

## Here we go again!



*Welcome to the second online-only edition of Pobl Dewi. We intend to print the December edition, as usual, but, in the meantime, we hope you find much of interest in this issue, as we stumble onwards in 'the new normal', says Tessa Briggs, Managing Editor*

We decided to publish online-only again this time as many of our churches will not be open, or not fully so, until at least September. Risk-assessment forms, and other requirements, which, once approved, will enable churches to open, are a mountain to climb. In many cases, the conditions will not be met for a while. In his article, *Covid-19 and the evolving situation*, Archdeacon Paul Mackness has painstakingly set out the latest guidelines for church services, gatherings, conferences and governance, which is very helpful.

For most of us, restrictions on our daily lives are gradually easing. But what of those who have been shielding? Many are extremely anxious about going out, having been cocooned at home for more than 6 months, and the impact of the lockdown and pandemic on the mental health of those of all ages is now a major concern. In the *Health and well-being* section, you will find several articles which address this issue and some ways in which help can be found.

Our hearts go out to those living in Beirut, whose lives have been devastated by the recent explosion. In his article *Refusing to be beaten*, Archdeacon John Holdsworth provides an insight into the appalling situation, and we keep all those affected in our prayers.

BBC TV and S4C did us a disservice when they suddenly ceased broadcasting *Sunday Worship* and *Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol* on 21<sup>st</sup> June and at the end of July, respectively. While I know that services are broadcast across radio stations and other TV stations, many of those who do not have internet access were utterly reliant on these programmes for comfort. It doesn't seem a lot to ask to have short services, broadcast by these channels whom so many still trust, on Sundays, at least while so many lives are still severely restricted by Covid-19.

This issue of PD is very much one of looking to the future but, in the case of many articles, with reference to the lessons that have been learnt over the past 6 months. The copy deadline for the December issue is 4<sup>th</sup> November. Please do get in touch with me if you would like to contribute ([editorpd@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:editorpd@churchinwales.org.uk))