

Keeping in Touch..... Number 14

Thank you to those who have sent in contributions this week. They are much appreciated!

Deadline each week is noon on a Wednesday—please send to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com

If you are not nifty with a keyboard simply ring 01480 350787 and let Alan or Chris know what you want to say!

Dennis Adams 1932 - 2020

We received the sad news this week of the death of Dennis Adams, the architect of the major alterations to our building in 1980. The photograph here was taken at the re-opening of the church building on September 27th of that year. Baroness Stedman is shown unveiling the floor plaque in the outer porch watched by Dennis Adams on the far right.

Dennis was based at Ely and had experience in working with several churches and listed buildings. His appointment here was a very popular one, and he very soon understood the problems and opportunities that our 1864 building could offer in creating a remodelled building that would best suit the expectations and vision that the church had in respect of church life and its mission to serve the local community.

The re-opening service in 1980 was conducted by the Rt Rev J Johansen-Berg and the Church Secretary at the time was John Hoare. Shortly after this project Dennis became involved in a major alteration and refurbishment project at Brentwood URC. He also participated in the scheme at Houghton Chapel when it became the Houghton Chapel Retreat.



More recently he has made several visits to St Ives, and with his wife Doreen joined in at least one of our suppers! I consider that it has been a great privilege to have known him and worked closely with him on several exciting projects. **Martin**

*(Sunday September 27th this year will be exactly 40 years to the day when our refurbished building was re-opened - **Stewart**)*

Churches and charities launch Climate Sunday campaign

BY **MADDY FRY** FROM THE CHURCH TIMES
12 JUNE 2020

A COALITION of churches and charities has launched a campaign, [Climate Sunday](#), as part of a call for action on [climate change](#).

Starting from 6 September, churches will be encouraged to have a Sunday devoted to the theme of climate change at any time during the following 12 months. The scheme was announced last Friday, to mark World Environment Day, by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It supported charities which include CAFOD, [Christian Aid](#), Operation Noah, and [Tearfund](#).

Free resources are being provided to encourage churches to hold a climate-focused service, make a commitment as a community to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in the long term, or join other churches and groups, before the 26th [UN](#) climate-change conference (COP26) in November, in urging the Government to do more about climate change.

The campaign will conclude with a national Climate Sunday event on 5 September 2021 to pray for action on global warming.

[The Bishop of Salisbury](#), the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, the C of E's lead bishop on environmental issues, said: "Although our focus has been shifted from climate change in recent months by the challenges of responding to [Covid-19](#), the climate crisis has not gone away, and the driest May since records began is a timely reminder of this.

"Climate Sunday will be a brilliant resource to help Church of England parishes understand and respond to the climate crisis. As we work out the actions we need to take to cut our carbon emissions every year to reach net zero emissions by 2030, Climate Sunday will motivate, encourage, and inspire our churches to keep going on this journey."

The Bishop of Salford, the Rt Revd John Arnold, the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference's lead bishop on the environment, said: "We need to recognise the damage we're doing to the environment and our failure to look after our brothers and sisters in our common home. In a post-pandemic world, the Climate Sunday project is an excellent opportunity for Catholic parishes in England and Wales, as well as our ecumenical brothers and sisters, to understand responsibility to heal our planet and to pray and act in response to the climate emergency."



New Life Quilt - the answer to last week's photo quiz

To celebrate the first year of Bill Mahood's Ministry and the sense of renewal we were feeling as a church, we decided to copy an idea from the Archers and produce a "New Life" quilt for the Centrum. Chris and Mary C gave out 42 pieces of fabric to individuals and groups in the church, asking them to return them suitably decorated by Palm Sunday. Amazingly they all came back. What we had underestimated was how long it would take to sew them all together to be ready on Easter Sunday. With the help of Lin we did achieve it in time!

In the photo published last week are Mary C, Lin, Chris, Bill Mahood, Richard, Shirley and Stephen Eastman, Ray and Mary Blyth, Stewart and Liz Denham and ?????

***A hymn for our time written by Irene.
It fits well to the tune of Annie's Song
by John Denver***

Lord bring us salvation,
A hope and some healing,
A desire to nurture
Our beautiful world.
Help us to value
All God's creations
Bring love over hatred
To our fellow man.

When we're despairing
And lost in our sadness,
When faith's sorely tested
And battered and torn,
We pray you will lift us
In body and spirit
And help us recover
To follow your plan.

The world's ever turning
The future's our making,
Let's all work together
Each nation take part.
Past failings behind us
Our chance now to better,
We've learned what's important
Lord help us we pray.

words by IRENE CARTER

What is this mechanism and where might it be found in our church building?



A huge thank you to everyone who sent good wishes and congratulations on our Golden Wedding.

They all helped towards making it a very special day despite other circumstances!

With love and thanks,

Chris and Alan

Excuses, Excuses! - answers....

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|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Jeremiah</i> | 6. <i>Amos</i> |
| 2. <i>Eve</i> | 7. <i>Slave with one talent</i> |
| 3. <i>Aaron</i> | 8. <i>Isaiah</i> |
| 4. <i>Dinner Guest in Luke's gospel</i> | 9. <i>Moses</i> |
| 5. <i>Samaritan woman</i> | 10. <i>Nathaniel</i> |

From Freda

During these times of racial tensions, I thought back to my very early years when I was at junior school and I think I was about 10 years old. The whole school, infants and juniors were called into a special assembly one Wednesday morning (it's amazing how vivid this still is in my memory) it could be because normally assemblies we took our form chairs in with us, but on this occasion we had to sit on the floor because both schools attended at the same time which was not normal.

Our Headmaster Mr Baron said he had a very special announcement to make. We were told that on the following Monday we would be having a new student starting, her name was Beverley and she was from Africa and therefore would be a different colour to us. We were firmly told that we had to make her very welcome and not treat her any differently to our other friends – Beverley was my age so was in my class – I don't seem to remember anyone having a problem, she was a delightful girl and fitted in with us all. She was the only child of colour in our school for my last two years there. From the previous article I wrote, you may remember I lived in Tottenham, London. This particular part of London is now one of the 'hotspots' for racial tension.

You may also remember that I belonged to the Methodist church belonging to the G.L.B. and of course there was also a Boys Brigade. When I was about 16 a boy about my age joined the B.B. his name was Karl and he was of a different colour, the first in our church. In later years when we had both started work we used to travel on the train (this line was still 'steam' driven, wonderful) going home from Liverpool Street to Bruce Grove (Tottenham). We used to sit on the train doing the crossword together. The awful thing was the comments and dreadful looks we got from other travellers throughout our journey, Karl said perhaps we had better not travel together anymore, I said forget it, we didn't have a problem they did, so we continued to be friends and meet on the train, until I changed jobs.

I was appalled at the prejudice of people then and still am today. We are after all, God's children and should learn to live together in harmony, if only

"LIFTING YOUR VISION"

Commentary on a Biblical passage IV

READ PSALM 121

Extract: "I will lift my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord..."

In my job as an ambulance driver I was trained to "lift my vision" in other words, look well ahead to see what is happening. All sorts of visual clues present themselves about what may lay ahead. For example, a plume of smoke may indicate a roadside fire presenting a difficulty in visibility; red brake lights of cars coming on and going off would indicate an obstruction or slow moving vehicle, and so on. Looking well forward gives us an advantage.

This may well be the sort of attitude that the psalmist was indicating. Moreover, when your eyes are down looking at the ground you cannot see what is ahead of you – distance is blurred and you may not detect anything coming rapidly towards you.

Our spiritual "forward vision" must also be lifted. I believe that we cannot be content with simply 'messing around' in our own back yard and not seeing beyond our local place of worship. We must look outward toward the wide world beyond, to other churches and denominations; also, not only in our charitable giving and in our prayers, but also in our meditations and moments of contemplation. It is all too easy to get wrapped up in our own problems and self-examinations which can be a distraction from our aim of becoming closer to God. "Lifting our Vision" could become a way of enhancing our spirituality.

I would welcome comments on this article,

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A Post Easter reflection from John Williams

S A C R I F I C E

High above the crowd on the
cross,
High above us all, in heaven,
His loss, our gain,
It's plain what was his meaning –
Love was his meaning,
Love in Christ.

And so he lives on in us every day,
To help us if he can in every way
We pray, we ask,
For him to help in every task
And so we will continue to the
last...

The sacrifice was the ultimate
good
For us, he is our Spiritual food.
He ensures we endure,
Love was his meaning,
Love is sure.

5 / 7 / 2020 J D W

***Some early school memories from
Peter German***

I remember my first day at school as that was when I found out that I had a middle name. When the teacher asked for my name, I remember my mum saying, Peter Michael German. That is not my name I said—who is this Michael? In those days there was no playgroup, preschool etc, you just went from being with your mum to going to school full time, so I suppose the occasion had not arisen where my full name would be used.

We were all herded into a classroom with lots of play items, my claim to fame is that I was only one of two children who didn't cry!

I don't remember much more about my infants school apart from the outside toilets and we had no playing field. Track lines were painted on the playing ground for sports day.

The school is now offices.

When I moved onto junior school it had inside toilets and a large playing field, bliss. In my final year, a swimming pool was built, financed mainly from money raised by parents, the head promised to each of us all to swim before we left, there was no local swimming pool so very few children could swim.

The head kept his promise and before the summer break I could swim. This was helpful because soon afterwards the town built a pool, unfortunately it was an outdoor one, but better than nothing.

From Babs Moore—Freewill offerings .Thank you those who have made donations to help church finances in the difficult times and those who have changed to paying directly into the bank. I am also aware of those faithfully putting money in their envelopes ready for when we are able to meet again. Much appreciated.

if anyone wants to know more about making donations or regular giving directly into bank or by cheque then I am happy to help. 01480 352627.

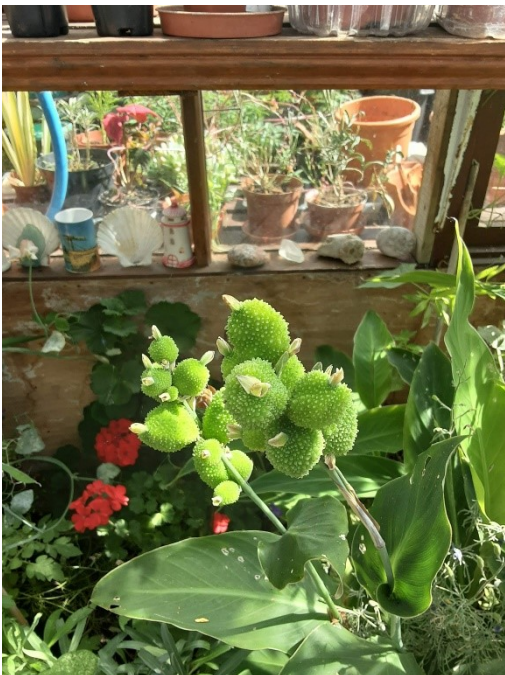
We are pleased to say that HMRC were very prompt refunding the Gift Aid we were owed from last year—and thank you to those who can increase the value of their giving in this way.

Here are a few of God's tiny creatures working away in the cosmos—from Char

Lovely still Sunday — but noisy. The extended swift family is trying to entice the new arrival out of the nest above the bathroom window. They keep zooming by , calling very loudly. Soon they will tire of this wonderful pastime and go to the lake for more fun. The photo come from a friend in Cornwall.



Swifts have been recorded living up to 21 year so could have travelled one million miles in their life. The young stay in their nest between 37 and 56 days. If the weather is too cold they sink into a state of torpor and don't feed. How amazing is that?



What springs to your mind here? Anything worth saying and don't just say "what am I supposed to say!" Send your thoughts to Keeping in Touch

Oh, go on, as ever Char x