

Keeping in Touch..... Number 34

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.com. Its not too late to send Christmas greetings to everyone—donations to charity please (see David's article on page 4).

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

Irene calling.....

WINTER WONDERS

We greet the storm and say "Hello,"
Who knows which way we'll choose to go?
Foggy day and icy blast,
Squelching mud and tufted grass.

Sheets of rain that sting the eye,
Darkest dawn in tempest sky,
Biting winds whip through the trees
Snapping branches off with ease.

Frosty puddles, icy toes,
Tingling fingers, Jack Frost nose,
Nature in it's wildest form
Quickens pace to beat the storm.



When the town is silent, still
Wildlife is buzzing with a will,
The Herons by the river wait
To dive for fish, they need no bait



The tiny deer of local fame
Sweetly sips the dewy rain,
Early mornings, pastures new,
All alone, save for a few

Like minded people who pursue
This joyous wonder, as we do,
And though the weather can be rough
The wonder of it is enough!

cc IRENE CARTER

**Ann and John Pike send
Christmas wishes to all friends
and members and good
wishes for 2021**



*I would like to send
Christmas Blessings to
everyone and to wish you
all Best Wishes for 2021
In Christian Love
Freda*

**To all our friends at the Free
Church. Hazel and I would like
to thank you for your love and
prayers at this time. We are both
making good progress towards
being well for Christmas (at
home)! We would like to send
Very Happy and Blessed Greet-
ings to you all in the lovely name
of Our Lord Jesus.**

Yours in Him, Derek

Warmest Christmas Greetings to all our
dear friends in our Church Family! During
the upheaval of 2020 we both celebrated
our 80th birthdays- highlights in an
otherwise unusual year! With the vaccine on
the horizon, we hope and pray that the year
ahead will be a much better one for us all
throughout the world. Liz and Stewart



*Greetings to everyone
from Church with best
wishes from Nev and
Sally, shown here between
lockdowns with their
family.*

**Rosemarie Smith sends
Christmas wishes to everyone**



*Irene and Geoff
Carters send
Christmas greetings
to you all. They will
be supporting Char's
Lesvos Migrant
charity.*

News from Philip.

We are pleased to hear from Philip that his operation went very well and that he was home after only five days. He was grateful for our prayers.

A Postscript from the Quiz from Philip.....

DUSTMAN ALFRED P. DOOLITTE AND YOUR CHURCH

Broadway, New York. 1956.

Not many people alive today will recall the actual Broadway blockbuster musical “ My Fair Lady ” starring Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison. But I do. Every song was a hit.

High amongst the cast was the man who played Eliza Doolittle’s father - dustman Alfred P. Doolittle. In reality, he was Stanley Holloway – already established as an accomplished performer of stage and screen on both sides of the Pond.

But what was his connection with your church? (As in my quiz question 4)

During the campaign to raise funds for your church’s re-construction in the late 1970s, for some inexplicable reason I was appointed the Local Appeal Organiser. Since I was utterly innumerate, we had a committee, chaired by accountant Geoffrey Caink (later to be a great benefactor of your church) and other professionals among the ranks including The delightful Betty Yeandle and the astute Patrick Miles.

One day Geoffrey received an unsolicited letter and a substantial cheque from your actual Stanley Holloway. He had read about your church’s plans in the press. This was in memory of his father who, he claimed, was your organist for a while between the wars. Praise indeed from Dustman Alfred P. Doolittle.

And while we’re dropping showbiz names, how about Eric Morecambe of Morecambe & Wise mega fame. He was a part owner of the Tudor hotel/hostelry in Fenstanton, who sent a big cheque also. Notta lotta people know that!

Philip Simpson

“The last zoom coffee morning before Christmas will be on Thursday 17th December 10.30 – 11.30. If you haven’t joined us before please contact Barbara Duffett for the invitation link. All welcome!”



Our Friends at Launde Abbey are offering free resources for an on-line retreat before Christmas—please see their website for details. Search on www.laundeabbey.org.uk

Christmas Appeals

For many years, the Free Church has allocated cash collections from some services during December to nominated charities. This year, although for practical reasons we can't collect and record donations in the same way through our church accounts, the Elders felt that we should encourage church friends to do something similar individually.

It has been a difficult year for everyone, with a serious impact on many people's mental health and on the poorest and most vulnerable around the world. Therefore, the Elders have chosen MIND and Christian Aid as nominated charities for Christmas 2020.

Online donations are preferred, but phone and cheque are also possible. Details are below:-

MIND Christmas Appeal

Online: Click on <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Phone: Call the Supporter Relations team on 020 8215 2243 (9-5pm, Mon to Fri) to pay by card

Cheque: Please make your cheque payable to 'Mind' and post it to:

MIND Supporter Relations Team
Mind Granta House
15 – 19 Broadway
London E15 4BQ

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

Online: Click on <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal>

Phone: Call 020 7523 2269 to pay by card

Cheque: Please make your cheque payable to 'Christian Aid' and post it to:-

Christian Aid
35-41 Lower Marsh
London SE1 7RL

If you are able to contribute to one or both of these charities, I'm sure it will be very much appreciated.

David Duffett

Another postscript to the quiz.....

Quite a few of you I know struggled with the question about Sally Gunnell and our church. We vaguely remembered chatting to an elderly lady in the congregation who was very proud to be her aunt, but we couldn't recall her name. Martin had memories of a Mason family in Tenterleas with some connection.

But it was Veronica who came up trumps. When she and Ian lived in Tenterleas their next door neighbour was a Margaret Davies (formally Mason) who attended church. Veronica still had her daughter, Angela's phone number. Angela confirmed that Margaret's sister, Rosemary Mason, used to be part of the Free Church Community and she married Les Gunnell at the Free Church in the mid 1950s. Sally's two older brothers were baptised in our church before the family relocated to a farm near Chigwell In Essex before Sally was born! Great detective work!!