

Keeping in Touch..... Number 12

Thank you to those who have sent in contributions this week. Much appreciated! Surely some of you have memories from early school days?

We have two quizzes for you this week so get your thinking caps on!

Deadline each week is noon on a Wednesday—please send to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com if you are not nifty with a keyboard simply ring 01480 350787 and let Alan or Chris know what you want to say!

A Cambridgeshire Quiz—with thanks to Char

1. What and where is the oldest building in the county?
2. Where is Paradise in Cambridge ?
3. Why is the font askew in the church at Friday Bridge?
4. Name the seventeenth century Cambridge love poet who became a clergyman.
5. What kind of military defence exists at Wandlebury on the Gog Magog Hills?
6. What are fen nightingales ?
7. Where did Mary Tudor hide on her way to Suffolk, the house was set alight soon after she left ,but later rebuilt with her money.
- 8, One for Brian .Christopher Tye, Rector of Doddington ,known as Father of the Anthem and composer of a popular Christmas hymn, once told his queen that her ears were out of tune. Name the queen and the hymn.
9. Who or what was the Godolphin Arabian?
10. Where can you find the biggest spider in the world?

Answers next week.....

The archive photo last week was of Doris Bull on her 84th birthday.

And a Bible Quiz found by Helen.... (again, answers next week)

Who made the following decisions? - wording is as in the Authorised Version.

1. I will arise and go to my father , and I will say unto him, “ I am no longer worthy to be called thy son”.
2. Here I am, send me.
3. We have found the Messiah
4. Whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge.
5. I will now turn aside and see this great sight.
6. I will pull down my barns and build greater.
7. Let us go now even unto Bethlehem.
8. Bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
9. Thy servant we go and fight with this Philistine.
10. Sir, we would see Jesus.

Peter German's early life and journey to the Free Church.

I was born in the small market town of March deep in the fens. At that time, almost all the men either worked on the land or the railway. My dad and both grandads worked on the railway, although, sadly, my maternal grandad had passed away before I was born. March was an important railway town with its huge marshalling yards, where the prison now is. The marshalling yards were even a target for the Luftwaffe during the war. The marshalling yards became unwanted later, hence that is now the site of Whitemoor prison.

As a small child I attended St John's Church of England church at the end of my street. Church in the morning and Sunday School after, even though my parents were not church goers. Sadly, my overriding memory of morning service is being very bored & constantly being told to be quiet. It was very much that children should be seen but not heard and we were never included. While I enjoyed Sunday School, I left and started attending the local Methodist church which I enjoyed.

However, I left church altogether when I started grammar school, apart from Monday morning services at St Wendreda's Church which was just over the road from the school. Unfortunately, this continued until my son, Michael was born in 1981. We joined the Free Church, and we are still here. We immediately felt welcomed in the Free Church. One may wander but the call of the church never goes away, and I am so glad that I returned.



Do you send KIT on to anyone else? If so, where does it go? Char forwards to folk in Spain, Cornwall, Suffolk and Scotland.



Irene calling.....

THE MASK

The lady on YouTube
Said it won't take too long,
Mask making is easy,
She sang like a song.

Take an old Tee shirt
Don't measure, just rip,
I did, and it didn't
My heart did a flip!

Hers was so perfect
And mine stretched and spoiled,
So out came the scissors
And oh! how I toiled.

I determined to master
My material square,
Which was now fast becoming
A sewing nightmare!

I tacked and I pinned
I machined 'till I flopped,
I dreamt of the mask
And I sewed 'till I dropped!

So, Lady on YouTube
I know you meant well,
But your stopwatch is faulty
T'was hours of hell!

cc IRENE CARTER

A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING ? - a Bible commentary from John Williams

READING: ECCLESIASTES 3 v 1-8

1 PETER 5 v 8-11

Ecclesiastes tells us that there is a time for everything. What, really everything ?

So, is there a time for sin and a time for repentance? Some might think so...

Most of what Ecclesiastes says cannot be avoided, for example "*a time to be born and a time to die.*" But sin has an element of choice about it. We can choose to sin or not depending on our inclination at the time.

The trouble is, most of us are at one time or another tempted and fall into sin. But for many of us there is a period of repentance and then there will be forgiveness by the wronged person, or if no person was involved, by God.

Our Lord Jesus was without sin, in spite of being tempted in the desert three times.

He showed us that even under the most trying circumstances it is possible to resist temptation. Peter, in his first letter, urges us to be self-controlled and resist the temptations of the devil whom he compares to a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. All good intentions but often of course "*the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*"

If we are feeling guilty having sinned, we should try to repent, and in our prayers offer ourselves to Christ who will forgive us, even in those circumstances where our fellow humans cannot.

If you feel "too unworthy" remember how He forgave so many people whom we would even in this enlightened age consider as outcasts. He wants to know you, even all those bits that you consider to be less than honourable.

Psalm 51 gives a good framework for this when you feel lost for words.

God is gracious and always forgives, even if we don't realize it at the time.

John Williams 2006

I would love to hear from you if you want to reflect or comment on this. Please email me:-

jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk

The other photo from last week.....a note from Stewart.

Dr Mary Carter is seen here in 2005 with Katrina Rush, a sixth form college student from Cambridge at the launch of Mary's second book on Free Church history - 'A Remarkable Journey'. You may recognise the rather 'quirky' image of our church building which was created by Katrina using paint and collage. Mary was so taken with the unusual image, that she purchased it from Katrina, used it on the cover of her book and donated it to church, where it continues to be displayed on the first floor landing.

More Sunday School memories from Philip Simpson—erstwhile Elder and still a good friend of the church.

MUNGU AWABARIKI WOTE WA IV IV

There aren't many of us around to remember life in St Ives during and after World War II. But I recall very vividly the lengths to which some churches went to nurture the Christian souls of the youngsters of St Ives. The Free Church had its popular Sunday Afternoon (Give the Parents a Break) School – as reported in last week's Newsletter. But there was serious competition elsewhere to rope in the kids.

On West Street, we had the Extremely Evangelical Rust Family of three Extremely Evangelical Sisters. Every Monday evening they would hold their SUNSHINE MEETINGS in, what was then, the Co-Op Hall in Merryland.

To attend the Free Church Sunday School would cost us one or two ship-ha-pennies, collection money to fund the South Seas work of a series of missionary ships - the MVs. John Williams 1,11,111, & 1V.

To attend the Sunshine Meetings would cost a whole six-pence! For this, we could be born again and have an everlasting life! Better still, we were promised a FREE Sunshine Meeting OUTING to Wicksteed Park in the summer. That truly was the PROMISED LAND for youngsters who would have to learn and sing the hymns composed and played on the piano by one of the Rust sisters - plonking away in the cracks!

Additionally, we were expected to make items for our brothers and sisters in a place called Africa. One such task involved making purses and stuffing them with lavender!!! (Why, one now asks 75 years on?) To these would be attached labels of Christian messages which we had to write in Swahili, Bantu or Zulu. Can you write " God is Love " in Swahili, Bantu or Zulu? I can! Much shame on you, if you can't!

But the Sunshine Meetings of a Monday evening sometimes had serious competition. There was the Methodist Church with its PENNY PICTURES in their church hall off West Street. With no television and only Children's Hour on the wireless, we could enjoy – for the price of one penny – two hours of silent Charlie Chaplain, Buster Keaton and Laurel & Hardy classics. Sometimes the flickering projector worked!

Amazingly this popular enterprise was run by one man and one man only. Mr Sellens was the projectionist and he was also the pianist. He wouldn't start the show until all stood to sing " Stand up, Stand up, for Jesus." Nor would he let us leave until we stood to sing. " Now the Day is Over." How could we leave? The door was locked and guess who had the key? And all for the price of ONE PENNY. In old money. (Mr Sellens also played the piano in the cracks!).

Sadly I do not recall if All Saint's Church had regular, similar attractions for children. But I do recall that concerts and Nativity plays in the Ramsey Road School were free. But to leave, one had to run the gauntlet of a silver collection! This was scrutinised by a man that people called " Father ". Oddly, he wore a long, black dress a funny, black hat!

Needless to say, the Sunshine Meetings and Penny Pictures thrived during those harsh, post-war times. As did the Free Church Sunday School – as was – for years.

MUNGO AWABARIKI WOTE WA IV IV.

(That's St Ives Sunshine Meeting Swahili for God bless all evangelists.)