

## Gulworthy Notes – August

Little has changed in St Paul's Gulworthy this month, but the church is now regularly open on a Wednesday rather than Friday from 9am – 4pm and in nice weather we leave the doors and the churchyard gates wide open to welcome anyone who wants to visit for private prayer.

As a parish church, we have been having a regular weekly Sunday communion at the usual time of 11.15am for the past month and though we have not got all our congregation back, we have had around a dozen people each week for a very socially distanced, no singing, service. It has been delightful to be able to share worship again with friends and the lack of hymns and service books actually allows us to concentrate on the moment without fiddling with book or paper. Quite a different and thoughtful way to be together. We have had gentle piano playing at the beginning and end of the service which allows everyone to spend a few moments to get all the thoughts of Covid out of one's head!

Sadly, after the initial weeks of distancing in church but no masks, we now have to wear face coverings throughout the service which is a shame but understandably necessary and hopefully, that will enable and encourage the return of some of our more vulnerable parishioners.

So, as I said last month, this seems to be the new normal for the foreseeable future and we are all finding ways in which we can carry on caring and supporting others whilst keeping each other safe. It is a situation made more bearable by the countryside around Gulworthy and by there being so much beauty and space here. I personally, count my blessings every day. Though like all of us, I long to be able to hug my family and friends with confidence; to welcome visitors to stay and to have people know that I am smiling behind my face covering when I am out and about!

The last weekend of July should have been the Annual Summer Fair and Dog Show at Woodovis caravan park. As I said in July notes – any ideas as to how we and the parish hall can make up some of the shortfall in funds due to the cancellation of this event, would be very welcome.

As for my nature notes – the sparrows have gone a little quiet with raising young at the moment, but the bird table is awash with newly fledged Goldfinches, distinctive by lacking the head colouring. The swallows are swooping like spitfires over the Green. The veg patch is in full production, despite the ravages of opportunistic slugs on my second planting of late peas – do they smell succulence on the breeze? The onions are ripening ready for drying and I think I have planted the right number of runner beans this year so that I don't have to hawk the excess up and down a row of cottages that have also planted too many! The front flower garden is a riot of colours that with all the dahlias, will now go on well into the autumn. We have had so much time at home that there is barely a weed to be had and each plant, however large or small, is lovingly cooed over.

The Morwellham pear lost one of its two fruits – I despair.

Down at the Quay, the attraction will not open this year due to all the restrictions, but The Ship Inn has reopened as a “proper” pub with a lot of outdoor seating and simple food so maybe the residents of Gulworthy parish will have the opportunity to share some social time together down here whilst still managing to stick to the rules.

Do come and join us at St Paul’s church and down at Morwellham to share both spiritual and social togetherness in whatever way we can. Worship at St Paul’s may be small scale but it is strong and in our worship on a Sunday and in daily thought, we continue to pray for the well-being of the whole parish of Gulworthy.

God always surround us with his blessings and his love. Stay safe.

Gill Reed