

Keeping in Touch.....Easter 4

Thank you again to all those who have sent contributions: Catherine will continue to write her weekly newsletters and devotions - this is the equivalent of the chats we enjoy before and after worship! Send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com by lunchtime on a Thursday. Especially next week, any memories of VE Day, 75 years ago.

We start this week with two poems.

Firstly a poem written recently by the sister-in-law of James Denham,(Liz and Stewart's son), Amy Bhrun.

It's almost as if we knew.
It's almost as if somewhere
Deeply rooted in our bodies, we knew.
We had a sense that this was coming.

Life at fast-forward speed,
The mask had become the person,
The Ego was in control,
The warnings were there.

But it was too tempting not to listen.
Too tempting to keep running,
Too tempting to avoid sitting still,
Sitting still in the discomfort.

Mother Earth took a stand.
We were sent to our houses to think about what
we had done.

Time kept ticking away, without us having
To show how busy we were.
The world continued to turn
And it watched
While we repaired ourselves,
While we healed.

Slowly but surely, we emerged into a new world.
We could not explode onto the scene
or leap out the doors, as we once had.
Delicately, we walked each other into this new
world we
had been given.
Hand in hand. 🤝

And one from our friend and fellow church member, Irene Carter.

CARTER COVID

Our normal isn't normal now,
But life, it carries on,
Priorities we used to have
Seem faded, mostly gone.
Routines at home we've tried to keep
As order keeps you sane,
Household jobs, and bits and bobs
and clean, clean, clean again!
Pastimes old and pastimes new
We've tried to be inventive,
We've jived and quick stepped
'Till we dropped brimming with incentive
But when the dear old BBC
showed Over 50's Ballet
My quiet Geoff became a Mule
And firmly said "No way!"





Week 2020—sent in by Mary Cox

Surely, I hear you say, there will be no Christian Aid Week this year. We are all too engaged in responding to the corona virus. But we are not the only country fighting the coronavirus. The coronavirus outbreak threatens not only to jeopardise the health of a region, but of the world. It has shown us that our futures are bound more tightly together than ever before.

In times of crisis, more so than any other time, it is the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised who are at greatest risk. We must respond quickly.

The poorest will be worst affected

The coronavirus does not discriminate who it targets – rich or poor – our experience has shown us that it will be the poorest that will bear the brunt.

We know that some of the world's poorest countries, with the weakest health systems and most vulnerable people, are being exposed to this deadly virus. They are struggling to cope with any costs of healthcare, the costs of being unable to earn a living while ill or quarantined, and the costs of rebuilding their lives afterwards.

We see that the most adversely affected by Covid-19 are the elderly, those with underlying health issues and compromised immune systems, for instance, people living with HIV who are also homeless, or have no fixed income or access to health services.

So this year as much if not more than any before Christian Aid needs our support.

Christian Aid will use your Christian Aid Week donations to help families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

Telephone and postal donations

Unfortunately under the current circumstances regarding Covid-19, there is a delay to processing donations by post. Please give via the [website](#) where possible or call **020 7523 2269** to donate by telephone.

A paraphrase of part of Micah 6

Listen mortal. Listen to what God says. Look carefully at how God acts. Remember the stories of what God has done. God has shown you clearly what is bad and what is good.

You are to do justice to act fairly. Do justice in the home and in the street and in the marketplace. Do justice in your community. Work with others to do justice globally. Do justice with strangers and friends and family alike.

You are to love kindness. You are to be generous. You are to share your resources and share them with a smile. You are to care for those in need.

You are to walk humbly with God. No pretence, no bluster. You are to walk wisely and purposefully. You are to pray and wonder. You are to respect the earth. You are to experience and learn who God is and what God is about.

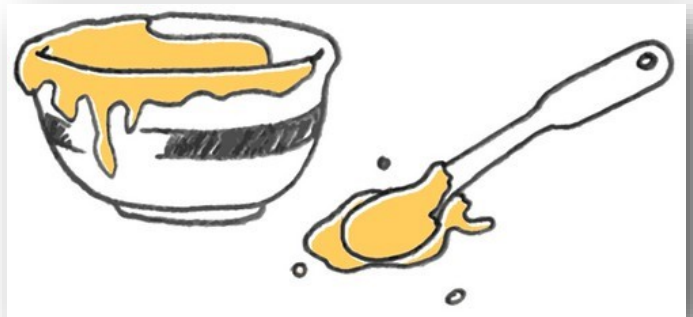
Listen up mortal. God has told you what is good. So do it.

The joys of technology! -from Lin Fleming

We are all missing visits from, and contact with, our friends, families, and grandchildren especially. And we find we are also being challenged to advance our use of the technology available to us to maintain contact. We'll pass swiftly over family quiz nights via Zoom; Andy and I are yet to win! But I expect, also, we are not alone in enjoying other benefits technology brings. There has been much sharing of worship, music, theatre and the arts through new streaming technologies. We have been grateful, amazed and admiring of the creative brilliance and generosity of this sharing.

It's the small joys and triumphs that are helping us to get through at the moment. I would just like to share two experiences which have brought us humour, joy and CAKE this week.

Tuesday. Early morning text from Norfolk - "Day not started well! Talitha (just turned 2yrs) refusing to come down stairs to play, she says she is 'working'." This was followed by head in hands emoji – you know the one I mean? "Mum, do you think you could do some baking with the children this morning: I've flour, dried fruit, sugar, eggs, milk, butter, no baking powder." After hasty searching of recipes and store cupboard - to match Norfolk's limited ingredients - I find my own mother's recipe for a saucepan fruit cake – written in her own hand and very stained with much use over the years. Also, the old reliable Rock Cake recipe so good for the youngest of children to get their hands in to rub the flour and butter together. Next, time for a Facetime conference to persuade 6 yr old to write list of ingredients; ask him to weigh and prepare everything (a bit of home schooling slipped in there?) and call me back when he's ready. With phones and iPads balanced on worktops in Needingworth and Norfolk, hands washed (to the count of 20!), we together made our respective cakes. Talitha's Rock Cakes were much reduced by the time they reached the oven – yes, you've guessed, she had already eaten much of the mixture. But we did it: it was messy and it was fun! When the larger cakes were cooked, we FaceTimed each other again and measured Albert's cake, and Grandma's. Of course, Albert's had the biggest rise



😊!



Wednesday. This morning, by contrast, we were sent a link to the Collective Assembly which is led each morning by members of staff and sent out to all the children at our older granddaughter's school. Today, Mr G. led Assembly sitting on the floor of his chicken coop, with his chickens. He told the story of Thomas needing to see Jesus' wounds to believe He really was alive. It was simply told and the children were asked to write down any thoughts they had about the difficulty of believing things they are told are true. Mr G spoke very gently to the children about how they were missed in school and hoped they would be back together soon. He brought his hands together, said a very simple closing prayer - and Goldie the chicken dived in looking for food in Mr G's praying hands! That's one telling of the story of Doubting Thomas that we, and hopefully the children, will always remember!

Whilst the technology can be challenging, it can bring many blessings and exciting opportunities.

A Brain-stretcher from Rosemary Whiffen

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalised, but the truth struck home to numbers of readers . . . to others it was a real job. We wanted it to be a most fascinating few moments for you . . .

Yes there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it, it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is . . . A little old lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete...relax now.

Hunts Forum

The church joined Hunts Forum in 2019 at the instigation of the Organisation and Operations group, and approved by the Elders at a cost of £25 per year. HF is an umbrella organisation that coordinates activities of voluntary and community groups; to help prevent overlap and ensure all in need have some assistance. HF provides information small groups need such as on training, legislation and funding opportunities. HF is monitoring the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on charity and community groups and it is worth keeping in contact with them, in the event they can help our church get up and running again after the lockdown. If you want to know more about HF, or have any useful input for me, please let me know; I am current church link on behalf of the church secretary. sallyrunham@aol.com
Network St Ives

Catherine and I attend networking meetings that aim to maximise the effectiveness of each voluntary, charity, community and statutory group. How can each make the most of what they can offer – with the limited resources available? Can there be synergy by working with another organisation on a particular project? At present, there are updates on Coronavirus and a leaflet listing contacts for issues such as abuse and mental health has been circulated (Alan, David and Catherine have a copy). Network St Ives is still 'meeting' using Skype and phones and I hope to tune in.

Sally Runham

Mary Anthony sent this too to test out memories.....

A friend of ours from the village occasionally puts pen to paper with a bit of poetry. He sent us this recently and called it his Singalong or Quizalong. He is quite happy for us to use it in the church newsletter.

from Maurice Hanslow

" I was warbling in the shower the other day (not a pretty sound) when I realised that you could string some first lines of songs together to make some sort of comment on our present situation. Now I've fudged it a bit and they may not all be first lines but could be titles as well. One has definitely been slightly adjusted! Can you name the songs and probable singers? If you are running out of jigsaws, crosswords, sudoko or watching your recently-painted skirting boards dry you could try singing each song. I think there are 21 songs (possibly 22) so if you allow 3 minutes for each then it could use up a good hour! So it's not quite a sing-along more like a quiz-along. Good luck!"

*There's a kind of hush all over the world.
Is this the real life, is this just fantasy? The
sun is shining in the sky, there ain't a
cloud in sight and yesterday all my
troubles seemed so far away. I'm looking
out the window and the old hometown
looks the same. Morning has broken but I
see a bad moon rising. When will I see
you again? Our shop in the middle of our
Green, see the people all in line. If you see
me walking down the street walk on by or
keep on running. Every breath you take
every move you make, (someone) will be
watching you. When you're weary the
road is long with many a winding turn.
But don't worry, be happy! If we keep
right on to the end of the road we'll meet
again and we'll be alright now.*

For The Love of Scrubs from Barbara Duffett

When you are referred to as a scrubber it is usually a derogatory comment. Well I could not be prouder since joining the For the Love of Scrubs group! Started up little more than a month ago it is now a nationwide network organised via Facebook, of local groups of sewers making scrubs, laundry bags, scrub hats etc for local NHS and a variety of care teams. Scrubs which are in short supply, are worn instead of uniform or under PPE to be put on at work, taken home in the bags and laundered together to reduce the cross-infection risks in response to Covid 19.

I had to learn how to use Facebook – our daughter Claire had to show me! I have met a wonderful group of enthusiastic people of various skill levels who happily support each other and share sewing tips, distribute donated material and duvet covers and collect finished scrubs while reducing car travel and always mindful of social distancing! None of us had ever made these items before and some people have dusted off their machines after many years of being hidden away, while others have always had dedicated sewing rooms.

We have made hundreds, both official hospital scrubs for Hinchingbrooke and Peterborough and fun sets from old duvets. My favourite of the ones I have done are made from 101 Dalmatians fabric which I hope have gone to someone working in paediatrics or at EACH.

Hopefully when the pandemic is over, we will be able to get together and celebrate in person. (To see more info and pictures, go to the For The Love of Scrubs page on Facebook)

Stay safe and well until we can gather together again.



Keeping in touch in a very different Spring—thoughts and photos from Char.....

has anyone else put an old Ted and a Rainbow in their front window?



Forget-me-nots!



Home-schooling at the Holy Well

All the very best to my great pals at the good old Free Church!