

Keeping in Touch..... Number 31

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. We have a very special quiz this week as you will see! If you would rather just tell us something, rather than type, then please lift up the phone to Chris or Alan—01480 350787.

Philip Simpson, former Elder now living in France has sent us a group quiz Challenge to brighten up our lockdown. This is to be group effort! If we get all 20 questions right then the church will benefit by £5000! All the questions are connected in some way or another to St Ives and or our church. We can consult any books, historical documents or the internet.

Philip thinks his money is safe! Can we prove him wrong? If you think you know the answer to any of the questions then please let us know either by email or phone (see above). They are not easy questions but surely we have the skills between us to crack this. Please try to let us have answers by Friday 27th! We will then compile our answers to send to Philip.

ST. IVES FREE CHURCH URC : £5000 GROUP QUIZ CHALLENGE.

Q.1 It's 1890 and you are one of forty guests invited to a banquet in Buckingham Palace hosted by Queen Victoria. Why wouldn't the majority of the diners enjoy the sumptuous regal repast? Explain.

Q.2 What connection did Olympic 400 metre, gold medal hurdler, Sally Gunnell, have with your church?

Q.3 World War 1. 1915. Name the prominent member of the British Government who was demoted for two failed military campaigns – yet was never credited for boosting the coffers of HM's Treasury by millions for decades to come? Never! Explain.

Q.4 Stanley Holloway, 1890-1982, famous stage/ film/ monologist star, was quite generous to your church's reconstruction appeal in 1979. Why?

Q.5 Name the Hollywood beauty of the 1940s and 50s who designed and patented a torpedo guidance system that is still used by nuclear submarines today?

Q.6 Name the composer-pianist who could only perform in the dark. Name the composer-pianist who couldn't write a note without first dunking his head in a bucket of cold water. Name a composer-pianist whose fingers could easily span 13 notes (five more than an octave.) There were two of them.

Q.7 World War I. British Army icon, Col.T.E. Lawrence (AKA Lawrence of Arabia), later served in the Royal Air Force as Aircraftsman Ross and Aircraftsman Shaw from 1923 to 1935. In that time what did he help innovate?

Q.8 Why were the expeditions of HMS Bounty and HMS Providence (1789/91), both led by Lt. William Bligh, to ship breadfruit plants from Tahiti to feed the slaves working on the West Indies plantations, an UTTER waste of time? Explain.

Q.9 Take the stem of the Asian Dwarf Palm tree, smooth it with glass slithers, straighten it with fire, polish it with bees wax and top and tail it. What do you get?

Q.10 Name the singer with a reputed five-octave range who was a soprano, mezzo soprano, contralto, tenor, baritone and bass?

Q.11. Who were Cunningham, Tovey, Tedder, Eisenhower, Tipperary, Snowball, Noah and McCreary?

Q.12. World War II.1944. Who was, reputedly, the richest soldier in the American Army and the Allies most victorious General and why didn't he harbour pleasant memories of St Ives, Huntingdonshire? Explain.

Q.13. Mix oils of oranges, roses, jasmine, civet, cinnamon, musk and ambergris. What do you get?

Q.14. It's 1944. How did a 13-year-old Shirley Williams (destined to become a prominent UK politician) ALMOST upstage a 12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor (destined to become a Hollywood superstar) ?

Q.15. 1980. Who was the Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot who endowed a Room in your church and what was his forte in the sports world?

Q.16. Name the one-time London pauper who went to America in 1913 and by 1915, when the average American labourer was earning \$1 a day, was earning \$10,000 a week?

Q.17. Bucephalus, Copenhagen, Marengo, Winston, Nelson and Trigger. Historic horses all. But who rode them?

Q.18. What famous connection does All Saints Parish Church, St.Ives, have with the Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race?

Q.19. What sequence does this represent : Canada, Norway, Indonesia. Greenland, Russia

Q.20 World War 1. 1917. Name the international film star who was billeted on Green Street, St. Ives, and thereafter at the Golden Lion Hotel, while a member of the Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion?

MAD WORLD

A media mix

Of home and away,
From bumbling Boris
With rules of the day.

Great graphs on the screen
If only they'd fit,
We squinted our eyes
But we couldn't read it.

North versus South
They begged for more dough,
Businesses closing
Recovery slow.

Then over the pond
In the U S of A,
Trump's having tantrums
And sacking away!

He's out on the golf course,
In his armoured pram
Chuckling his toys out
He says it's a scam!

Biden is patient
He knows that he's won,
So get him in quickly
To get the job done!

The best bit of news
Is the vaccine of hope,
We pray it's successful
'Till then we will cope.

cc IRENE CARTER

ECO tips for our times from the Faith in Action Group of the Eastern Synod - part 1



Avoid using single use disposable masks, gloves and wipes. Disposable masks, gloves and wipes contain plastics which pollute water and harms wildlife who eat them or become entangled in them. Some of these plastics can't be recycled, and waste centres can't separate the components, so most throwaway plastic masks put in household waste will end up in landfill or incinerators and there has also been a considerable increase in the numbers left as litter in streets. Moreover, disposable gloves do not provide any benefit in preventing the spread of the virus and could actually spread it more, it is better to just wash your hands and don't touch your face. Reusable fabric masks are perfectly adequate for general use and there are eco-friendly masks available made from second hand or recycled material or alternatively you could make your own. When washing your reusable mask- and you should do so after every use, it is ok to use a lower temperature to save on energy as it is the use of detergent which is important (there are also environmentally friendly detergents available).

Continue to use video conferencing. It is hard to compare the value in meeting in person to meeting over the internet; the joy of being able to see someone in person, being able to read each other's body language and even at some point sharing a handshake or a hug. For those who have been connecting with churches, workplaces, family and friends digitally, you might like to know that the current estimate of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emitted is 1- 6 grams per hour you spend in video calls. 5km (perhaps a return journey to church for some) in a petrol car emits on average 640 grams. That puts video conferencing at about 100 times more efficient. So, perhaps when we meet in person, are there times when a video call would be better to protects God's Creation?



To be a farmer's boy..

As many of you will know, I come from a farming background. The family farm was about 7 miles from Salisbury, right next to Porton Camp and Boscombe Aerodrome and a few miles from army camps on Salisbury Plain. We used to have 2 milking herds but latterly all beef and wheat, barley and oilseed rape. We had tractors from my childhood, but I do recall a carthorse that we kept in retirement.



One of my earliest memories was, as a child of 3, when I was out on a tractor with my father, delivering hay to cattle in the field. Dad would leave the tractor ticking over in bottom gear and climb off and onto the trailer to distribute the hay, leaving me sitting on the seat going 'Brm Brm'. One day he did this and I reached for the accelerator and pulled it out fully! Gave Dad quite a fright but he got back on and regained control.

As a child, I spent most of my time out and about the farm, sometimes 'helping' and other times playing in bale stacks etc.

I was on and off tractors all the time but horror of horrors, the government brought in a regulation that said that children under 13 were not allowed on tractors and only on trailers with sides. I was 12 at the time and resented this imposition by government! How glad I was when I got to 13 and returned to my favourite pastime. My love of machinery continues to this day and my family will confirm my excitement whenever I see a combine harvester!



Another abiding memory is of fire – in 2 respects. Our farm was right next to the main Waterloo rail line and, in the days of steam trains, we had frequent fires from hot coals coming out of the engines as they accelerated up a slight slope. But there was another aspect of fire that had me as a fire-raiser! Remember those summer days about 40 years ago when the blue sky was a milky white due to the smoke from farmers burning stubble and excess straw? Well, I used to enjoy setting a field of stubble alight and watching it spread across the field with flames about 20 feet high! Those flames continued until they reached a belt of trees, which got scorched right up to their tops. I shudder to think now of the damage such fires did to the wildlife and plantlife. Fortunately farming practices have now changed, partly due to shorter varieties of crops and more ecological uses of straw.

I retained a desire to return to the farm, but economic forces prevented it, leaving me with computers rather than combines! Nowadays those two interests combine as much agricultural machinery now is computer controlled – I might have found a career in agricultural engineering if I had been a bit younger!

The farm was sold in 1981, regrettably no longer a viable enterprise. However, we were delighted a few years ago to find that part of it had been purchased by the RSPB to run as a project to encourage breeding of the rare stone curlews. They had been plentiful in my youth but dramatically declined since. It is good to know that our interest in wildlife has been enhanced by knowing that part of home territory is now part of a bird reserve. **AKC**



A cheeky robin from Babs

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

Left to right:

A red admiral on verbena

Night scented stocks

Grass snake

Toad lily with tagetes in background.

Two articles from Sally Runham.....

Two Types of Litter Bug by Sally Runham

Some litterbugs discard takeaway food wrapping, cans of drinks and bottles willy-nilly along the roadside as they make their way home from the town centre. They know that no one with them will take them to task and fine them £100 on-the-spot, up to £2,500 for persistent littering. I have challenged this behaviour in the past. Once, I spotted a car full of young people who had tossed rubbish out whilst driving along Houghton Road. I followed them as they tried to shake me off, and cornered them in the car park of Crossways church. They apologised, so I said I would not report them this time. Another time, teenagers in school uniforms left litter on a tube train, so, I said, 'Why should all these passengers have to wade through your rubbish to get off the train? Pick it up!' They tidied the train before they disembarked at their school stop. I am not so brave now, sadly, and would wear a Kevlar vest before tackling a group of youths especially in a city! There is an easier way to tackle littering, though, which is more fun anyway, and that is to join the teams of people who have the 'bug' for collecting litter. St Ives Eco Action is liaising with St Ives in Bloom for a shared litter pick around the Guided Busway and car park area on Saturday 9th January 2021 from 10 to 12 am. They are also planning how best to collect the rubbish, including sorting as you go along to reduce the amount destined for landfill. If you are able to join these groups, who are also working with the Green Party to tackle this problem, please bring litter-picks, gloves and receptacles. Please contact Helen Dye at stivesecoaction@gmail.com

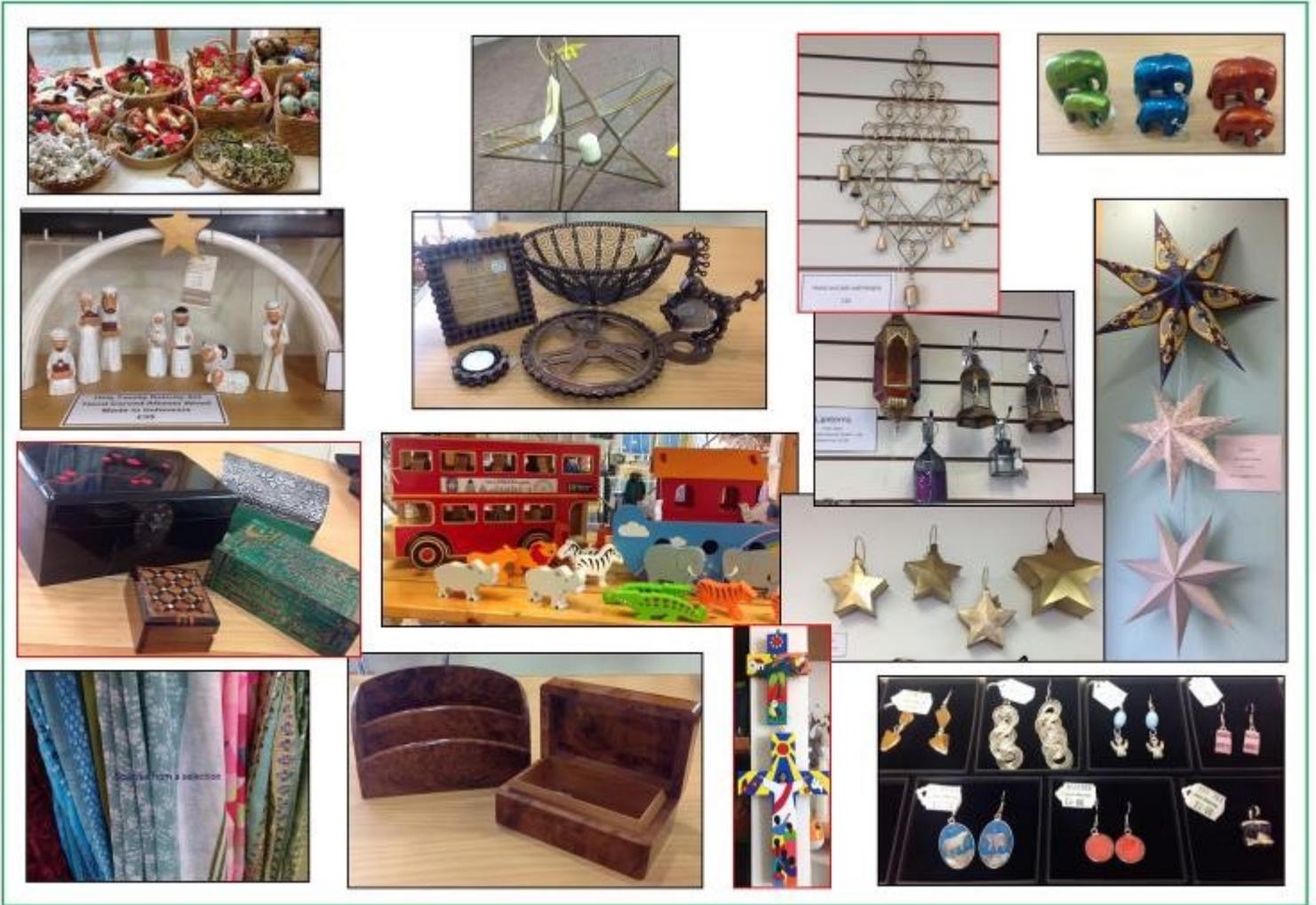


St Ives Eco Action also wants to coordinate ad hoc litter picks, using social media or links to a website, so that between us we can clear roads, pavements and windswept litter hotspots, around the town as well. This will help to keep our environment tidy, protect children and wildlife, keep us fitter and happier, and uprate rubbish into recycled resources.

Parcel Deliveries

Thank you to the wonderful organisations that have been distributing parcels of food to vulnerable residents of St Ives. One church member was pleased to receive a parcel donated via the Rotary Club of St Ives and another that came via one of the Mosque communities. She lives alone and, although she can get about using a rollator, it is so useful to have deliveries to reduce the bulk of that food that she has to carry in the small shopping bag. Another couple from church have wonderful neighbours who help do online shopping to shop for larger quantities or bulkier items. In return, these largely housebound people take in the parcels from the White Van people, who find it very frustrating when the recipients are not there to receive the goods.





Just Sharing

The Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church

Just a reminder that we are here to help you with your Christmas shopping. So please give either Tracey Hipson, Assistant Manager or Mary Anthony a call and we will be happy to assist you by delivering anything you would like to buy from Just Sharing and taking payment over the phone.

We are showing you this week a selection of lovely gifts from around the world and hope you enjoy seeing some of our stock. This is a great way to support Fair Trade and help our producers in third world countries.

We still have a good selection of Christmas cards, Advent Candles, Christmas books and Calendars in the shop.

If you use Facebook please take a look at the Free Church page: **'St Ives Free Church URC'** where we are showcasing lots of other gifts from Just Sharing.

Contact details: Tracey Hipson, Just Sharing Assistant Manager on 01480 468350 or Mary Anthony on 01480 469530.