

Keeping in Touch..... Number 45

Well, here we all still are! 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 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.

Keep safe everyone!

Eileen Forrest's Great-grandmother's journey to Ceylon in 1853 cont'd

(please note the words are her great-grandmother's and need to be read in the context of the time)

They spent the day in Alexandria and the same evening boarded a boat on the Atfe Canal for a short trip to join three steamer son the River Nile. Our boatmen being Mussalmen, spread kneeling carpets on the decks at sunset and intoned their prayers. Sometime after midnight the reached Atfe and were let down by locks into the River Nile. Then a great hubbub occurred: Arabs rushing about with torches wildly shouting at one another, their figures looking so picturesque in the flaring light and who soon conveyed



them on board the small steamer- one of three- which was to take them up the river towards Cairo. (There was no Suez canal then). She never tired of gazing at the scenes on the river bank – the creaking water wheels – the flocks of Ibis, standing mostly on one leg, the strings of camels, the blue-robed Arab peasants- all of great interest. On the third day there was a sandstorm, which made them take refuge in their cabin. Around sunset they reached the nearest landing place for Cairo, with about half a mile to drive in coaches to the city.

On arrival they found the gates shut and a great convoy of camels resting quietly outside waiting to enter in the morning. After much “to do” and parleying a messenger was sent to fetch the keys. Once the gate was open a wild stampede ensued for Shepherd's Hotel where supper was already in progress. It was a cheerless place as a hotel, but it was almost the only Hostelry at that time where ladies could go.

The following day William would not allow his wife to join a party of visitors, riding on hired donkeys, to see the pyramids. She was not sorry later on when she saw some friends on their return in a very dishevelled state. Evidently the road was only a rough track and the river had to be crossed by ferry. On arrival you were dragged up the steps of the great Pyramid by a couple of rather dirty locals. And brought down again in the same way.

Cont'd on page 5.



A blast from the past—Jackie wonders if anyone can remember when?

Safeguarding

Whilst it might appear that much of the work of the church is currently “on hold” things are quietly happening in the background. Our Safeguarding Policy has been up-dated and approved by Elders in January after I “attended” a Zoom symposium in the Autumn. It will appear on the website this week. In the meantime we are checking that all our user groups either have a Safeguarding Policy of their own or have adopted ours.

Chris Curtis



Looking for more Lenten inspiration? The Launde Abbey website has a wealth of free resources to explore.

[Www.laungeabbey.org.uk](http://www.laungeabbey.org.uk)



This 2021 poster contains 64 photos of 138 'oxen' taken in 62 countries by Paul Starkey (©). It illustrates diverse operations, implements, carts and yoking systems. An 'ox' is a working animal or a castrated bull (most working cattle are castrated males). Some smallholder farmers use cows (as in the photos from Bulgaria, Czechia, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, Romania and Spain). Some 'oxen' are intact bulls (Chad, Niger, Nigeria).

Paul Starkey owns the copyright of both the individual photos and the collage. I reproduce it with his permission. Paul is one of my "Mill Hill" friends who got together through an ecumenical church youth group in the 60s. Paul is an independent consultant on sustainable agriculture (especially the use of oxen) and also integrated rural transport systems. His work has taken him all over the world over the last 50 years! There are photos from 62 countries to mark the Chinese year of the Ox.

Irene calling.....

SOCIAL MEDIA MIX

The Worldwide Web is special
A brilliant invention,
Online's helped in many ways
And grabbed our full attention.

Shopping, Wikipedia,
Web Cams and YouTube too,
Bumble, Hinge and Tinder
For lovelorn hearts so true.

Education it's all there
A finger tip tap to find,
Any subject anywhere
Waits to expand your mind.

Where there's good there's also bad
Heed the Scams and those that Hack,
Guard your info keep it safe,
Crime is huge, so watch your back!

Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Zoom,
Social Media? smile or fume?
Good points, Yes, keeps you in touch
I'll decline thank you so much.

cc. IRENE CARTER

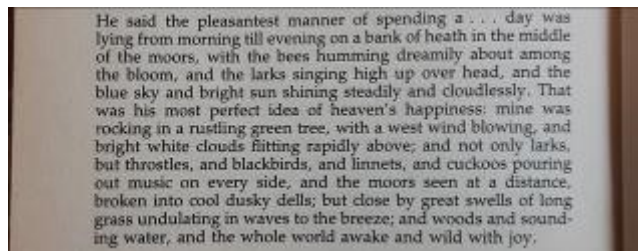


An up-date from Char.....



Sorting out books today.

A very old copy of Wuthering Heights turned up, pages crisp, crumbling and yellowed, a few with the corners turned down, those always worth investigating.



Yesterday there was one lark singing down our drift where ten years ago there would have been ten!

Still, the sweet peas have germinated and so much to look forward to.

I'm pretty much all better, the seems to be lingering is tiredness and slight shortness of breath. Perhaps it's laziness! We shall see!

Anyway a big thank you to the church family for the kind thoughts that have winged their way over to Oakington1

With lots of love, Char.



Promise of Spring by Kate Mclhagga

Pale winter sun,
Flooding the earth
With your light
Gilding the bare trees
With your touch.
Your eyes have seen the glory
Of the Lord.

Low white candles of hope
Paley gleaming in the dark earth,
Your advent heealds the promise of Spring:
Your grren hearts
Speak of God's renewing love.

Son of God, show us the way.
Light our path.
Lead us
Through this Lenten desert
To Easter with you
Beyond the pain of loss and fear.
Lead us in new ways
Of trusting service.



The journey to Ceylon cont'd....

On the second day at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon they set off for Suez across the desert. They travelled in two wheeled vans which took only four passenegrs with four horses to each van so the whole cavalcade was of immense length. She and William were in the last van and about half way between the Telegraph Stations their leading horses refused to go any further. In front of two mules in the shafts. No amount of coercion would make them take another step—so finally all had to be unharnessed and ridden to the nearest station., where a new team was obtained. Thus they remained alone in the desert for an hour. The scene was weird and wild—billows of sand as far as they could see with the odd camel skeleton here and there. However, once they reached the telegraph station they found it clean and spacious and they were able to renew their journey to Suez arriving at about 7am next morning. She mentions that they were knocked about in all directions. There was no road and the horses went full gallop over everything. Sleep was out of the question and they were very glad to have a few hours rest at the hotel in Suez.













The steamer "Oriental" was waiting for them in harbour. She was only a small vessel but very comfortable and they had a pleasant passage to Galle, touching Aden but not going ashore.

On 24th February 1853 the Oriental dropped anchor in Galle's beautiful harbour. The coconut palms fringing the sandy shore—bending over the water in many places—the rocks—the isalnds in the harbour—even the town in the distance were all picturesque. From the ship's deck, the view of their "island home" was quite exquisite.

Transcribed from the original journal by Eileen Forrest 2021.



Answers to Sally's quiz from last week.

1 The Monkeys	2 The Rolling Stones	3 T Rex
		
4 Herman's Hermits	5 The Shadows	6 The Beatles
		
7 Cream	8 The Hollies	9 The Crystals
		
10 The Four Tops	11 The Carpenters	12 The Animals
		

Note the Carpenters started in 1969, mainly then into the 70s