

Gulworthy Notes June 2021

I see I wrote “nature notes” last year in lieu of news from the parish as there hadn’t been any events to report on. I noted that the damsel flies were out, the flag iris flowering and the wildlife very active. The unusual but so far, useless, Morwellham pear blossomed well again and actually has a lot more baby fruit than last year so maybe this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship? It’s taken a bit longer this year for everything to get going with a dry and cold April and a wet and cold May, but it looks like it’s all change now and we seem to be in a warmer bit of typical English early summer – is it officially summer or is it still spring?

17th May came and we were all able at last to greet our loved ones and get the green light to give them a longed-for hug. We had the joy of meeting our first grandchild in person and getting many a cuddle, a gurgle, a blowing of bubbles and a satisfyingly full nappy. Absolute bliss! I hope you have all had the same chance to see family at last, though I must admit, it does feel strange after so long to be in a room with more than one other person and we still have a long way to go before we can be absolutely safe. Hopefully, the end of this month will see us back to an almost normal life, but I think it will take a while to feel completely comfortable again.

Gulworthy Church would normally be planning summer and Autumn events around now. It’s still unknown if we will hold the Dog Show this year and again, it depends on the June relaxation as to whether or not it might happen. Meanwhile, as I mentioned last month, we are so grateful for the financial help that came from Gulworthy Parish, without which we would be struggling. On that note – as we look to the future of St Paul’s, it would be wonderful to have opinions from the parish as to how the church can continue to be relevant within the community and can also look to doing more.

We held our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) “live” in the church on 17th May at which we discussed the past year. We have survived and our congregation has been steadfast and loving throughout all the trials thrown at churches over this time. Perhaps we can be reminded of simpler times and of the beginnings of the Christian Church when the faith was held by just a few people. It has actually been a wonderful experience, though I know we are all longing to sing! The bats won’t know what’s hit them – they’ve had a quiet year!

Meanwhile, we plan for the future of St Paul’s as we learn of our vicar, Chris’s retirement, announced at the APCM. It is a while ahead and much more will be said in the next few months. Suffice it to say, we will be wishing him, Sarah and the family well as they plan for the future.

We pray for all in Gulworthy - that they continue to stay well and that we will all be able to embrace at the beginning of July. Most importantly, at this time, we send our love and prayers to our wonderful organist Barry Hodge, whose wife, Elizabeth, died last month. God bless you Barry – we look forward to raising the roof with song and your magnificent playing very soon. Thank you for all you do for us.

With love and blessings – St Paul’s