



Newsletter
May 2016



*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love as thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

Edwin Hatch

Singing the Faith 370 verse 1

Welcome to the May Newsletter

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A Message from our Minister

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

Words of Jesus Christ from John's Gospel (17:20-21). Those words resonate across the centuries because they are for us, about us, the church today, the ones who believe in Jesus, through the message of those first disciples. Our job is to be in one heart and mind, that others might believe in Jesus also.

Christians have to work and worship together in order to live the life that Christ calls us to. Working together isn't always easy. We don't all have the same gifts or calling to service (thankfully) but to enable each one of us to express those gifts and be obedient to God's calling we need to work together.

God calls people to different service at different times. We saw this happen in last month's General Church Meeting, where some said it was time to step away from a responsibility, another felt called to new work, and others knew they had to change direction. All are trying to be obedient to God. Working together includes each of us praying to understand what work we should join, or begin, or finish.

It's been a sad time as God has called people we love into his presence. Their Christian service has been brought to an end. Yet we remain one with them, and we shall join them. As Charles Wesley's hymn puts it:

Come, let us join our friends above, who have obtained the prize,

And on the eagle wings of love to joys celestial rise.

Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone,

For all the servants of our King in earth and heaven are one.

Jesus prayed that we might be one, joined with him. God's Holy Spirit, sent at Pentecost, made this possible. This month's Pentecost

celebration is being held, in public, in Flitwick's Millennium Park, with Christians of different traditions working together. We pray that this event in some way expresses our fulfilment of what Jesus prayed for us. May we all, as Christian people, be attentive to the Spirit and join in his work together, for surely we shall be together always.

Graham

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Church Family News

Congratulations to Maryan and Dave Pateman on the birth of their grandson, Archie William, on 5th April, a brother for Henry. All good wishes to parents, Lian and Alex. We wish God's blessing on all the family.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We remember in our prayers John and Sue Bunker and John's mother, Daphne, following the death of John's father, Wilf, on 11th April.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We remember Mary Abbott's family in our prayers as they mourn the loss of Mary, who died on 18th April. We thank God for Mary's life and witness.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Church Flowers in May

We thank those who have agreed to donate flowers to enhance our worship this month.

- | | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 1st May | Edna Ashton |
| 8th May | Jane Claydon-Knights |
| 15th May | Maurice Sherwood |
| 22nd May | Linda Pitts |
| 29th May | Frances Impey |

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Polar Explorers Holiday Club March 2016

It's great that we can all be part of God's Expedition.

38 children and young people with 21 adults gathered over 4 mornings during the week and Sunday morning worship, to explore the good news that we can all be part of God's great expedition. We created a community for the week which gathered children and adults from Flitwick town with our Sunday congregation, folk from St Ives, Hitchin, London as well as whoever and wherever our Facebook posts touched.

Using the background of polar explorers, we learnt about how 'Sir Random Finds' and 'Bare Feet' prepared for a polar expedition. We used this to talk about what it's like to be part of God's Expedition. We sang; made stuff - snowflakes, pipe cleaner fish, clay hand prints, footprint fridge magnets, fruit kebabs, sock snow men, binoculars; ate snacks; played games; and talked lots.



Setting up the scene in church involved our whole church community in collecting milk cartons for the fabulous igloo, making snowflakes and praying for Gods help to make the week a success.

This extended out into the wider community as church family members enlisted family members, work colleagues and customers to help with the collection of cartons and tubes. This in itself will have prompted a question or two about what we were up to. It certainly led me to engage in many a conversation with people at work about being part of Gods great expedition that I would not otherwise have started.

Leading any event for children and young people makes you think deeply about your own understanding and belief, not least because you have to try to explain the message as simply as possible.

So who and what did we talk about?

Peter was one of Jesus closest friends. He made mistakes, he denied Jesus 3 times but he went on to tell thousands of people about Jesus.

Stephen was a humble, ordinary man who was asked to help sort out food for Jesus' followers in the early church. Despite his ordinary beginnings, he was full of God's Holy Spirit and went on to tell people about the greatness of God and to perform many wonders.

Paul was a bad man. He committed many atrocities, killing and imprisoning Christians but God forgave him, helped him see where he had been going wrong and Paul went on to write half the New Testament, giving advice and guidance to many and sharing the good news.

Timothy was a very young man. Paul and Silas picked him to help spread the word about God. He might have been young but his contribution was no less important or helpful in sharing God's grace.

Our memory verse was Ephesians 6:15 (Living Bible) 'Wear shoes that are able to speed you on, as you preach the good news of peace with God.'

Let us all rejoice that Jesus came among us and died for us, so that we can never make too many mistakes; never be too ordinary; never be too bad; or too young to be part of God's great expedition.

Anne Foley



Women's Pleasant Hour

At the Women's Pleasant Hour meeting on 20th April our speaker was our minister, Graham Claydon-Knights. Graham read to us the story of Jonah and led us to think about the lessons we can learn from the story. But we did not only listen and think; we had an activity to do to help us to remember what we had been thinking about.



The photograph shows the whales that we made from paper plates. We enjoyed cutting the shape of the whale and adding colour.

One of the lessons we learnt from the story of Jonah was that we can pray to God about anything that concerns us, and that it is even alright to question God and become angry with him, as the psalmists also did at times. Earlier in the meeting we had sung 'What a friend we have in Jesus', with its reminder that

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Singing the Faith 531

Our whales are an unusual visual reminder of this truth.

Thank you, Graham, for this inspirational afternoon.

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## Pentecost Celebration



**PENTECOST IN FLITWICK MILLENIUM PARK**  
*AMPTHILL AND FLITWICK CHURCHES TOGETHER*

**SUNDAY 15TH MAY**  
**2.30 pm**

*Celebrate the Church's birthday*  
and the beginning of  *Christian Aid Week*

*Free children's activities*  
*Christian Aid tent*

**SERVICE AT 3.15 pm**



*Birthday cake for all*

On Sunday 15th May, there will be no evening service at Flitwick Methodist Church. Instead, we will gather with friends from other churches in Flitwick and Ampthill to celebrate the church's birthday at Pentecost in the Park. This year, for the first time this will be happening in Flitwick at the Millenium Park instead of in Ampthill Park. In future years, it is hoped that this service will alternate between Flitwick and Ampthill.

The event has been planned by the Churches Together group and will begin at 2.30 pm. There will be children's drama and craft activities in tents around a central area where Rev Lucy Davies will lead activities. There will also be a Christian Aid tent with displays about this year's Christian Aid Week focus as this is the day that marks the beginning of Christian Aid Week.

At 3.15 pm, the service will begin. Rev Graham Claydon Knights will be leading the service and the speaker will be Andrew Godfrey, the Christian Aid Regional Coordinator for our area. Ampthill Town Band will provide the music. At the end of the service, a birthday cake will be cut and shared and cold drinks will be available.



As this event is going to be in our town for the first time, we do hope that it will be well supported by Flitwick people. If you feel that you would rather sit during the service, please bring a chair. If it should rain, the activities and service will take place in the Village Hall.

## Christian Aid Week

As I wrote last month, the focus of this year’s Christian Aid Week is to help our “global neighbours” who are living in poverty.



*“In Bangladesh, Morsheda lives in fear of the river. No matter how hard she works, every year the floods damage her home, leaving her and her children struggling to cope”*

Many of you have collected for Christian Aid for many years and I hope that you feel able to continue. But it would be good to have some new collectors to relieve those who are not so fit. Please consider whether you can spare an hour to deliver some envelopes and another hour or so to collect them. It is not difficult work and most people are welcoming.

It would also be helpful to have some extra people to deliver some envelopes. You can be any age to deliver but you must be at least 16 years old or accompanied by a 16 year old or older to collect.

Alternatively, this year you could hold a “Big Brekkie” Fundraising breakfast (or even coffee morning) if collecting is not for you. There is a fundraising pack available if you are interested.

Please contact me on 714847 if you feel you can help in any way to lift our global neighbours to a safer life.

*Ann Blair*



## *Methodist Anniversaries*

May is the month which includes Aldersgate Sunday (this year May 22nd) when we remember how John Wesley wrote in his journal, following his experience at a meeting at Aldersgate Street on 24th May 1738, “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death”.

This year we are remembering the 225th anniversary of John Wesley’s death on 2nd March 1791. Another significant Methodist anniversary this year is the 200th anniversary of the death of Francis Asbury, who died on 31st March 1816.

Francis Asbury was born near Birmingham in 1745. He was converted at the age of sixteen and became a Local Preacher. He became an itinerant preacher in 1766 and one of the circuits he served was the Bedfordshire Circuit. At the 1771 Methodist Conference he volunteered to serve in America and was appointed along with Richard Wright, and they sailed for America that same year. Methodism had been introduced into America in 1766 but it was Francis Asbury who co-ordinated and united the scattered congregations.

When the American War of Independence broke out in 1776 Wesley recalled the Methodist preachers who had gone to America from Britain, but Asbury stayed.

In 1784 John Wesley appointed Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke as joint superintendents of Methodist societies in America. But Francis Asbury insisted he would not become Superintendent unless he was appointed by the American preachers, so a Conference was called to begin on Christmas Eve in 1784 at Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore. He was ordained deacon and then presbyter and Superintendent. The church became known as the Methodist Episcopal Church and Francis Asbury became known as Bishop Asbury.

Francis Asbury travelled widely, visiting many states, travelling about six thousand miles a year on horseback. He preached about 16,500 sermons, at least one a day. Under his guidance and leadership Methodism in America grew rapidly. He never married and he never returned to Britain. He died at Spottsylvania, in Virginia. By the time of his death on 31st March 1816 there were 412 Methodist societies with a membership of 214,235. He was buried in Baltimore.

Many Methodist churches in America include the name Asbury in the name of their church and there are at least four places named Asbury. This shows the esteem with which he is held in America. Francis Asbury's story is not as well known in Britain as it is in America, although there have been special events held in Britain to mark this 200th anniversary of Francis Asbury's death.

*Janet Watts*

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*Flitwick Prayer Walks*

As part of a National Week of Prayer in the week leading up to Pentecost, the Parish Church are organising prayer walks around Flitwick, and everyone is invited to take part. The walks will last an hour and for each walk meet at 9 am at the following locations:

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 9th May     | St Andrew's, Windmill Road |
| Tuesday 10th May   | Tesco's Main Entrance      |
| Wednesday 11th May | Parish Church, Church Road |
| Thursday 12th May  | The Crown, Station Road    |
| Saturday 13th May  | Manor Park Car Park        |

Please also see the notice on the notice board.

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## Easter Offering

Thank you to those of you who gave your Easter Offering for the World Mission Fund. £201 was raised.

The Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service is on Thursday 25th May at 2.30 pm at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford. The theme of the service is “Child, get up!” All are welcome.

The following prayer is taken from the bookmark that you received with your Easter Offering envelope:

*Lord of life, we thank you for the opportunity to support the work of the World Church. We long for every woman, man and child to have the chance to reach their full potential and realise their true worth in your kingdom. In the name of Jesus. Amen.*

~~~~~

Prayer Morning

Our next prayer morning is on Saturday 4th June. The church will be open from 9.30 am till 12 noon, with coffee available from 10.15 to 10.45.

This is another opportunity to spend some time in prayer in the quietness of the church. Come at any time during the morning and stay as long as you wish.

For those wishing to stay for fellowship at the end of the morning there will be a bring and share lunch.

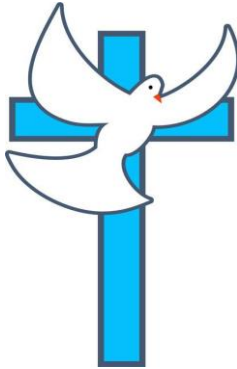


There will be prayer stations that you may wish to use and the theme will be the Holy Spirit. Graham will lead us in a short reflection at 10.45 am. The rest of the time is for you to use as God leads you.

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# Prayer Leaflet

May 2016



*Come, O breath of God,  
breathe your life again.  
Stir the embers of this heart  
set my soul aflame.  
Come, O breath of God,  
draw me once again  
ever closer to your heart,  
to your burning flame.*

*Johnny Markin  
Singing the Faith 380 (chorus)*

## Prayer Suggestions for May

See how great a flame aspires, kindled by a spark of grace!  
Jesu's love the nation fires, sets the kingdoms on a blaze.  
To bring fire on earth he came; kindled in some heart it is;  
O that all might catch the flame, all partake the glorious bliss!

Charles Wesley Singing the Faith 412 verse 1

### Week beginning 1st May - Police

|           |                                                                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Thank God for the Bedfordshire Police Force.                                                 |
| Monday    | Pray for the safety of police officers.                                                      |
| Tuesday   | Pray for the Bedfordshire Branch of the Christian Police Association.                        |
| Wednesday | Pray for those who will attend the Christian Police Association event at Dunstable tomorrow. |
| Thursday  | (Ascension Day) Pray for the Police Force on this National Day of Prayer for the Police.     |
| Friday    | Pray that people will support the police as they seek to fight crime.                        |
| Saturday  | Pray for new recruits to the police force.                                                   |

### Week beginning 8th May - Flitwick

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Pray that people will join in the Prayer Walks in Flitwick during the week. (See page 11 and poster.)<br>Pray each day for the area of Flitwick in which the walk takes place if you are unable to go on the walk. |
| Monday    | Pray with those walking in the Windmill Road area.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Tuesday   | Pray with those beginning their walk at Tesco's.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Wednesday | Pray with those walking in the Church Road area.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Thursday  | Pray with those walking in the Station Road area.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Friday    | As no walk is scheduled to take place today, pray for the area of Flitwick in which you live.                                                                                                                      |
| Saturday  | Pray with those beginning their walk at the Manor Park car park.                                                                                                                                                   |

Week beginning 15th May - Christian Aid

- Sunday (Pentecost) Pray for the Pentecost and Christian Aid service at the Millennium Park this afternoon.
- Monday Pray for those collecting for Christian Aid this week.
- Tuesday Pray that people will be generous in their giving.
- Wednesday Pray for the people of Ethiopia, suffering from drought.
- Thursday Pray for the people of Nepal, still seeking to rebuild their lives after the earthquake.
- Friday Pray for the women of El Salvador, many of whom suffer domestic violence.
- Saturday Pray for those working to prevent flooding in Bangladesh.

Week beginning 22nd May - Methodism

- Sunday As we remember John Wesley's experience on this Aldersgate Sunday we thank God for John and Charles Wesley.
- Monday Thank God for the hymns that Charles Wesley.
- Tuesday Thank God for the worldwide Methodist Church.
- Wednesday Pray for the Connexional officers, especially the President and Vice President of Conference, Rev. Steve Wild and Jill Barber.
- Thursday Pray for our Beds, Essex and Herts District and the appointment of a new chair of the district this year.
- Friday Pray for churches and people making up the North Bedfordshire Circuit.
- Saturday Thank God for our own church here at Flitwick.

3 days beginning 29th May - Our Church

- Sunday Thank God for opportunities we have to worship on Sundays and during the week.
- Monday Pray that as a church we will be forward looking.
- Tuesday Pray for the groups that use our premises during the week.

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Services in May

Please remember those leading our worship in your prayers, especially during the week prior to the service.

1st May	10.30 am	United Service at Clophill
	6.00 pm	Graham Harding
8th May	10.30 am	Parade Service led by GB
	6.00 pm	Rev. Peter Byass
15th May	10.30 am	Roz Addington
	3.15 pm	Pentecost and Christian Aid Service - Millennium Park
22nd May	10.30 am	Rev. Clive Larrett
		Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Peter Fletcher
29th May	10.30 am	Jim Ragless
	6.00 pm	Bob Heley

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**Monday 16th May 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm.**

All families welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Donations welcome to cover costs.

Contact Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights for further details.

Next Messy Church dates

20th June at Millennium Park (at church if wet) 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm

23rd July Messy Breakfast 9.00 am - 10.30 pm



*Church Anniversary Weekend*  
*Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November*

with

Rev. Tony Pick and  
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

*Saturday – A Looking Forward Day*

Morning and afternoon sessions  
including worship and discussion  
and a soup and roll lunch  
Creche available.

6.00 pm Meal and Games evening

Planning for this day is in the early stages.

Look out for more details later.

*Sunday*

10.30 am Worship led by Rev. Tony Pick  
and Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

6.00 pm Worship led by  
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

*PLEASE BOOK THESE DATES NOW.*

Please continue to pray for the planning of this weekend  
and pray that the weekend will give us a fresh vision  
of God's will for our church  
and for us as individuals.

## Can you help?



Do you have any Christmas wrapping paper left over from last Christmas which you could spare? We have started to receive shoe boxes for our Guild evening when we fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, but do not have any Christmas wrapping paper to cover them.

Edna is willing to cover the shoe boxes again for us this year so if you have any wrapping paper she will be pleased to receive it. If you have any medium sized shoe boxes they also would be gratefully received.

We will be filling the Shoe Boxes on Monday 31st October. Last year we managed to fill 89 boxes so we will need plenty of wrapping paper and shoe boxes!

Thank you very much for your help.

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'the connexion' Magazine

Issue 5 of 'the connexion', the Methodist Church magazine, is now available. There are some copies on the foyer which you can read and then pass on to someone else. You can also download a copy from the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk. This issue has the theme 'Spirit-led enthusiasm' and it is well worth reading with very interesting and inspiring articles. There are also still some copies of issue 4 in the foyer with the theme 'Giving the green light to mission', another interesting issue.

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*Clophill News*

**Tea and Chat**

Every Wednesday 10.30 am to 12 noon

**Coffee and Croissant Morning**

Saturday 7th May  
10 am to 12 noon

**Messy Church**

Saturday 7th May  
4 pm to 6 pm

All age activities, worship and a meal for all the family.  
Donations welcome to cover the cost.  
Children to be accompanied by an adult.  
Contact 07920568861

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The Upper Room

at Ampthill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays

Dates in May – 12th and 26th

Coffee or tea and cakes from 10.00 am.
Light lunches from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.
Proceeds after expenses for local charities.
All are welcome.

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*Circuit Prayer Meeting*

The next Circuit prayer meeting will be held on Monday 23rd May at Willington at 10.30am. All will be very welcome.

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Shefford Methodist Church

Raising the Roof

Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th May 10.00 am – 12 noon

In aid of the “Raising the Roof” appeal for the Church Hall

You are invited to enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and a chat.

There will also be a raffle, bric a brac and other stalls.

Tea Towels and Calico Bags available at £5 each.

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Stotfold Christian Choir Concert

Saturday 14th May at 7.30 pm

An uplifting evening of songs, hymns, readings and poetry,  
plus refreshments.

Donations on the night in aid of the “Raising the Roof” appeal  
for the Church Hall.

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Flitwick Singers present

An Evening with Pam Rhodes

Friday 13th May at 7.30 pm

at Amptill Methodist Church

Pam Rhodes will be hosting an evening of your favourite hymns

Tickets £7.50

Raising funds for local charities

Contact 01525 753686 or 07906 509950

or email flitwicksingers@gmail.com

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## Smalls for All

Thank you very much to those who have contributed to the Small for All charity. Smalls for All is a charity that helps children and women in African countries by donating underwear to those who are unable to afford these basic items.

If anyone else would like to contribute please let me have your contributions by Sunday 15th May.

See the poster on the notice board, or last month's newsletter, for a reminder of what is needed, or look at the Small for All website, [www.smallsforall.org](http://www.smallsforall.org).

*Janet Watts*

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**You are invited to attend a
Free Church Service in the
Lady Chapel on the dates
mentioned below:**



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBEY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 11a.m.

Preacher: Major Dr. John Read

UK Ecumenical Officer, The Salvation Army

The Service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

Wednesday 1st June 2016 at 11a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend Richard Watson

Sub Dean, St Albans Cathedral.

The Service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

All are Welcome

Contact: Reverend Peter Hudson. 01727 812076

Email: peter.hudson@uwclub.net

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*National Day of Prayer for the Police*

Thursday 5th May  
Joint Event organised by  
the Bedfordshire Branch of the Christian Police Association  
and Local Churches  
at the Square Methodist Church, Dunstable  
at 7.30 pm.

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A Charity Murder Mystery Evening

‘Murder at the Wedding’
in aid of the Stroke Association
Saturday 14th May
6.45 pm for 7.00 pm
Lidlington Village Hall
Tickets £15 to include a 3 course meal
from Sonia 01525 404170
or Mobena 01525 403232

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*Salvation Army Band and Choir Concert*

at  
St Peter and St Paul Church  
Saturday 25th June  
at 7.00 pm  
An evening of varied music  
with Harpenden Salvation Army Band and Choir  
Admission free  
Collection towards the work of Flitwick Parish Church.

## *News from Paraguay*

24th March 2016

Yes the year is going by, with Easter arriving already. So it is almost a year since I travelled over to see you as all. I was with you for Easter last year.

It has been a bit cooler this week, with very cloudy mornings. But I woke this morning to find it raining heavily outside and it looks like it is set for a while. Hopefully it will stop sometime this afternoon so that I am not trapped indoors all day!

Does sound like those neighbourhood ducks are being a bit of a pest in the garden. The garden pond is not really big enough for ducks and surely if they looked in the river they would find far more water there.

About those seeds - I have started collecting up seeds to send you. For some reason most of my flowers came up orange this year, so along with the marigolds that come up every year the garden is looking very Dutch! So you might find the same thing happens when you plant them.

29th March 2016

I did hear that you had yet another big storm. You do seem to have had rather a lot of storms recently. Hopefully it will soon blow its way past and that all will return to normal.

Over here Easter was rather wet with two solid days of heavy rain, but fortunately no wind. So it was a quiet Easter. Apart from going down to Alicia's house one day I spent most of the time at home.

Now today the weather is much better with a nice sunny sky. So I was able to go to Piribebuy for a morning out and then get some gardening done this afternoon, clearing the weeds away from the front of the house. At least I was able to get that done for a while this afternoon until Ramona came over for a visit.

This weekend the clocks went back so it gets dark earlier now and there are no more evenings, so now we have five hours difference in time between you and me.

### 2nd April 2016

Good to hear that your wind has stopped blowing and the weather is a little better. Maybe spring is on the way. Here it has been warm and sunny all week and so a good time to spend a lot of time outdoors working in the garden. Doing that a fair amount of the ground in front of the house has been cleared of weeds and is looking much smarter. There have been a couple of good bonfires and I still have plenty more waiting to go on more bonfires next week.

If you have seen any of my photos on facebook you will have seen all the wild life I have around here. There is a hawk that has just taken up residence in the garden and there were even a couple of guinea pigs around yesterday. It is just like living in a nature reserve! Ramona was over earlier today commenting on how I get far more wild life here than she gets over at her house.

### 5th April 2016

I expect you went over to see Ross for his birthday yesterday. I trust you wished him a Happy Birthday from me and that he had a good day. I suppose the proper party will wait until Jo is home from hospital, which hopefully will be very soon.

There was a birthday over here as well today as today is also Ramona's birthday - she was 21 today. No party for her though as she had to do all the washing and clean the house whilst her mum was at work. However I understand there will be a little family party tomorrow.

### 7th April 2016

Indeed it is not long until my birthday. I will check that your money has arrived safely before I go and spend it! But I am sure it has - so thank you for that. I will let you know how it gets spent. I had been thinking about getting a new bookcase. I had seen one in Paraguari that was a bit smaller than I had wanted. Then when I looked in



Piribebuy I found that no one had simple furniture but only items made out of expensive materials that cost three times as much. So I am not sure what I will do as whilst I would not have minded spending a little bit more money to get it from Piribebuy three times as much is a bit much, and getting things home from Paraguari is not easy as the taxis quote very high prices as they don't like coming all the way up here, so I don't like doing business with them.

The weather here has been autumn for a week or so but this week it is back to hot summer, although there is a wet weekend forecast.

### 9th April 2016

So it seems you have my sunshine! After a hot week I woke to the sound of thunder and it has been raining heavily all day so it looks like being an indoors day.

On Monday, as long as the rain has stopped, I am sure there will be a little celebration somewhere for my birthday. I haven't definitely decided what to get myself with your money, but will probably get some more books as you can never have too many books.

It seems like poor Ramona and her class mates are struggling with their college at the moment. Not with the learning side, although that is certainly keeping them very busy - but with the admin side. The monthly course fees have gone up again this year as they were expected to, but there now seem to be constantly more and more things to be paid for, all those little add ons now seem to be costing as much as the course fees. And to make things even worse everything has started being recorded on computer rather than in books and files this year, so everything is being demanded to be paid on its due date with no excuses for late payment, because the computer says that is the day and it is due! And if that did not make things bad enough for all of them Ramona tried to pay early for something last week but was turned away as that particular file was not on the computer at that time. I will no doubt see her sometime over the weekend and find out what the latest situation is. They are really not making it easy for these students who they know mostly come from homes that are not exactly abundant with money.

11th April 2016

Today with it being my birthday the sun has of course returned!

Emilica was on the phone first thing this morning to wish me a happy birthday and there will be a party at her house at the weekend as in a couple of weeks it is also her birthday. At lunch time Caro and Ceci appeared to wish me a happy birthday and said they would be back later when Ramona comes over - but I think that rather depends on whether she wants to bring them over or would prefer to escape from them for a while.

This morning I went to Paraguari and found my birthday card waiting - so thank you for that. I think it had been there about a week but it was probably better getting it today so I could not open it early.

With my birthday money I have already bought some books so they should be here in a couple of weeks and am still thinking what to use the rest for.

19th April 2016

Hello from this hot and sunny land!

I thought I would let you know how my birthday money has been used. You know, of course, that I have already bought some books. Yesterday I went into Asuncion for the day so treated myself to a day in the shops and had a nice lunch. Whilst there I got various bits and whilst there I spotted a record shop so bought a couple of CDs.

Also in a smart hardware shop I found they had shelving brackets so now once I have got hold of a few planks for the shelves I will be able to build myself a bookcase. With what is left I will visit Mr Amazon and get some DVDs.

Tomorrow I am playing removal man. Colin and Rene are eventually moving into town to be nearer things, but Rene hasn't the patience to wait so has bought a little house over in Caacupe which after spending I don't know how much getting it rebuilt she is moving this week. So with her will go the furniture leaving Colin with a bare

house until it is sold, which might take at least a year. They have rather heavy furniture which will have to be carried a fair way as there is no way a lorry could get near their house.....

I have found a programme about Crossrail on UTube. I have only had a chance to watch the first part so far but it is very interesting with lots of shots around London.

22nd April 2016

Well those were two busy days! Now Rene is installed in the new house over in Caacupe. It is further outside town than I expected but tarmac all the way so no roads closed after rain! A lot of heavy stuff to load on and off a lorry but they collected together a crowd of helpers so it did not take too long. The ground is smaller but plenty big enough for the dogs to run around.

I have not yet managed to see the church Igloo. Their Facebook page is not a standard page but is a group instead that you have to apply to join and then wait to be accepted, and until I am accepted I will not be able to see the Igloo.

I will let you know how my new shelves come along. As I have said I have got the brackets and in looking around in the kitchen I found four posts which will do just fine for the legs, so I will cut them to the size I want and sand them down, fit the brackets and then get a carpenter to give me a few planks. I will keep photos of how it all comes along - and it will be far more rewarding than just buying a ready made bookshelf.

Best wishes

Simon

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The Newsletter

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this issue of the newsletter. I hope you have all found it interesting to read.

Please help to make the newsletter varied and interesting by letting me have your contributions. What you would like to share with others through the newsletter?

What do you like to read in the newsletter? Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Please let me have your items for the June newsletter by **Sunday 22nd May**.

Janet Watts telephone: 717492 email: janetwatts14@btinternet.com

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