

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 58***

***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 Wednesday. Please send anything to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com). Or ring Alan or Chris on 01480 350787 . If you get away for a few days please send a "virtual postcard" of a few photos.***

### **TOOKEY'S COFFEE SHOP**

All being well, government restrictions will be lifted on June 21<sup>st</sup> and Tookey's will be able to re-open in the coffee shop itself instead of in the hall. The hall will only be used on Mondays as usual.

For a variety of reasons some volunteers feel unable to resume their usual duties and Pat Clarke has the difficult task of covering all shifts on her rota.

Tookey's brings in a good income for the Free Church and is greatly appreciated by our customers. It would be sad if we couldn't open 6 days a week as before.

The opening hours are: Monday 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

There are two shifts per day. These are: Monday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

“ 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

“ “ 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Allowing time to set up, volunteers go in 15 minutes before opening and stay 15 minutes after closing to clear away.

So, here is a plea for more volunteers. Tuesdays and Saturdays will be particularly difficult to cover. We work in two's so no-one is expected to cope on their own. If you are not confident using the till you can choose just to wash up.

A free light lunch is available if required and free drinks throughout the shift.

Some volunteers work on a weekly basis and others just once a month. There is flexibility.

Please give this request some serious thought. Volunteering in Tookey's is an enjoyable experience and our customers are lovely.

John and I moved to St Ives 14 years ago not knowing anyone and now whenever we go into town there is always a familiar face for a friendly chat. It's great!

Please contact Pat Clarke as soon as possible if you can help:

01480 468886 or 07876354442

***Mavis.***



**Here's a wee quiz on relief agencies—from Char—answer on page 5!**

- 1.. Which international organisation was founded by the Swiss Henry Dunant after he witnessed the terrible aftermath of the Battle of Soleferino in 1859?
2. Which organisation was set up in 1942, initially to assist the people of Greece, who were being denied supplies because of the allied blockade?
- 3..Which Brussels based agency was set up by the French doctors in 1971 to provide worldwide medical emergency relief?
- 4..Which organisation was set up by Eglantyne Jebb and Dorothy Buxton after they saw the aftermath of World War 1 on the children of Europe?
- 5..Founded in 1945 as Christian Reconciliation in Europe. How is the organisation now known?
- 6..Founded in the UK in 1972. In which country is Action Aid now based?
- 7.What started as the Christian Mission in London in 1865 and today is present in more than 100 countries?
- 8.In which year was Band Aid formed?
- 9..Which human rights organisation was formed in 1961 by British lawyer Peter Benenson after he read about 2 Portugese students who were sentenced to 7 years in prison for raising their wine glasses in a toast to freedom?



**Happy memories from two years ago from Char.....**



***This year it hailed on the same date!***

**A virtual postcard from Norfolk from Chris and Alan**



**First Sunday at Church, May 2021 by Sally Runham**

**Photos from Alan**

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, fourteen of us enjoyed a LIVE service, albeit interwoven with recorded films of Revd Catherine Ball giving the theme introduction and reflection on Pentecost. It was as if Catherine were with us in person. David Duffett provided the link between all items in the service, which included Brian Lodde playing live meditative music – wonderful - , recorded songs from such as Songs of Praise, including ‘Love Divine, All Loves Excelling’, and Bible readings from Barbara Duffett.



Alan Curtis niftily managed AV and sound. It was an enjoyable taster of what we can do together, and certainly helped me start to let go of lockdown ‘lethargy’ as David said in his thoughtful and thought-provoking prayers. Peter Davies supported both this service and the website compilation in the background. Both methods will be needed for the time being. The best bit was the mini chats: how limiting are Zoom meetings for this aspect of communication, yet essential for continuity. Bring on the coffee in Tookeys...

## THOUGHTS OF GERRY MEARS

Gerry and I had known each other for years - we met whilst working together in Tookey's. He was a difficult, but friendly man and the sort of man who you wanted "on your side". He would be very protective of those he felt were his friends.

During the last month or so, Gerry rang me every day, sometimes up to 5 times a day, explaining his troubles and concern about yet another chest infection. Since his sister, Caroline, had moved away, he said he had become, what he called, the "bread winner" of the family. It appears she had previously taken care of "things". He said he couldn't cope with being the "bread winner" and had no idea of what he was supposed to do or when. I could only answer his questions with the limited knowledge I had, but he was obviously troubled. I could tell from his telephone calls he was still suffering from a chest infection and after about 2 weeks or so I said "*Gerry, I think you ought to go to the hospital because the medication administered isn't working*". He didn't understand how important it was for him to get himself seen. I think he was worried about the "things" he had to take care of at home. I did say to him that there are always people around to help if he asked. Gerry said he would only speak to those HE felt would be of help to him. Obviously, he was frustrated at not getting through to the medical people he felt should have been there to help him and his family.

As I mentioned earlier, he rang me every day so when he didn't ring, I guessed something was wrong. I rang his mobile phone several times and received no answer. Little did I realise he had already passed away.

Whilst I was at home that evening, I received a telephone call to say Gerry had died in hospital following a heart attack as well as cancer. He told me some time ago that he had prostate cancer and was visiting hospital regularly for check-ups.

I was incredibly sad indeed to hear of his death especially since he was only 60 years of age.

Gerry had been a kick boxing champion, ran marathons, didn't smoke, drank very little and a committed Christian. He was worried about his family of course - his brother, Robert and sisters Caroline and Lisa. Did this extra burden of being the "bread winner" bring on the heart attack? Who knows!

As Pat Clarke would agree, he was a great asset to Tookey's since he did everything Pat asked of him. He was an extremely hard worker and loved the camaraderie and being part of the Tookey's team.

It was a great shock to hear of Gerry's passing and I hope those of us who knew Gerry will remember him with great affection.

I am unaware at this stage when his funeral is to be held, other than it will be held in Willingham Church. I hope as many of those who knew him will pray for him and his family.

God bless you Gerry - you are now at peace.

Sindy

10 May 2021

## RED AMBER AND GREEN

Make up your minds  
The rules are a mess,  
Just say what you mean  
We deserve nothing less!

The Traffic Light System  
Red Amber and Green,  
Begs strict adherence  
Or penalty scheme.

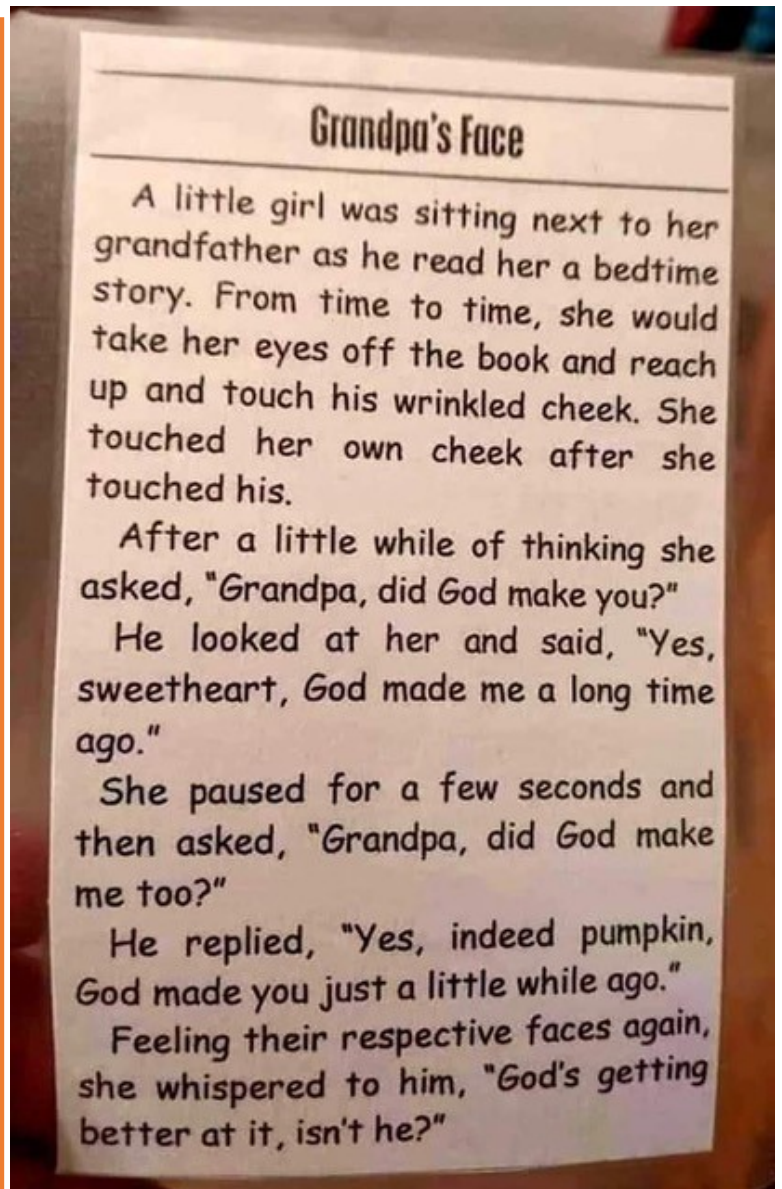
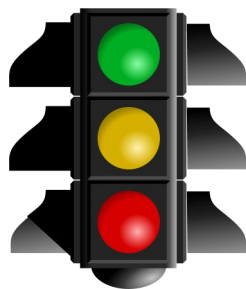
Essential trips only  
For Amber you said,  
But you let them take holidays  
They went straight ahead.

Serious family traumas,  
You meant,  
They needed a holiday  
Were stressed, so they went!

And what is the point  
If the colours all mix,  
In the halls at the airport,  
Where queues need a fix!

Be clear and precise,  
Speak as one, all the same,  
Be strict, Track and Trace,  
So at least you've their name.

cc. **IRENE CARTER**



### Grandpa's Face

A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She touched her own cheek after she touched his.

After a little while of thinking she asked, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

He looked at her and said, "Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago."

She paused for a few seconds and then asked, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

He replied, "Yes, indeed pumpkin, God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

## Answers to Char's quiz

- 1.Red Cross
- 2.Oxfam
- 3.Medicins Sans Frontieres
- 4.Save the Children Fund
- 5.Christian Aid
- 6.South Africa
- 7.The Salvation Army
- 8.1984
- 9.Amnesty International.

## ***SUPPORT YOUR IMPOVERISHED ARTISTS.***

### ***Philip's recollections of the pictures that were auctioned.***

I refer to a question in my recent £1000 Quiz Challenge about articles donated by your members in two auction sales to raise funds for the re-construction of the church 40 years ago. The lots that raised the most money were three paintings by, then unknown, impoverished, local artists.

The first auction featured a watercolour donated by Freda Norris (as in Norris Museum) Eaton. It raised the staggering sum – in those days – of £600. Freda's father, Herbert Norris, had several business interests – among them a grocery store on Crown Street.

Meanwhile, living in poverty at the Ferry Boat Inn, Holywell, was Garden William Fraser, a member of a large family of artists who lived in the region and specialised in scenes of the Fens. He would settle his grocery bills with paintings. Hence the generous donation by Freda Eaton.

Then there was the second auction to raise funds. At the same time that your church was being reconstructed four decades ago, so also was Houghton URC chapel into the fine retreat that became (now owned by the Parish Church in the village). . The project was supervised by your incumbent minister of the day. In the process of visiting the site, workmen gave him two apparent oil paintings that they found in the chapel's gallery. They were encrusted with many decades of dust, grime and cobwebs. Perhaps they could become lots in the second auction sale, he thought? So he took them to the Manse and, apparently, gave his sons a bucket, brushes and a plastic bottle of Fairy Liquid, to remove the many decades of dust, grime and cobwebs – with the aid of the garden hosepipe! This they did --- revealing pictures of prehistoric animals. They were signed “ Charles Whympier.”

Now Charles Whympier (1853-1941) was to destined to become a noted artist and illustrator of renown. Earlier, living in Houghton, in poverty, within sight of the chapel, one can only guess at the reaction of Potto Brown and the congregation, when he presented them with two paintings of pre-historic monsters. So they were consigned to rot in the gallery.

I recall that they fetched bids totalling £2000 at your church's second fund-raising auction sale. Again, a staggering sum in those days.

So the message is : support your local, impoverished artists. You never know ... one day perhaps.....

Philip Simpson.

**Zoom Coffee Morning  
Thursday 10th June  
10:30 am.**

**Contact Barbara Duffett if you'd like  
to join for the first time.  
barbara.duffett@ntlworld.com**

***Don't forget to let Gail in the  
Church Office know by Friday if  
you wish to attend worship that  
Sunday!***

**01480 468535**

***office@stivesfreechurch.org***