

St Thomas' and West Ashton Parishes

## The Lockdown Lowdown

### New Year Special

Issue No. 18 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Hello all

Hope you enjoyed the last offering. So... that's that for another year. Can't believe how late I was with everything Christmassy at home this time. Must start preparations in June next year. Apologies for starting with some Christmassy memes, but I missed a pile as they were in the wrong in box. Go on, admit it, everyone likes some Christmas leftovers. There'll be tiers...

"You, boy, what tier is this?"



**R.I.P to all the blokes in tier 4 that were leaving their shopping til Christmas Eve.**

**Hope your Mrs likes essential presents.**

**Breaking News: The whole of Cornwall has been placed into tier 4 lockdown after hundreds of pirates returned home to Penzance to celebrate Christmas with their families.**

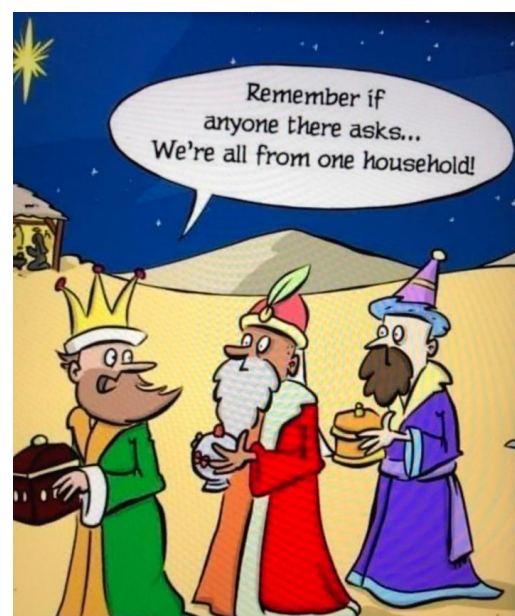
**Apparently the Arrrr rate has increased dramatically.**



**YOU'VE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19. I NEED A LIST OF EVERYPLACE YOU'VE BEEN.**

**T** "♪ SIMPLY... HAVING... A WONDERF..."

Not now, please, Paul.



Questions of 2020:

"Is this enough loo roll?"

"What's that graph meant to say?"

"Got your mask?"

"Oh god, what now?!"

"What does 2 metres look like?"

"Are you free for a Zoom call?"

"Fancy another walk?"

"So... what are we allowed to do?"

"Did you understand any of that?"

"Tea?"

Those awkward days between  
**Christmas and New Years** when  
you don't know what day it is,  
or what you're doing with your life...



I've gone from eating  
pigs in blankets to  
being a pig in a blanket



DON'T DO SOMETHING  
PERMANENTLY STUPID  
BECAUSE YOU'RE  
TEMPORARILY UPSET

My friend got the dream ticket for celebrating New Year...



A man goes to the Optician for his annual eye test. The Optician puts a contraption on his face, and asks him what he can see.

"I see empty airports, and empty football grounds, closed theatres, closed pubs, closed restaurants".

"That's perfect", says the Optician. "You've got 2020 vision".



### Pet's corner

All this COVID-19 talk is depressing, so here are some better lab results:





How's your alcohol intake been during lockdown?



Social distancing



## Ode to coronavirus

From the wonderful Pam Ayres... now 73 years old, who penned her latest ode, to coronavirus...

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates

You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told

We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside  
For four weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!

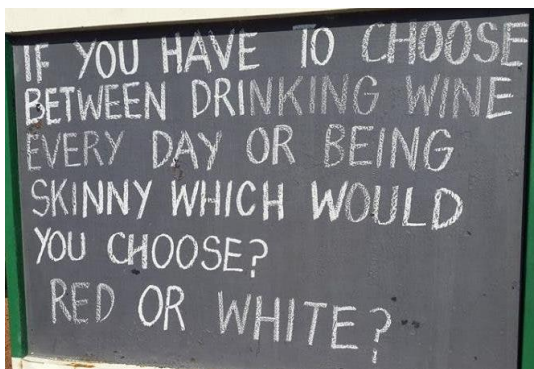
Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

## Shopping



**As I get older I find I only need 3 shops. Specsavers, Boots & Gregg's. Yep, my life is all Specs, Drugs & Sausage Rolls**

## The Rule of Six – confused?

These were taken directly from the same piece of government guidance. Is it any wonder we get confused?

It is against the law for people to gather in a group of more than six, whether indoors or outdoors, unless covered by an exemption. This limit does not apply to meetings of a single household group or support bubble which is more than 6 people.

Community facilities following COVID-19 Secure guidance can host more than 6 people in total, but no one should visit or socialise in a group of greater than 6. Further information on social contact rules, social distancing and the exemptions that exist can be found on the guidance on meeting with others safely. These

rules does not apply to workplaces or education settings, alongside other exemptions. See more details on what has changed.

Informal or formal adult social groups, clubs and activities can gather in groups no greater than 6 in adherence to social distancing rules. However, for activities where there is a significant likelihood of groups of six interacting, and therefore breaking the law, should not take place in a community facility. Further details is set out in section 3c: Recreation, leisure and social gatherings

If partaking in permitted activities users of COVID-19 secure community facilities should limit their social interactions with anyone they do not live with. Whilst activities may have 6 or more people participating (where it is safe to do so and capacity permits) it is important for all parties to maintain socially distant, 2 metres or 1 metre with actions taken to reduce the risk of transmission (where 2 metres is not viable) between households. For example, use of face coverings and encouraging good hand hygiene on entering premises and throughout visit.

A risk assessment should determine the maximum capacity of a hall or hire space while able to maintain social distancing according to the relevant guidelines.

Managers and providers in community facilities are not permitted to organise or hold informal or formal social groups, clubs and activities unless limited to groups of six people following social distancing rules.



## Memories from my Occupational Therapy days

While deleting a load of old emails, I came across this collection of typos made by Occupational Therapy staff, and things said by real clients.

"I encouraged her to think of her husband's song term needs"

"Client dries self by using a hairdryer under her beasts"



"My speech is slurred because I have a dry mouth and my teeth are getting old"

"The raised seat and surround have been very successful and will prevent client using the washbasin"

"The client was having difficulty getting in and out of her problems"

"She's got arthritis in her nip and hee"

"She lives in a riser recliner"

"The shower chair is too big and I can't shut the gates"

"I can't use the internet I'm having trouble even doing a jigsaw"

"I have already fallen out of the front door but fortunately I ended up in the bushes"

*Those were the days!*

Not a funny. Thought this was good...

**How to ATTEND Church Online**

**GET OUT OF BED AND GET DRESSED**  
It'll put you in the right mindset to worship

**GO THROUGH YOUR NORMAL SUNDAY ROUTINE**  
Minus the "hurry up, we're running late!" part

**GATHER YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER**  
No multitasking; worship is a family activity!

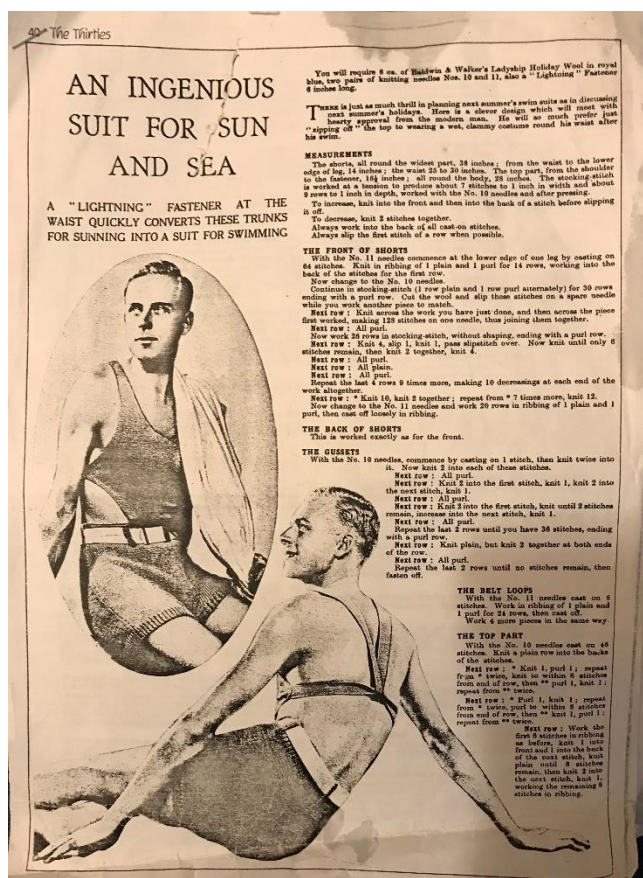
**PROJECT THE FEED ON YOUR LARGEST SCREEN**  
It'll feel more like you're "there"

**SING ALONG LOUD AND PROUD**  
Yes, it feels weird; it feels weird for the people who are leading worship in an empty room, too

**LEAN INTO THE MESSAGE**  
Say "Amen," clap, shout, and have a time of prayer at the end; make your home a sanctuary

You may remember that Vicki Turner had a host of chunky wool available. Celia Russell offered to make something to be sold for the Church Development Fund. She got in touch...

*"I have been sorting through some knitting patterns going back several decades. Obviously, I do not want to knit anything which would not find a ready market. What do you think about the attached pattern? Do you think there might be a gentleman within our congregations who might be looking for such a garment to complete their 2021 holiday wardrobe? The garment is amazingly flexible in that it fits two criteria - sun bathing and swimming. I am not sure that this design ever caught on which is quite amazing when you think what it has to offer.*



*Do you think it would be wise to do some market research before I embark on the knitting? I should perhaps mention that the wool Vicki has donated is chunky wool in very attractive hues of green/grey.*

*I would really appreciate your wise counsel regarding this matter.*

*Love Celia"*

I replied that Sam would like two. She replied:

*"Why two? I do hope he is not going to wear one under his suit to the Treasury ready for that relaxing swim after work. I really don't want to be inundated with orders as I am not sure how far Vicki's wool is going to go. I do hope the chunky wool is "chafe proof".*

Finally, an important message for School Leaders from the government:

**GOV.UK**

Department for Education

This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear School Leaders,

Although we have said that the military will be assisting with the planning and organising of school Covid tests, this does depend upon site logistics.

As there are only five working days until the new term, please respond to the following questions by last Monday, in order to qualify for support from the Ministry of Defence.

1. Is your school field long enough for a C130 Hercules to land on? As a rule of thumb, we recommend a minimum of 6300ft, assuming your school's runway is at sea level.
2. If no to the above, could your playground instead offer enough space for a Chinook to land on? (Nb: It will need to be clear of worn out snake number lines, pointless mazes and semi-rotten band stands.)

3. If your school is in a coastal location, would you be happy for your support to come from the Navy? If yes, please supply the exact distance between your school and the nearest port, measured by two primary school pupils with a trundle wheel.

4. If you're not one for planning in advance, perhaps you'd prefer the element of surprise? The DfE and MoD can also offer world class logistical support from submariners, the Royal Marines and the SAS. You will need to bear in mind that this could prove more exciting for school staff than when the Fire Service comes to do that safety talk in the autumn.

Finally, please be aware, there are approximately 150,000 active personnel in the British Armed Forces and 20,000 schools. The military will need to continue with all other domestic and global operations, as well as supporting the national effort against Covid19. If the military is unable to support Covid testing in your setting, perhaps just use anyone you can find who has watched Top Gun.

**Thank you!**

As always, this has been a team effort. Thank you to everyone who has sent in items, including: Mandi Archer, Jean Robertson, Paul Edwards, Ann Polden, Celia Russell, my sister, and no doubt others I've missed, for which I apologise. I hope you've enjoyed this issue. Keep in touch – please!

Love and blessings,

*Ruth*