

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 56***

***Welcome to this week's KIT. Thank you so much if you sent something in this week. Please keep the articles coming. The deadline for next week's KIT is noon on Monday. Please send anything to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com). Or ring us on 01480 350787 . We also need to start looking to the future—see the article on the final page.***

### ***A Tribute to Gerry Mears from Pat Clarke***

Many of you will be aware of the sudden death of Gerry Mears. Although I knew he was unwell, his death has come as a shock to us all. I am sure his family are trying hard to come to terms with their loss.

Gerry had worked in the church for many years, initially on a Monday, he came to wash up . As Tookeys grew busier he helped on a Wednesday and Friday as well. He also helped on many, if not all, the Bank Holidays.

However, Gerry did a lot more than just washing up, he was an enormous asset in the kitchen and was happy to help wherever he could.

He always worked hard and was very reliable, there will certainly be a large empty space with out him.

Linda, Sam and Helen would like to join me in acknowledging all Gerry did for Tookeys , the Monday snack bar and ultimately the Free Church.



*Gerry relaxing at a Tookey's tea.*

***Pat Clarke***

*The next Zoom Coffee Morning will be on*

*Thursday 20th May*

*At 10:30 am.*

*Please contact Barbara Duffett if you'd like to join for the first time*

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



*Irene calling.....*

## **VOTING DILEMMAS**

Elections come, Elections go  
And promises were many,  
The letter box was crammed with mail  
While printers reaped the penny.

Candidates of every Party  
Battled for the votes they've won,  
Now we've marked cross in the boxes  
Will they do what must be done?

We can only trust they listened  
To the people on the street,  
We're the ones that live here, struggle,  
Watch the businesses deplete.

Hope for future and enlightenment,  
New ideas to save our town,  
Flooding safeguards, clearing ditches  
Helps to keep the damage down.

Broken paving, lamp post lighting,  
Dangers lurking, Drunken louts,  
Pavement parking blocks the infirm,  
Lots of work so sort it out!

Cc. Irene Carter



## **Memories of my father—John Cairns Patrick**

My Dad served in the First World War. He was sent to the Somme, was injured but once recovered he was sent back.

In the Second World War he was in charge of the Home Guard ( Captain Mainwaring ) in Edinburgh looking after the Forth Rail Bridge. I remember going to watch target practice and Dad taking my brother and I to the River Forth to see the remains of a German plane.

The road outside our house needed resurfacing, this was done by Prisoners of War. They worked really hard and I used to go and watch them. One of them made me a wooden parrot that rocked back and forth on its perch.



*Graeme Patrick*

## ***Philips' Quiz***

***You will find the answers on three pages  
attached as an annex***

***Philip has very generously donated the  
£1000 to church funds despite our short-  
comings. He certainly has an excellent  
memory!***

***THANK YOU PHILIP!***

## ***Living through a Pandemic – a Perspective.....***

**Chris writes....** Nobody wants to live through a pandemic but many of our predecessors did. Most recently the Black Death in the Middle Ages and Spanish Flu following immediately after the Great War. We have lived through and survived (hopefully) this one. Living in the technological and scientific era that we do, we have been able to keep up with friends easily by phone, at home or on the move. Those of us with computers have been able to text or email anyone, anytime and if we have Zoom or an equivalent, actually see each other and watch the hair grow and the grey hairs appear. We may not have hugged grandchildren but we have watched them grow and shared special times virtually not having to wait for a film to be developed, negatives reprinted and a copy posted to us.

We have been able to order shopping online or via the phone and have things delivered often the next day. When I was in hospital I couldn't have visitors but I could speak to loved ones by phone or on-line. I could read my online books and do my daily online puzzles. I could order my prescription meds online and could have had them delivered if necessary. I've been able to keep in touch with "lockdown" conditions with relations in Oz, NZ and USA. Virtually no time delay..... no need to agonise about whether the cost of airmail was justified!

We've been able to keep up with everyone at church via the miracles of internet and photocopying plus post. What if it had happened a few years ago.....?

### ***Alan continues***

When I was a child we would have had news from a newspaper and radio. We were fortunate in having a telephone as my father was a farmer (the phone number '243' was the same as our car number – I thought everybody's was!). We didn't have TV until I was in my teens.

I was born in the year that the first computer (ENIAC) was created. Evolution of computers has influenced so much of our lives today. I first became aware of computers when I was working between school and university in 1965 but didn't expect them to catch on!

Fast forward a couple of years to when I was studying Maths at Exeter University – there I encountered a computer that was about the size of an estate car and filled much of the front of the top storey of the futuristic Mathematics building. That was probably the dawning of my interest in computers.



Following university I went to work at the then tech college in Cambridge (now a university, but that's a different story!). There my teaching of mathematics evolved into teaching computer science, as many mathematicians did in those days. My inability to draw complex diagrams on blackboards led me to explore writing software to produce images by computer. I'm still amazed by the computer graphics that are used in many video and computer games.

But in those days, communication was still very undeveloped. – letter post twice a day and telephone if you were lucky. When our younger child was about to be born I had to go to the nearest red phone box with four old pennies to ring the midwife! When we moved house in 1975 it was to a house previously occupied by a telephone engineer so the phone line was already installed.

Many others had to have shared lines so sometimes they had to wait whilst the other party finished their conversation! Remember the days when we had to wait till after 6 to get cheaper phone calls or be very careful about the duration of long-distance calls?

Mobile phones were in their infancy (first UK mobile phone call thought to have been in 1985) and mostly the size of a brick! Nowadays they are multi-functional and contain far more computing power than the computer I encountered at university.

Alongside the development of mobile phones came the birth of the internet – believe it or not it was only in 1989! Now there are an estimated 7.4 billion users of the internet worldwide!

Many of us are now familiar with meetings by Zoom – either family, business or church related. This enables viewing the other participants and hearing what they say on a tablet or mobile phone. (The psychological impact of zooming is also another story!). We are so used to seeing images transferred by the internet nowadays, but that is fairly recent. The story is told of how in the Computer Laboratory in Downing Street in Cambridge, the research scientists were on the top floor of the building, but the common room and coffee machine were on the ground floor. They were frequently frustrated by getting to the coffee machine to find it was empty – so they rigged up a link and camera so they could view the state of the machine from their floor and go for coffee when someone else had filled the coffee machine. When my college merged with another in Chelmsford, we would have video-conferenced meetings. We all had to gather in special rooms at each campus and be very careful to take it in turns to speak – with a noticeable delay on the words spoken. Much inferior to today's zoom calls.

We now live in a world with electronic communication central to much of life. We have much to be thankful for the benefits that this technological innovation has brought us in the last 75 years.

### ***A Message from Jo Dyke.....***

*I never thought I'd be so excited at the thought of six people spending time indoors again but here I am, looking forward to next week. Not just because I can actually have friends round without having to layer up in jumpers to enjoy a cup of tea in the garden but because 6 of us will be able to meet for chapel prayers once again.*

*That means one prayer leader and five others can join together in the chapel and, starting on Monday morning, that's what we intend to do. There will be one or two small changes, the main one being that, due to limited numbers of prayer leaders, we may not be able to cover the short service every day but we'll try our best.*

*A few of our long serving leaders are taking a well earned rest, after years of faithful service and I offer heartfelt thanks to them, and also to those few souls who have kindly agreed to maintain this essential act of ministry. This is where I ask again whether there's anyone else with a burning desire to join the team. Don't be shy, we all have something unique to offer. As ever, I can be contacted on [jo.dyke@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.dyke@ntlworld.com)*

*Thanking all in anticipation and hopefully I'll see five souls on Monday.*

## **From Babs Moore**

### **Contributions to church finances**

We will shortly be sending of our Gift Aid claim for last year and a big thank you to all for supporting the church through this unusual time, where we have hardly been able to meet in person, whether the money is gift aided or not. Many have changed how they give, some switched to Bankers orders, some sending me cheques in lieu of collection and some holding onto envelopes until we meet again. Whatever your chosen method I want to say a big thank you.

Finally I have distributed only a few sets of envelopes this year, to those I am aware still want them. If you have not received envelopes and would like to please let me know (01480 352627) or [Babs.Moore@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Babs.Moore@yahoo.co.uk) and also whether you want them posted/delivered or will collect from church when services restart.

Many thanks

**Babs** Freewill Offering Secretary

### **Christian Aid Week**



Thank you to those who have already sent donations for Christian Aid to me. I am paying cheques into the The Free Church (URC) St Ives account and will send a consolidated donation to Christian Aid in a week or so. Donations can be made directly on line, if desired, but am also happy for anyone who prefers cheques, and would like to make a donation in this Christian Aid week, to send one to me using above account name. My address is 29 Sweetings Road Godmanchester PE29 7DL

**Ships don't sink because of the water around them. Ships sink because of the water that gets inside of them. Moral of the story, don't let what is happening around you, get inside of you and weigh you down.**

### **Two photos from Char.....**



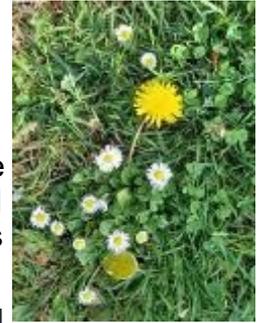
**No Mow May in Oakington**

## **Charlotte and Sally wonder how many of you are doing “No Mow May”?**

**Chris says “We did it last year but seem to have sinned this year!!”**

### **No Mow May Campaign by Sally Runham**

How are our tidy gardeners going to survive this month of ‘No Mowing’? The above photo is our garden and it is less than halfway through the month. I hope the neighbours have heard of this campaign! The school playing fields are a sea of blooms like this, even though they were mown last week.



‘No Mow May’ campaign is led by UK conservation charity Plantlife, and gaining momentum internationally. It encourages people to lock up their lawnmowers for the month of May and let wildflowers and other important pollinators shine through. Councils are playing their part by suspending grass cutting in large parts of their parks and open spaces, though areas that are dedicated to leisure activities will continue to be maintained as usual. The campaign aims are protecting and enhancing biodiversity and prioritising nature-based solutions to climate change. Residents are also being asked to play a part by not cutting their lawns – or at least giving up part of their gardens to nature during May. In a complementary campaign, also led by Plantlife and called ‘Every Flower Counts’, between May 22 and May 31, people can count how many new flowers have grown in the area they have set aside for ‘No Mow May’, submit their findings online and see how many ‘nectar points’ they have generated as a result. Plantlife will use these findings to compile a ‘top ten’ chart of the most common lawn flowers found in the UK.



From Wirral County website

**Our church has slightly different floral embellishments courtesy of some clever knitters in addition to the lovely SIIB planters**



## **And what of the future.....?**

*Soon we will be able to meet again regularly for worship and hopefully it won't be too long before we're allowed to chat and catch up too. However, not everyone will either be fit enough to do so or may not yet feel confident .*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed producing KIT since last Easter but obviously it can't go on for ever! Neither does reverting to an Inspire every two months seem right. Inspire is predominantly full of dates, adverts of things to come and photos of past events. We would love to hear from you about what you would like to see going forward. I can't promise our very small Inspire team will be able to deliver but it would be good to know what you would like to see in an ideal world. Let Pete Davies - 01480 495835 or [davies.peter21@sky.com](mailto:davies.peter21@sky.com)*

*Or Alan Curtis 01480 350787 or [a.k.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.k.curtis@ntlworld.com) and this will help us to plan out way forward together into the future.*