

Keeping in Touch..... Number 55

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. Or ring us on 01480 350787

Christian Aid Week is 10th – 16th May 2021



Hello all,

This is to encourage each of you to support Christian Aid this year – even if in different ways from how you might have in the past. This year Christian Aid is focusing on Climate Change and those countries still severely affected by Covid. I include below a suggestion that you write to our PM re the upcoming G7 summit. Also, I include a prayer from the Christian Aid website. In addition, I will add another prayer on a video clip for you to watch as you follow the worship service for this Sunday.

With all good wishes,

Catherine

Take Action

In June the UK will host the G7 Summit in Cornwall. It's a crucial opportunity for some of the richest and most polluting nations to take action for climate justice. As we can't be physically present in Cornwall to raise our voices, we need to make sure the Prime Minister gets the message another way. Send Boris a postcard representing where you live to show the breadth of support for action on climate justice. Here's a suggested message for you to include:

Dear Prime Minister,

I can't be in Cornwall for the G7, but I call on you to make this summit a success for climate justice. Please - Increase climate finance to the most vulnerable communities around the world. – Cancel unfair debts so that countries can tackle the climate crisis and other urgent priorities. The futures of millions of people depend on a just finance deal.

With best wishes,

(remember to leave your name and full address)

Send your postcard to

Boris Johnson, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA

Please tweet a picture of you and your postcard or send it to us so that we can share these on social media to spread the message. Use #WishWeWereThere and #G7 campaigns@christian-aid.org

Cont'd over

Christian Aid article cont'd

Prayer

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.

Gracious God,

We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day;

and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.

Revd Michaela Youngson, from the Methodist Church

And please refer again to David's article from last week about how we, as a church, can support this year's Christian Aid Week.

The Quiz—we still help with a few questions—can anyone help please ??

1. The name of the family who superintended the Sunday School for 100 years - the men had walrus moustaches.

3. The metalsmith who replaces Cromwell's sword after VE Day.

4. A team including Green, Rook, Walkey, Mason, Yeandle, Smith and Shaw worked together in the 40s and 50s,

doing what?

5. Who embellished the lettering on Ephraim White's plaque in the Chapel?

7. Why would a St Ives chippy spit on a shilling?

9. What hush hush job did Arthur Carrington have which earned him an honour from the Queen?

10. The three regular places for Sunday School Outings—we know two, Wicksteed Park and Hunstanton. What was the third?

Please ring us with any answers on 01480 350787.

Fenstanton church member raises thousands for charity



The coronavirus lockdown was no obstacle for a Fenstanton URC member determined to raise money for charity. Because of lockdown restrictions, Jean Ding decided to move her stall from the church to outside her home in Cambridgeshire. The move proved successful, as Jean managed to raise £3,200. The money was divided between 16 charities.

Featured in our national magazine Reform!

St Ives Eco-Faith Book Resources by Sally Runham

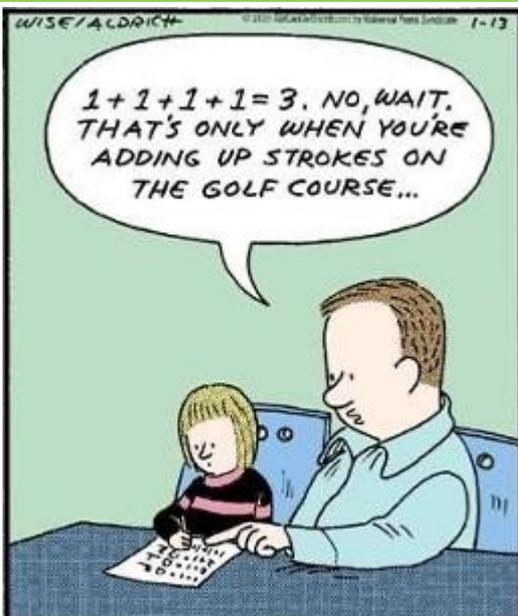
This group is meeting regularly and getting to know each other and to share ideas. Representatives from several churches attend including from Churches Together St Ives (CTSI). The group links closely with St Ives Eco Action group.

A study group at St Ives Methodist Church is working through *Jesus and the Earth* by Bishop James Jones. Revd Heather Walker kindly wrote the following review, "The book of Genesis describes God's delight in creation in all its aspects and there are plenty of Old Testament references to how the land and the products of creation should be used. Bishop Jones sets out to show that Jesus Christ came to redeem the whole of creation and the implications that has for us as Christians. He uses sound theological argument based on New Testament material. Each chapter challenges the reader to take a wider view of what it actually means to pray, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'.

Others are reading *Rewilding the Church* by Steven Aisthorpe, who finds inspiration in the ecological concept of rewilding, an approach to the environment that allows nature to break free from the dulling effects of strategic control and bring wonder back into our lives. Applying this thinking to the Church, Steve Aisthorpe imagines what might happen if we put less faith in our strategies and plans, which inevitably depend on our own capabilities and resources, and allow the Spirit to lead us beyond our capacity to imagine. The book explores afresh the compelling invitation of Jesus to 'Follow me' and the call to 'throw off everything that hinders and entangles'. It poses provocative questions and issues a call to contribute to the great rewilding of the Church – and to be rewilded ourselves. The same human instincts that have disrupted our natural environment have also constrained and domesticated the Church and this *book* recommends a rediscovery of the adventure of faith.

St Ives Eco Action group itself is spearheading a Nature Recovery Plan and aims, with the help of local conservationists, to map local wildlife areas such as churchyards and then look at measures to protect, enhance or restore such spaces. There is an assessment of churchyard diversity planned for 5th to 19th June.

The next meeting is on Monday 14th June at 2.30pm by Zoom. For an invitation, please contact Mary Cox. (mary@jmcox.co.uk)



From Rosemary and Andrew Whiffen

Thank you to everyone who has kept Andrew and myself in their prayers. Andrew has stayed with me throughout the long lock down and has only returned to his flat in the last 2 weeks. He has had one or two set backs but is progressing well now. As for myself - I am very blessed with many friends and neighbours who are there should I need them.

Irene calling.....

MAD MAD WORLD

**While India suffers
People die on the street,
Gasping for oxygen
Half dead on their feet.**

**Smoke chokes their skies,
And the stench fills the air,
While flouters here march
'Cos they don't really care.**

**"Covid's a myth!" they shout
"We know it's lies,
We demand liberty
Freedom from ties!"**

**All, as the innocent
shoppers in masks
Go about doing
Their everyday tasks.**

**The mobs wave their banners
Cajole or abuse,
Violent, spitting at
Police that they bruise.**

**All over towns and cities
They flout,
Spreading the virus
We've fought hard to keep out!**

**As they proudly flaunt
And destroy all the good
I don't understand
How they've misunderstood?**

**The world has gone mad
And our politics too,
Infighting, division
God, help us renew. Amen.**

cc. IRENE CARTER

Memories of my Dad's Army!

Leading on from last weeks item from Babs, about the home guard in the war, my father was an air raid warden, and used to go around making sure not a chink of light escaped folks' black out arrangements.

I remember one incident when my sister and I were 2 and 4 (so I suppose I was told about it). My dad had a close friend who was a soldier of some kind, I think a marine, and he had been in a particularly gruelling battle very recently, when for some reason or other he was visiting my parents. The story went that he arrived hot foot from the battle, exhausted to the point of delirium, whereupon he was ushered straight to bed. It wasn't until some time later that my dad realised that he had left his rifle propped up against the hall table, fully loaded and ready to fire. My parents were horrified, but fortunately got there before we had had time to have a little play with offending item!

My other memory of those times is of VE Day when I was given a large Union Jack to wave in the street. My abiding recollection of that event is that, being rather small, I managed to trail it through a rather extensive patch of horse manure freshly deposited on the road by some passing riders!

Liz Denham



Char asks..... "Have your swallows returned"?

Hers have but her sister in Spain is without and so are her friends, the Wilsons, in Hilton. Sadly. Chris says, we've never had any here on this modern house.....

She asks is anyone has a favourite bird poem and sent two of hers. Perhaps we can have more next week?

John Bunyan wrote:

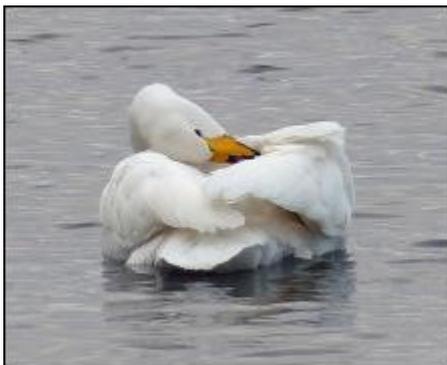
This pretty bird, oh how she flies and sings!
But could she do so if she had no wings?
Her wings bespeak my faith, her songs my peace;
When I believe and sing, my doubtings cease.



40 years earlier Orlando Gibbons 1583 ..1625 wrote

The Silver Swan

The silver swan, who living had no note,
When death approached, unlocked her silent throat,
Leaning her breast against the reedy shore,
Thus sung her first and last, and sang no more:
'Farewell all joys! O death, come close my eyes;
More geese than swans now live, more fools than wise.'



Our favourite i bird prayer/poem is by Ann Lew-in

Prayer is like watching for the kingfisher.

All you can do is be there where he is like to appear, and wait,

Often, nothing much happens; there is space and silence and expectancy.

No visible signs, only the knowledge that he's been there and may come again.

Seeing or not, cease to matter,

You have been prepared.

But when you've almost stopped expecting it,

A flash of brightness gives encouragement.

