

St Thomas Newsletter Feb 2021

Some of you might know that I have quite a sweet tooth... During the last couple of months I've been trying to perfect the art of making Chelsea buns! I haven't quite managed to create the perfect bun yet, which is an excellent reason to keep baking them. They freeze well and just need a few seconds in the microwave to warm up again, so my freezer now usually has a stash of sticky fruity buns... Delicious! I've also had a go at home-made pizza, which is great fun and a bit messy to make, and I've tried naan bread, but they didn't work out so well. If any of you have the 'perfect' recipe for Chelsea buns or naan bread, I'd love to have a copy! From Rev Cat



Most people know of my deep feelings for dogs but may not know of my deep feelings for horses and all equines. At a very young age I would run out to the milkman's horse with a sugar cube or a carrot, and liked to have donkey rides on the beach at Clacton. I rode a pony for the first time when a friend asked me to come with her to Joe Wiggins' at Clacton, "say you can ride" she said, "he will let you come with me". We rode down to Clacton Shores and had a good gallop! We would groom the ponies and clean the stables to get a bit longer time riding. Happy Days.

Much later I had a pony called Jet and gave pony rides to children at one of St Thomas' Fetes! It was very popular and we made good money at 50 p a go. I support charities regularly for dogs and horses, for rehoming and cruelty prevention, as I think we humans have a duty to care for all God's creatures (and for each other). Val.

We would like to tell the newsletter about our little dog Darcy. He is a West Highland Terrier eleven years old and still very active. He has kept us fit all through the pandemic as he wants to go out all the time. His favourite walk is over the fields off Henley Road. We hope that we can all meet again soon. Best Wishes Sylvia and Russell



An update on Jules, Rick & Amber:-

Amber has now started her Forensic Psychology course, which is running alongside her Health & Social Care course - so she's very busy with her studies currently. Rick continues to work, although did get two days off with the recent snow..... which I (Jules) thinks he was secretly pleased about!! And I have, since new year, been learning to crochet and am absolutely hooked (excuse the pun) - spending every spare moment making things. When not crocheting I'm continuing to work from home - but am very keen now for the pandemic to be over so that life can return to near normality. And very much looking forward to feeling safe to return to church xx

During Lockdown I have spent more time watching the birds in my garden and as I back on to an ancient hedge I have quite a variety visiting. I knew that different species of birds had different feeding habits – some like to feed on the ground, some prefer to feed clinging on to something higher up etc, but what I have found interesting is the way the different species relate to one another.

The blackbird and the sparrow seem to be quite happy feeding or drinking from the same source at the same time, but they all take flight when the starlings arrive! The robin, however seems to prefer to feed on his own, waiting in the shadows till other birds move off, but once he is in possession of the feed, he will chase others away if they try to share his meal!

When I go out into the garden for any reason, the robin is always the first to greet me and follows me around, and will sometimes 'look me in the eye' in the most disarming way, and yet I have also seen the way he dealt with an interloper robin who turned up one day in the hope of food..... more fool him! The resident robin was all beak and claws and the visitor was soon dispatched with his feathers in disarray!

I'm not sure just what I have learned from all this except that maybe looking at the natural world can sometimes help us understand the human world a bit better.

Chris Chapman