

Keeping in Touch..... Number 33

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. Approximately 40 of you took part in Philip's quiz. We got a magnificent 17 out of the 20 correct. Answers are in a separate appendix to KIT. A few answers need a little extra detail to explain and those will appear in the next week or two. In recognition of all our efforts Philip has donated £1000 to church funds. Thank you Philip.

If you would rather just tell us something, rather than type, then please lift up the phone to Chris or Alan—01480 350787.

Greetings from Norway

After the 40th Anniversary Inspire was published, Kevin and Cherie Gouldthorp forwarded a copy to their daughter, Claire whose ministry has taken her to Norway. She sent a lovely letter to Mary Anthony and I, extracts of which I have used (with her agreement) to write an article about some of her memories of growing up in the Free Church.

I wanted to thank you both very much for putting together the anniversary edition of inspire. It was fantastic to read, and brought back a flood of memories. It was wonderful to read about people who I have not thought about for some time, but who made an impression on me, and were inspirational during my childhood and youth. I wouldn't know where to begin if I should try to write something about all of those who have meant a lot to me, because, perhaps the most important thing of all that I experienced at the Free Church was that I was part of a family. A large family with people of all generations, where there were people who I could confide in, people that I could ask questions, people I could laugh with, people I could be comforted by, people who listened to me, people who saw me, people who I could help, people who I could comfort, people who didn't treat me differently because of my age...

It is an experience that I am truly grateful for and that influences me tremendously in my ministry.

I am also very grateful for having had so much experience of how core values like social justice can be lived out at the Free Church - having worked in Just Sharing as a volunteer, having a school work placement in the Christian Aid office when that was on site, being involved in collecting for Christian Aid and even going to Bangladesh! Going on a coach (with a load of congregation members arranged by Mary Cox) to a Jubilee "Drop the Debt" demonstration without my parents to name just a few.

Other things that were a part of the large family experience and which I have very fond memories of are church weekends at Hengrave Hall and also when we put on the Pageant (which was perhaps based on Mary Carters book?! - Arthur Carrington was the narrator, I don't remember who played the other parts, just that Donald had a bad back and had to lay down behind the font!).

I hope you all are coping with the restrictions and keeping healthy, greetings from Norway !

Thank you again for the memories, and may God bless the work of, and the people of, the Free Church family.

Claire is planning to write an article in the New Year telling us of her current ministry in Norway.

GROUP QUIZ TIZZ!

Philip Simpson
Kindly man
Over in France
You had a plan.

A challenge set,
A Quiz, a prize,
T'would help our Church
I tell no lies.

Questions varied
History, War,
Music, Film stars,
And much, much more!

Difficult yes!
Blew my mind,
I scanned with Google
Searched to find

Answers - anything
At all,
No matter how big
Or how small.

Sunday afternoon
I sat,
Checking this
And checking that.

I found a few
I had success,
My brain was addled
With the stress!

This Group effort's
Now over and done
Will be so worth it
If prize is won.

Thank you Philip
A great contest
Please bear in mind
We've done our best!

cc IRENE CARTER

We are pleased to report that Irene Carter's brother, Leslie is on the mend after his Covid and now able to take short walks.



The Deacons and the Minister at the Priory, 1904.
J Bryant, J Mills, E Norris, H Geeson, H Goodman, F Warren, G G G Wheeler,
W H Tysoe, Rev D MacFadyen, J B Ulph, H Weston.

Our fore-fathers from 1904!

Char was wondering if anyone knew who our first female Deacon was and when?

Answers to Char's quiz from last week:

- 1. Oliver Cromwell***
- 2. King John***
- 3. Thomas Clarkson***
- 4. The shrinkage of the peat since 1848***
- 5. Octavia Hill***
- 6. A prisoner of war camp.***
- 7. The dirtiest place she ever saw.***
- 8. Peterborough Abbey***
- 9. Elizabeth de Burgh***
- 10. Stourbridge Fair in Cambridge***
- 11. The discovery of the neutron and the splitting of the atomic nucleus.***
- 12. Witch Trials.***

Cycling on Advent Sunday - from Babs Moore

I went out for a bike ride from Godmanchester through Abbots Ripton, Wennington and back via Houghton on what was a really dull dreary, dark cool and uninspiring day. I was thinking about Advent and the usual service I have attended over many years. I started thinking about the hymns I hadn't heard in Roy's Service (no criticism here, I enjoyed the hymns but knew none of them) and was thinking as I cycled about O Come, O Come Emanuel and Lo he Comes with Clouds descending, and the clouds certainly were not high.



As I returned to Godmanchester having felt good all the way around, I suddenly found cycling hard and Lo, I had a massive puncture. Not good but at least I could push home as John not in a position to rescue me as we was suffering from labyrinthitis. My spirit lifted as I pushed my bike up the old Roman Road of Ermine Street and the site of blossom on a tree caught by eye, the sign of hope and new beginnings but about 3-4 months early. It is a strange time in which will live.

It's so easy to get it wrong..... By Chris Curtis

I'm sure we all try very hard to get things politically correct and not to upset others culturally..... I once made a big but totally unintended misjudgement.

In the late 1980s I was Deputy Head of a large multi-cultural, multifaith school in Cambridge. Many children came from very deprived households but they all mingled alongside academics' children at this lovely inclusive school. I remember I had 30 children in my Y5/6 class who represented at least 15 nationalities and about a dozen first languages. Some had never been to the seaside so for their summer outing the parallel class teacher and I determined to give them the chance to see the sea and play on a beach. A trip to Hunstanton was planned and tides timetables consulted to find a day when a huge expanse of beach and shallow water could be enjoyed by the children with trusted adults stationed at the four corners of their free space. As you will all know the sea goes out a very long way there and there is plenty of space to run and play. Lunch was eaten on the beach (early, as is always the case on school outings!) and then the children were set free within the given boundaries. I was shocked when I found a tall, normally very confident Bangladeshi lad clinging tightly to my hand and refusing to leave my side. He was usually quite "macho" and this was so out of character..... What's the matter I asked him?

Then the penny dropped. It wasn't long after the dreadful floods that swamped much of low-lying Bangladesh. He had relations who had drowned in the floods and he had absolutely no concept that shallow water could be regarded as safe let alone fun! A sobering lesson to learn—never assume anything.

More about Philips' quiz.....

Three of the questions have interesting anecdotes associated with them which will appear over the next couple of weeks.....!!

Wonderful Lockdown Supporters by Sally Runham

I attend online meetings of Hunts Forum and other community events, as an elder and on behalf of the church secretary. Hunts Forum offers training and support, pointers to legal advice and helps community organisations comply with statutory legislation. Networking events convened by the forum let volunteers from a wide range of organisations interact, facilitating effective collaboration and, hopefully, helping to prevent people falling through gaps in care and social provision.

Many people do not live in the same town or village as loving friends and family, so this is where neighbourliness, in all its forms, becomes very important. Church members have often said that they enjoy regular phone calls from other people in the church community, getting news and passing it on, where appropriate. Several have also expressed admiration for volunteers from the town's community hub, set up in the early stages of the pandemic. Reliable helpers, initially strangers, become 'like a member of our family'.

Hunts Forum is now over 25 years old and their strategic aims are:

***Supporting communities, charities and volunteers
Developing a strong voluntary sector that is adaptable and sustainable
Guiding our members, communities and partners
Connecting our network, working together to cultivate greater relationships***

I will attend the AGM online in early December and report on any key findings. I was also invited to a community networking event on 1st December organised by Louise Tranham, Neighbourhood Cares Manager for Cambridgeshire County Council Adult Social Care. 43 people and organisations were invited, and email contacts provided. The main focus of the meeting was to learn and share in order to help support the residents of St Ives people to keep safe and well particularly those most vulnerable.

One link provided is that on the www.wearehuntingdonshire.org website.



"The We Are Huntingdonshire site is intended to provide a simple summary of services and guidance available. Please listen to the government advice and use web channels wherever possible they are the fastest, safest and most reliable ways of getting the information and services that you need. You will find government advice, national support and localised community support in the pages below. Search for your local Parish for help in your local community, or to volunteer. "

Cambridgeshire County Council Coordination Hub for volunteers has a super YouTube video on all aspects of how to be a volunteer, safely.

It has been our custom over the last few years to have a communal card at church for people to sign (with a donation to selected charities) to enable people to send each other greetings for this special time of year. Freda has suggested we could do the same via KIT. If you wish to send greetings to your church friends via KIT please send them to me over the next couple of weeks and make a suitable donation to a charity of your choice!

