

Keeping in Touch..... Number 36

Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. Please note that KIT will continue every week so long as I get sufficient articles. **The deadline for next week is noon on Monday.** Please send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com if you would rather just tell us something, rather than type, then please lift up the phone to Chris or Alan—01480 350787 or pop a note through the door as Anne has done this week.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas this year.

An almost Christmas Disaster from Anne Strong

Back in 1996 we were going to have a very large turkey as there would be a family of twelve . On Christmas Eve the turkey was prepared, stuffed and placed in the oven. The timer was set to come on at six o'clock in the morning.

We all went to bed without a care in the world, assured that when got up in the morning the turkey would already be cooking.

However at about seven a.m. an enormous explosion rocked the house (it was even heard by Cheryl who is deaf and lived **next** door!).

With trepidation we crept downstairs expecting to see windows blown out and the turkey in pieces all over the kitchen. However to our surprise the oven door had been blown open and all was well except that the spring had broken on the oven door. It had to be propped closed by a broom!

The Lord was certainly with us that day, but to this day I have never used the timer on the cooker again!



Another Christmas Day to remember.....

It was probably around 1986, none of us can quite remember, and the Curtis family went to the Christmas morning service at the Free Church leaving the turkey cooking away ready to serve to our houseful of guests. Before the service we greeted our good friends the Duffetts who had been close neighbours when we all lived on the Headlands estate in Fenstanton. Barbara was slightly concerned—Fenstanton had suffered one of the regular power we used to have in those days. The turkey had started to cook then stopped when barely warm. Don't worry says I, if its still off when you get home give us a ring! Sure enough we hadn't been home long when the phone rang! So all the Duffetts plus all their veg etc piled into the car whilst we assembled extra tables and chairs so they ran the length of our living room. Brussel sprouts and potatoes were combined into bigger pans . Barbara and I cooked together whilst my parents who were staying (not yet having moved to St Ives) kept everything going in the living room. Young Jonathan took quite a shine to my dad and adopted him as an honorary grandad for the day!

It was one of the happiest Christmas lunches ever, probably as it was so spontaneous. I think the doomed Fenstanton bird had to be binned!!



Our church looks lovely as always.....



Thank you to Mary Anthony for the photos and to Valerie and all those who helped with the decoration.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH CORRECTION

Since last week I have heard from various sources that Phil Pope is not the main organizer of the Christmas lunch. Apparently, several people are involved and they are all part of the St Ives Hub. Depending on who you talk to, you hear of different names. I hope no one was upset as a result of my misinformation.

I won't mention any more names but will give full credit to those individuals who are part of the St Ives Hub. Many thanks to them all for their generosity and giving of their time this Christmas.

Does anyone have information about the work of the St Ives Hub?

Mavis.

Calling all readers..... a six word challenge!

We can't remember where we saw this idea last week, either radio or TV. It was a challenge to write a message of hope for 2021 using just a single six word phrase. A sort of mini poem. Please have a go and we'll publish them next week.

Zoom coffee morning

The next **Free Church Coffee morning** Zoom is on **31st December at 10.30pm.**

All welcome to join in the chat. Who knows where it will take us next time!

Mary Cox on mary@jmcox.co.uk is hosting the next coffee morning. Please get in touch with her to be added to the Zoom invite list

A poem from John Williams who was playing around with words earlier in lockdown.

He noticed a lot of little twigs under an ash tree.

T W I G L E T S (Three types)

They taste so bad,
Just a stick,
To give it a lick
Makes me feel sick.

They fall off trees,
Drop on the ground,
Spread all around
That's where they're found,
Beneath the trees.

They are so cute,
Just small kids,
They run and skid,
Sometimes they're hid
But they're never mute!

Snacks,
Little branches,
Children,
Why do they get nicknamed the same?
It's preposterous!

J.D.W 8/8/20

MY REFLECTION ON 2020

Hope for the world
As the battle still rages,
Praise for the Medics
Who've fought hard for ages.

Tears for the dead
And the ones brokenhearted,
Can't quite believe
How this tragedy started

Life carries on,
And we've learnt a great lesson,
What is important,
And here's a confession.

Family, home,
Relationship treasure,
Mean so much more
Than material pleasure.

Church too, and prayer
And community strong,
Sustains my belief,
And tells me I belong.

cc IRENE CARTER

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and hopefully a better 2021

Huge congratulations to Irene who says "I was thrilled to have been chosen as a runner up in the John Lewis Retirement Poem Competition, I have won a John Lewis Hamper, which will come in very nicely for Christmas. It is on their Retirement Website and printed in their workers Connections magazine. What a surprise!

Once again thankyou 🛎️🌐🌐🛎️ and Best CHRISTMAS Wishes to all.

Lots of love to you all. Char x x x

I would like to share my two homemade Christmas cards with the church family.

Mary was made by a far flung reader in Portugal .Mort lived at Waverley 50 years ago and has always been in touch.



The three fenland skaters I think of as the three kings hurrying on to Bethlehem .Painted by old pal Willie Wilson who visited the refugee camp on Lesvos with me last year.



Many of my thoughts and prayers this different Christmas will be with the Greek people thanking them for helping the thousands of refugees still arriving on their shores.

Thanking them for saving lives during treacherous sea crossings and providing a safe haven for the most vulnerable at Pikpa camp after they reached land.

Pikpa has recently been forcibly closed and the refugees moved to Moria II .They are all in tents and conditions appalling but the Pikpa organisation (lesvossolidarity.org)is still doing its best to look after them.

In 2015 one million people from devastated countries arrived in Greece, over 850.000 by boat and 500.000 onto Lesvos. So it continues .

Every winter has its spring.

As ever, Char