

# Keeping in Touch..... Number 24

*Here we are again!! We hope you enjoyed the special Inspire last week! Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week for KIT. The deadline for future KITs is noon on Wednesdays. Please send to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com).*

*If you are lucky enough to get away do send us a "postcard" —a few photos and where they are from—we have the bonus of two postcards this week!*

## Worship Leaders for October

4th	Revd Roy Muttram
11th	Mrs Penny Flynn Service in the church
18th	Dr Christine Macleod
25th	Mrs Lindsey Brown

Every week there will be a video of the reflection , reading and prayers together with some hymns on the church website— [www.stivesfreechurch.org](http://www.stivesfreechurch.org)  
There will also be a written copy of the reflection.

Please note there will be a service in church on 11th— please let Gail in the office know if you wish to attend in order to meet Covid requirements.

**It is with great sadness that we hear of the death earlier in September of John Naughton, a long-time member of our church. We send our sincere condolences to his wife, Ann, and the family.**

The next Zoom Coffee morning will be on Thursday 8th October at 10:30am. Please let Barbara Duffett know if you would like an invitation



[barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com](mailto:barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com)

## A note from Eileen Forrest

*Thank you to everyone who has sent a Get Well Card during the past two months. There is a glorious array of them on our sideboard, keeping up my spirits. I came home at the start of September and have just had the plaster cast removed in favour of a brace. This, hopefully, will be removed on 12th November. Hooray!*

## 40th Anniversary Service

*If you missed Gerry Swain's lovely service on Sunday, it is still available on the website. Our thanks go to Tom Bletsoe for his sensitive filming of this which greatly enhanced it.*

*Both Tookeys and Just Sharing have reopened, albeit with reduced hours. Please check the website for details.*



## ***A note from the 40th Anniversary Inspire editors.....***

By now most of you will have received your 40th Anniversary Edition of Inspire we and hope you have enjoyed reading it.

We have received many messages congratulating us on a superb edition to celebrate our 40th anniversary edition of Inspire and a few of the messages received from members are shown here:

Babs said "Great work and can see a lot of effort has gone into its production and what a pity we could not be together to celebrate, but that's the way of things at the moment".

Irene & John said. "As we are in the grand scheme of things 'newcomers ' it us lovely to see the history and photos of all that was going on in the 1980s. The time spent putting it together must have kept you out of mischief and you can now relax".

Freda said "BRILLIANT !!!! Well done Mary and Chris – The celebration magazine is amazing, I thoroughly enjoyed it and it is a wonderful keepsake. I know there were other people who were involved in researching the articles and you have all done a fantastic job..

Lin said "It's a lovely snapshot of our history over the last 40 years with records, memories and pictures showing a momentous time of vision and development in our Church's history over our lifetime".

Stewart and Martin have received a lovely letter from Doreen Adams (widow of architect Dennis Adams) saying she read it from cover to cover as soon as it arrived and that Dennis would have been be so pleased to know he has been mentioned in the magazine.

Stewart has also received a call from Bill & Denise Mahood:

They read the Anniversary Edition of Inspire on the 40th anniversary day with great delight and surprise at discovering some things they didn't know before. They hadn't fully appreciated the importance of the MSC scheme until now. They sent congratulations and huge thanks to those involved.

Both Chris and I have really enjoyed the challenge of putting it together and we are delighted with the end result. We would like to pay tribute to Stewart Denham who has been magnificent in advising, cajoling and helping with layouts. Without his help this would not have been possible. Many thanks Stewart.

## ***A postcard from Yorkshire from Barbara and David.....***

***Right—steam train to Whitby***



***Below - Rievaulx Abbey***



***Right—Hutton-le Hole***



***Top right—walking 3 miles of the Cleveland Way***

**And a postcard from the Cairngorms from Babs and John.....**



*Clockwise from top left:*

*John with guide, Iolo Williams*

*Feeding the coal tits at Loch Garten*

*Babs and John at Culbin Forest*

*Red squirrels*

*Rosiesel Forest Beach*

*(Ed: yes, it is Scotland not the Seychelles!)*



**“Re-imagining the Promised Land” – Green Christian’s Online Festival celebrates hope amidst uncertainty**

[www.greenchristian.org.uk/festival2020/](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/festival2020/)

The Green Christian Festival 2020

**RE-IMAGINING**  
**the promised land**

Join us online,  
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## Downing Place United Reformed Church

Celebrating the forty-year anniversary of the transformation of our own church, we can share the joy of others who are also altering churches to make them fit for future use. As part of our ongoing commitment to welcoming people into the church, and for a more sustainable building, we have taken an interest in the changes at Downing Place United Reformed Church in the centre of Cambridge, near to John Lewis. This 'new' church is a joining together of two closely positioned URC buildings. Emmanuel URC was sold to Pembroke College, and the congregation and associated activities have joined with those of the former St Columba's to form Downing Place on the St Columba's site. An austere, rather unwelcoming and, to many, a rather unlovely building is in the process of frog-to-prince transformation with the help of visionaries at the amalgamated churches and the appointed architects and builders.



Sally Runham attended a webinar on 23<sup>rd</sup> September showing the changes at the new church. Margaret Reynolds, church member in charge of property, introduced the aims for the new build which were for a large worship area with flexible use for concerts in one half of the overall site and a hub of community café activity in the other half. The front entrances needed to be more open and welcoming. Sustainability in terms of fuel use, and ability to control ventilation, were also sought.

Experience in removing pews had been gained at Emmanuel, and the new church now has a combination of pews and chairs. There is a new digital organ, and a grand piano, that can be raised using a lift mechanism onto the stage for concerts and then lowered for safe storage. The community hub comprises meeting rooms off an open airy central area with tables for the cafe.

The front entrance has two new windows inserted into the stone outer wall, beneath the arched windows, so that people can look into a communal area and see a busy, well-used building. A TV screen is visible from outside to inform passers-by.



Eco-updates include insulated roofs, damp proofing, insertion of natural lights in roofs, ability to ventilate using the roof openings, secondary glazing and even triple in places.

In summary, the new church will be more efficient in use of fuel, can be ventilated to help in the current pandemic, will look new and inviting to visitors and users, including multi-faith facility, whilst retaining its Christian church character and ethos. As the architect Jack Boyns of Archangel Architects in Cambridge declared 'it shows what is possible with historic buildings.'



**Sally Runham**

## ***How we marked the 10th Anniversary***

It certainly doesn't seem like 30 years since Freda Barnard, Christine Banks and I were charged with putting together a suitable evening to mark the anniversary. It was harvest so a supper was arranged – tickets limited to 120! They all went! And we decided we needed to sing so we chose six hymns that reflected the previous 10 years to be sung before, during and after the meal. The evening ended with a “cabaret” – apologies but I have no record of those involved apart from one memory of Betty Yeandle's famous Joyce Grenfell impressions. Perhaps someone can remember more?

We didn't dare ask everyone for their favourite hymns – we would have been inundated! The six we chose were:

“Now thank we all our God” – sung at the rededication and also at the televised Mothering Sunday service.

“Bind us together Lord” – a tribute to several dear people we had lost over that period, most long before their time.

“Colours of Day” – a reminder of Church Weekends both home and away.

“Those who wait upon the Lord” – as a reminder of the strong influence the Iona community had had on us. I remember Kate once asked me to go to Peterborough to pick up John Bell and Revd. Mitchell Bunting. I asked how I'd recognise them. Easy said Kate, one will be dressed up as a clown and the other looks like Jesus!

“The love of God is broad like beach and meadow” – a reminder of our many overseas connections. Remember these names? Esther from Zambia, Danny from Jamaica, Michael from Germany to name but a few.....

“Thine be the Glory” – simply to provide a rousing finale.

Forgive me but I think it is appropriate to quote my closing remarks. “We have been self indulgent, we have looked back. Now we must look forward- with the love of God to sustain us – to meet whatever is round the next bend, whatever is over the brow of the hill”. Little did we know!

“Here in St Ives we are but a small part of the church around the world and down the ages.....And so on to the next ten and the next and.....”

***Chris Curtis***

## ***Updates from Char***

*People have been wondering whether agricultural student Johanna and her Sheltand Pony got to their destination..*

*Well they did, and it was very well covered in the Dundee local press which we can't print for copyright reasons.*

*But here is the link and story is well worth reading:*

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/1588633/an-amazing-lifetime-experience-johanna-and-shetland-pony-hechizo-complete-1100-mile-trek-to-tayside/>

Char also tells us of the amazing generosity of a neighbour who visited her stall where she raises money for the refugees in Lesvos. On hearing that the concert to raise money had had to be cancelled the lady gave a donation to make up for that loss. There are some truly amazing people out there!

## FREE CHURCH FACES

The Free Church St Ives in the heart of the town  
Radiates love and goodness when life's up or down.

A community hub where the people can meet  
For a coffee in Tookeys while resting their feet,  
Or maybe the Chapel calls them in to pray.  
There is also Just Sharing with goods bright and gay!  
Catherine Ball, Reverent Doctor works so very hard,  
And Peter her husband's a bit of a card!  
A joker but, if needed this reverent pair  
Would not let you down, no, they'd always be there.

Quietly working, though hardly on view  
Are so many people I'll name just a few.  
Roy, Derek, Hazel and dear Faith, a treasure  
Their sermons, like Catherine's bring spiritual pleasure.  
Gerry and Mary Cox, thoughtful and giving,  
Christine Macleod preaches love and forgiving.  
Irene, Helen, Sindy, Andrew, Elder duties done  
Can take a seat back in the pews, sit and watch the fun.  
Their help has been precious, we know they are on hand  
For kindly advice if we don't understand.

Elders help with church matters a fair daunting task,  
But if you should need them you just have to ask.  
Their patience seems endless their knowledge sublime,  
But figures and bookwork do take lots of time.  
Duties and meetings, a roll call every day,  
Catherine keeps orders if tempers do fray!  
The names are so many, see what I can do  
I'll name them, not shame them, I'll give them their due.  
Barbara and David, Alan and Chris,  
Neville and Sally, can't give them a miss!

Irene McCormick choir mistress of song  
Prompter of singing where we're going wrong!  
Our technical buffs run the AV and sound,  
Peter Davies one expert when troubles abound.  
John helps with Mindfulness, Mavis at Tookeys  
Pat does the running, Sam, Lin, Helen sell cookies.  
Many more people duck in and duck out  
A few hours here and there, much needed, no doubt.

Just Sharing is Rosemarie, Mary and Sue,  
Let's not forget Tracey and the work they all do.  
I have seen other faces working within the store,  
So I thank you all kindly - don't mean to ignore.

Gail runs the Office in an orderly way,  
Mick Lovell keeps checking that the buildings okay.  
A Newsletter's sprung up to keep us in touch  
All through the Pandemic, we thank you so much!  
Week in and Week out dear old Brian is there  
Tinkling the ivories with talent and flair,  
We think that he's great and his playing is grand,  
In fact he's so good he should be in a band!  
Charlotte fund raiser for refugees many  
Constantly working to bring in the penny.

Stewart, Elizabeth, Freda and John  
Wear different hats and another is Ron,  
Babs, Ronnie, Esmond, David, Peter watch money,  
Balancing figures to keep Bank's smile sunny!  
Maureen and Mooreen, Janet, Eileen and Elaine,  
Three Valeries, Val, Mary - I'm going insane!  
Joey Dyke helps with Chapel as Gerry before,  
Inspired prayers daily bring footfalls through the door.  
There's Kevin there's Cherie, Shirley, Clifford, Gill,  
Jackie and Martin - I'm now losing the will!

Rosemary, Rachel, Mervin, Alex, Jean, John  
Rosemary, Andrew, Mother, son - I'm moving on,  
Pam, Joan and Tony, Cathie, Frances, Jean,  
Ann, John should I go on? - Or have I already been?  
Sarah, Carmen, Carol, Rob, Robert, Farmer Ken,  
Elsie, Ruth and Brian, - when will I finish, when?  
Veronica helps Catherine do Tiny Tots at play,  
Entwined within are scriptures in a learning curvy way.  
Josie, David, Gillian, Peter, Jean and Anne,  
Jim and Faith and Sally - I'm doing what I can!

This monumental effort may have missed a few, lets see,  
I've done my best, I need a rest, oh yes there's Geoff and me!

cc IRENE CARTER