

## Gulworthy Notes – November 2020

I miss singing in Church! I miss the hymns; I miss singing happy birthday to members of the congregation and I miss singing the Gloria. There is something so special about voices joining in celebration of the glory of God and personally, I will be thrilled when we can do it again!

There is something about music, about the sound of it and the action of creating it. It has an indefinable power and even people who claim to be “tone deaf” find that they have a response to music whether it be of pleasure or irritation. It doesn’t need to be understood to provoke an emotion.

This week on the national news, there was a report on retired music teacher Paul Harvey who last year was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. Despite the effects the disease is having on his life and his memory, music is ingrained in his soul. Google his name or look him up on YouTube under his name or the title “four notes”. There you will see a man who, from four randomly chosen notes, can create a piece of music that would seem to have arrived under his fingers as a completely finished article. It is an emotional and inspiring story. Through music, Paul is whole again.

We are blessed at St Paul’s. We have the wonderful Barry Hodge whose ability to play music almost entirely from memory, of any style and from any era, on our little one manual organ, is a continuous joy. We have Jean Rose who plays on the first Sunday of the month and who treats us to some of the great classical piano pieces. Then I guess, we have me, with a mixture of songs from the Christian community on Iona, a few pieces that I have written and anything else that seems appropriate! I feel that through the music we are all creating, we are trying to bring an added element to our worship. In church services, music should seek to enhance, enable and elate the listener, not become an end in itself.

I fear we won’t be able to sing carols this Christmas, but roll on the time when we can all add our voices again to the music of creation and we’ll sing ourselves hoarse!

Diary.

At Gulworthy this month there will be an All Soul’s service on **November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** with prayer and music. There is still time to add a loved one’s name to the list of those you wish to be remembered at this particular time.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November** there will be a spoken act of remembrance around the war memorial outside St Paul’s at **10.50am** with two minutes silence at 11am, then moving into the church for those who wish to join a spoken act of worship.

All the usual Covid rules will be place for these services, so please come and join us if you feel safe to do so. You will be more than welcome.

The church remains open for private prayer every Wednesday from 9am – 4pm.

With love and prayers from all at St Paul's Gulworthy. Keep safe.