

## **Keeping in Touch..... Number 13**

**Thank you to those who have sent in contributions this week. They are much appreciated!**

**Deadline each week is noon on a Wednesday—please send to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto: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!**

### **Some early memories from Irene Carter and Liz Denham.....**

#### **From Liz.....**

*It seems that we have several church members with past connections to Methodism - and I am certainly one of them. I was born into a Methodist family - my parents both pillars of our Zion Methodist Church in Boston, Lincs.*

*Our church was famous in the area for its lavish nativity plays, we even had to have a policeman controlling the influx of cars coming to see what was a very go ahead enterprise in those days! I seem to recall that the Sergeant's name was Geoffrey Denham (Stewart's father!). So these plays were started in the war years, and at some stage it was decided that I was old enough to sit still enough to go to a performance. I think I must have been 2 or 3? At some point a collection was taken, and duly presented on stage. I was on the front row, on a small chair, and as the shepherd carrying the offering knelt down his sandalled foot came into contact with this highly gullible little girl! I can still remember the thrill I felt, as I said to my mother, "One of the shepherds touched me!" Those were the days! L*

#### **From Irene.....**

##### **MY FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL**

The day finally dawned, my first day at school. The Sun was shining and I was nervous but excited too.

Mum had bought me a new set of clothes for the occasion. I got dressed in front of the fire, slipping on the crisp white blouse and navy blue pinafore pleated dress, and red and blue sash, which tied around the waist.

After breakfast we made our way to school, which was just at the top of our road in Edmonton London. There was a very busy main road to cross then a short walk and then we were at School.

All went well, until in the classroom. Mum said "Oh well, I'll be off then." "Off where?" I said.

"Off home" she said.

I couldn't believe it! Nobody had ever mentioned I had to stay on my own! Panic set in, but I didn't cry, I was too shocked.

Well the school morning began and I can't really remember much except a blur of activity going on around me and a feeling of rising panic.

After what seemed like ages, a bell rang and the teacher said "Playtime children, you can go out and do what ever you want for a while."

Well, that was good enough for me, I wanted to go home, so I did. Crossing the busy main road on my own and running straight back home. Mum came rushing to the door after hearing the banging on the knocker. As she opened it I said "I tried it, and I didn't like it, so I've come home!"

Before I knew what was happening she had grabbed my hand and rushed me back to school, and we got there just as the bell rung for playtime to be over.

**They never knew what I had done, so I didn't get into trouble. What a day!**

# Quiz Time

## Firstly, answers to Char's Cambridgeshire quiz

- 1, St Benet's Church.
2. Newnham, an area of unhusbanded woodland.
3. The font is askew because the weight of the tower has pulled the whole of the west end of the building into the peat.
4. Robert Herrick..
5. Iron Age fort 305 metres in diameter.
6. Frogs.
7. *Sawston Hall.*
8. Queen Elizabeth 1st and While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night.
9. He was an Arab stallion a one of the founders of British bloodstock, he is buried at Wandlebuyy
- 10, The Sedgewick Museum, 339mm in length. It is a fossil..

## Answers to Helen's Bible Quiz

1. The Prodigal Son
2. Isaiah
3. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother
4. Ruth
5. Moses
6. The Rich Man
7. Shepherds
8. Herod.
9. David
10. Greeks, to Philip

### Who remembers this from Sunday School days?

*Hear the pennies dropping,  
listen as they fall,  
Every one for Jesus  
He shall have them all!  
Dropping, dropping,  
Dropping dropping,  
listen as they fall,  
Every one for Jesus  
He shall have them all!*

### Excuses, excuses..... Who made the following excuses?

1. I cannot speak, for I am a child.
2. The serpent bequiled me.
3. I cast the gold into the fire and there came out a calf.
4. I have married a wife and cannot come.
5. I have no husband
6. I was no prophet but a herdsman.
7. I hid it in the earth.
8. I am a man of unclean lips.
9. I am slow of speech.
10. Can there be any good thing come out of Nazareth?

Answers next week!

## THE REBELS

Off they all went for a day by the sea,  
Spent hours in cars with kids, two or three,  
Traffic was slow each car tail to tail,  
Onwards they travelled up hill and down dale.

The beaches were swarming like bees to the honey,  
Jostling ice-cream queues were spending their money.

Where was the distancing? Where were the masks?  
Pitching their tents seemed top of their tasks.

Apparently then, though camping was banned  
Lots partied all night as they littered the land.  
Abusive and selfishly risking the spread  
Of a virus so vicious, when we've so many dead.

As we sat watching the News of the day  
We despaired at the mind set of these people at play,  
After all of the warnings and rules put in place,  
Again and again they're thrown back in our face.

While most of us try to do what is right,  
The rebels don't care to join in the fight.  
The time is fast coming to lay down the law  
Strengthen the punishment as never before.

cc IRENE CARTER

## *Early school Memories from Chris C*

I started school in a tiny village just south of Gloucester on the edge of the Cotswolds and on the Severn floodplain. The 3 class school was a gentle place to start though I had to go by bus on my own from our house which was a mile or so away from the village centre. The school was run by two sisters called Miss L and Miss O—never occurred to any of us children that sisters didn't usually have different surnames, plus the lovely Mrs M who took us youngest ones. I clearly remember the old coke fire that heated our room, and the little camp beds where we had an after lunch nap (complete waste of time in my opinion!) The toilets were in a separate shed and the buckets changed /emptied once a year! No toilet paper—if you needed some you asked Mrs M who gave you a piece of cut up wax crayoning from her desk drawer—much good it was for the job needed! Also did nothing for our self esteem regarding our art work!

But it was a lovely school. We had treats! We got out of the classroom to line the playground fence for two reasons—to watch a funeral (we were right opposite the church) and to watch the hunt meet! Priorities.....

One winter the Severn flooded badly and the school bus deemed it too dangerous to come and fetch those of us that lived out-with the main village so dad came in his old car which had a wooden floor and took about 8 of us home. Needless to say the floor didn't last much longer than the floods!

A huge shock awaited me though when I was six and we moved to London and there were more in one year group than in the whole school in the lovely village.. But that's another story.....

## Biblical commentary III

### GIVING TO CHARITIES

READING: MATTHEW 6 v 1-4

One of the difficulties of keeping biblical instruction in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that it does not always appear to sit well with modern life. This is particularly true in the case of charitable giving. On a large scale we have the TV charity days such as Children In Need. All that publicity, yet we are urged in scripture to give in secret. What are we to do? If we want to give on these big occasions then we can request that we are “anonymous” and hope people will respect our wishes.

On a smaller scale there is the increasing tendency for charities to “reclaim the tax” so that the amounts given are worth more. Of course, having to fill in a form and declare your intentions means that your giving is no longer secret. However, it's not as if it is public knowledge because only the treasurer and secretary of the charity may know of your intentions. It is surely the case that this is not “trumpeting” your generosity. There will also be other times and opportunities where your giving *can* be entirely secret. Dropping coins in a box, for example, where the collector is not known to you.

However, don't count the pennies, just give...

John Williams 2006

*From John Williams:*

During this lockdown I have been writing a few poems in intervals during walks.  
Here's one I wrote thinking about reasons for our existence.

## BECAUSE

Because the river rolls down  
to the sea,  
Because love passes be-  
tween you and me,  
Because the water flows  
along so free,  
I know how life's secrets are  
revealed  
And how life's problems are  
healed.  
Because I know there's some-  
thing bigger than Earth,  
Because I know that sadness  
always ends in mirth,  
Because I know life begins  
before birth,  
I know the Spirit moves in me  
And how it has continuity.

Because of life,  
Because of death,  
Because there's Spirit in eve-  
ry breath,  
Because there's freedom in  
your heart  
Because things end they also  
start;  
Because the universe is  
there,  
Because you're you, you re-  
ally care,  
Because no-one can tell you  
who  
Is really going to  
challenge you,  
It's the season,  
It's the reason,  
It's the reflection,  
It's the direction  
The finger points to a future  
state-  
It's getting late, we cannot  
wait,  
We are dependent on our  
fate,  
Because,  
(a pause)  
There's nothing else as great  
As Spirit.

27 / 6 / 2020 J D W

*From Char'e garden....*



Windy Sunday and it seems as though the silver birch my sister Louie planted 50 years ago is being torn to shreds. Happily it will survive. What a time of change.

One can only praise the creator of the universe, we are called into a new future which demands of us the vision of a better world.

It is possible



*Some much loved faces from the archives of 2008/9.....*

# Parish Teas



## St Ives Eco-Action Faith Communities initiative

Mary Cox and I met on 7<sup>th</sup> July by Zoom with members of other St Ives churches and with a link to Tony Pearson of St Pauls C of E in Cambridge, with an active eco-church group working towards its silver eco-church award. Helen Dye who is on the steering group of St Ives Eco Action was also present. Mary Gatehouse of the Methodist church chaired this meeting, but there will be a range of chair people.

This meeting aimed to share what each person or church was trying to achieve or had already done to combat climate change. Mary Cox spoke about Green Christian, and her involvement in radical Christian lobbying for the climate, including organised protests. Mary Gatehouse spoke on behalf of herself and Mary Cox about the A Rocha Eco Church awards and the fact that applying for this prestigious and now well-established credential made the congregation think about every aspect of their own and their church's efforts to become eco-friendly. Mary also told us of the United Nations Association call for a Climate Focus Service on or after 6th September 2020, the date designated as "Climate Sunday".

Helen Dye said she was impressed by the way churches acted at a local level but also cared very much about the plight of people in developing countries and had a worldwide view.

Local church initiatives include the process of divesting of fossil fuel investments, assessing an individual's carbon footprint, evaluating efficiency of the new heating system at the Methodist church, a recipe book containing meat-free alternatives, the Holywell wildflower campaign, and exploring storage facilities such as refrigeration for the St Ives Food Bank. Modernisation of the Anglican Church in St Ives will include consideration of its carbon footprint and, although adhering to rules for listed buildings can be difficult, it is not insurmountable.

There is a feeling that other faiths and non-faith groups could also become involved in this Faith Communities initiative, linked to the St Ives Eco Action group: it wants to be all-inclusive. Mary Cox stressed the need to inform Churches Together St Ives (CTSI). The area targeted will include villages close to St Ives.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am by Zoom. For an invitation, please contact either Mary ([mary@jmcox.co.uk](mailto:mary@jmcox.co.uk)) or Helen Dye ([stivesecoaction@gmail.com](mailto:stivesecoaction@gmail.com)). The aim is to get to know other people interested in joining a faith communities network to share practical experiences and to work together to maximise our impact.

Being part of St Ives Eco Action engages young people, and schools, and gives access to impacts based on excellent image branding and social media.

**Sally Runham**

***What are we all looking at? When and why?***

***Can you name everyone?***



***Who got married 50 years ago this weekend?***

