

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 16***

***Thank you to those who have sent in contributions this week. They are much appreciated! - do keep them coming.***

***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!***

***From John Williams.....***

I recently listened to a CD of monks chanting in the Heiligenkreuze monastery in Vienna woods where we visited on holiday some years ago. It is very calming and relaxing music but of course also very ancient and devout. This prompted me to write this short poem.

### **C H A N T**

The voices rise and fall in sacred praise.  
This ancient form of music sung today  
Reminds us of those times so long ago  
When monks first kept their vigils all “just so”.  
But still these songs are done in various places,  
Where candles shine their light on devout faces.  
It’s calming because it assures us of God’s presence  
And we can pray to him with a full reverence.  
Joining with the monks we sing in unity  
And become one with God’s community.  
18 / 7 / 2020 J D W

### ***Musings from our resident musician .....***

***I have served as Resident Musician to five different congregations over a period almost 60 years with one of them Anglican.***

***It was at Balham in South London where I played a lovely Grand Piano and it was there that my present title was first coined.***

***It was a happy fellowship with many different nationalities and cultures and they blended happily. They had Favourite Hymn services at least twice every year, even three times, and it was noticeable that on those Sundays the congregation was 50% up in numbers, twice, standing room only.***

***When a congregation has a vested interest in an important part of the service content, they will come.***

***The Church Treasurer, a delightful man from the Caribbean, whose father came across on ‘The Windrush’, throughout the service smiled broadly.***

***Brian Lodde***

*Sadly the last of John's Bible commentaries for now.....*

**A Bible reading reflection (5) READING: 1 Corinthians Chapter 11 v 17-22**

When Paul talks about divisions among Christians, his words could well apply now. There are so many divisions between churches and even within churches, yet we are all supposed to be part of the Body of Christ. Is this separation into differing groups not only a source of sadness but also, in the context of Paul's belief, a sin?

We were all baptized into One Body, one faith, so why do we separate? I know that some would argue about "historical traditions" but maybe there is more to it. We don't have to look very far in Europe or, indeed in our own islands to see examples of almost primeval tribalism between denominations ignoring "Christ-centredness", with all the conflict and violence that tribalism brings.

We all worship One God, so why not in one Church? There is a tendency in post-WW2 times to accentuate individualism over and perhaps against the common purpose but what is the end result of this taken to extremes? You end up on your own! It is true that the individual responds in worship to the Holy Spirit because that is the contemplative side of our spiritual selves, but a balance has to be made between private prayer and public worship. Similarly, it may be somewhat comforting to sit every Sunday with the few people that always can be relied on to have similar views, but sometimes it is better to join with others in more challenging company. The Ecumenical Movement has much to offer towards a truer interpretation of the Gospel for it joins Christian people together into One Body.

Some Christian sects seem to claim that they are the sole interpreters of truth and then promptly exclude other Christians from certain parts of their worship. They are acting, it seems to me, like the very Pharisees that Jesus condemned. Still others claim that theirs is the ONLY way to God and the rest of us are thereby not worthy of heaven at the Last Trumpet.

We need to get together more often, regularly, as members of the Body of Christ but unrestricted by any rules and regulations of our denominations, lest we forget the whole meaning and purpose of what it is to be Christian. There is a lesson to be learnt from the disappearance of many churches "doing it always their own way" which is not necessarily the way of Christ.

I wrote this in 2007 and of course during this present situation we are probably even further apart in some respects. But I do feel now that there is a longing for some "togetherness" even if just Online for a while. Faith tells me that we will return soon, possibly with renewed links to others

*John Williams*

**Biblical animals - the answers - thanks to Char's sister Louie.**

1. Neither of us must be coveted. Ox and Ass—thou shalt not covet Exodus 20;17
2. I've got the desired wings Dove—Oh for the wings of a Psalm 55:6
3. I've got a very bony rider Pale horse, Death rides a pale horse Rev 19:25
4. I didn't want any pearls anyway swine—cast not pearls before the swine Matt 7:6
5. I benefit from children's messy eating dogs, eating the crumbs from the table Matt 15:27
6. He keeps eating our food Piggies again—prodigal son Luke 15:1– 32
7. I got lost He found me.—Lost sheep - luke 15
8. The family and I are mentioned 500 times in the Bible Lambs and sheep (Google!)
9. Messrs Tate and Lyle used me Lion—Out of the strong... Judges14{14
10. People think I am a reptile but I am a bird.- Turtle Dove Matt 23 7-10

## ***The Lake—Episode 2 from Char***

Clever Jenny managed to book a Zoom meeting with our MP Anthony Browne, bit nerve racking but all went well. He is Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Environment. I see him as our last chance to save our beautiful lake and at least a little of its setting.

When I introduced myself I did tell him that I have had very close connections with Oakington since 1623 when my non conformist ancestor Henry Oseland ,aged 16, came from Rock in the parish of Bewdley,Worcs, (Goodness just 8 years after the death of Shakespeare)! to Cambridge, to study at Trinity College.

Anyway, he ejected himself in 1665 along with 2,000 others but more of that later .

RESULT

I invited Mr Browne to come and see the lake and make up his own mind about the ghastly situation ,and he accepted, BRILLIANT! And within the next two weeks.



We are fighting this development because we know our children need to take a walk on the wild side,they will miss it without even knowing what they lack. They will just be poorer and sadder people,and that's the world we are making for them.

Have a lovely successful week.

As ever

Char x



## ***Freda recalls.....***



I remember the spire renovation well. The weather vane was also put into the centrum area and children were encouraged to jump over it so they could lay claim to the fact they had jumped over the Free Church weather vane, of course not mentioning that it was not on the spire at the time.



Some time before this we also had the roof done don't forget. I gave up being assistant manager to Mary Cox in Just Sharing to take on the whole of the refurbishment project for this, and roped in Ian Angus to help me. I must say that although I knew Veronica, slightly, before this time I did not know Ian, but we became firm friends until he died. I thoroughly enjoyed doing this project, it certainly kept us occupied for many months. This was the start of my time on the Property Committee and I ended up Chairing it. Of course must not forget that Ian carved his initials in the cement supporting the tiles, above the Church Passage side.



*A barbecue at Anne and Geoff Strong's plum orchard at Wyton*

## ***Irene calling.....***

### **CORONA BABY**

My Mummy's changed a lot you know  
It's hard for me to grasp,  
She loves me yes, of that I'm sure,  
But now she wears a mask?

Gone are the days of fancy free  
She seems to be on guard,  
She cleans and scrubs the house all day  
She works so very hard.

There's not much time for coo-chi-coo  
And nappy changing's quick  
It's off and on within a flash  
It's getting on my wick!

Sometimes she takes me to the park  
I like to feed the ducks,  
But if a stranger wanders close,  
Just like a hen she clucks.

Daddy works at home now more  
He never did before,  
Mum leaves me with him now and then  
We wave her out the door.

It's really good then, we have fun,  
He throws me in the air  
Sometimes I'm sick all down his shirt  
I laugh at his despair!

When Mum comes back there's lots of mess,  
Dad has to help, says she!  
I lay content with sleepy eyes  
I'm only a babe you see!

**cc. IRENE CARTER**

# Fellowship Walks

