

Unprecedented times require unprecedented measures!

Tessa Briggs, Managing Editor, welcomes readers to the online-only edition of Pobl Dewi

We have published this issue a little earlier than planned but articles will be added, as appropriate, if they arrive in the near future. Thereafter, we will begin planning the September edition.

It is in the balance as to whether the September edition of PD will be another online-only version or whether we will be printing copies for everyone to pick up in their churches across the diocese. We will make that decision in July when, perhaps, the situation will be clearer. For now, the copy deadline for September is 12th August but any change to that date will be posted on this website.

Please do send articles to me, as usual – they should be a maximum of 400 words. For example, please let us know how you have all been keeping in touch, making services available and how you have addressed pastoral care issues.

Our churches remain closed but, encouragingly, reports abound of increased interest in online and broadcast services. Why are remotely-accessed services so appealing? This is something we should address going forward and it would be interesting to know if you are reconsidering the way you 'do' church in the future, especially as reports emerge that nothing will be as it was, pre-Covid-19, for some considerable time.

Sadly, the planned celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day had to be cancelled, although many did mark the event in a more muted fashion, and we give thanks for the courage and self-sacrifice of all those who brought peace to Europe in 1945.

As I write, there has been some slight easing of restrictions in Wales as confirmed Covid-19 cases, and deaths from it, have declined. We are urged to continue our lockdown lifestyle for another three weeks but this is becoming increasingly difficult, as most of us yearn for the freedom we are accustomed to, or something akin to it ('the new normal'). There are also now, quite rightly, some questions being raised about the long-term impact the lengthy lockdown will have on mental health.

We continue to pray for all those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic, those who are, or who have loved ones, afflicted by it, those working in the NHS and those maintaining the services we are so accustomed to.

If you would like to offer an article for the next edition, or have any comments to make about this one, please contact me (editorpd@churchinwales.org.uk) as soon as possible.