



Church Family News

Polling day – and by tomorrow, some of us may be pleased with the outcome and others of us will not. Just one more indication of the diversity in our human make up. Our creator God made us all unique. There are times when we get bogged down by our differences and this clouds the more important issues which unite us. At Bible Study Fellowship this week, a member of the group who is from another denomination said how much she valued the coming together of the various denominations today in a way which would have been unheard of in the past. She reminded us that diversity is good but division is sinful.

Whatever our differences of opinion may be, let us remember that God did not make us to all think the same. We must value and respect each other despite our differences and not use them to cause division. To God, we are all precious in our uniqueness. Let us be united in showing our love for Him.

Some more celebrations this month. On 29th March, **Dorothy Culshaw** celebrated her 80th birthday. A party was held in the lounge on Saturday 2nd May and attended by over 60 family and friends. It was a great occasion. Also celebrating his 80th birthday on 4th May was **Tony Rimmer**. Tony's celebrations were short lived, however, because he was admitted to hospital on Tuesday for a planned operation. He is making good progress and hopes to come home today, so hopefully, he can start celebrating again his birthday and a successful operation. Best wishes for a quick recovery Tony.

Kath Law & family have had occasion to celebrate this month with the arrival of a new little granddaughter. Love and best wishes to all the family. Another great event in the family was **Stephanie** passing her driving test. Well done Steph. Also celebrating a new family member are **Sue & David Hitching** whose little granddaughter was born on 23rd April. Felicity is the baby daughter of Joshua and Alexis. Many congratulations and best wishes to you all.

Stan Carson has been out of action for a few weeks recovering from surgery. Hope you are making good progress, Stan. We have missed you. **Sam Howard** was admitted to Alder Hey during April for an operation but thankfully, the outcome was good and Sam is now back at school. **Tash Simpkin-Watkinson** currently has her foot in a plaster cast following an injury recently. This is a very limiting experience for someone as determined as Tash. Hope it won't be for too long.

Bill Sutton is very much in our thoughts and prayers, as is Pat. After many weeks in hospital Bill hopes to be home soon with help. This has been a very worrying and distressing time for Bill and Pat but we pray that Bill will feel much more comfortable in his home surroundings. Son Kevin & family are hoping to return to England from New Zealand shortly. It will be lovely for Bill and Pat to be able to see more of their family. We pray all will go well with the move.

Brenda Phillips is now home following her stay in hospital and making good progress. Again, this was a very worrying time for all the family but never did they doubt the power of God or the power of prayer and we rejoice with you over Brenda's remarkable recovery.

Rev. Ron Charlton is currently in hospital and we send him our love and best wishes. We continue to remember **Bob Gardner** who remains poorly but it is good to hear reports of a slight improvement in his condition. We are sorry to hear **Hannah Gildert** has suffered a fall, We hope you are feeling better Hannah and not too badly hurt.

Brenda Wall has recently undergone knee surgery and is currently in hospital. Hope you will soon be back on your feet again Brenda and will feel the benefit of the operation.

Sadly, **Stan Rigby** passed away two weeks ago after being poorly in hospital. Stan has been a tremendous strength and support to his wife Sheila, who had suffered from health limitations for many years. Stan's funeral was held on Wednesday 6th May. Our love, sympathy and prayers are with his wife Sheila, son John, Jean & family and Ruth (Stirling) his sister. God bless you all at this sad time. Also, this week we have lost two more of our older members. **Cathy Lloyd**, a lifelong member of this church, Sunday School teacher for many years at the Temperance Hall and very dear friend of Florence Hodge, passed away in hospital on Monday 4th May. Cathy was a resident at Peacehaven.

Mrs Audrey Wilson, who has attended this church for many years also passed away at the weekend aged 93 years. She had continued to attend church regularly and was in the congregation on Sunday morning. We shall miss her quiet presence in church. Also, there will be some in the church who remember **Mr Bert Campion Smith** as someone very involved in the life of the church until his move to Gerrards Cross. Bert sadly passed away last week. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

On a lighter note, our young people from the Boys & Girls Brigades and their leaders had a great weekend at Kirkham last weekend. The weather was not at all good but it sounds as though that really did not affect their enjoyment at all. I have also heard a whisper that sleep was in short supply so hope everyone managed to catch up when they arrived home. What a good job the next day was Bank Holiday! One casualty of the weekend was **Sam Owen** who managed to break a finger. Well done Sam! Hope you didn't miss too much camp waiting to be seen in A&E!

On Saturday, 9th May, the Brigades are holding their annual awards and display evening. I am sure it will be a great event. This church should be so proud of the work which goes on week by week amongst our young people. At times this can be particularly challenging as some of the children need extra help and support. The love and care shown to the children and young people is amazing and a testimony not just to the love of the leaders for the children but for their love of the Lord and their commitment to serve Him in this way. God bless you all.

Dorothy Simpkin