

Thought for October 2023

By Revd. Claire Claxton

A few weeks ago Chris and I acquired a kitten. She is tabby and white and we have named her Nutmeg. We are both 'cat' people in that we have had cats as pets all our lives and were missing having a pet since our previous cat died in 2021. We weren't sure if we could cope with a kitten and sometimes, when she has the 'zoomies' and leaps all over the furniture and tries to climb the curtains, I'm still not sure that we can! But, mostly, she is adorable and extremely friendly and affectionate. As I write this she is trying to catch my fingers on the computer keyboard and I am having to delete rows of extra letters that suddenly appear!

Owning pets can give us a lovely image of how much we rely on God to provide for our needs. Nutmeg doesn't worry about where her next meal will come from; her food just appears regularly and she enjoys it. At our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 1st October we will give thanks for the food which we enjoy in such abundance and we will try to be as generous as we can, aiming to share what we have with those who don't have as much. We donate all gifts of food from our harvest service to Guernsey Welfare to distribute where needed but we also donate food throughout the year. There is a tub for food donations at the back of the church and all gifts are gratefully received.

Jesus said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 10:35) and the apostle Paul wrote, 'God loves a cheerful giver and is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you.' (2 Cor. 9: 6-8). We may not give expecting to receive but somehow it is a happy outcome of God's grace and love.

May God bless your giving and receiving.

CMClaxton

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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 October

October 1st Viv Rees and all

October 8th Viv Rees

October 15th Linda Archard

October 22nd Linda Archard

October 29th Suzie Pentecost

Greeters

October 1st Suzie

October 8th Nancy

October 15th Brenda

October 22nd Debbie

October 29th Dorothy

Ancestry

Have you ever tried to draw a family history tree? Starting with you at the bottom of the page and making connective lines upwards first to your parents and then adding brothers and sisters. At this point you need to decide whether to follow the mother or father's line otherwise it gets very muddled. It is quite amazing how interesting and involved this gets, and as we are often told, ask the old ones in the family before it all gets lost.

As you progress through the ages very often the same Christian names are used and this makes it confusing. In the early church records this happened a lot and Pierre often called his eldest son Pierre also. Most of our church records are now held in the States Archives in what was the old St Bartholomews church above the town. Only the current ones in use are now in church. However Peter Gallienne was at one time able to copy the old records and these can be viewed by appointment with the churchwarden Linda Archard.

The earliest ones are in French and quite difficult to read and sometimes the clergy used their own little codes for months or dates. I believe there is the possibility in the future to put them all online, that will be a challenge. We are grateful to the Family History group who read and recorded all the graves in the churchyard as many of them are now so worn as to be unreadable. This record is kept in the church and can be seen if needed.



Hedgehogs in the churchyard

In two places in the churchyard there are shelters from the weather and hibernation spots for local hedgehogs. One is behind the east gable and the other against the east wall on the curve opposite the car park.



Recently I found one walking happily through the grass but on closer examination found to be tightly entangled with a fine plastic web, what appeared to be a garden mesh. After removing as much as possibly it became difficult to do any more without hurting the creature so he was taken to the animal shelter. There he was admitted and taken away for care - no news of him yet. I always thought hedgehogs shouldn't be out in the daytime but evidently it is fine in the good weather at this time of year. We had one sleeping and snoring quite loudly under the bench in the greenhouse last winter, maybe it was this one. I feel a bit possessive and sorry for Mr Hedgehog and hope I will be able to fetch him back and put him where I found him.

Hedgehogs are native to mainland Britain and are also found throughout northern and western Europe. Related and similar species are also found as far as north Africa, the Middle East and central Asia. There are 16 species of hedgehog in five genera, found through parts of Europe, Asia, Africa and New Zealand.



The pre-breeding season population estimate of Hedgehogs in Britain is around 1,555,000. Many die from eating poisoned slugs. A reminder to us all not to use poisonous slugbait.

Don't Forget!

This coming Sunday October 1st at 11am is the Harvest Festival service in Forest Parish Church followed by a bring and share lunch.

Soup Kitchen at St. Martin's Community Centre

Every Thursday from 19th October to 21st December from 12 - 2pm. Free soup, bread, tea and coffee. Anyone and everyone is welcome. There will be 2 soups to choose from each week. For further information or to offer to make soup please contact Sara Dorey on tel. 235845.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A big thank you to those who worked so hard to make this a success. We had a wonderful array of cakes and a big tombola stall which, altogether, raised the sum of £261.

October notes

"The corn is as high as an elephant's eye", can you remember which song that came from?

At this time of year we see many maize fields, grown for cattle feed, where the height of the corn is reaching up to the sky. I especially enjoy it when the late sun shines like gold on the crop and yet behind it is a really black raincloud giving an exciting but ominous effect to the scene. A bit like life really, sunshine and showers.



The song is from the film Oklahoma - O What a beautiful morning

October Dates and News

Knit and Natter

Wednesday October 4th, 2pm-4pm.

Join us in church for a time of tea and chat and bring any knitting or sewing you like to do. Or you can just come for the company!

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 11th October Our next coffee morning will take place from 10.30am to 12 noon in church.

Solace

Thursdays October 5th and 19th

St Martin's Community Centre from 10.30-noon.
Solace is a support group for bereaved friends.

'Being dementia-friendly'

Saturday 14th October 10 a.m. in church - a talk by Mrs Julie Bulpitt

We will hear about the challenges that having dementia can present to church-goers and explore ways of making our worship more user-friendly and offering support where needed.

Sunday 5th November 4 p.m. All Souls Service, followed by refreshments.

A special service of thanksgiving and remembrance at the Forest Parish Church. This is the Sunday following All Souls Day when, traditionally, we commemorate those who have died. There will be a prayer of remembrance and if you would like the name of someone included you can write their name on a list which will be by the door or let Revd. Claire know.

Welcome to Forest Parish Church Services in October 2023

Sunday 1st October

11am Family Communion with Harvest offerings followed by bring & share lunch in church

Reader: tba

Prayers: Viv Rees

Sunday 8th October

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Syd Bowsher

Prayers: Nancy Smith

Isaiah 5 v1-7
Philippians 3 v4b-14

Sunday 15th October

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Keith Bienvenu

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

Isaiah 25 v1-9
Philippians 4v1-9

Sunday 22nd October

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Viv Rees

Prayers: Katie Blampied

Isaiah 45 v 1-7
1 Thessalonians 1 v1-10

Sunday 29th October

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Peter Gallienne

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

Leviticus 19v1-15-18
1 Thessalonians 2 v1-8