

Keeping in Touch..... Number 21!

Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. They are much appreciated! - do keep them coming please. Deadline each week is noon on a Wednesday—please send to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com 21 today—old fashioned coming of age!

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

Worship in September.....

Catherine is now on sabbatical (as is Peter) but of course there will still be weekly worship. A written Reflection will always be emailed and on the website and usually there will also be a video version too. Hard copy will be sent to those who can't access the web.

Leaders this month are:

6th September—Pete Davies

13th September—there will also be a service in church—numbers are limited so please reserve a place by ringing the office on 01480 468535. The Leader will be Mrs Nicola Grieves.

20th September—Dr Christine Macleod

27th September- Mrs Geraldine Swain— this is our 40th anniversary since we reopened in our current building. It would also have been our Harvest Festival.

October leaders will be published later in the month.

Church Weekend 11th- 13th June 2021

We have a provisional booking at Launde Abbey for our biennial weekend away. This was made following our very successful weekend in 2019. It is now time for us to decide if we wish to keep this booking or not.

Obviously we have no way of knowing if any covid restrictions will still be in place by then. Launde Abbey has recently reopened in a covid secure way and have published their “Keeping you Safe” documents on their website www.laundeabbey.org.uk so do have a look at them.

The cost would be around £210 -£240 pp, (VAT goes back up on 12 January) to include accommodation, all meals, tea and coffee and facilities.

We aim to run a mixture of sessions led by a speaker, worship and leisure time as before.

If you would be interested in attending please let Helen Ackroyd or myself know by Friday 25th September 2020.

Barbara and Helen

Helen 01480 494005 helenackroyd1@btinternet.com

Barbara 01480 395308 barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com

Please respond to this as soon as possible!

Coffee Morning



A group of nine people enjoyed a zoom coffee morning last week and would like another one. This will be on Wednesday 9th September from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Ladies and gents welcome. If you would like to take part please email me at

barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com

and I will send you a zoom invitation next week. **Barbara**



What a coincidence! From Freda Barnard

It was very interesting reading about Chris's trip to Berlin in 1965. I had travelled to East Germany many times with my parents to visit my father's family in Thuringia. (For those poets in our midst, where Goethe came from.) On the last visit in 1964 my Aunt and Uncle persuaded me to have a holiday the following year 1965 to visit my cousins, who were their daughters and families, and lived in East Berlin. I was going out with Peter by this time so he took me down to Heathrow to catch my plane. I had to get a plane (a Russian one) that was flying from London Heathrow to East Berlin and then on to Warsaw. I remember that Peter was concerned that I would get off in Berlin and not end up in Poland. We were late taking off as we had to wait for a celebrity (Louis Armstrong) to get through the terminal.

Well I got to Schoenefeld (spelled with an e after the o because I can't put two dots over the o) Airport, East Berlin two and a quarter hours later. I was met by my cousins and taken immediately for a tour near 'No-mans Land' which was the area immediately beside the wall. My cousin was a Major in the Berlin Police Force so got permission to do this. The car was a Trabant, the only car available in East Germany at that time. I had a wonderful time staying with them for a week and then my second week with my other cousins. I visited many places and even got on a train which went from Alexander Platz out into west Berlin and back into East Berlin, and my cousin told me not to talk at all as we were going back and forth across the borders. It was very strange travelling on and off through closed and deserted stations. On this occasion we visited Potsdam which is of course famous for the signing of the Treaty after WWII. I also visited Checkpoint Charlie, at a distance, and went on trips down the River Spree, and would you believe it, I went to the Opera (can't remember what it was but it was in German). I also visited the Tiergarten, Brandenburg Gate, saw where Hitler had his Bunker and Sanssouci. It is a beautiful Palace and amazing grounds with a Chinese Tea House, Oriental Gardens and a beautiful fountain and was where Frederick the Great lived. In those days they also had two Bears in a pit called Nanta & Jetta. We also went to the top of the Muggeltorm (Communications Tower) to the restaurant and looked over the Spree to West Berlin whilst drinking coffee and eating 'yummy' cream cakes. It was certainly a holiday of a lifetime and a wonderful experience. The unfortunate thing is I borrowed Peters' camera so all my pictures are in the form of slides to be projected onto a screen.



Several years later Peter and I went back a couple of times to visit my cousins, after the wall came down, and the last time was a real treat to visit the Reichstag with the new glass dome that you can climb to the top. My cousin's daughter worked in the Reichstag and so got us passes to visit places the general public did not see. We also visited the amazing new railway station The Berlin Bahnhof which is on several levels and has many shops. We also visited the church which was bombed by us and is now twinned with Coventry.

When the wall came down my cousins were there and picked up some pieces of the wall which I have framed in my computer room. I remember how pleased my father was when the wall came down, and our families could get together far more easily. I seem to remember him saying that he really didn't think it would happen in his lifetime. I remember him telling me that when the wall went up my cousin Klaus tried to get to the West on his motor-bike. Unfortunately he was shot and his body returned to the East. Although my father never managed to go back after 1964, some of my cousins came to England and Peter and I went over several times. We had a gathering of some of my cousins in 2000 in Ilmenau/Thuringia to have a memorial service and celebrate the life of my dad in the church where he was Christened. See picture of Peter and I with Otto, Gunter, Heidi, Lilo and Irmgard.

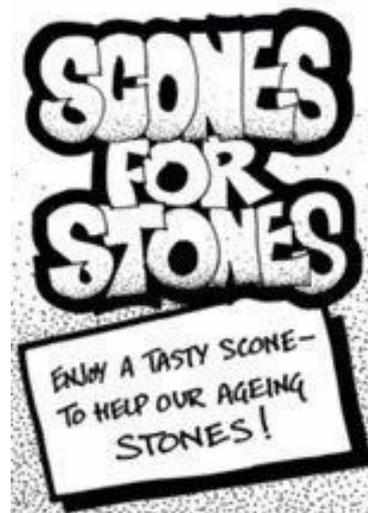


Tookey's—how it all began... A taster for our 40th anniversary special edition of Inspire.....

When the church moved back into its new home in 1980, what could be more natural than to invite folk in for a coffee and chat. The first excellent hosts to do this in the new building were Tom and Margaret McQuitty in The Warren Room, who built up a following of regular customers. By 1990 a popular 'Lunch Club' was established managed by Freda Barnard (assisted by Joyce Creaton and Elsie Irvine) and later to be run by Joyce Taylor. Also established at this time was the annual Christmas Day Lunch for people on their own at Christmas - still flourishing today.

In 1995/6 the church spire was in need of repair and so Veronica Angus and I set about raising some money for the cause by baking scones in the church kitchen and selling them in a 'Scones for Stones' appeal - which raised about £1,000. After one of the ground floor shop spaces was taken back into church ownership, it became first a Youth Coffee Bar, but for only a short time until it became the church's coffee shop known as Tookey's - with the by now 'famous scones' being baked by several teams of volunteers. After a disastrous attempt of paying a professional outsider to run Tookey's, it was in need of new management and as I had recently retired I decided to 'have a go'!

That lasted for about seven years, when Joan Bullough and Margaret Cakebread took over. I don't think I can remember all the permutations of the coffee bar organisers, so I will jump to its glorious period when Pat Clarke took it on, with her loyal assistant Linda at her side. And it has never looked back!



With an army of volunteers to support them everything has gone from strength to strength. Before lockdown Pat's team included Sam and Helen as well. The menu of wonderful home cooked dishes has made us a must for folk who don't want to go home to cook, and at prices you couldn't possibly match if you did cook from scratch!

Can't stop without a mention of Anne Strong and Margaret Course, and their families, who for years went faithfully to the cash and carry for our regular supplies - more folk who we couldn't have managed without! So let's hope we shall all be back in Tookey's enjoying cottage pie, or my favourite, vegetarian lasagne, before too much longer!!

Liz Denham

Apologies to Sally.....

During the final editing of last week's KIT a part of a sentence "fell off" the end of Sally's article on Algorithms. It should have read.....

"Getting our church back into action is like programming an algorithm but this time every member and user of the church has an input into the program to achieve the required outcome. The simplest algorithm is to leave the building closed until Covid-19 is under control, but a more compassionate way is actively sought. Letting some vulnerable user groups have access, seeing if the café can provide a basic community service, and trying to find ways to provide worship and prayer. All this takes more than any supercomputer algorithm, it takes humans working closely with God".

Churches and charities launch Climate Sunday campaign

Maddy Fry wrote in The Church Times that "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 to mark World Environment Day, by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It supported charities which include CAFOD, [Christian Aid](#), Operation Noah, and [Tearfund](#)."

Catherine is planning to hold a service at the Free Church dedicated to climate change in the New Year, after her return from sabbatical leave.

Churches are encouraged 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, as an overall initiative 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."

Tearfund's director of global advocacy, Dr Ruth Valerio, said: "The current crisis has changed the way we see the world. It has reminded us of the fragility of life, exposed the gap between rich and poor, and revealed the damage we have done to the wider creation. But it has also helped us love our neighbours, and brought communities together.

"Climate Sunday is a great opportunity to respond to these societal shifts, to pause and reimagine what life could be like, to commit to living differently ourselves, and to call on the UK Government to rebuild our economy in a way that tackles the climate emergency and builds a better world for everyone."

St Ives Eco Action and Eco-Faith Group

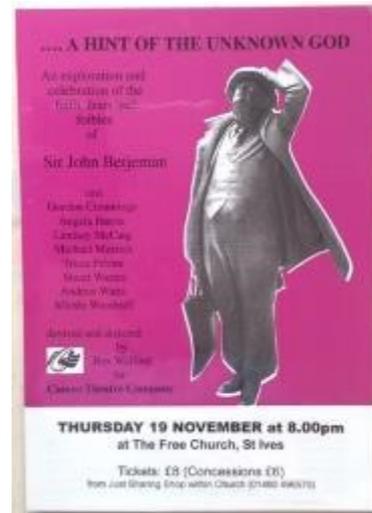
Mary Cox and I will update church members of work of this group/ sub-group. We have a Zoom meeting next Tuesday 8th September. For an invitation, please contact either Mary (mary@jmcox.co.uk) or Helen Dye (stivesecoaction@gmail.com). The aim is to get to know other people interested in joining a faith communities network to share practical experiences and to pray, and work together to maximise our impact.



The inimitable Rex Walford..... The Free Church connection from Stewart Denham

Following the Opening and Re-Dedication Service of our refurbished building in 1980, it was to be known officially as 'The Free Church Centre'. This name implied that as well as continuing its mission to provide for public and personal worship, it also had a vision to become a focal point for the varied cultural activities of the local community. So with the completed 1980 building project, the church's potential mission to reach out to the local community and the wider world might be realised.

In those 40 Years, our building has gradually become a major venue in the town for a wide menu of cultural activities covering a huge variety of music, art and drama. Although not as numerous, we have hosted memorable drama productions by both amateur and professional companies such as Perspectives Theatre, Theatre Roundabout, Riverside Players and more. Perhaps the most outstanding and memorable drama productions hosted by our church were by the Cameo Theatre Company based in Cambridge. Founded by Rex and Wendy Walford in 1984 to take a production to the Edinburgh Festival, it went on to produce several major pieces of Christian drama - two of which were superbly performed at our church - 'Spark in Judea' (Pilate wrestles with the difficulty of Jesus's trial and the unfolding events of Holy Week) and 'A Hint of the Unknown God' (an exploration and celebration of the faith, fears and foibles of Sir John Betjeman).



A Prequel and a Sequel from Chris Curtis.....

I first came across Rex in the 1960s as a teenager in Mill Hill. Mill Hill had an extremely active Council of Churches and both Rex and my dad were involved in the drama group. My father played the lead in a drama called "Man on Trial" in 1964 and Rex played Judas Iscariot! The following year Rex started to produce himself, starting with a "modest" and utterly mesmerising West Side Story with a cast of about 60 young people! Sadly I couldn't be in it as I was away for some of the performance dates but many friends did perform. Dad continued to keep in touch with Rex and we followed his fortunes to RADSOC in Swavesey when he moved to Cambridgeshire to lead the training of Geography teachers. He was a brilliant educator and transformed the teaching of geography in schools. (Geography was my original specialism). He and dad met up not long before dad died, reminiscing about the days of amateur drama groups and One Act plays!

Very sadly Rex died in a tragic boating accident on the Thames in January 2011 after visiting friends who lived on a small island. Rex was a charismatic character and had a "larger than life" personality. He was also a deeply committed Christian. His memorial service was joyous and memorable – there was standing room only in a packed Ely Cathedral! We found ourselves sitting next to someone unknown but who had also been involved in Mill Hill Churches drama and once lived in the house that was later my family home! Small world!

Musings from an occasional deputy musician

.... I'd always wanted a "go" on the organ so I bid for, and got, three lessons from David Setchell at one of our fundraising auctions. I was 46 when I first played the organ for the first time "for real". What I realised quickly was that up in the old organ loft you couldn't hear whether people were singing or not and I had enough trouble reading the notes without counting the verses as well. And no screen to glance at in those days! So the solution! Helen would always come and sit next to me and hiss "last verse" at the appropriate moment!

Thank you Helen!

Irene calling.....

PLEASE HEED THE WARNINGS

Out comes the sun
And they're off to the sea,
Townies oblivious
Of dangers maybe.

Notice signs warn of
Foul weather and tide,
Lifeguards on duty
Help there by your side.

But no, doesn't matter
"We'll be fine!" they say
There's no need to worry,
"Just let the kids play!"

Carrying lie-lows
And buckets and spades,
Frisbees and picnics
To munch in the shade.

Parents sunbathing
Soon doze in the sun,
The children build castles
Enjoying the fun.

Boredom comes quickly,
Unnoticed they skip

Off to the sea for
A paddle and dip.

But, the tide it was turning
The waves run away,
So the children ran with them
Splish splashing the spray!

The game became scary
They giggled no more,
As the waters grabbed at them
And the current grabbed more!

Mum and Dad wakened
To screaming and noise,
Where were the children?
Their girl and the boys?

They ran to the people
Who silent now stood,
surveying the water,
But, it was no good.

Their darlings were taken
Their lives they were lost,
A sad tragic lesson
With a terrible cost.

CC Irene Carter

A tribute to the work of the RNLI.



Char hopes that next year we'll be back enjoying a musical evening in her lovely garden.



M O T H

*On the persistence of small moths coming into the house,
attracted by the light*

Why is it here in my living room
And not in the garden in the evening gloom?
It doesn't fly like a bird, full of beauty and grace,
It doesn't fly in the face of reason,
It just flies in your face!

What good do you think you can do in here?
I hope you're not going to fall in my beer.
Be off with you, moth, I'll open the window,
You can suck nectar from my flowers, now go!
Will it though?

Still it flutters from light to light
And then on my chair it decides to alight.
You little moth all dusty and brown,
Be gone before someone swats you down!
No, that's simply not right,
Oh! There it goes, out into the night!

7 / 7 / 2020 J D Williams

A Postcard from Norfolk

From Sally and Nev



Images from the “postcard”.

Sally enjoying the sun at Holkham,

Nev at North Elmham Chapel,

Holkham Nature Reserve – away from the crowds heading to the beach,

and the converted Mill by the River Wensum in Fakenham