This Communion Service was put together by Douglas Snow, who also rehearsed the choir for an awesome worship and thanksgiving indoor and outdoor event. Doug also promoted the event with invitations and we were rewarded with sixty-one persons attending, including Adam and Kate, and lead by the Area Dean, Jim Bennett.

Thanks also to many prayers and hard work by many volunteers, at the 10 30 am Service on Sunday 27th July, we were prepared and ready to welcome Paul Tester from the Church Mission Society and Mirna Paulo our Missionary Leader from Northern Argentina,



who had flown over to meet and celebrate with us. Paul kindly translated Mirna's Spanish second language, as she told us of the strong relationship that she and her people have with their local natural environment, and how that drives them towards the chance of a strong faith in the existence of God, and Jesus Christ, His one and only son. That Service was fol-



lowed by a Barbeque meal outdoors, together with music, and a bouncy castle for the children, which they all enjoyed until it rained and the ice cream van arrived.

The four O Clock Service followed and the lovely weekend culminated with our England Ladies Football team winning the European Championship for the second time; 'Sweet Caroline' was sung yet again.

Thank you Lord for all your Grace and Love so lavishly poured our on all of us here at St John's we are indeed truly blessed.

