

Keeping in Touch..... Number 63

Welcome to this week's KIT. Thank you so much if you sent something in this week. Please keep the articles coming. The deadline for next week's KIT is noon on Wednesday. Please send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com. Or ring Alan or Chris on 01480 350787. If you get away for a few days please send a "virtual postcard" of a few photos. Do you have favourite school assembly or Sunday School hymns/songs you'd like to share?

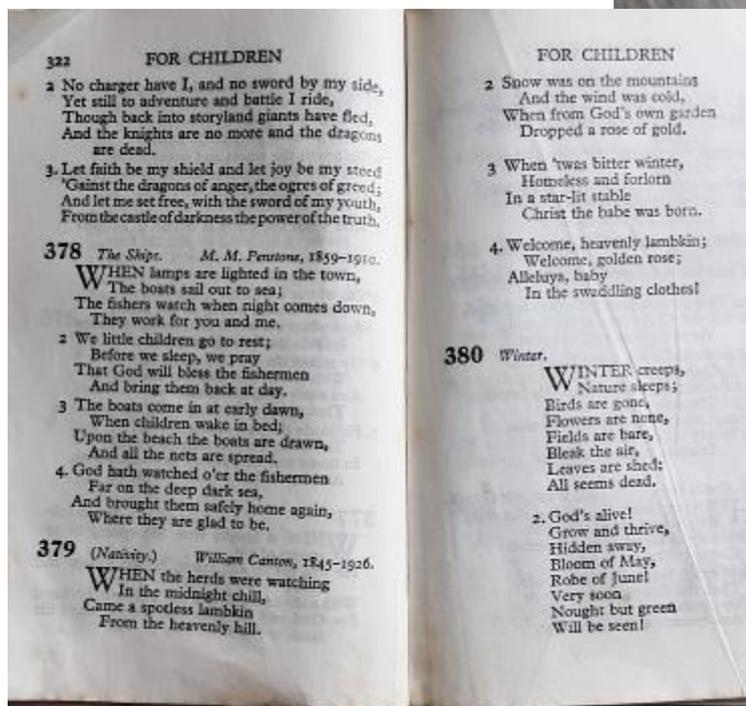
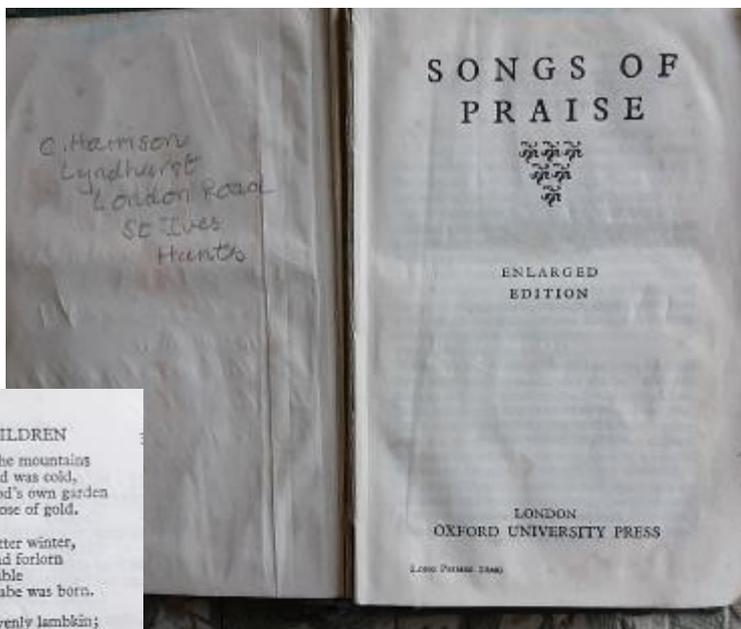
Favourite hymns from the past.....

Char—came to my rescue with the words of "When lamps were lighted...."

Char's old school hymn book.

Char says her favourite was "When a Knight won his spurs" by Jan Struther.

That was the penname for Joyce Anstruther who also wrote "Lord of all Hopefulness"



The latter has survived and is much loved whereas the knight has fallen foul of outdated imagery.....

Char also loved the words of the nativity hymn above by William Canton.

She goes on to say that she is sad that this tradition of singing hymns in school assemblies may have died out—and it is a pity if this is so.....

School Assembly hymns – memories from Alan

One hymn we often sang in my secondary school assemblies was 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' – perhaps the staff thought we schoolboys needed forgiveness for our 'foolish ways'. We sang it so often that I remember being very bored with it.

But in later life, it has become one of my favourite hymns. In particular one verse of it has always resonated with me. I could have called it my 'A14 verse' as frequently, stuck in slow moving traffic on the old A14, my mind would think of the challenges of the day ahead at college, and the verse that went through my mind was:

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Last Sunday I went to church..... usually something I've said every week of my life—till now. This was the first time back since both Covid and Cancer. I wondered how I'd feel—it was lovely to see people and enjoy Christine's lovely service "in the flesh". I thought I would really miss singing the hymns but then I usually don't when on AV anyway—too much multi-tasking! . Instead though I found myself concentrating more carefully than usual on the words of the hymns..

Definitely good to be back! Chris

If you didn't catch it on Sunday do try to see Songs of Praise from Iona, including an interview with the lovely John Bell—author of so many thought provoking hymns.

The first time John came to our church I was asked to go and pick him up from Peterborough together with a fellow minister, Mitchell Bunting. I asked how I would recognise them and was told "One will be dressed as a clown and the other looks like Jesus"! True enough!!

Irene calling.....

US AND THEM

Russia v UK

In cat and mouse game,
Out in the high seas
While back here in shame
Matt Hancock
Conservative health hero anon,
Resigns in disgrace
With his street cred all gone.
Man of the moment
Commander of Rule,
Has thrown all away
For a grope - silly fool!
Boris stuck by him
Slapped wrist, said OK
But his peers and the people
Said NO! Go away!

How can we keep faith
In government men,
If it's one rule for us
And another for them?
Sajid Javid has taken
Over the rein,
Are they safe hands
Or not? Is it lose?
Is it gain?
Our trust has been shattered
We must wait, we will see,
Abolish the 'Mates' Club'
That's how it should be!

cc. IRENE CARTER

The Oak Tree Centre

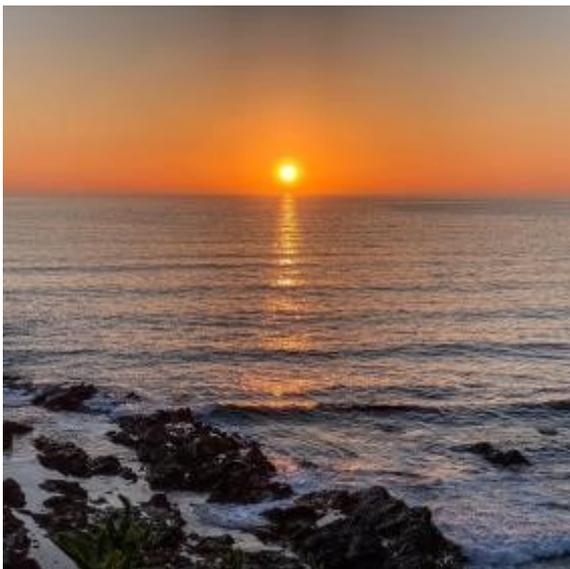
For the last few months I have been volunteering at the Oak Tree Vaccination Centre in Huntingdon which I have found both interesting and rewarding. It has been quite a surprise to learn how diverse our area is, we have seen people from all over the world, North and South America, Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and all over Europe. I was chatting to someone from Ecuador the other day. The very first person that I saw was from China and spoke no English, which was interesting, however most people who are not confident in English bring someone with them to help.

There is a considerable divergence in attitude in being vaccinated, the majority are fine, but some people are extremely nervous, and some are shaking with fear. Even so they are still having the jab, so well done them. At present only the Astra Zeneca vaccine is offered at Huntingdon, but Pfizer will be available soon for the younger people.

The staff and volunteers are all very friendly, and there is even free food and drink on offer so if you have a few spare hours, perhaps you could consider joining us. Social distancing is always maintained and all volunteers take a lateral flow test each time they attend, so it is very safe.

Peter German

A postcard from Cornwall from Martin and Jackie.....

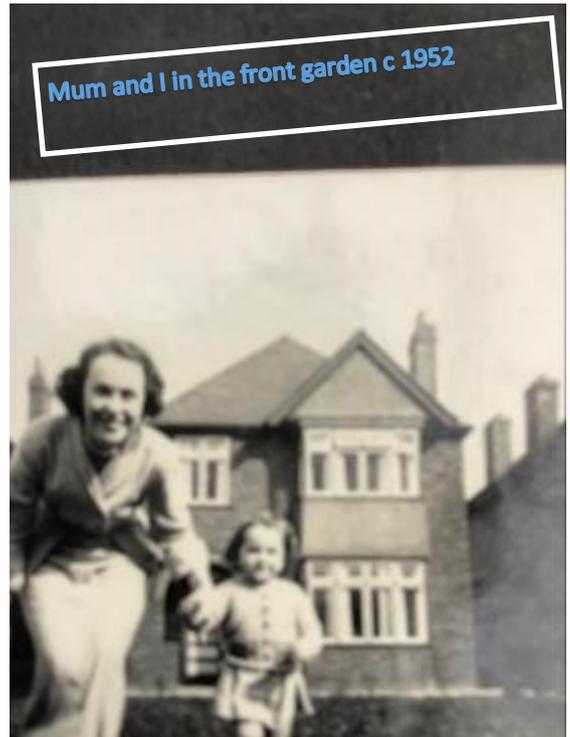


Last week I wrote to a house.....!

I don't think I've quite gone mad yet. You may recall from a few weeks ago that I took a photo of my 1950s home just outside Gloucester. It is still called "Tarras" after my parents favourite river near our hometown in The Borders. I wondered if the current owners knew the origins. I trawled the old black photo album and found photos of that time and I wrote to Tarras, Bath Rd, H*****. I added my email and phone number and it felt very odd putting a letter into the post addressed just to a house!

On Sunday I had a phone call from the delighted current owner telling me that the neighbours have been putting together a history of this little row of houses and mine was the earliest info they have. Since then I have been racking my brains for the names of our neighbours. A surprising number of names have come to the surface considering I was only 5 when we left! We are going to keep in touch and exchange more photos. So houses do talk sometimes.....

Chris



STOP PRESS—TUESDAY

Crossed to Arran today and made camp at Lochranza and already seen an eagle and red deer from our caravan. Picture is crossing to Arran and John saw porpoises on the way over. Will send picture of turquoise seas that have been in the news taken from Brodrick Castle nextand yes it is currently sunny here! ***Babs and John***

