

Keeping in Touch..... Number 51

Welcome to this week's KIT. Thank you so much if you sent something in this week. Please keep the articles coming and let us know what you'd like to see more of in the future.! 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.

KIT One year on..... an editorial from Chris

This KIT (KIT51) marks a year since this started! Why 51, not 52, I hear you ask. Well, in the last week of September we published our special 40th anniversary edition of Inspire, so no KIT that week.

I looked back at the April/May 2020 Inspire that Mary published at the end of March and Catherine's "View from the Manse" mentions the lockdown and the fact that there wouldn't be any Easter services. In the week after Easter it was Alan's turn to produce the newsletter to go out with the Reflection and I realised it was going to be a long while before I produced the next Inspire at the end of May so I suggested we should produce a short regular publication in the meantime to help us keep in touch with each other. So KIT was born. The first edition (called Easter 2 to reflect the liturgical year) was published – all three pages or it! After Trinity we move liturgically into "ordinary" time, but I couldn't bear to call it Ordinary 1 so it was renamed KIT.!

Then it took on a life of its own! Each week it has been emailed to everyone with network access (thank you Alan) and posted out to others (thank you Gail). Some weeks I have wondered if I'd have anything to put it in and then various things would pop into my inbox or arrived painstakingly written out in long hand. A huge thank you to the regular contributors, notably Irene with her weekly poem since the third edition, to Char, Babs and Sally. But thank you to everyone who has ever sent in anything – they are all treasured as we try to keep together through this momentous period.

I vowed when I started that I would produce something every week until life returned to "normal" or until I was not well enough to carry on. Having this to focus on has been a blessing to me throughout the last year and huge thank to Mary who covered one week when I was in hospital. Little did we know a year ago that we would still be at it – how much longer I wonder?



Found on a beach in Spain in Holy Week by
Char's sister, Louie.

Irene calling.....

*Written on Easter day after sharing worship
and then going for a walk in the lovely sunshine*

ONE YEAR ON

Our second Lock Down Easter
And the weather's warm and fine,
We sit at our computer
To take part in Church online.

As usual Catherine's cheery
And with Peter at her side,
She reads of Mary Magdalene
On this the Easter tide.

Last year, this way of worship
Was unknown and really strange,
But twelve months on, it's usual now
Life has had to rearrange.

Our way of life is different,
But it hasn't all been bad,
Yes, we've missed our friends and family,
But in other ways we are glad.

We've learnt to not be wasteful
And to buy just what we need,
We've learnt to be contented
And reject material greed.

We've seen the bigger picture,
World's poverty and wealth,
Treasured what's important,
Money's useless without health.

Thank you Catherine, Friends and Elders
And KIT of world wide fame,
You have kept our Church together
Online's different, but the same!

cc. IRENE CARTER

How uplifting and heartening it is to walk about our town and see the clusters of bright colourful daffodils in many of our open grassed areas. Much of this planting is due to voluntary groups - and in many instances inspired and led by Robin Bletsoe. So many thanks to Robin and all the volunteers who have made our town so beautiful and lifted our spirits. SD



Good Friday Service

A note from Babs

I would just like to say how lovely it was to see most of St Ives Churches taking part in a remote version of the Good Friday service, a varied and thought provoking service. I did enjoy the way it flowed. Thanks must go to Peter Davies who has done a fantastic job with this and all the other services available from our website, much appreciated.

COMING NEXT WEEK!!!

ANOTHER QUIZ FROM PHILIP IN FRANCE.

***A JOINT EFFORT ON 12
QUESTIONS ALL CONNECTED WITH
OUR CHURCH—IF WE GET THEM
ALL RIGHT PHILIP WILL DONATE
£1000 TO THE CHURCH!***

A Reflection on Holy Saturday—from Chris C.

Whilst looking through the archives from last year I found this reflection I wrote for Holy Saturday. I think it was only published on the Worship page of the web so I thought it was worth printing here for you all.

Holy Saturday – a personal reflection by Chris Curtis

That “in between day”, between Good Friday processions and Easter Communion was always an odd day. A day to get final Easter eggs, start to prepare the family meal for the Sunday, perhaps catch up on jobs. But ever since 1991 it has taken on a different meaning for us. Why?

That was the year we fully realised that **we** know the next chapter in the story and **they** didn't. And that changes everything.....

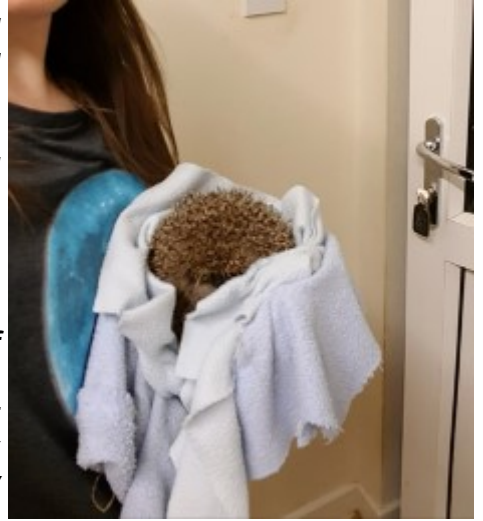
That year Alan and I spent Easter weekend on Iona: it was our first visit. We arrived on the Thursday and after supper everyone gathered in the Abbey for the dramatic and noisy “stripping” of the abbey after we had shared communion together. We were there on pilgrimage, an attempt to help us feel something of what it might have felt like to be in Jerusalem at the time. Friday we undertook the pilgrimage route around the island stopping as if at stations of the cross for reflection and prayer. We were instructed to be quiet and prayerful all day..... And all the next day, Holy Saturday, too..... We were not to chatter though we were not required to be totally silent and only to read spiritual matter or pray. What an incredibly long day that Saturday was, by the evening it was almost unbearable, the waiting for midnight and the coming of Easter day, to be able to sing, to share communion..... And yet it was comparatively easy for us. We knew the end of the story! Imagine what it was like for the disciples! They had watched the man they had followed, given up family and livelihoods for, being harshly judged and killed. No hope left. Dreams shattered. He had gone. And having shared the Passover meal together on the Thursday, it was now the Jewish Sabbath and that meant no work or travel. Most likely the followers all dispersed to their own homes and stayed there surely feeling that all was lost, there was no hope.

They couldn't look forward to Easter morning because that was yet to come. Even all these years later Alan and I can still feel the almost physical pain of the waiting, the unbearable yearning for the light of candles, warm greetings and hugs and most of all the Communion Service with which we greeted Easter morning. No, Holy Saturday has never been the same again.

Hedgehogs Come Home

Baby hedgehogs Ginny and Carrot roamed around the school grounds towards the end of 2020. Far too small and lightweight to survive the long winter hibernation, they were fostered by a hedgehog rescuer with links to Wood Green Animals Charity. Fed and nurtured, they are now adults and ready to be returned to their natural surroundings. Ginny has arrived first, and Carrot will follow soon, once he has been treated for ringworm.

Nev made this super house from an old pallet and shed roof felt. Ginny was placed in a bundle of dried leaves inside the house with water and specific hedgehog food outside. That was on the first night, and since then, rustling is the only indication our elusive 'pet' is still around; the garden has plenty of insects as well as seeds from where the birds have been fed. "She will be on a mission to feed and then breed," I said to Nev and Sarah. "What a life!" replied Nev.



Hopefully, our hedgehogs won't need to venture onto the roads either side of this large urban area of playing fields, copses and pond, managed by a woke grounds-person. They don't need to seek water as we regularly replenish watering holes. Sarah had spotted another adult hedgehog before Ginny returned. I hope she has found her family, although she won't appreciate

this as hedgehogs tend to be solitary. Perhaps, though, numbers will increase in time!

Sally Runham



Char sent this picture of "fairies" dancing in a garden (anyone know where?)She thinks it was connected with a Sale of Work in 1957.

She says the dance teacher wound up the gramophone then shooed them all onto the lawn and told them to be fairies!

The event was probably organised by Jo Newell and his helpers and opened by Rev Philips and Mrs Bryant was on the bran tub where Char picked up a paper bird on a piece of elastic. She thought it was the prettiest thing she had ever seen.

The Youth Club has been meeting again.....

Maundy Thursday Evening was cold but didn't stop Peter, Catherine, John and I returning to the tennis court for our first doubles in more than a year. It was the first time Catherine has been back on court since Lockdown 1.0 and since she broke her foot and said "Yes it is wonderful to play again, need to get into shape", a problem most definitely shared after 3 months without sport. Two photos taken as can't do group shots yet.....and yes I will keep quiet about the result 😊



Envelopes for 2021-2022

For those still using envelopes then I will endeavour to get them to you in the next couple of weeks by post or when I am out cycling. I will assume all those who were using envelopes, but who are now paying directly into the bank, do not require envelopes unless I hear to the contrary.

Babs 01480
352627



JUST SHARING

Reopens on Monday 12th April.

***Come and stock up on your cards,
chocolate, scarves and so much
more....***