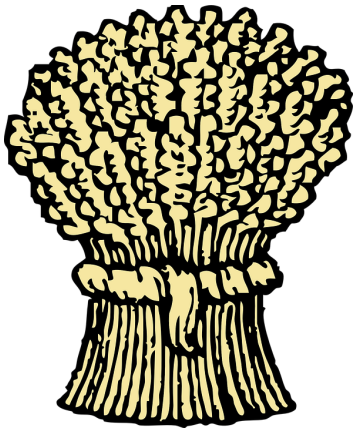
St John's Church

Welcoming - Worshipping - Loving - Growing



Jottings

Confident?

When I was a school boy the school bus was often late. It sometimes broke down and it looked like the oldest and most uncomfortable vehicle on the road. The irony was that this unreliable bus company was called 'Confidence Coaches'.

Watch any number of adverts and you'll soon see that confidence is what many products promise – we are told that with the right shampoo, deodorant, face cream, clothes, car etc we will be more confident.

The idea of confidence is all around us. The Church of England has recently announced that it wants to be a more confident church.

Confidence is what we are aspiring to and hope for. Confidence can be misplaced and misunderstood. Confidence makes us feel good. A lack of confidence can be debilitating.

Are you a confident person? Has Covid affected your confidence levels? How confident do you feel in yourself, in those around you and in your faith?

Our confidence needs regularly to be renewed and re - centered on Jesus.

During this term we're going to be looking at confidence from a Christian perspective – asking questions such as - What does the Bible say about confidence? Where does confidence come from? Where should – and shouldn't - we place our confidence? Can we be confident and humble? How do we grow in confidence? What is a confident Christian? What is a confident church?

These are important questions as we emerge from lockdown, face the far-reaching implications of all we've been through and look to the future.

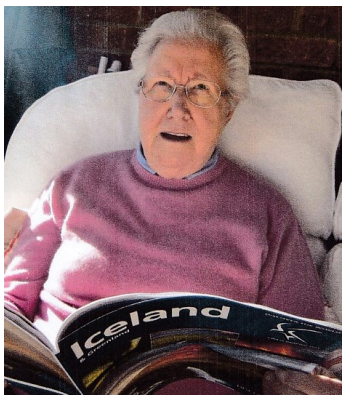
I hope that as we look at this topic and dig into the Bible together on Sundays and in small groups that we'll discover more about God, what it means to place our confidence in him and live in the light of the confidence that He brings to us.

Don't forget that as of Sun 10th Oct there will be two weekly services – 9am and 10.30am – with coffee served from 10-10.30am for both congregations. The teaching will be the same at both services. The 10.30am service will continue to be live streamed on the church youtube channel.

See you soon

With love

Tom



Remembering Anne Bond

28.07.1930 - 08.07.2021

Many of us have memories of Anne and as the days go by we remember different things. Maybe you remember in July's Jottings Anne's comment when she saw the new kitchen - "Wow! I'll be first in the queue". Sadly that wasn't to be.

Some who knew Anne were not able to attend the Thanksgiving Service so we have included some of their memories below.

From Jean and Philip Craft (ex-Holy Trinity Margate and SAMS)
We first got to know Anne in 1959/60, when the new Holy Trinity Church in Margate was established.

After we felt called to serve God in South America, Anne became part of a local group of people who supported us over a 12-year period. Anne was also a great help to us in our work with S.A.M.S. following our return to the U.K. She supported local activities promoting the Church in Northern Argentina, opened her bungalow for regular meetings, entertained visiting South American guests and freely made available her car for us to use on countless occasions. Her kindness and generosity was a great source of strength to us. With the passage of time, we moved to New Milton in Hampshire and Anne to Weymouth, though we managed to keep in touch, and met up on various occasions for a meal and general socialising.

Anne was indeed a good friend, reliable, straightforward and committed to serving God through her numerous acts of kindness and generosity. We thank Him for the privilege of knowing her and commit her to His loving safe keeping.

From Elaine Ife (Cambridge)
Anne was a lovely lady and always so bright and positive. I always felt Anne was a contented person, who lived her life looking on the positive side and not looking at other people in any way enviously.

Anne took responsibility for her own happiness. She was clearly a hardworking, giving person, ready to take on jobs at church and be of service to others. Anne was 'a voice of reason', a clear thinker, who saw things as they were.

From Rt Revd John Went (previous vicar of Holy Trinity Margate)
We have so many positive memories of dear Anne. I used cheekily to call her 007 on occasions because she was always happy to have her leg pulled. We had some lovely, homely meals with her when we were at Holy Trinity.

She was always so supportive of us; a real Barnabas of an encourager. Both Rosemary and I treasure many precious memories of her - a faithful disciple and servant of the Lord.

From Revd Esther Smith (ex-Holy Trinity Margate)
For many years, Anne has been a faithful supporter and friend, following the ups and downs of our life with prayerful support and encouragement. We will miss her.

From Colin and Margaret Parkes (St Aldhelm's, Radipole)
Whenever we met up with Anne, she was so friendly and kind. She was a special and loyal friend but loved by so many here in Weymouth.

From David and Mary Perryman (ex- Holy Trinity Margate)
We have fond memories of Margate days and of all the hard work and faithful service Anne gave in those days, and the warrior for the Lord she has continued to be over the years. 90 years was a venerable age indeed and now our Lord will be saying to her "*well done, good and faithful servant*."

From Rt Revd Colin Fletcher (ex-vicar of Holy Trinity Margate)
She was such a stalwart of Holy Trinity's life in the years that we were there, and it was lovely to meet her a few years ago in Salisbury for a chance to have a cup of tea and to reminisce together.

(continued on Page 3)

From Revd Tim Greenslade (previous vicar St John's Weymouth)
We were particularly fond of Anne. She sent me a birthday card each year, which in the last few years led to a phone chat. She and Frank Dallimore were the wardens when we arrived at St John's, and they were very supportive, kind and patient with an inexperienced vicar!

From Christine Startin (Anne's god-daughter)
Anne was my godmother; she and my father, almost exactly the same age, taught together at St Lawrence Junior School, in whose chapel I was baptised. My parents moved away before I was 2, and therefore I didn't know Anne in person, though we met very occasionally, and she came to our wedding.

I knew her as 'Bong', which was what my older brother had called her when trying to say 'Miss Bond' when very small. She was the most conscientious of godmothers right to the end, knitting me jumpers etc. as a child, and writing and sending cards and presents well into my adulthood, as well as taking a keen interest in my career as an RS teacher. Even though our contact was almost entirely by post, she was an important part of my childhood, and continued to be a presence through my life. My mother visited Anne in Weymouth a few years ago when she was on holiday after my father had died and was so pleased to find her so well-settled in her flat.

I trust the service of thanksgiving will be a joyous occasion to celebrate a long life well-lived.

From Revd Dr. Sue Woan
I first met Anne on the steps of Holy Trinity, Margate after a service. I foolishly (?) said to the vicar that I didn't mind helping with the Sunday School. He turned and said, "Let me introduce you to Anne Bond". Thus began a friendship that lasted nearly 40 years.

Anne was very supportive of me, especially when God called me to do an about-turn, leave teaching and train for the ordained ministry. As my Theology finals drew near, we spent a few days at Stanton House - a retreat house near Oxford, and Anne patiently tested me on the translation of my Greek texts as we walked the many footpaths near by.

Anne also taught me a lot about faithful discipleship. Perhaps the ultimate test of discipleship was Anne's response to and expected prompting from God to sell her bungalow and move to Weymouth, where I was due to arrive as curate. As I moved on to various places for ministry Anne produced illustrated cross-stitched maps of Kent, Dorset and Norfolk… and dared me to ever take a post in another diocese!

I will miss Anne terribly, but I rejoice that there is now no more pain, no lack of independence and that she is now with the Lord whom she has served so faithfully throughout her long earthy life.

Transformers… robots in disguise!

Does anyone remember this from their childhood?

During last Sunday's service I was indeed reminded of this toy which I played with many years ago. The toy consisted of 10 small individual toy cars, which with a few twists and clicks would turn into a robot. Awesome!

Each of these would have a particular strength, attribute, or power. I loved this; I would spend time debating with myself (I did have friends too - promise!) which one was the most powerful.

But…. The pièce de résistance was when you joined all the small individual toys together to form a giant robot. They would literally connect to form different parts of the large menacing robot.

As we prayed on Sunday for Street Pastors, CAP, Hope House and other initiatives this was the picture I got. Each individual element with its own contribution, but when joined together as God's Kingdom is infinitely increased in power.

Pete Naylor

Small steps to transformation

In our Climate Sunday Service we joined forces to recognise the reality of the climate emergency we are all facing and we thought about how to pray and how to act to tackle this emergency.

Like Tom, I find myself a bit like the proverbial rabbit in the headlights when confronted by pictures of out of control fires or floods, or by reports that climate change in the Arctic is affecting the ocean currents, further threatening the way the earth functions. The issues feel so enormous and I feel so small.

That's why it's good and reassuring to know that our church is seeking out ways to stop us feeling powerless, and that by joining A Rocha's EcoChurch scheme we are joining forces with Christians throughout the country who see the care of God's creation as part of our mission to love our neighbours and follow God faithfully. There's something amazingly reassuring and uplifting to be part of a wider community of Christians who are recognising that we need to do more than just talk about loving God's wonderful creation; Christians who are seeking God's guidance on what actions to take (both at a local level and also nationally and internationally), who are seeking to be kinder and more loving towards God's creation, who want to know what they need to change in their lives to make a difference.

As the EcoTeam discovers more, we learn about the small steps we can take to make change, and it's great to have this space in Jottings to share our stories and encourage everyone to be part of the journey. Every small step we take adds up, gets itself noticed, sends signals for others to follow – and before we know it, our changed behaviour is leading the way to transformation.

"Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So, instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come."

Sarah Omand

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quick eco tip

We have mentioned A Rocha in many of our Eco contributions to Jottings – and it would be great if people signed up to A Rocha's monthly newsletters to find out more about them, what they are doing and why they are doing it. Lots of information, articles, links, messages of hope.

Here is a link to their website: https://arocha.org.uk

Church Pastoral Aid Society

The Church Pastoral Aid Society's work involves the oversight of Venture and Falcon holidays, appointing evangelical clergy, training, resourcing and supporting leaders for mission and evangelism. Venture and Falcon holidays are for young people aged from 8yrs to 18yrs. Each year they give 4,500 young people the chance to explore who Jesus is as they enjoy many fun activities.

Over the next few months CPAS are offering a series of five day events entitled Refreshed Leadership for reimagining church. These events offer practical help for leaders in this reconstruction phase of the pandemic as they seek to be adaptable and shape churches around new opportunities.

Please pray that these and other planned events help leaders and churches to thrive and grow so that many many more people can find faith in Christ.

As many of you know Anne Bond was an enthusiastic supporter and church representative for CPAS and is sadly missed by us all! If anyone would like to volunteer to continue Anne's work and take on this role of church representative please contact me and I will give you more information.

Jill Flux

Mission Co-ordinator

An Update from Shelley and David

Dear friends,
As we started writing this, we discovered a copy of the letter we had written soon after returning to Weymouth on completing our first period in Argentina at the end of 1999! We need to cover similar ground in this letter. It marks the end of a big chapter of our lives.

Reporting back
We are really pleased that despite everything, we have been able to visit most of our link churches in person. This month, we look forward to our final two visits, and with this we complete our time as CMS mission partners. It seems very appropriate that our final visit will be to St John's, Weymouth, where we were married in 1986, and which was our original sending church. We are very grateful for all the support and prayers we have received from our link churches over many years. We are also really grateful to those of you who have been supporting us individually.

News from Argentina
While we were living in Ingeniero Juarez, Formosa Province, there were only a few COVID cases. Over the last few months, as winter there set in, there were many more cases. This was in part because human rights activists forced the provincial government to loosen restrictions. This is such a difficult balance for leaders all over the world to find and maintain! Some people understand the need to avoid spreading the virus and comply with restrictions, while others refuse to do so. We have been impressed by the reaction we have had from various people we know when they got COVID. Rather than asking for prayer for healing, they put themselves into the Lord's hands for him to do as he sees fit, whether that means recovering or going to be with him. We have heard about people praying for those in isolation, both from inside and outside the isolation centres, and of many people turning or returning to the Lord.

Our family and future
Seeing more of our family has been a great joy. Jonathan and his wife AJ have adopted a delightful puppy. Sarah is now working three days a week in Oxford and living with us the rest of the time, as she waits for Medecins Sans Frontieres to send her somewhere where doctors are needed.

We continue to think and pray about our next chapter of life and service, but do not have clear directions yet. For now, we will stay in Salisbury, enjoying the beauty of this part of the world. We continue to give thanks for the privilege of living and serving in Argentina and for all we learned from the Wichi in particular!

Points for praise and prayer

- Give thanks for the support we have received from link churches and friends over these years!
- Pray for strength and wisdom for Bishops Mateo and Crisanto in their leadership of the indigenous churches and nurturing new spiritual growth.
- Give thanks for all the Lord has led us through, and that our family and future are in his hands.

With our love,

David and Shelley

Prison Fellowship - Weymouth and Portland Angel Tree

It is estimated that 312,000 children are affected by parental imprisonment in the UK. Prison Fellowship - Angel Tree provides prisoners' children with a Christmas present and a message from the prisoner.

Weymouth and Portland Prison Fellowship organise Angel Tree for Portland Prison. To buy a present for a child please talk to Meg who will give you more details.

With the prisoners permission it is hoped to add a Christian book provided by Prison Fellowship to the gift.

If buying and wrapping present is not your thing and you are able to donate for the local Angel Tree fund the account is:

Prison Fellowship Weymouth. Business Account at Lloyds
Sort Code 30 96 26
Account No. 55000268

(More about Angel Tree can be found at https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/)

October Diary

Fri 1st
Sat 2nd
Sun 3rd 10.30 All-Age Harvest Celebration
(followed by Bring and Share Lunch)
Mon 4th 10-11.30am Little Fishes St.J
Tues 5th
Wed 6th 9am Prayer at St John's/Zoom
Thur 7th
Fri 8th
Sat 9th
Sun 10th Services at St John's
9am/10.30am
Mon 11th 10-11.30am Little Fishes St.J
Tues 12th
Wed 13th 9am Prayer at St John's/Zoom
7.30pm Sharon Tedford
an evening of songs, stories and scriptures
Thur 14th
Fri 15th
Sat 16th
Sun 17th Services at St John's
9am/10.30am
Mon 18th 10-11.30am Little Fishes St.J
Tues 19th
Wed 20th 9am Prayer at St John's/Zoom
Thur 21st
Fri 22nd
Sat 23rd
Sun 24th Services at St John's
9am/10.30am
Mon 25th
Tues 26th
Wed 27th 9am Prayer at St John's/Zoom
Thur 28th
November
Fri 1st
Sat 2nd
Sun 3rd Services at St John's
9am/10.30am

Who's Who?

Vicar	Rev Tom Coopey 01305777708
Wardens	Roger Welch 01305781771
	Jos Bailey 07899681706
Web	www.stjohnsweymouth.co.uk

Next month's issue

Many thanks to all our writers. Please submit articles dates or information to Linda and Michael Miles **by 24th October.** Articles may be edited. Web editions do not contain phone numbers, addresses, children's birthdays.

The views and opinions expressed are those of the contributors.