

Keeping in Touch..... Number 40

Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. Please keep sending things in. The deadline for next week is noon on Wednesday. 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. I issue a new challenge to you all—see page 3.

Keep safe everyone!

Irene calling...

FIGHT OVER FEAR

Covid's deaths are rising,
And it's really not surprising
If we sense an apprehension and a fear,
But with God there by our side
We can offer prayer, confide
And our trust in him will wipe away a tear.

So many questions fly
Panic brains with how, when and why?
The never ending puzzles are unnerving,
It's so hard to get a grip,
When your mind just does a flip,
But truth is Covid numbers are down curving.

Vaccinations ready
Fast track quickens, getting steady,
And the old, the weak, the carers soon protected,
It will take a lot of work
There will be no time to shirk,
A nationwide mass effort has projected.

So when you're feeling down
Say a prayer, pack up that frown,
Watch the News and do your best to each rule.,
It's the thing we all must do,
And the goal is hope for you,
And me and everyone, let's play it cool!

cc IRENE CARTER

Worth a look.....

The Launde Abbey website where you can access online retreat materials.

And if you didn't catch it on Sunday, last week's Songs Of Praise about "A Walking Church" was interesting.

We've been asked to bring this to your attention a post with Christian Aid in this area:-

<https://jobs.christianaid.org.uk/vacancy/church-engagement-and-fundraising-officer---essex-and-cambridgeshire-3011/3029/description/>

Or speak to Mary Cox for more information

Babs asks if anyone has photos of people worshipping in masks so we could have one for our archives for future generations.—just in case we forget.....

A Unique Gift..... by Freda Barnard.....

You all know by now that my father was German. I would just like to share with you a wonderful Christmas Gift I received from my grand-daughter (Samantha) last year (was it only a month ago!!)

Two years ago when Samantha was wondering what to give her mum for her birthday she remembered a plastic folder with a translation of my grand father's diary written about the first world war. She knew how attached her mum was to family history, as she is herself. The diary was written just on loose sheets of paper, so thought it would be a good idea to make it into a book for her mothers birthday present. She patiently typed onto her computer sixteen foolscap pages of typing with many places, areas and towns, written in German. It took her a long time and much patience to do this when her mum was not around.

In the back of the book are Samantha's words :

HISTORY BEHIND THIS DIARY

During his time in the war, Gunther Schrickel sent regular letters back to his family in JImenau, detailing his experiences in the war. In this book is a word for word copy of what he initially wrote when recounting his services in 1935.



Freda's grandfather—
Oct 1915



Training complete
full uniform—Dec 1915

The only copy he wrote was then passed down to his son Otto Schrickel, who later translated his father's writing into English, on 29th December 1987, to pass down even further in the family. His copy of the diary was done on a typewriter and kept in a plastic folder to keep safe.

It was then passed through two more generations until Samantha Mortlock typed up the writing and had it printed as a book, so it was more durable.

You will see from the pictures, one of my grandfather taken as he first arrived for service in 1915 before training, then one in full uniform after training had finished and finally one of him with two fellow soldiers one of whom is his brother-in-law August. This latter picture actually has a whole paragraph in the book, it appears he only saw his brother-in-law twice during the campaign.

In the final chapters of the book it tells how he eventually got home. Apparently he got so far by train then had to walk the last 45km to get back to his family in JImenau.

You can imagine the delight as we stood on the doorstep at Christmas exchanging presents, and Samantha asked me to open one of my gifts from her. I have to confess I was rather emotional and so glad that my father (Otto Schrickel) had translated this for future generations to enjoy reading. I now have my own copy of this book and have loved reading it, my father would be so pleased that all his work in translating the diary is a firm fixture on our bookshelves.

So a HUGE thanks to Samantha for her patience and hard work in making this wonderful gift, it is very much appreciated.



Meeting with his
brother-in-law in
1916 in Bavaria

We live in EXTRA-ordinary times..... Some thoughts from Chris

When I was first starting out on my cancer journey last April, I got heartily sick of people saying to me that “in normal times” I could have access to this or that service or therapy.... I heard the same expression again last week from commentators in the USA talking about the Presidential inauguration.. And currently we don't live in “normal” or “ordinary” times and I don't need to spell out why! As non-conformists we don't tend to mark the year with the liturgical seasons as rigidly as some other denominations but when we started KIT (yes, 40 editions ago!) I entitled them as “Easter 2” etc. When we got to Trinity and were about to move into “Ordinary” time, I couldn't face calling them “Ordinary 1” so I simply started using numbers. Perhaps the theologians amongst you can answer my questions “Why call everything between Trinity and Advent “Ordinary Time”?. Surely this is when we get to focus on Jesus' ministry in the extraordinary and turbulent times of first century Palestine. What is “Ordinary about that?

And when we move on from our current situation, as surely we will do one day, we will move into a “new normal” which certainly wont be “Ordinary” either—back we go to all the challenges of climate change, pollution, global inequalities and so on.

Lets hope we've learned something from our Extra-Ordinary Journey of the last year.

Chris

A Challenge to you all.....

It would be lovely to hear from even more of you so I challenge you to complete the following sentence and either email it or phone us with it!

“One thing you probably never knew about me is.....”

A Thank You from Babs.....

Thanks to all who have started contributing to the church costs directly into the bank and thank you also to those who have been doing that for many years. If you have swapped from envelopes and thus do not want more envelopes for 2021/22 please let me know. Sadly, it does not look like we will meet in church for some time so, if it helps anyone, then I am happy for people to post cheques to me and I can bank into the church account directly from my phone so no need for anyone to visit the bank. I can be contacted on 01480 352627 or Babs.Moore@yahoo.co.uk Otherwise, please do carry on using envelopes and the church will be very grateful to receive them when we can get back together in person.

Following on from Freda's bit about talking to household items.....

Babs writes.....

I have been using the bread machine to try several recipes using up excess bananas which won't surprise you when you see my attempts below.

My bread maker was asking for overtime as had been used a lot and said whatever the circumstances we should not worry about the dough.

The electric food mixer then told me not to beat myself up about the situation and the eggs told me not to crack up. The sugar said I should keep my mood sweet and the butter said not to spread my worries too thin.

St Ives Eco-Faith Group Update by Mary Cox and Sally Runham

The group met online on 12th January and guest speaker Andy Lester from A Rocha provided ideas for the development of the group and its activities. Some ten people from five churches attend online meetings regularly, with Helen Dye of St Ives Eco Action usually present. In the year running up to the November Climate Conference Cop26, hosted by the UK in Glasgow, several actions are planned:

Take up Nick Witham's suggestion about a bike ride – picnic - outdoor service with an open invitation to the town community. Suggested date is 2nd Sunday in September to coincide with the Historic Weekend.

Local churches to organise their own Climate Sunday services, and inform others of the dates so that they can take part, even remotely.

Plan a project asking children to write prayers (with drawings?) for the climate. To be used for climate-themed services and displayed on local churches.

Remain an informal group - part of St Ives Eco-Action Group, and engage in shared activities as part of this, such as litter picks, repair workshops and tree-planting.

Helpful material from A Rocha: Look at "Wild Christian" (top tips to get engaged in nature) and Partners in Action (forming a group of local churches to work on practical action for nature). All are on the A Rocha website. Contact regina.ebner@arocha.org for resources.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 8th February 2021 at 14.ar

Char writes..... While having a covid throw out I came across this box of Gardeners Questions .Suitable for age 8 upwards !....I think they are slightly difficult for 8 year olds !! ,so i expect you to all manage 10 out of 10.....Good luck!



1. What were strikingly absent from English formal gardens in the 17th century?
2. What plant was sought after in medieval England as a protection against the Black Death?
3. Which religious group was largely responsible for the revival of the British allotment movement?
4. If you have a number of starlings on your lawn, what have they probably come to eat?
5. Costmary used to be one of the most popular sweet herbs in English cuisine, how did it get the name of Bible-leaf?
6. According to medieval legend what was distinctive about the Mandrake plant?
7. When planting a 2 inch high bulb, as a rule ,how deep should the hole be?
8. What plant forms the principal food of the Red Admiral
9. Is it possible to grow Triffids in Britain
10. What is the white flower in the photograph.? it is sweet scented , from my garden now and an important pit stop for late winter insects.

