

Keeping in Touch..... Number 35

Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. Please note that KIT will continue over the next couple of weeks if I get sufficient articles but the **deadline will noon on Mondays**. 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 2).

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

A Christmas like no other.....

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2020

As many of you know, for many years the Free Church in St Ives has provided the venue for the Christmas lunch on Christmas day for the homeless and people who are on their own.

Usually, Pat Clarke and her team kindly give of their free time to prepare and cook the meal. This year this is not possible as we are unable to socially distance 70+ guests in our hall.

However, the lunch committee decided to provide Christmas presents and food items as usual.

These are going to be delivered to potential guests by the usual volunteers, most of whom are not members of our church. The Volunteer Bureau have been busy 'phoning everyone who attended last year to see if they would like a gift bag. This has resulted in 70 bags being put together.

Then, miraculously, we heard that the St Ives Hub would cook and deliver Christmas lunches on Christmas day if we would give them the names and addresses of guests.

We have since learned that ex-mayor Phil Pope from Floods Tavern is the organizer.

The Volunteer Bureau then 'phoned everyone again to see if they would require a lunch on Christmas day.

It is heart-warming that we have such a great community in St Ives.

Many people who attend our lunches come for the company. It's good that they will see a friendly face on Christmas day after all.

May God bless them and all the volunteers.

Mavis and John.



Christmas Lunch - how did it all begin?

Mary Anthony recalls..... "It started in 1991 or 1992 and for the first two years was organised by Liz & Stewart and Jim and myself. Liz & Stewart cooked one turkey at home and we cooked another and brought them in to be carved by the Mayor. We had entertainment and borrowed a TV to see the Queen. Some people made there own way but helpers picked others up. We had a number of volunteers helping on the day to serve etc. I think there were about 40 people attending..

For many years Gill Innes did a wonderful job at collecting, and organising the wrapping, of the gifts and doing a lot of the admin. (*Editor*)



A reminder from our Church Secretary, David.....

We are continuing the tradition of nominating two charities for the church to support this Christmas. Please considering giving as you would at our "special" services over Christmas. This year they are;

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

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

Two poems from our resident bards..

An earlier poem from John Williams.....

WAITING

*All through our lives
We find we are waiting,
Spending time in prose or rhyme
But always, always waiting.*

Waiting for Christmas
When you're a child,
Waiting for chances
To do something wild.

Waiting for a bus,
Waiting for a train,
Waiting for a brilliant thought
To come inside your brain.

Waiting for the time
When you can be 'Grown Up'
Waiting for the teenage angst
To finally blow up.

Waiting for a lover
To appear on the scene
Waiting for him or her
To tell you where they've been.

Waiting for the day
When you will be hitched,
Waiting for your first child
To be born without a glitch.

Waiting for the day
When your eldest leaves the domicile,
Waiting for their exam results
That make you want to smile.

Waiting for the weekend,
If your work is harsh.
Waiting for retirement when
So many years have passed.

Waiting for your pension cheque,
Will it be enough?
Waiting for the time when
Things will be less tough.

The lesson in all this waiting
Is to never think about it
Because the worry that it makes
Will hurt your mind – don't doubt it!

So don't concern yourself
With the waiting "yes" or "no",
Just relax yourself and learn
To go with the flow!

And a more recent one from Irene.....

PATIENT A 08/12/2020

Vaccinations started
It's a huge day for our nation,
Scientists have worked so hard
With such collaboration.

Now the rolling out's begun
Care homes to be protected,
Healthcare workers, NHS,
No longer now neglected.

Cameras rolled, flash bulbs popped
Margaret Keenan took her place,
90 years, she had the jab
And smile spread o'er her face.

Amid the noise and hullabaloo
This Lady, quiet and calm.
Advised us all, "Don't be afraid,"
It's tested, free from harm.

One by one our turns will come,
Each person must decide,
Life's full of risks, you could say fate,
But God is by our side.

A little bit of caution, heed,
The battle's not yet won,
It's nearer, but not over yet
Be careful everyone!

cc IRENE CARTER



Another postscript from Philip's quiz.....

YOUR CHURCH AND QUASIMODO

Relating to my recent £5000 quiz challenge, the membership might be interested in Question 20 about the lowly private in His Majesty's Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion in World War I – destined for international fame - who spoke very highly of St Ives.

In 1959 I was living in the United States – having emigrated to North America three years previously. One day I found myself at Greater Pittsburgh Airport to meet and greet an inbound passenger. It was quite early in the morning, so I ordered an off-the-menu, English-style breakfast at a diner bar. There was only one other breakfaster sitting opposite and his face looked very familiar.

Suddenly he said : “ Are you English, young fellow? You sound as if you might be.”

I replied in the affirmative. Then it clicked who he was. Quasimodo – of Hunchback of Notre Dame film fame. “Didn't you used to be Charles Laughton?” I stupidly asked.

“ Many say that!” he smiled. “ And my wife still thinks I have the face of Quasimodo! (Charles Laughton was married to the actress Elsa Lanchester). What part of England are you from?”

“ A town called St. Ives, ” I replied.

“ The real St Ives or the Cornish St Ives?”

“ The real St Ives in Huntingdonshire. Do you know it?”

“ Know it!” he exclaimed. “ During the Great War I was billeted there for two weeks or so while I was in the army. Do you know Green Street?”

“During the Second World War I lived just around the corner at 2 West Street. I can't believe you lived on Green Street, Mr Laughton!”

“The place was an absolute hovel! I stayed there one night and then checked myself into the Golden Lion Hotel with the officers. I was a mere private, but as long as I kept buying them drinks, I was welcome.”

Then he added : “ Do you know that church next door?”

Proudly, I replied that I had been baptised there and had been a Sunday School teacher before I emigrated to Canada in 1956.

“ I remember it well, “ he said. “ I was born and raised a Catholic, but I thought I would experiment with the Church of England for a change. So I worshipped there. It took me two weeks before I realised they were bally non-conformists! Then I didn't have time to try out your Parish church out of town. They posted me to the Northamptonshire Cyclist Battalion. But your St Ives was still a fine town, I recall. Lots and lots of hostelries; the troops loved it!”

So there you have it, KIT readers. Praise indeed from Quasimodo Laughton, the Hunchback of Notre-Dame; and he actually worshipped in your church! Notta lotta people know that!

And praise indeed for Sally Banks and her recently, dearly departed Jeremy Banks. His father also served in the Huntingdonshire Cycle Battalion. So she knew the answer to Question 20. Nice one, Sally!

Philip Simpson

And more Christmas greetings to everyone.....

*Diane Woodham and family
send warm Christmas
Greetings and love to all
friends at the Free Church.*



*Happy Christmas to all our friends at St
Ives Free Church.*

Peter and Gill German

*Christmas greetings to all
our friends at the Free
Church Best wishes from
Mary & Jim Anthony*



*Mavis and John wish all our
friends a very happy
Christmas and a healthy New
Year*

*Looking forward to
meeting you all
safely in 2021.*



David and Barbara send our
church family warmest greetings
for Christmas and the New Year



**Valerie and Conway
Temple send
Christmas Greetings
to friends and
Members**

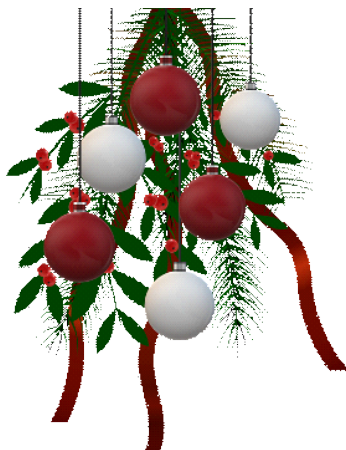


Christmas Worship



Our main Christmas service this year will be our traditional carols and readings. These have all been pre-recorded and if you are not able to come to church on Sunday at 11am then it is available then and at any another time of your convenience and can be found on the usual worship page of the website at

<https://www.stivesfreechurch.org/worship/testing/latest-devotionreflection/>



After nearly a year in which we have not been able to gather all together for worship and fellowship we would like to send virtual hugs and kisses to everyone!

Wishing you and yours a Blessed Christmas and a Happier New Year!

Love Catherine and Peter