

Gulworthy Notes – September 2020

Greetings to everyone in Gulworthy and beyond! I do hope you and your loved ones are continuing to stay well and are finding ways in which to live life in as normal a fashion as possible.

We continue to have wonderful Sunday worship at St Paul's - full of love and fellowship and on the last Sunday in August we were delighted to welcome a few new faces in the congregation from St Eustachius which swelled our numbers to 19. With us all spaced out for social distancing, the church felt quite full and we also had the joy of Barry Hodge playing some hymns on the organ, during which, we were able to read the words and really concentrate on what was being said! It was difficult not to join in with singing, but everyone behaved themselves.

Most moving for me personally, was the reading of "I the Lord of sea and sky" as a prayer, with its refrain of "Here I am Lord". What more do we need to say in our prayers than – "Here I am" – ready to hear the Lord's voice, ready to worship, ready to serve wherever and in whatever way he has earmarked for us. Sometimes I do feel that the words can be changed around to – Am I here? – have I arrived where I should be? Am I doing what I should be doing?

At the moment, when the daily news is mainly concentrating on Covid and the effects on everyone, it is easy to feel – Am I Here? Or even - Where am I? We are understandably single minded in our desire to protect those closest to us from the possibility of illness, but life in the wider World carries on and sadly, it can be pretty unpleasant for many people. I am sure I am not alone in feeling somewhat removed from the world from time to time, perhaps looking for where God wants me to be and where I can be of use. I guess those of us who feel like that could well start with -

Here I am Lord – and trust in God to show us the way.

On a more frivolous note. The garden! The wet weather of late August brought welcome moisture but the slugs ran amok amongst the lettuces, reducing them to mere stumps overnight. The plum tree seems to have suffered various ailments this year – stress apparently! The final indignation was brown rot on the fruit, causing it to moulder in attractive concentric circles and shrivel to nothing. Remedial action was to pick the whole crop and process them into Jam, stewed fruit and preserved in Rum! I don't know if Monty Don would have approved, but it seems to have worked! Onions and shallots are lifted, dried and strung and the late raspberries continue to delight. Tomatoes for breakfast and a bowl of runner beans with grated cheese for lunch – delicious!

The Quay has hosted campers since late July in every form of weather possible bar ice and snow. Whist feeling the odd Scrooge moment of wanting the place entirely to ourselves, it has been lovely to see families enjoying the area, walking the woods and boating on the river. Who wouldn't want to visit the Tamar valley, even in a downpour?

And so, we continue to give thanks for the beauty around us and for the kindness and friendship that is found in Gulworthy Church and our community. We pray that the strength of fellowship forged anew in these strange times, will continue to deepen and that St Paul's will grow in new ways.

Here we are Lord.

Dates for the Diary

Please note that the Gulworthy "Drive in" Harvest Festival, which was planned for Sunday 13th September at 2.30pm has had to be cancelled due to too many h&s issues.

For Information only - PCC Meeting – 8th September in St Paul's. Our first meeting since early March with much to discuss about future events for our church.

Every Sunday at 11.15am – St Paul's Gulworthy - Sunday worship

Church open every Wednesday for private prayer from 9am – 4pm