

PORTON BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Showing Love, Showing Christ, Showing His Way

Special Lockdown Edition
August 2020



Summer and Winter, and Springtime and Harvest,
Sun, Moon and Stars in their courses above.
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Dear Friends,

I hope you have liked our 'New Look' newsletters. I don't promise to continue though!

I'm looking forward to seeing at least some of you on July 26th. I have been very well looked after by Alison and Andy during the past four months, but, like everyone, will be glad when we can return to some sort of normality.

God bless, Douglas.

John and Jean

Hello to all our PBC Family, we miss you all, John was very happy to be at Church last Sunday for a short time and was very sad that Jean was unable to join him, it feels like missing an arm. With the lovely weather, it was great to have times with Roger, Michelle, Ben and Harry for some BBQ's in their garden.

John has been able to open the shop for a few days a week, and is hoping the customers will return.

We would never have ever imagined events like Covid19 would ever have happened, but God is in control and we have to trust Him.

It is lovely to see several of you on Sunday, 10:30 to 11:00

Our love to you all, John and Jean

David

100 Days

Is it really 100 days+ since the pandemic hit this country and forced us into lockdown? For some this meant shielding away from their families, and still awaiting the all clear to join their families again. For Mercia and I, life went on much as usual although we too went into lockdown back in March, when the Government advised our age group to stay at home.

Like many others, we were cut off from family and friends, apart from when the shopping was delivered. I must admit that some aspects of life carried on. Get the paper, go to the bank (infrequently) and generally worked in, and enjoyed the garden. Fortunately, the restrictions began to be lifted and we were able to see great-daughter Rosina once again. Trips out to Victoria Country Park and Swanage followed. Maintenance on the chapel building has continued apace with statutory inspections arranged, culminating with a deep clean at the end of August before hopefully fully opening for worship at the beginning of September.

We have missed each and every one of you, our church family and friends and look forward to joining you at the Lord's Table once again. Stay safe, and we will meet again one sunny day. Your friend, David

Michelle

I love the summertime, the countdown to holiday time with family, BBQ's, time spent with friends, time in the garden, planning trips away. At the start of the year Mum, Dad, Rog, the boys and I were starting to look ahead excitedly to July/August to plan a holiday together, little did we know what lay ahead!! Instead we planned our Pike 'Staycation'!! A much-needed break from the pressures of working through the pandemic, a time to slow the pace, appreciate the beauty of summer around us and refresh. It has also been a time to reflect and look ahead to PBC hopefully being reunited soon, sending much love to you all,

Michelle xx

Summer Love by Deborah Ann.

I love the summer's rays,
shinning from the sun
the warmth of laughter
with children having fun.

I love summer's breezes,
gently drifting in the air
the sounds of pure delight
when the weather is fair.

I love summer's laziness,
the strolls down the lane
the sound of peacefulness
upon summer's gentle rain.

I love summer's smells,
fragrant with memories
the happy thoughts wafting
of BBQ's , friends and families.

I love summertime,
it's smells, sights, its sounds
I love that God blesses me
when summer comes around!

Clive & Val

Kind thoughts are the roots
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits, take care of your garden
And keep out the weeds, fill it with sunshine, kind words and kind deeds
This sort of sums up our lockdown spent outside !

Love to you all, God bless. Valerie and Clive xx.

George & Tammy

The Lanes found the guidance below helped us cope during the crisis with the dramatic change in our lives e.g. George's illness and both Tammy and Lilian not working.

How To do Covid (each day)

- Something productive
- Some exercise
- Something creative
- Something intellectually stimulating
- Something "hobby"

This mantra headed up a very long to-do list of half-finished DIY jobs lying around and activities dreamed of for 'when we have time'. With time gifted to us not only are a series of jobs done but also books are read, games played and new activities taken up. God has lightened our load and life's simple blessings are appreciated.

We are adjusting to the easing of lock down but at first we all found it strange, even with close friends. As time goes on we are feeling more normal but conversing for long periods is still oddly tiring.

George is slowly recovering from the trapped nerve in his neck. In late June, he was able to start working from home with his work computer & chair in our office. Suitably kitted out he is working progressively longer days.

The absence of a regular service at Porton left a hole in our lives that we partially filled with an online contemporary service from our old church, St Andrew's in Malvern (on YouTube) followed by a live Zoom coffee to chat afterwards. It has been good to get the feeling of normality in our Christian lives plus catch up with a few old friendships. Tammy continued with God's Girls, the Bible study group she attends usually at SP2 in Salisbury but lately via Zoom. She can recommend the aptly named 20/20 (Vision) Seen, Chosen, Sent by Christine Caine as a challenging and enlightening study.

Lilian recently returned to work at Shuropody, just on Saturdays. The rest of her energy is shared between maintaining her Pokemon and role play online presence, caring for her extensive collection of succulent plants and revamping her bedroom into a co-ordinated white and pastel theme with a view to boosting her creativity. The latter is lovely to watch as she develops her own style and independence. She is looking forward to turning 18 later this month especially as in this family birthdays during lock-down last three whole days!

This year we have been blessed by great weather to enjoy our pool and thankfully are allowed to share it as part of small garden gatherings. By now the Annual PBC BBQ and Swim would have taken place so should any of the church family want a swim session (that is socially distanced) you would be most welcome just get in touch.

Blessings from the Lanes

For Prayer

Small Baptist

2-8	West Haddon, Northants:	Bures, Suffolk
9-15	Tabernacle Pen-y-garn. Pontypool	Clay Cross, Nr, Chesterfield, Derbys
16-22	Holbeach, Nr. Spalding, Lincs	Windley, Nr. Belper. Derbys.
23-29	Drayton Parslow, Nr Milton Keynes, Bucks	

International

The international Covid19 Pandemic; for governments in Third World countries, where resources are poor; that richer countries may not turn their backs due to their own problems.

National

The Governments of all the nations of the United Kingdom as they grapple with the current emergency.

Local

For our local MP, John Glen and the County and local Counsellors, that they may be motivated by what is best for the people they serve, rather than party dogma.

For our local hospital and all the staff, with thanks for their dedication over the past months. The ordinary folk who serve us in so many ways; shopkeepers, refuse collectors and many more.

Mission

For the Headquarters Staff of BMS, our Link Missionary Mark Greenwood and his family.

Southern Counties Baptist Association, for Colin Norris and the Area Team.

For Scripture Union and other organisations seeking to support children during the present emergency

Ourselves

That we may emerge stronger, and more devoted to our Lord, when lockdown is over.

Birthdays

13th Lilian & Gemma; 24th William; 31st Douglas

Church Administrator

Wendy Searle

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