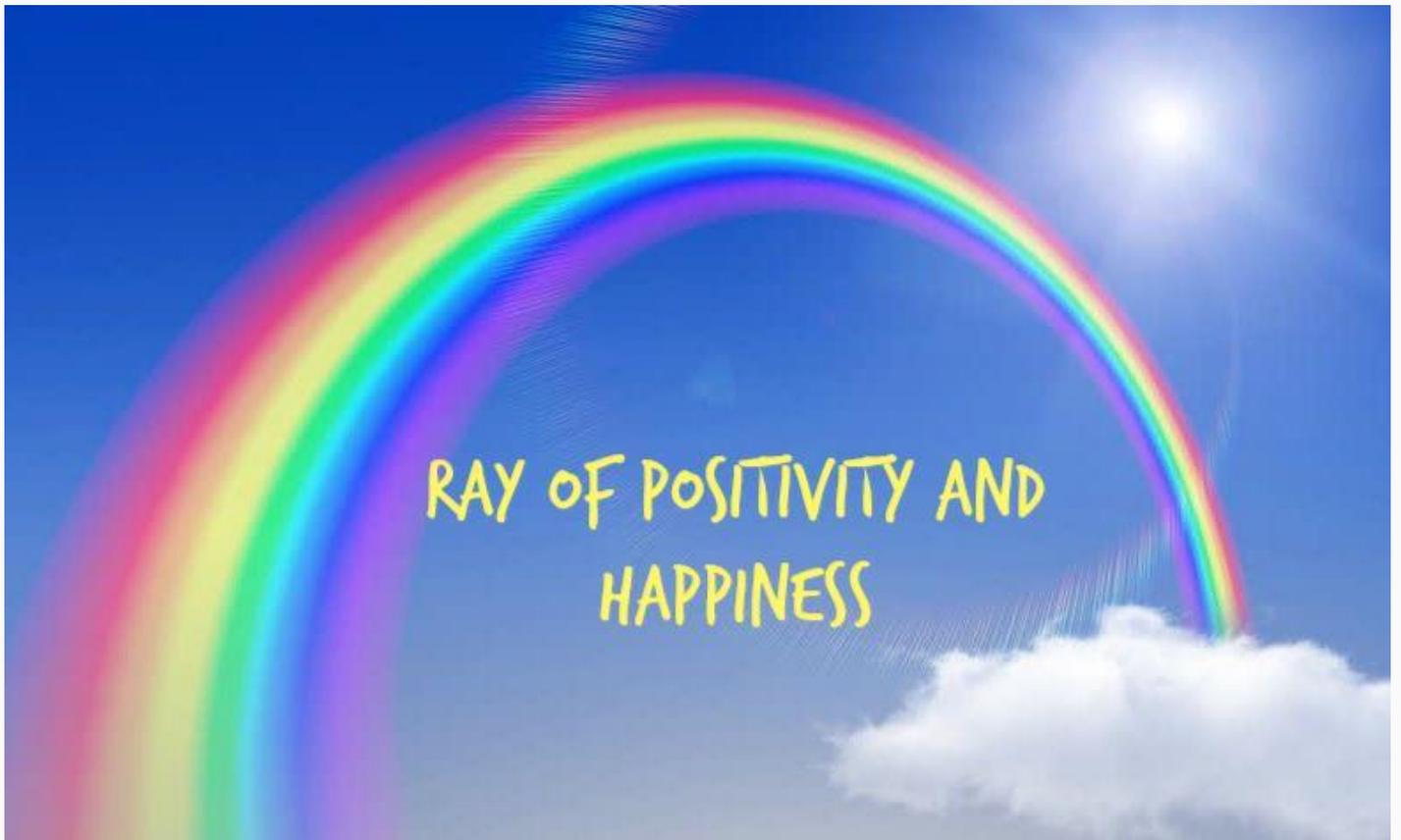




# BRIDGEMEDIA



**Newsletter**

**May 2020**

## MAY

May you find serenity and tranquillity  
in a world you may not always understand.  
May the pain you have known and the  
conflict you have experienced  
give you the strength  
to walk through life facing each new  
situation with courage and optimism.  
Always know that there are those  
whose love and understanding  
will always be there,  
even when you feel most alone.  
May you discover enough goodness  
in others to believe in a world of peace.  
May a kind word, a reassuring touch,  
a warm smile be ours every day of your life,  
And may you give these gifts  
as well as receive them.  
Remember the sunshine  
when the storm seems unending.

## Farm Animals

U	S	E	S	O	T	A	B	A	F	S	L	H	I
O	L	I	H	H	U	E	I	E	B	E	F	L	G
A	A	D	E	E	R	E	S	R	E	I	U	A	O
S	O	O	E	N	K	S	O	S	E	T	E	E	O
N	F	G	P	M	E	E	N	E	S	L	E	A	S
R	E	L	U	S	Y	S	A	N	R	L	B	F	E
H	S	K	S	H	O	R	S	E	Y	A	I	E	O
S	I	O	C	L	A	F	G	C	E	M	R	R	R
T	O	N	A	I	A	B	K	B	K	A	D	A	E
A	F	M	O	R	H	S	C	O	I	E	S	O	T
E	B	O	K	U	H	C	U	E	F	R	R	G	S
F	I	S	H	K	T	B	D	I	C	A	I	O	O
U	E	S	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	S	A	A	O
C	C	O	W	B	U	F	F	A	L	O	O	T	R

LAMB  
BISON  
CHICKEN  
TURKEY  
LLAMA  
BEES  
ANIMALS  
SHEEP  
COW  
HORSE  
BIRDS  
GOOSE  
FOAL  
DOG  
GOAT  
BUFFALO  
DUCK  
HEN  
FISH  
ROOSTER

**Alan Ashworth - Chaplain**

**The Lord is *my* Shepherd!**

If you ask people what they can quote from the Bible, a frequent answer would be “The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm,” which for older people might be something they learned by heart at school and for others something that they heard read at a wedding or funeral service. The psalm was written by David who was himself a shepherd and who looked to God as the One who would be with him, guide him and comfort him in all sorts of different situations through life, and even as he walked through the valley of the shadow of death. David ends the psalm with the words, “Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” However all the blessings do depend on the declaration of faith at the beginning, “The Lord is *my* shepherd.” Each of those five words have their own importance. “The” indicates that God is the only God and not one among many. “Lord” shows that we acknowledge Him as having authority in our lives. “Is” means that He is relevant to the here and now. “My” shows that the statement is personal to me and not just something that applies to others. “Shepherd” describes His love and care for us and also the relationship a shepherd has with his sheep: the shepherd knows his sheep and his sheep know him. I once heard the story of a man who was deaf and dumb and had learnt these five words by starting on his thumb and going down to his little finger. As he died he was clutching his ring finger, “My” – a real confession of his faith. These are very difficult times when we are cut off from one another as a result of Coronavirus. I do pray for Bridgemead staff and residents at this time. This is a time when you do not have the normal level of contact and conversation with others, but “The Shepherd” is always there for you. You can talk to Him and know His presence and his Peace.....

**The Lord is *my* Shepherd!**

**Dear Friends,**

**At a time when care homes are so much in the news it seems even more important to update you on what is happening at Bridgemoor to give you some reassurance and to express gratitude.**

**Firstly, it is so sad to hear how some of the most vulnerable people in our society have been affected within care homes around the country. We give thanks to God that there are no confirmed cases of Covid-19 at Bridgemoor. We continue to follow Government advice, taking the appropriate precautions to safeguard our residents and staff. In particular our residents have to comply with guidance on social distancing which means that they cannot meet with any visitors or volunteers nor can they experience normal social contact within Bridgemoor, including at all meal times.**

**Whilst friends and family are unable to visit face to face we do encourage you to use all the other available means of keeping in contact with loved ones. Most of us are blessed to have access to a wide array of technology, that actually works for the most part, and we encourage you to use it. For example, if you want to arrange a Facetime call with any resident then please contact reception to arrange a suitable time.**

**For those that wish to, we are able to continue with quiet time and Sunday service which are conducted by staff. Some residents are able to enjoy sitting in the garden to take in some of the lovely spring sunshine. We have continued to maintain contact with GP's via a secure video link service for all residents.**

**The last few weeks have also been a time of huge change for our staff. We are also, so grateful that we have no issues with staff who are all now familiar with the increased health and safety requirements. We have the necessary PPE available in house, should this be required, and all other supplies are arriving as required.**

**I am sure you are aware that this will be an anxious time for staff also. I want to recognise and express my gratitude for the commitment and outstanding work that they are doing in supporting and caring for our residents during a time of many new challenges and uncertainty.**

**Whilst I share in your sadness at needing to be separated from loved ones at this time, I also thank you for your prayerful support for Bridgemoor staff and residents.**

***'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21***

**Ed Zedlewski**

**Chair of Trustees**



Sadly we say "Goodbye" to

Jean K

Margaret B

Dorothy Y

Our Love and thoughts go out to all their family and friends



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:-**

**Residents:**

**Madge N**

**Mary S**

**Dayclub:**

**Gordon S**

**Rosemary G**

### **News at Bridgemead**

**Hayley has been busy at Bridgemead planting her seeds, sunflower, marigolds, gazania, aster and others. The seeds for the Sunflower Competition have been received from Banes Care Home Team. The seeds are already shooting and will soon be ready to be planted out. We'll have to see if we win the competition again!! We have received a card from a parent from the Toddler Group wishing us all well and asking if our Residents would be interested if being their Pen Pals? This is a lovely idea and the Residents are sending postcards with their news. We have had the arrival of Living Eggs again this year as it proved very popular with the Residents last year. Below is a photo of the new arrivals and they are due to start their new life on the Mendips at the end of this week.**



## **Bridgemead Prayer Support**

**Dear Friends, Family and all with a concern for Bridgemead**

**I probably should have done this much sooner, but I trust that many of you are already praying for Bridgemead on a daily basis. This is a specific encouragement to pray during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and particularly in the light of the increased focus upon care homes in the media. This is being sent to everyone who receives Bridgemedias, Friends of Bridgemead, volunteers and those who take part in daily Quiet Times and Sunday Services. However, please feel free to share this with members of your church and friends so that they too might pray at this time.**

**Pray for, among other things:**

- 1. Pam and all the staff as they do their best in both practical ways and by way of encouraging the residents. Remember when we applaud NHS staff we are also applauding all people who work in the care sector in any way.**
- 2. Pray that they will have the right protective equipment to hand and that it will protect them and residents.**
- 3. Pray for safety of staff and their families.**
- 4. Pray for both residents and family members who are now unable to meet face-to-face.**
- 5. Trustees of Bridgemead in decisions which they have to make.**
- 6. For God's hand of blessing to be upon Bridgemead at this very difficult time.**

**"May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace."**

**Numbers 6:24-26**

**Alan Ashworth (Chaplain)**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

## Responding to the risk of Flooding

As we watched TV last winter and saw the Severn and other rivers flooding, we were reminded of Christmas 2013, when the level of the Avon became alarmingly high. It was after this that the Trustees began to investigate various options for improving the flood resilience of Bridgemead.

The first step was to ensure that whatever happens the residents and staff will always be safe. The flood procedures were updated, and the staff and Trustees now all have annual training in flood response. These procedures also include early flood warnings from various monitoring stations upstream.

The Environment Agency has advised us that we are very likely to flood within the next 100 years. That sounds a long time, but the next hundred years includes next year. So, the Trustees decided that we must take action. Buro Happold, a local engineering company, studied options for keeping the river away from the building but they could not guarantee success. We also felt that residents and staff would be anxious if the river was above the level of the Red Floor (lower ground floor) windows.

We then engaged SRA architects to find a solution. Staff and residents were consulted – thank you so much for your help. They designed an attractive 12 room extension so we could move all residents from the Red floor and upgrade of the Blue Floor (first floor road-side) which included en-suite facilities. We were delighted when we were given planning permission.

The next hurdle was to raise the £4.5million needed for the proposed scheme. However, Bridge Care is a small charity and in competition with large high-profile charities in Bath. We were unable to raise sufficient funds. We then looked for support from other charities without success.

The Trustees have “gone back to the drawing board” and are looking at other options.

We are grateful to God that Bridgemead has never flooded, but we must not be complacent. Please will you pray with us that God will guide the Trustees in the best course of action. Thank you.

John Todman - Trustee

# FRIENDS OF BRIDGEMEAD

Dear Bridgemedians,

We are now in the second month of what is generally known as lockdown, I do hope that you are all managing to keep well and healthy – and optimistic. I am amazed by how well my friends and family appear to be coping with the isolation. Neighbours are helping each other, total strangers are offering support and groups are being set up to help feed the needy, make essential goods, support our wonderful NHS, and encourage people to be kind and considerate to each other. Amongst all the sadness there is so much hope and acts of great kindness

I am reminded of my childhood in the 1940/50s, people speaking to each other, neighbours talking over the garden wall and offering support and friendship to each other.

We are blessed by the wonderful weather we have enjoyed over the past month, it's been a joy to take a walk or just work – or relax in the garden. My heart goes out to those who are trying to cope whilst living in high rise blocks, they are the ones who must be suffering so much.

I know that all the staff at Bridgemedead have been working incredibly hard to keep the residents safe and well so I would like to offer them a very big thank you. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team of workers – they are doing a very difficult job so incredibly well.

Sadly we shall not be able to meet up at our annual fish and chip supper this month but there will be other occasions coming up in the not too distant future!

Be brave, there is light at the end of the tunnel!

Keep safe and well.

Una

## Local Giving

Bridgemedead has a Local Giving Page set up. If anyone would be interested in giving, the link to it is: <https://localgiving.org/charity/bridgemedead/>- <http://www.localgiving.org/charity/bridgemedead>

Please note that Bridgemedea can now be found on our website.

Go to [www.bridgemedea.org.uk](http://www.bridgemedea.org.uk), click on Bridgemedea and you will find the latest issue.

We also now have a page for Staff Vacancies on the website.

If you would prefer to receive your copy of Bridgemedea by e-mail, can you please let us know on [admin@bridgemedea.org.uk](mailto:admin@bridgemedea.org.uk)

All contributions to this newsletter are welcome from residents, relatives, staff and volunteers. If you have something you think would be of interest, anecdotes, personal recollections, news events, short poems or anything relevant would be welcome.

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