

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 37***

***Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. The deadline for next week is noon on Wednesday. Please send anything to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto: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. If you would like to have a go at the 6 word challenge, sending six words of hope for 2021 to your fellow readers, then I will publish them next week.***

***Here's to a happy and healthy 2021!***

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

***Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1850***

***Could he foresee this New Year?  
The words are remarkably pertinent  
to our own times.***



### ***Christmas Day at the Manse 1958***

Christmas that year was very much the same as usual at The Manse with the Church Secretary Joe Newell (and his sister) and the Treasurer May Sibley ( and her Aunt) invited to Christmas lunch as usual .

That year however there was an extra presence as Jacqueline East had been invited to join the group for tea. SO I MARRIED HER ( but not on that day!)

***Martin***

## Six words of hope for 2021.....

Vaccination provided,  
Masks discarded,  
singing started **Babs**

Hope and healing for our  
brokenness

**Liz D**

Nation trepidation,  
Innovation vaccination,  
Jubilant sensation

**Irene C**

Faith, Hope Love,  
These three abide

**Alan**

Perspex perspective  
Pleasantly postponed  
Producing peace.

**Doctor C**

Christmas 2021 yells  
"it's behind us!"

**Lin**

Faith, Hope'n Love  
Shape our future

**Freda**

Gathering together,  
hugs, health, definitely  
hope. **Barbara**

Vaccinations fresh growth,  
lighter days, hope **Chris**

## Keeping the Lights On by Sally Runham

This is a message that has come from The CALMtown team:

*CALM is Campaign Against Living Miserably*

*“You may have heard of CALMTown, a volunteer initiative that wants to help people who are struggling with their mental health in St Ives. CALMtown is launching “Together in January”, a new initiative to encourage people in St Ives to stay connected to people in January, look after their wellbeing and seek support if they need it.*

*January is typically a tough time of year for many but this year, following months of lockdown and a Christmas that looks set to be different than usual, the first month of 2021 is likely to be harder than usual. “Together in January” not only encourages neighbours to reach out to each other but will also signpost the many organisations who are there to provide professional support and advice to those who need it. You can find more information <https://www.calmtown.org/together-in-january>*

*We hope that you might be able to help us get the word out to the streets you have supported during the pandemic in the following ways:*

- *In the first week of January deliver a poster to your neighbours and a few streets around you if you are able. We are hoping to reach all 9000 homes in St Ives.*

*Leave on a set of Christmas lights up to let people on their street know that they care.*

*Make a light window using tissue paper. Create a colourful image that lights up at night when your lights are on.*

*Arrange a regular check-in with neighbours, obeying any social distancing rules, and chat to them in their gardens, arrange to have short walk together, or whatever helps.*

*If you could help us with Together in January, especially the flyers, please email us [stivescalmtown@gmail.com](mailto:stivescalmtown@gmail.com) with your name and street. This means we can organise getting the posters to you, keep you updated with ideas and maybe connect you with others in your area.”*

*Many thanks,*

*The CALMtown team*

Ann Pike wishes to congratulate Irene Carter on her award from John Lewis. Irene has surely “been hiding her light under a bushel”., says Ann. She says “I have looked forward every week to her edition and she has never disappointed! Well done and thank you Love Ann Pike

**almost everything  
will work again if  
you unplug it  
for a few minutes  
..including you.**

*Barbara suggests  
everyone needs an  
occasional reset!*

**-Anne Lamott**

## Who would have thought? (a technical glitch meant this wasn't in time for last week's edition).

Who would have thought as we enjoyed carol services and Christingles last December that come this December we would only have one Christmas Service. And at that service.....around 25 people all wearing masks, sitting either as couples or individuals dutifully spaced by 2m apart on hard plastic chairs. No socializing allowed before or after, no coffee and most of all no singing. It was lovely to see and hear familiar voices reading lessons, reflections and carols on video including some I have not seen since March. We have kept our spirit, trusted in God and are thankful for those who have provided us all with video services, and also KIT.....fantastic jobs by Peter Davies, Chris Curtis and their teams and a huge thank you to all involved. In many ways both can reach further across the miles to friends and ex members as long as technology allows (and lovely to see those who prepare material also posted out to those you require it, who have been very appreciative) and typified by Philip Simpson's contributions. I have learned things I didn't know about people from church, read lovely poetry, seen great pictures and learnt some history of people and our church. Who would have thought.....

So we look now to 2021, who knows, but God knows, and I pray that this pandemic becomes more under control, perhaps though a successful vaccination programme and I wonder what we will be thinking and saying next December?

Take Care

Babs

*Christmas Wishes*



## ***Irene Calling.....***

### ***BORDER CROSSING***

What a to do!

The lorries they queue,  
Their patience is wearing and blue,  
Stuck in a van,  
Man after man  
With hardly a toilet in view!

Horns toot so loud  
Exciting the crowd  
Five thousand lorries have landed,  
Police quell the mob  
Hot engines throb  
France demands tests for the stranded.

People are tired,  
Hungry expired,

Fed up they just want to go back,  
Army called in,  
Testing, they pin  
But time is the essence they lack!

Some food, some drink,  
Some shut-eye to think  
And moments for peace and for resting,  
Hard in conditions  
Without provisions,  
Truck driver's lives can be testing.

cc **IRENE CARTER**

