

Keeping in Touch..... Number 28

Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. The KIT deadline is noon on Wednesdays. Please send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.

If you are lucky enough to get away do send us a “postcard” —three or four photos and where they are from.

£100 FLOWER PICTURE COMPETITION : RESULT

Hello KIT readers,

My picture competition last week was won by Stewart Denham, the first to observe that all of my flowers are artificial. The £100 prize has been donated to his charity of choice : St Ives Food Bank.

Why fake flowers chez-moi? When raised at “ Ivydene “, King’s Road, St. Ives, with its BIG, walled garden, in the 1940s and 50s, this youngster came to detest having to weed much-coveted asparagus beds, practically with tweezers. Thereafter, as an adult, I conventionally gardened no more!

Now, in France, I have a mere two acres of forest and garden to nurture – but not as most would do. The apple, pear, cherry, walnut and sweet chestnut trees look after themselves. As does a 365-days-a-year, dressed, Christmas Tree. For some 25 years elsewhere the rest has been adorned with artificial flowers. Bunches of them! These are “planted” on May Day each year and are “tucked away” for the winter on All Saints Day. And they don’t cost me a pennypiece; they’re recycled from the waste skips of the local cemeteries. And my ivy seems to thrive when spray-painted. It really does.

Passing tourist/ramblers often stop to photograph my garden. (“Beaucoup de couleurs en octobre, Monsieur!) Do they yours? To be sure they don’t! Give it up, flower gardeners, there’s a more picturesque alternative. Raid the skips of your cemeteries. Make your beds a delight to behold without the aches, pains and heartache! (Alas, the bees may complain a tad!)

Philip Simpson

Thank you Philip for this bit of fun and your generosity,, though I doubt any of us will be following suit! The Food Bank is an excellent choice for the charity, especially given Philip’s article last month on “Kate’s Kupboard”.

Philip has offered a very generous prize for a “whole church” quiz if we go into a complete lockdown!

More of that if it happens!

ME AND D I Y

Whatever can I write about?
I've hit upon a stump,
I've covered hobbies of all kinds,
Last week I spoke of Trump.

I've told you 'bout my music
My piano and my Uke,
I've even tried a song of praise,
I've yet to write a book!

But Carter - to the rescue!
He's set to decorate,
And I'm to be assistant
Who knows what mess I'll make?

I'm toggged up in a white suit
An extra large, (I'm small),
The fashion police are on the loose,
My photo says it all.

It's only the utility room
That needs a lick of paint,
My orders are to roller it,
A paint artist I a'int!

I also used the screwdriver
To take things off the wall,
My father would be proud of me
It wasn't hard at all.

Everything was going well
I really felt quite proud,
And as I stood admiring
Carter's voice with strain said loud!

How on earth? Look what you've done
The ceiling has paint splatter!
He cleaned it up - it wasn't bad
He sighed, " It doesn't matter."

We carried on till job was done,
And now it's looking pretty,
I made a brew, a cup of char,
Sat down and wrote this ditty.



cc IRENE CARTER



Offset your carbon footprint with the help of Climate Stewards

by Sally Runham

Have you tried the carbon calculator on the Climate Stewards website? It's a fun exercise. www.climatestewards.org

“**Climate Stewards** believes that we are all called to be good **stewards** of God's earth, and that voluntary carbon offsetting is a great way to do this.” A Christian ethos organisation, it offers an easy way to offset carbon emissions from everyday activities by contributing small donations towards a range of projects in countries and communities affected adversely by climate change. Weather may be hotter and drier than their crops can currently cope with. Over time, they will be able to select for varieties that are now more suitable, but there will come a limit to what any plant species will stand...”

I assessed our usage over a 'normal' year. We rarely fly but like intracontinental rail journeys. I factored in five return trips by bus to Cambridge – virtually zero cost - and 5,000 miles in a petrol-fuelled car. Our rented bungalow has oil heating and electricity from a not-particularly-green supplier. We have no solar panels nor is the loft insulated. We were medium to high meat eaters but living in lockdown with a vegetarian daughter we are now medium to low. The lifestyle category is interesting. It uses a £ icon and everything you do in the house is assessed. If you wear second-hand clothes or buy second-hand furniture, this is not a cost.

Over all categories, you accrue a cost to the planet in terms of carbon dioxide that your activities emit. You can aim to curtail those most harmful then reassess. Easy things to minimise are flying and eating meat, and efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption are rewarded. Research could alter the impact of some activities such as hydrogen-powered flight, or methods of livestock production with reduced methane.

A tonne of carbon emitted as gases such as methane and carbon dioxide is offset by a £20 donation. A return flight from London Heathrow to Sydney Australia is 5.52 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, which can be offset at a cost of £110.40.

A Rocha says, “The **Climate Stewards Calculator** enables you to **calculate** how much CO₂ you have emitted through your travel and household energy use. This is an opportunity to consider your carbon footprint and how the equivalent may be paid forward as a gift to those most affected by **climate change** today.”

Barbara would like to invite you to the next Zoom Coffee Morning!

It will be on Thursday 5th November at 10:30am.

If you've not joined one before please contact Barbara at

Barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com and she will send you a link.

Newcomers always welcome!

Just Sharing

The Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church

We are open every day except Thursdays & Sundays from 10am – 3pm

Please do come and visit us as we have lots of lovely gifts, Christmas cards, Advent calendars, Christmas candles, Nativities, Christmas decorations plus lots more

Just Sharing is the place to do all your Christmas shopping and we look forward to welcoming you

Please wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser before entering the shop



Char has set us a mixed quiz to cheer us up—a little easier than the last one! She expects us all to get ten out of ten! next week.....

1...In which county were The Hanging Gardens of Babylon?

2...Who composed The Christmas and The Easter Oratorios?

3...What was the language in Palestine in the time of Christ?

4...How many tablets of stone were used to record the 10 commandments?

5...Which composer, although dying at 31,wrote hundreds of Masses, Songs, Operas, Piano Works and Chamber Music?

6...What does SABOATH, a word found in the bible, mean?

7...What is a BELVEDERE?

8...What is the better known title of the carol Adeste Fideles?

9...Whose daughter found Moses in a basket?

10...From what wood were the Israelites instructed to make The Ark of the Covenant?

GOOD LUCK

How did the Passion Flower get its name?

According to one website Roman Catholic priests in the 1500s named it after the passion of Christ. They believed that several parts of the plant, including the sepals, rays and petals symbolised features of the passion.

The petals and petal-like sepals (10 in all) represented the ten disciples who remained loyal to Christ throughout. The circle of hairlike rays reminded them of the crown thorns Christ wore on the day he died.



New Hobbies in Lockdown From Babs Moore

I always said I wanted to learn the clarinet when I retired having previously played the flute and piano. Well I am not retired, and no plans to do so presently as work is keeping me very busy which is probably a good thing at present but have a lot of dark evenings to keep myself occupied !

Those that know me will know sitting still watching TV or reading only holds my attention so long! I have borrowed my God-daughters clarinet and have been teaching myself to play and can manage a few recognisable tunes after just a few weeks. I have not yet cured the "puffy cheeks" but making progress. I wondered what new hobbies others at church have taken up this year?

Please drop us a line or pick up the phone and let us know!