

Thought for August 2022
By Revd. Claire Claxton

I have always been fascinated by optical illusions and can remember spending ages staring at Magic Eye pictures to try and see the hidden 3D image. I recall visiting Chatsworth House and seeing a 'trompe d'oeil' (trick of the eye) painting of a violin and bow on a door, painted so beautifully that it looked as if the instrument itself was hanging there. Optical illusions remind me that there is often more than one way of looking at something.



Today, having been cooped up at home with Covid for a week, I decided I could safely go for a walk in the quiet lanes near my house. As I walked past the field at the end of my road I spotted five baby rabbits jumping around and playing together. It was a lovely scene and I enjoyed watching for several minutes. However, perhaps if I was a farmer with crops that were constantly being nibbled at or dug up by rabbits I would not be so enthralled!

A couple of weeks ago quite a number of my family came to visit the island, lots of adults as well as two babies and four great-nephews. As we were such a large crowd we arranged to meet at the beach and I can only imagine that our joyful and noisy reunion was someone else's nightmare family!

There is a famous quote, "You can't understand someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes." It is a reminder to practice empathy. Although credited as a Native American saying, it is almost certainly derived from a Mary T. Lathrap poem published in 1895, originally entitled 'Judge Softly' but later 'Walk a Mile in His Moccasins.' In a world of incredible diversity it is helpful to be able to see things from other peoples' points of view as well as our own.

We are all made in the image of God (Genesis 1: 27) and yet we are all different. How amazing is that!

CMClaxton

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NEWSLETTER
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CONTACTS

Rector: Revd. Claire Claxton

Tel: 238815

e.mail: carillon@cwgsy.net

Licenced Lay Minister (LLM)

Mrs Margaret Boden-Heaume

Tel: 265370

e.mail: mbodenheaume@outlook.com

Peoples' Warden:

Mr Keith Bienvenu

Tel: 238838

e.mail: krbienvenu@cwgsy.net

Rector's Warden:

Mrs Linda Archard

Tel: 266135

e.mail: lmcc@cwgsy.net



Church Flowers in August

August 7th Margaret Boden Heaume

August 14th **Flower Festival** and everyone

August 21st Dorothy Freeman

August 28th Suzie Pentecost

WANTED: used clean small jars i.e. mustard size with lids.

Bats in the Belfry?

As part of our Churchyard for Nature project we have signed up to the Bailiwick Bat Survey this year to see if there are any of these fascinating animals living near the church.

The survey divides the Island up into a series of squares and luckily the one with the Forest Church in was available.

The survey team provide the bat detector which was set up in early July and will be done again in early September.

The detectors are set high up on a pole and 'listen' for the call of the bats. Each bat species has its own distinctive call and frequency – most of which the human ear cannot hear. The detector records for 4 nights at a time after which the recordings are downloaded and sent to the survey team to analyse.

The results for early July were very encouraging with four species of bat being identified – the Common Pipistrelle which as its name suggests is the most common bat found in Guernsey, Kuhl's Pipistrelle which is a more recent species being found in increasing numbers locally, one recording of a Brown Long-eared Bat and several of the Grey Long-eared Bat.

There are several other species of bat resident on the Island and it will be interesting to see if we find any more in September.



Brown Long- eared Bat, Plecotus auritus, in flight by Daniel Hargreaves.

A Wonderful Gift

Forest Parish Church is known for its welcoming and relaxed atmosphere and we, like all churches, try to make things easier for anyone with disabilities. It is now possible for anyone with a motorised wheelchair to drive straight into church with turning room at the back and the ability to manoeuvre and join everyone else for coffee after the service.

Another new and beautiful addition is a short rail at the step by the choir stalls. This is especially useful for any person

unsteady on their feet but who still wishes to take communion at the altar .

The rail design is perfect and blends with the one hundred and twenty year old furniture, the wood matches and part of the structure is a wrought iron support with design matching the altar rail. Grateful thanks to Andrew, Marguerite and Denise who have given it in memory of their mother Joan Ozanne. We plan to dedicate it at a service in the Autumn.



August News

The church will be busy this month with our annual Flower Festival on Thursday August 11th - Sunday August 14th from 10am -5pm.

The theme this year is “**Saints of the Bailiwick**”.

This will be as the Britain in Bloom competition is being judged so good luck to Forest Floral Group who keep our public displays



around the parish looking wonderful. Setting up day, on or before Wednesday August 10th.

There will be sale tables of gifts, crafts, plants and produce so a good time to browse the church and surroundings.

A Patronal Festival Party

A good time was had by all at a Cream Teas and Tombola on Sunday July 24th in the garden of Dorothy and Mark Freeman. A lovely summer day and well attended. Thanks to all the hard working helpers.



August Dates and News

Coffee Morning - *note the change from Wednesday this month*

Thursday August 11th

Our next coffee morning will take place from 10.30am to 12 noon in church. Plenty of space at the back of church now! Do come and join us for a cuppa, some cake and a chat. All are welcome!

Solace

Thursday August 11th at 10.30am in Forest Parish Church

Thursday August 25th as normal.

A support group for bereaved friends. *(Regular meetings are normally at St Martin's Community Centre from 10.30-noon.)*

Flower Festival - Saints of the Bailiwick

Thursday August 11th-14th. Church open from 10am -

5pm with home made gifts and crafts for sale. Visit the church decorated to coincide with Forest Floral entry in the annual competition in Britain in Bloom.



Future dates for your diary:

Sunday 4th September 11 a.m. *Tumaini Family service*

Friday 16th September 7.30 p.m. *Concert by State of Harmony Choir + guests.*

Welcome to Forest Parish Church Services in August 2022

Sunday 7th August

11am Parish Communion with the Very Rev. John Guille

Reader: Katie Blampied

Genesis 15 v1-6

Hebrews 11 v1-3,8-16

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch

Evensong 6.30pm

Reader: Vivienne Rees

Sunday 14th August Flower Festival

11am Parish Communion with the Very Rev. John Guille

Reader: Keith Bienvenu

Jeremiah 23 v 23-29

Hebrews 11 v 29, 12 v 2

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

Sunday 21st August

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Mark Freeman

Isaiah 58 v 9b-end

Hebrews 12 v18-end

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

Sunday 28th August

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Dorothy Freeman

Ecclesiasticus 10 v12-18

Hebrews 13 v1-8,15-16

Prayers: Nancy Smith

Sunday 4th September 11 a.m. *Tumaini Family service*