

Keeping in Touch..... Number 30

Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. The KIT deadline is noon on Wednesdays. Please send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld. It was fitting to have two heartfelt contributions on Remembrance this week—thank you Roy and Geoff.

If you would rather just tell us something, rather than type, then please lift up the phone to Chris or Alan—01480 350787.

Lest we forget..... Roy Muttram

I have attended or participated in Remembrance Services for well over 80 years. It has always been personal. My earliest memories are listening intently for the name of my uncle Georg - L/Cpl G C Rogers among "the Fallen" being read by the vicar. then there were the parades - LT Meacey of the Home Guard who always stood and marched at the back of his platoon because he was too deaf to hear the marching orders, or the "South African War Veterans" who seemed so old to a small boy yet with hindsight were only in their early to mid 70s.

There was the year that another uncle, then a lieutenant in the Royal Navy laid the wreath on behalf of the British Legion.

There were the years when I marched with fellow airmen to the local church, or as British Legion chaplain watched with pride as the Girls Brigade company who had been taught their drill my me marched to the War Memorial and outshone the rest of the parade.

Later still it was reading the lesson or leading the prayers outside City Hall Norwich and for the last 23 years on Market Hill, striving to get the timing right to begin the silence spot on 11.00.

This year was different. Social Distancing meant that only a fraction of those normally present could come to pay their respects. but again I was overawed as the clock struck 11 and there was absolute silence on Market Hill.



Reveille sounded, I stood at attention and (almost) wept.

And continuing the theme of Remembrance.... An article from Geoff Carter

MY UNCLE THOMAS (TOMMY) BRADSHAW

I have never met my Uncle Tommy, but remember seeing a photo of him dressed in a Naval uniform. My mother didn't speak about him much, as no doubt it was too painful. He was a little older than her and what happened must have affected all the family a lot.

At sixteen years old he was too young to join the services, but went anyway, determined to do his bit. He must have added two years onto his age, as he was enlisted into the Fleet Air Arm and became a Test Pilot, a very dangerous occupation. He was stationed at Ayr, a landbase, known as a (Stoneship) H M S Wagtail. He rose through the ranks quickly, to become a Chief Petty Officer (Pilot). Many young pilots were dying every day, so age was no barrier to promotion.

He was in the 802 Squadron and would have been flying a Seafire Mark III, which were a stronger design of the Spitfire. There were various models over time up to Mark XV year 1945.

Spitfires were fragile and only landed on grass, Seafires were sturdier and could with great difficulty land on ships, but, they had to turn in on coming in to land and often the legs would break. If that happened, that was often disaster!

When they didn't have enough ships to land on, the U S A made floating landing decks called Escort Carriers (nicknamed Woolworth Carriers).

Irene and I visited the Fleet Air Arm Museum when researching Tommy's history and a guide (John) showed us a Seafire plane and a model of the H M S Queen (a floating carrier).

Portsmouth library also helped us answer some questions too.

Armed with more information we found that Tommy died when his plane crashed into the sea on the 5th October, 1944. He was never found, so there is no grave.



Eighteen years old and so near to the end of the war.

He has two medals. The Star 1939-1945 (Battle of Britain) and The War Medal 1939-1945 (Oak leaf).

We made a special trip to and Portsmouth and Deal, in Kent, where Thomas Bradshaw's name is engraved on Memorial Monuments. His name is also on the Roll of Honour at the Fleet Air Arm church, St Barb, Yeovil, Somerset. Irene and I visited and laid yellow roses at the monuments and we also went to Ayr where we threw roses into the sea and said a prayer for him.

In remembrance of my Uncle Thomas Bradshaw, who like so many others gave his life for his beloved country.

GEOFF CARTER



Celebrate a love that builds hope this Advent

It's rare for us to live through a phenomenon which affects us in the UK at the same time as people right across the world. Not often in our lives have we experienced a threat that is shared by our global neighbours in countries as wide-ranging as Ethiopia, Lebanon and Nicaragua.

Covid-19 and measures to curb its spread have held much of the world in its thrall throughout 2020 destroying lives, instilling fear, devastating livelihoods and forcing vulnerable people into more desperate poverty.

As we approach Christmas though we are reminded of a person who turned the world upside down for good, whose life in a time of oppression and fear introduced a hope that transformed the globe as it spread across it.

Looking to Emmanuel, God with us, this Christmas, we are reminded that God walks with us through deeply difficult times and works through us in all circumstances to show love to this world. A love that never fails. A love that unites. A love that builds hope.

Inspired by Jesus, Christian Aid supporters walk alongside those for whom coronavirus is yet another threat on top of existing ones, including the climate crisis, conflict and in 2020 the impact of locust swarms.

Your gifts and actions help people like Mekonnen Sofar in Ethiopia's South Omo region, who digs a metre deep in dry river beds to try to find a water source to keep his livestock alive as the climate crisis pushes his family into hunger and threatens his whole way of life.

Friends, fellow herdsmen and children have died through digging so deep that the dry bed collapses above them.

Christian Aid is working with families like Mekonnen's to provide community water sources and explore alternative means of raising income such as through making soap from aloe vera and planting drought resistant crops.

The new restrictions placed on how we meet and interact have caused us to rethink what it is to be community, but our supporters know that we are bound together by much more than a virus and have shown a deep determination to continue to reach out to others.

This Christmas churches are being invited to join **in a moment of solidarity and hope on Advent Sunday, 29 November** by using the carol '*When out of poverty is born*' in their worship and taking a collection for Christian Aid.

The hymn, which is freely available to use to use from caid.org.uk/christmasresources celebrates Mary's faith in the Magnificat and begins with the words '*When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die*'. This Christmas we can celebrate the incredible truth that we are bound together globally by a love that builds resilience in the face of disease, drought and darkness, that builds up hope for all our neighbours.

To find out more about Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, including how to act for climate justice, visit caid.org.uk/hope. This Advent, £15 could train one woman to make aloe vera soap, £80 could provide two goats to help a family build a better future and £290 could pay for the materials and tools to build a pond, providing life-saving, reliable water for a whole community.

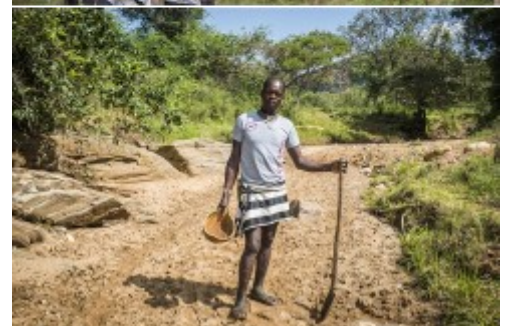


Photo credit Christian Aid/Elizabeth Dalziel. Captions:

Low rainfall leaves herdsmen Mekonnen Sofar struggling to find water for his cattle in Ethiopia

Mekonnen Sofar digs in a dry river bed to find water for his livestock

Irene calling.....

ANXIOUS MOMENTS

Anxiety, you search me out,
To knock my confidence, no doubt,
Historic traumas, worries, tears,
How you love to fuel my fears.

The News, so bleak in different ways,
Pandemic rears it's ugly head
While people fight across the world,
And migrants drown, so many dead.

Life's events have made me stronger,
Gone I thought, worries no longer.
2020 brought it back,
Anxiety, a new attack.

One minute fine, the next a shock,
Panic feelings - mental block.
Horizons darken, cloud storms grow
How could I fight this? Make it go.

I took a breath to get a grip,
It went as quickly as it came,
I know I'm not alone in this,
Anxiety, I know your game!

cc IRENE CARTER

Irene—thank you for sharing this with us all—I know you are not alone but few of us are brave enough to share honestly.

Answers to Char's photo "quiz" last week..

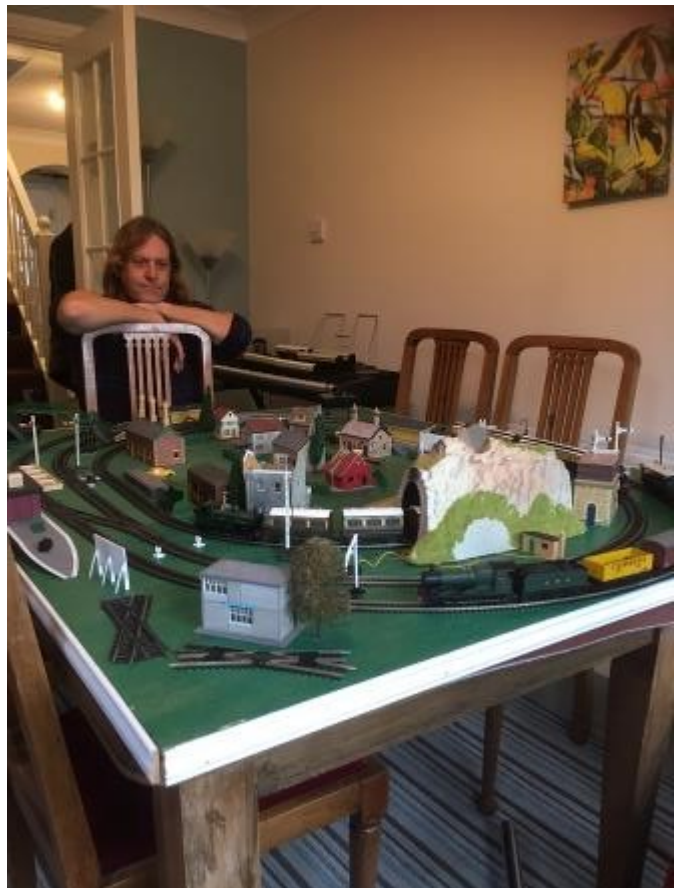
Her friends are Veronica Bowland (Ketteringham) and Jane

Huge congratulations to our friend Jean Grabaskey who celebrated her 99th birthday this Tuesday.



An update from Babs and John Moore.

On the subject of new hobbies for lockdown (1 and 2) I have lost my dining room table to an increasing complex train set now with 3 trains running, not all in the same direction, simultaneously. John had always dreamed of having train set and the dining room table is not being used for entertaining currently so dining room is now our "training" room!



Marmalade Lane – a new way of independent but never lonely living

by Sally Runham

This project featured on the Cambridge Climate Festival programme this week. The community is an intergenerational community group with strong ecological values and a sense of fun. Marmalade Lane is Cambridge's first cohousing community. It is a sustainable neighbourhood of 42 state-of-the-art homes with community facilities and shared gardens. The aim is to have nicely designed, energy efficient houses that minimise 'wasted space' and maximise community areas to encourage social interaction and tackle loneliness.

Living in Orchard Park, north of Cambridge, residents benefit from stops on the guided bus route with excellent access into the city centre, and to key hospitals. Close proximity to the science park and the regional college mean work and education is on hand. Half of the homes are apartments and half terraced houses. All have their own door and a small outdoor space, balcony or courtyard. Shared facilities include an allotment and larger grounds, laundry facilities, and their car park a short pedestrianised walk away. Residents share access to two pooled electric cars that they can use to drive shorter distances. Some have their own car as well, but several just have bikes. House carbon footprint is further minimised by having guest bedrooms in a shared complex rather than each family having a 'spare room'.

The main lane is car free as shown in the picture, such that community events easily happen without too much planning. Sharing ecological goals, if someone spots the need to do a litter pick, they just mention it to the others on social media and hey presto a whole gang clears that mess very quickly. A workshop with tools and experienced repairers assisting those who tended to throw broken things away is both saving resources, and helping people become more creative.



The project is assessed for average resident carbon footprint, but increasingly health watchdogs are putting monetary values on 'talking to neighbours', as mentors combatting loneliness reduce the need for social and health services. I think, as a church community, we have always known this, but it is so easy for people to fall through the gaps, especially during a lockdown. Let us watch this space...



A short photo quiz from Char—what are these?

Answers next week.



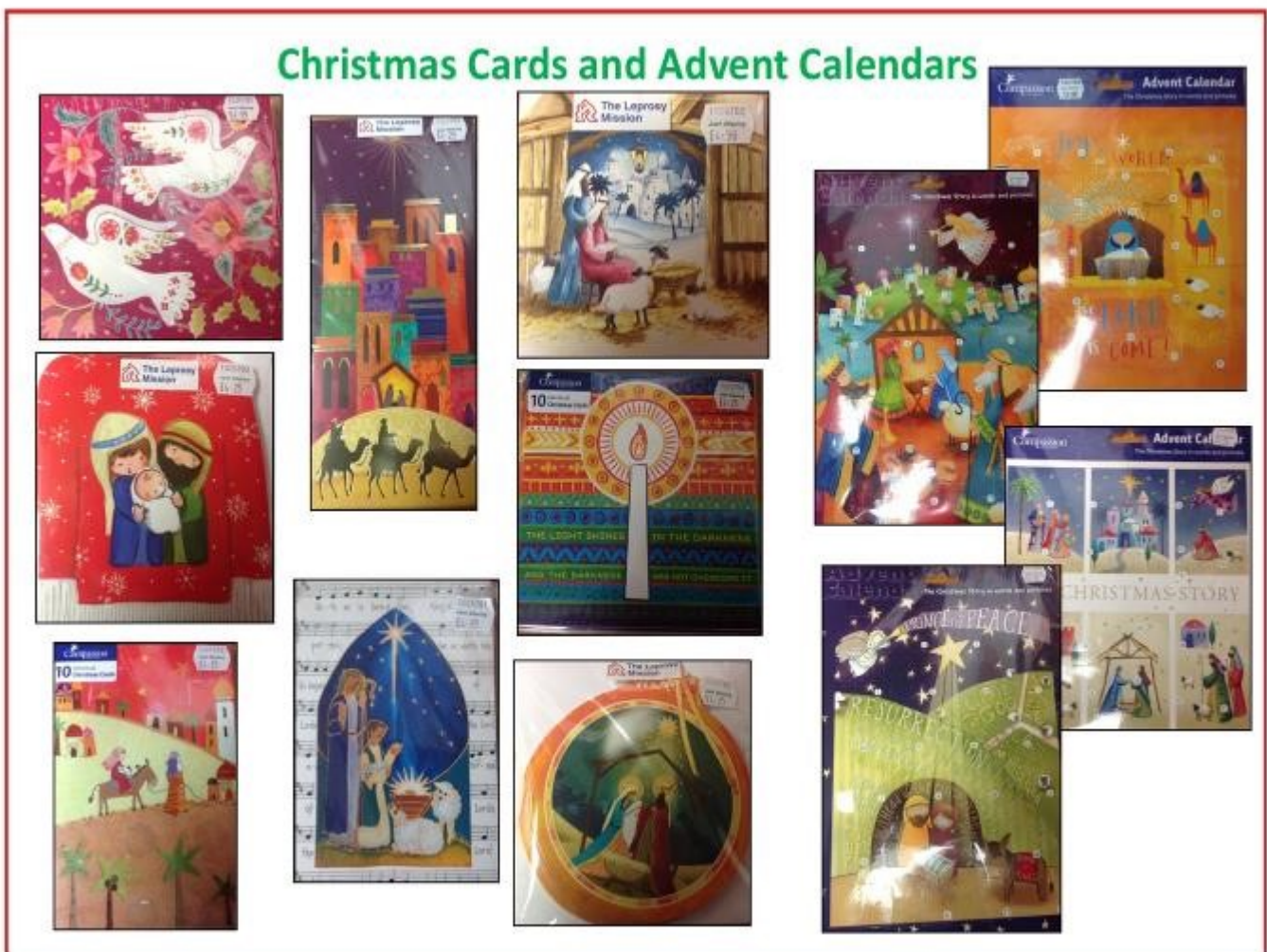
Just Sharing

The Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church

With the lockdown now in full swing, staff and volunteers at Just Sharing are happy to provide a personal service to our congregation to deliver cards, Advent calendars, gifts etc. We are happy to bring a selection of cards and Advent calendars to your door for you to choose. Payment will then be taken at a later stage over the telephone with credit or debit cards.

If you use Facebook please also check on the Free Church page for Just Sharing gifts, jewellery, cards, Advent Candles, Nativities etc. Search for 'St Ives Free Church URC'.

Please contact Tracey Hipson, Just Sharing Assistant Manager on 01480 468350 or Mary Anthony on 01480 469530 and we look forward to helping you with any purchase you wish to make.



“Lockdown easing willing “ we hope to have services in church at 11am on the 6th and 20th of December.

Please contact the church office if you wish to attend as we will still be limited to a maximum of 30 people.