



THE VILLAGER

A monthly Church & Community Newsletter May. 21 No. 356

www.seatonchurches.org

DON'T LOOK BACK.....

Several years ago, during a Christmas Fayre, I turned to our then church treasurer, the late Derek Ritson, and asked him how the amount raised so far was looking compared to the previous year. Derek stopped me there and said I shouldn't be thinking like that as whatever we raised was money we didn't have prior to the fayre opening. This was absolutely true, and it reminded me of my own approach to fundraising and giving. Years before this conversation, in a previous parish, a lady had brought a cake for a sale and had said it had to be sold for a certain price because of how much it had cost for the ingredients etc., and her reaction when I told her that was too much and that I wasn't prepared to put such a price on it, reminding her that she had given it and even if we sold it for one penny it was a penny we didn't have, (sadly she wasn't happy with this and it was some considerable time before she baked for us again!). When I look back at these things I can see the importance of sticking to a clear plan, but at the same time can see that sometimes it's not always a good thing to look back as it can often trigger sad memories and sometimes even anger.

That being said, before sitting down to write this, I decided to have a quick look back over what sorts of things had been written in The Villager over the past year or so,, and was pleased to see most of the articles had been about looking forward – looking forward especially to a return to some sort of 'normality' in our lives, and we continue to do just that, still

holding to words I shared in May 2021 – *strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow*'.

All around us at the moment we see lots of examples of that hope – schools back in full flow, churches re-opened for worship (and the diary rapidly filling up with baptism bookings), hairdressers back open, shops open, leisure activities resuming, and hopefully in the next few weeks the full return of the hospitality industry. And of course, we are heading towards the summer with hopes of long, hot, sunny days and times when families and friends can be together again. The roadmap laid out by the government appears to be working and we really do have lots of things to look forward to!!

At the same time, despite the heading at the top of this article, we will inevitably spend time 'looking back' over the last year or so, looking back with sadness over lives lost, hearing news of possible inquiries into the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and various other actions along side it and reflecting on how life has changed so much and what enforced changes will now actually become normality for some people going forward. And, in years to come, our children and grandchildren will look back on these times as it becomes part of their education – some of them will be too young to remember it, but they will learn about it and from it.

The statement 'don't look back....' isn't meant as an instruction but more of a reminder, as my opening stories show, that it is more important to be thankful for what we have now, rather than look back and compare, and even try to better what we had previously.

The band 'Oasis' once sang 'don't look back in anger, I heard you say, at least not today', and while that may be easier said than done it's a good thing to ponder as we continue to *look forward in hope, with strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all ours with ten thousand beside*'.

Rev Ian Grainger
Vicar.

REV IAN'S FUNDRAISING **'VIRTUAL CYCLE RIDE'**

Thank you to everyone who sponsored Rev Ian on his recent fundraising venture. A total of £1600 was raised and this will be shared between our Churches and 'State of Mind' which is a charity supporting mental health among sportsmen and women, fans and wider communities.

PARISH PRAYERS

Members of the community are invited to submit concerns/issues for prayer. In May, our focus is on Seaton Park, Main Road (Derwent Ave to Park Ave) and Park Avenue.



If you do have any concerns or items for prayer, please do let us know. Please do let us know especially if you have family or friends who are ill, and we can ensure that they are included in our prayers and visits arranged if required.

WEDDING AND BAPTISM **BOOKINGS**

Please remember that we request bookings and arrangements for weddings and baptisms are made by contacting the vicar on **01900 602162** and **not** through social media messaging systems. It is quite easy to miss messages and so a phone call is preferable. Thank you.



ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SEATON (C of E)
9.30am Sunday Parish Communion &
Children's Church & Crèche
Thursday Morning 9.30a.m. Communion Service
Vicar: Rev. Ian Grainger.
Tel:- 01900 602162

ST PETER'S CHURCH, CAMERTON
11.00am Holy Communion
1st Sunday in Month in Church
Rev. Ian Grainger
Tel: 01900 602162
stpaulsseaton@gmail.com.

ANNUAL GIFT DAY: **SUNDAY 23rd May**

Under normal circumstances this edition of The Villager would have carried with it a Gift Day envelope. Each year we hold a Gift Day on Pentecost Sunday, the day the Church celebrates its 'birth' and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In recent years we have outlined a particular project and have been grateful for the generosity of members of the community which has helped us toward these projects. Once again, this year, under the current circumstances, it has not been possible to send out the envelopes, but the gifts and generosity are still important. We have no specific projects lined up at this time that we would ask people to support our churches as we strive to recover from the financial impact of the Covid pandemic. At present we are still some way from being able to use our churches or church hall to their full capacity again but we are clear that we do want them to be there as a central part of the life of our community and to be able to continue to serve the people of Seaton and Camerton and share the good news of Jesus Christ with you.

With this in mind I would like to think that we can still have our Annual Gift Day, which this year would be on **Sunday 23rd May**, with the specific purpose of ensuring that we are in a position to still offer all the things that our churches stand for – Sunday worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals and community outreach and fellowship. Please make a note of the date and if you are able to offer a 'gift' contribution it would be greatly appreciated. Gift contributions can be placed in envelopes and sent to The Vicarage or can be made by direct bank transfer with bank details available on request.

May I thank you for taking the time to read this and for your continued support, and, in advance, for any support you may feel able to offer this year. **Rev Ian**



SEATON VILLAGE HALL

I would like to thank all the ladies who have worked extremely hard, who provided the ducks and rainbows for the great duck race (with a difference). We have raised over £1,000 for the hospice at home and £250 for the brain tumour charity. A big thank you to everyone who got their ducks and donated towards this. The winners of the draw will be announced on the village hall face book page after 1st May. I would also like to thank everyone who provided prizes for the draw.

The hall will be available for bookings when we are allowed but as yet we are limited to its use and all users have got to be Covid 19 secure. When allowed to open we will inform on our face book page, please bare with us.

Thanks..... Mike Thompson

SEATON LIBRARY

Don't forget Seaton Library is open on **Tuesdays** :-

9.00am—12noon

1.00pm—5.00pm

Just for drop off and collect. You can call the library to check if they have a book you require and if in stock you can call and collect, but you can't go and browse

(Tel: 01900 68441)

ALLERDALE AND LAKELAND LOTTERY

You may or may not be aware of the recently launched **Allerdale and Lakeland Lottery**. This has been set up as a way of helping to support local good causes and a number of organisations including St Paul's and St Peter's, Seaton St Paul's C of E Junior School and Seaton Scouts have been accepted and registered as good causes. If you would like to support any of them, please visit the website www.allerdalelottery.com and sign up.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Loaves & Fishes, Messy Church, and Community Lunches are still suspended at present but hopefully soon.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Those whom God has joined together"

22nd May

**GOLDEN WEDDING
CONGRATULATIONS TO
MIKE & JEAN THOMPSON**

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

**"I am the resurrection
and the Life"**

6th April

WILLIAM (Bill)

McKAY (89)

Flimby Brow

19th April

WILLIAM (Geoff)

ROBINSON (96)

Brigbourne Drive

22nd April

PAULINE ANNE

McGEE (81)

Derwent Bank

23rd April

RON KELSEY (92)

Cranleigh, Surrey

30th April

SHEILA TUNSTALL

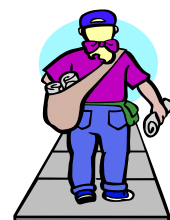
GRAHAM (86)

Barnett Drive

THE VILLAGER

We are hoping to start to deliver The Villager to homes soon, however, current circumstances mean we continue online for now. There may be a few areas where we need new distributors and will be asking for willing volunteers. Would current distributors who are willing and able to continue once we restart delivering, please let Rev Ian (01900 602162) or Barbara Woolf (01900 62350) know so that we can update our list.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for their continued support and for staying with us. Please do continue to support them and remember to mention The Villager when contacting them.



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