



Ted's tales!

Hello! **Teddy** here again. Still getting used to using a keyboard, the keys aren't really the right size for my paws!

I've had a lovely year. Everyone has been at home a lot more than usual because of some virus-thing. Apparently this is a problem, but as far as I'm concerned it means more people for me to sleep on more of the time.

Emma continues to work as Deputy Head at St Francis, and has been teaching in 'bubbles'... I don't understand. She's really enjoying teaching her year 1 class, and is starting to get the hang of balancing full time teaching with Deputy duties. I think Emma is my favourite because she gives me more treats than anyone else x x

Tim has been working on Three Wise Camels for the last few months. He did several arrangements for the album and continues to look after Sales at CMM. This has involved putting more of Roger's material on the internet for digital distribution.

Michael is in his second year of A Levels at King Edwards Sixth Form College, with mock exams looming in January. He has created some impressive videos for his Student Union. He regularly plays his range of electric and acoustic guitars, which sound lovely, and is still a member of Worcester Youth Jazz Orchestra. They have only been meeting online recently though. Michael played guitar on Three Wise Camels.

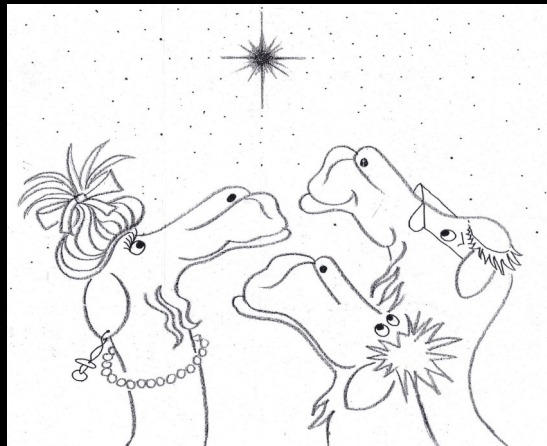
Beth has finished her GCSE mocks exams, at last! She worked extremely hard and her results show that she is top of her year for almost all subjects!! I'm very proud that she is my owner, but she is the meanest when it comes to giving me treats. Beth is working on Grade 7 Violin, Grade 7 Piano and Grade 7 Singing. Wow!! How does she do it?

Happy Christmas everyone!! I'm off to check the bins...



Teddy + Tim, Emma, Michael & Bethany

A very happy Christmas to you all!



Poppy's Pages

The Jones Family Newsletter **DECEMBER 2020**

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Dear friends

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times...". Perhaps this quote from Charles Dickens aptly describes this past year, a year like no other.

It all began last March when we suddenly had to rush home from our flat in Weston taking all the food from there with us. Are we in for a siege, I asked myself? It was a bit like that because we didn't go out again for ages and we saw no-one either, except from a distance. A kind lady and Tim did most of our shopping. I'm so glad there was no shortage of dog food because I heard that some things were hard to find, like loo rolls, spaghetti and S.R. flour! Everything came to a standstill, but then a strange thing happened – the sun came out!

After a dreary, wet Winter we were suddenly bathed in sunshine, day after day. **Mary** and **Roger** had lunch in the garden most days, something unheard of! We went to our local park for a walk every day - I've had more walks this year than ever before! It was also very quiet. The nearby M42 was silent, as were the local. All we could hear was the wonderful birdsong, the occasional murmur of a lawnmower and the children's laughter from next door, always a joy! Actually, I recently tried to join them when I found a gap in the fence! So exciting, but they soon brought me home!

Another strange thing happened every Thursday at 8pm. We went into our front gardens and began to clap, bang saucepans and play percussion instruments! Weird! Also, rainbows began to appear in front windows!

Roger and **Mary** really missed going to church, as the building had to be closed. Instead, they were able to do church on-line via something called Zoom! I hated Zoom at first and tried all manner of things to distract them, but I had to give in in the end as even I began to see it had come to stay. Family times on Zoom were great fun too!

One day in May, people began to come out and sit in their front gardens, drinking tea and chatting to neighbours. The houses were decorated with Union Jacks and bunting and the children had a great time racing up and down the road on their bikes and scooters, playing hop- scotch and chalking pictures on the pavements! **Mary** said it reminded her of her childhood in the 40s/50s when it was always like that. It was great to get to know our neighbours better. The celebration of **VE Day** was a great success and gave the nation something to focus on rather than Covid19.

Roger was so miffed that football and cricket had also been banned that he began to fill the time composing a new Christmas musical **THREE WISE CAMELS**. I ask you, such haughty creatures camels, with great big feet! Why not dogs? If Jesus had had a dog, I'm sure it would have been a greyhound. They've been depicted in many a piece of art, on canvas or cave wall, in the company of kings and princes. The house was suddenly filled with music, morning, noon and night! There are some phrases me and **Mary** know extremely well!

Tim has been unable to do many CMM orders because of restrictions, so **Roger** and **Mary** have been doing them. **Mary** has quite enjoyed this because she used to do it in the early days of CMM. She was heard to say that all you needed in those days was an invoice book with carbon paper, as all the orders came in by letter and phone! I do miss the staff coming in though, especially **Teddy**!

Sadly, we haven't seen much of the family this year, except **Sally**, **Karl** and the girls. **Roger** and **Mary** have helped them with childcare. We did manage a few "garden visits" including **Molly** and **Petra's** birthdays in the Summer. Thankfully, we have all remained well. We do miss them so much and hope to meet up over Christmas, depending on guidance from Boris!

Although this has been a sad and difficult year for so many, it has been good seeing how people have risen to the occasion, helping one another in so many wonderful ways. Some folk have likened it to WW2, the enemy being a deadly virus this time. Now we have a new vaccine to combat it. A miracle, surely! Hopefully, 2021 will be a better year.

May God bless you and yours this Christmas and in the coming New Year.

Love and licks

Poppy (Lurcher to the Jones')

P.S.

2020 was to have been the year when we got to use the new **TORN CURTAIN** musical, but you'll see from our Newsletter we have hopes for 2021, with music weeks in Cumbria and Conwy, and **WORSHIP WORKS** weeks in Grange-over-Sands and Norfolk.

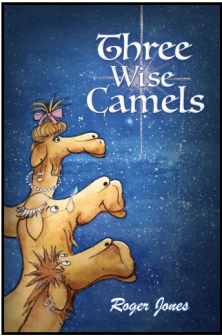
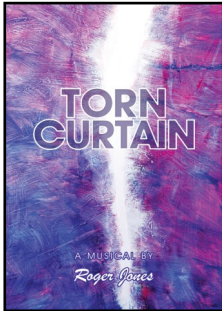
We have really missed seeing our many friends on our travels, but the Lord has led us in other ways. **THREE WISE CAMELS** turned out to be our major lockdown project (so far!), and despite no possibility of "live" performances we are so encouraged by the response to our many **Facebook** and **YouTube** events, especially the recent "World Premiere".

We are so grateful to our wonderful **CMM office team**, who have worked so hard and creatively in making all this possible. Our support structure of **EBRG** and **Trustees** have been a great strength, as have our many friends and associates. We are also established a group of nation-wide **CMM Representatives**, who are starting to promote CMM ministry and materials.

HEART & SOUL (every Weds on Brumside Radio) goes from strength to strength, and recently we have gone **LIVE AT FIVE** each Monday evening on Facebook, with a special message.

So, 2021 and onwards? The Gospel of Jesus is to be proclaimed, and the church still needs lots of teaching, healing and renewal. **We have many ideas for new projects!** Pray that we know the Lord's wisdom and leading as we make vital decisions.

Roger and Mary



Gracie's gossip . . .

Karl and **Sally** would probably class the last year as the hardest of their lives... regardless of Covid-19 it has been a whirlwind of emotions with their new business; Buena Comida Mexican Takeaway. A sure highlight was attending a black tie dinner in January for the British Takeaway Awards ceremony at the Savoy London. They dined with Ainsley Harriet and Jimmy Carr bringing home the award for BEST TAKEAWAY IN THE WEST MIDLANDS. Not something they expected after 10 months of trading. They were very fortunate to be able to continue business through all lockdowns and tiers but has nevertheless been a struggle.

Both daughters **Molly** (9) and **Petra** (4) embraced lockdown school closures (Sally did not!). They spent a lot of time with Karl and Sally at the takeaway due to childcare restrictions so routine quickly went out of the window. Both have done well going back to school properly this term showing great progress. They do miss their friends though. When restrictions allow, Molly has horse riding lessons and Petra has just started dance classes.

Karl and **Sally** really hope the new year will bring some stability and assurance for the whole family.

*Karl, Sally,
Molly & Petra + Gracie!*



*Christmas is always
an exciting time...*

Henry and **Florence** are all geared up for Christmas, and Florence is very much hoping 'Santa Christmas' can still visit despite coronavirus. We've assured her he's first on the vaccine list but he'll have to leave presents outside of their bedroom doors this year due to social distancing...

Florence played Mary in the school nativity which is being videoed this year for us all to see, and **Henry** is learning to play Christmas carols on his keyboard, having had virtual lessons during lockdown, and he's also learnt to play the Super Mario theme as he's mad for Mario games!

We've all spent a lot more time with each other this year, with plenty of walks, family games and movie nights, and we've finally had the garden done after it was still looking like a bomb site following the extension build! Still not finished the inside yet but it's on it's way. Hoping for more normality next year but at the moment we're enjoying no commuting on busy trains or being stuck in heavy traffic! Merry Christmas to everyone!

Andrew, Gemma, Henry & Florence

