

Gulworthy Notes

Welcome to July to all in Gulworthy parish and beyond. As the “new normal” shifts yet again and enables us to shuffle a little closer to each other, there is, at last, news from St Paul’s Gulworthy.

Firstly, we are delighted to announce that the church is now open for private prayer every Friday from 9am to 3pm. Hand cleansing and safety measures are in place and it is lovely to be able to unlock the doors. As I opened the building this morning, I took some time to sit in quiet contemplation and enjoy an absolutely beautiful flower arrangement in the sanctuary made up of Alstroemeria and Hosta flowers and leaves. Such a wonderful thing to see. It really did reflect the love that is felt for St Paul’s. Thank you to whoever placed them there.

At the time of writing this article, I have just heard that St Paul’s will be having its first Sunday service since lockdown on **Sunday 5th July at 11.15am**. Please do come and celebrate with us. No doubt it will feel both strange and wonderful.

Sadly, you will not be surprised to hear that the decision has been made to cancel the annual Gulworthy Fete and Dog show this year. With restrictions on movement still in place, the H&S situation would be incredibly complex and the footfall of people would make it a rather subdued affair. Needless to say, this is a major community event and the biggest annual fundraiser for the church and the parish hall, so we shall have to think of ways that we can share the community spirit again when we are allowed to do so. I’m sure any ideas would be welcome!

Hopefully, most of us have been able to get out and about a little more in the past few weeks but it has been an opportunity to appreciate what is right outside our windows, so here is the next instalment of the Morwellham nature notes....

The sparrow harem I spoke of in the May Notes have not only managed to lay eggs, but have fledged one brood and are almost continuously stuffing the next set of chicks with every insect and seed going. Where did the phrase “eating like a sparrow” come from? It has always seemed to refer to a tiny appetite; but, having watched the frantic activities of sparrow parents as they spend all day feeding chicks, I am dubious as to whether that’s true. We have an overly posh bird box in the courtyard which last year housed bumblebees – the rent on this slate roofed property has obviously come down over the past four years to a level which has encouraged another set of sparrows to move in at last. They too are on their second brood and it has been hilarious to watch the reluctance of the first fledging as it was urged to leave the nest during a brief but heavy spell of rain.

In the pond we had the hatching of a Broad Bodied Chaser Dragonfly which was quite magnificent and the goldfish have been “bumping” in the shallows of the pond so we probably have some tiny fry by now. More food for Hengist the heron!

Despite having had every weather under the sun over the past couple of months, the garden has been lovely and the woods of the valley have been luxurious. We had an excellent strawberry crop, now followed by the first raspberries and gooseberries and the beginnings of veg from carrot thinnings to spinach and mangetout. The Morwellham pear I spoke of in

May managed to hold on to two pears – little red fruits that I watch like a fussy mother hen and coo over to encourage them to hold tight until maturity! Lockdown has given us far too much time to fuss over plants which when left well alone just get on with it!

I hope that those that can, have managed to form social bubbles and begin to feel that we can meet with family and friends in confidence again. The world has been, and continues to be, a very strange place but the strength of our St Paul's community will hopefully continue to comfort and uplift us. May the love of the Lord surround us all.

Gill Reed