

Keeping in Touch..... Number 9

Thank you again for keeping the articles coming. It is much appreciated!

Huge apologies to Sally and those who attempted her wordsearch last week—I inadvertently chopped the top line off rendering it impossible!

***Deadline each week is noon on a Wednesday—please send to
c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com***

Some jottings from Babs

Normally I do not have time to bake and experiment in the kitchen but lockdown has seen me making food for fun. The most emotional one was making my mother's boiled fruit cake recipe which she made for me for years and John and I used to take away on camping trips and still talked about by local friends now. One of them asked for the recipe which inspired me to make it for the first time and the first mouthful brought memories flooding back. It also encouraged me to look at the LOAF cookbook and there are some really nice simple recipes in there to add to my list so if you have a copy, worth taking a look.

My other interest which has developed over the past few years is making my own cordials. It started with Elderflower Cordial and this year have made 4 batches and filled a freezer draw. It is a team effort as John is taller to pick, I make up sugar solution and steep the elderflowers, lemon and citric acid in it for 4-5 days. John then strains and bottles as I am banned from doing so having managed to get very sticky elderflower cordial all over the kitchen a few years back. It took more than 3 washes of the floor to get rid of the stickiness! Last year I made mint and cucumber cordial for the first time and it is a delightful, refreshing drink and during May when it was so hot we were enjoying it with our lunch and dinner in the garden. Both freeze very well. This week I tried rhubarb and ginger cordial, a very different taste, and made a lot less volume but really enjoyable too. Recipes are freely available on the web but if you can't find one then happy to share the ones I have.

How we came to the Free Church..... Three stories for you.....

Joining the Free Church from Gill and Peter German

In January 1981, our son Michael was born, and we decided it would be nice to join a church, not having been to church for several years. On one Sunday morning therefore in April 1981 with a tiny baby we walked through the doors of the Free Church, St Ives. We were met with kind greetings from many people, especially the McQuittys and the Burlings and we instantly felt welcomed. We had Michael baptised and Peter and I took confirmation classes. Later, in 1985 our daughter, Heather was baptised in the church.

Now, almost 40 years later we are still walking through the doors of the Free Church St Ives and still feel like it is home from home.

God willing, we will soon be back to normal and we can meet up again with our friends at the church. Missing you all. Gill.

Andy & Lin's pathway to The Free Church in St Ives

Andy was born in Southampton and as a small boy joined the Life Boys and Boys Brigade based at Millbrook (now Freemantle) Baptist Church. This meant a commitment to attend Church Parade one Sunday a month. Andy became a BB Officer and was a recipient of the Queen's Badge.

Lin moved from Berkshire, via the New Forest, to Southampton where from the age of 8 was sent to afternoon Sunday School at Kentish Road, Independent Mission Hall (corrugated construction and very noisy when it rained!); became a Sunday School teacher in teens and had the onerous responsibility of counting and recording the Ship Halfpennies collected (competitively) in each class. There were many elderly, very loving, unmarried ladies involved in the life of this church. Memories of these ladies who shared with all their deep, deep faith came flooding back only last Sunday when, during a BBC service, a congregation sang:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful Face,

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

They taught us many such choruses and, in my mind's eye, can still see their faces wreathed in smiles as they sang.

The Boys, and Girls Brigade, at the Baptist church meant there was a very large, active youth group to which Lin was lured in 1963. This meant participation in evening services led by the young people; concerts; residential youth weekends; camps and all the usual youthful extra-curricular activities. We must have been about 12 and 14 respectively when we first met. In 1967 after a weekend, church arranged, trip to Blackpool to 'see the lights' (can you imagine, from Southampton, by coach!), we were 'going out'. We remained actively involved at Millbrook and duly became Members. We think we may also have crossed paths with Alan Curtis and his youth group from Salisbury. Get Lin and Alan C started, singing choruses and recalling youth gatherings, and it is more than likely!

We were married on June 5th 1971 by our Church Secretary, with a Registrar present. The Minister had died in a tragic accident on Christmas Eve 1966. He was much loved and deeply mourned by the congregation who had been unable to accept a successor. With no minister, we needed a celebrant, and with no safe in the vestry for the storage of registers, we were obliged to have a Registrar present. Our Church Secretary had been a constant all through our teenage years. He told us off when necessary but he was our friend and we knew how much he cared and looked out for all of us. Who else should we ask to marry us? The poor man was terrified, but we were very happy he agreed. (*David D – have you noted this is Paragraph 19 in your Job Description?*)



In 1972 Andy was appointed manager of one of the Bowes & Bowes book shops in Cambridge. Lin transferred her experience as a solicitor's cashier to a law firm in Cambridge and a new chapter of our lives began, working in Cambridge and living in Needingworth. We naturally looked to join the local Baptist Church but at the first service we endured a 40-minute sermon and were told we would be unable to take communion: we had not been baptised by complete immersion. We had been baptised as infants in the Anglican Church and so we ventured into St Ives looking for an alternative place of worship. Being used to going to church on Sunday Evenings, with our youth group, we naturally went to The Free Church (then Congregational) for an evening service. We were made to feel so welcome by Rev John Ballard, his wife Connie and other members that we didn't even think to look further. The congregation was small but that was fine. Among others, we met Arthur Burling who persuaded us to join him and the teenage group which met in his home on Sunday evenings. Andy became involved with the week night youth group: active involvement had begun! In 1973 we were part of the first group accepted into membership, in St Ives, of the newly formed United Reformed Church. In due course, the evening services ceased and we joined the morning congregation – that was a revelation! We had no idea it would be such a large congregation with so many more friends to find and make.

And David and Josie Viles.....

David..... I went to the Free Church Sunday School from about the age of six around 1940. I remember when the Sunday School suddenly became full of children because of all the war evacuees. Sunday School was in the afternoon, not at the same time as the church service. There was always a picture to colour with wax crayons. I used to cycle there from Hemingford Grey.

Josie.....As a small child I went to the Primitive Methodist Chapel in East St. When it was decided that we should amalgamate with the Wesleyan Methodists on the Broadway the Primitive Methodist Church refused. I remember that the whole church marched to the Free Church instead. My dad (Frank Enfield) said I was too young for politics so I wasn't allowed to march. Instead I was allowed to start Sunday School a week later. We took our Sunday School teachers with us. At the time it was a Congregational church and became URC later.

Although they were both at Sunday School at the same time, they don't remember each other from those days. Instead romance blossomed on the schoolbus on the way to Huntingdon Grammar! They were married at the Free Church in August 1959.!

Answers to Char's photo quiz from last week.....

Photo 1 is the odd one out. It has no connection to Yeandle Family. It shows a gravel lorry hanging precariously on the bridge after it swerved to avoid a pedestrian in 1976—long before the by-pass was built! Imagine the chaos it caused!!

Photo 2 was taken in 1956 and shows Hadge's father George Yeandle who was Borough Surveyor for over 30 years. Also in the photo are Douglas Bryant, Fred Favell and Mrs Minnie Hudson who was the first women to become mayor of St Ives. She was our Biology teacher at Slepe Hall School. Both of Martin's parents also taught there: Mrs Ballard taught History and Current Affairs and his father taught Scripture.

Photo 3—Betty's father, Councillor Robb opening the Michaelmas Fair, the first to be held after the Second World War.

And with apologies, Sally's wordsearch again!

F Q R G L T X E L T H C H C C V S D Q W
G R L A N R E T E T E O H O O N I Z O G
G T E W S I X X Y X A K P N M C S W K B
Z U E E L J R J M R V K H E M A E H W D
X R Z L C I T A D A E P B D U O N N V O
M T M I V H U L H U N W C R N W E Q O N
Z J F Z O C U W W S P H D K I I G F L E
B Y U Y U B N R R D A M I H O L N P U H
D O M T O D S R C P K R R M N E I D W Q
H Q X P S T E O E H T Z T F W O P F U G
F O H O K L D L L O V E M E L M Y D I N
V T G V I A P D H J O E I W L J X Y X P
Y Q S G D D P R L E H Q G I L B G C I V
D X I G D Z L T A Q X Y Y L K Q I H O U
D O E R I P S H W Y B W Y S E T S B H I
N J N B V E S T R Y E L Q P N R K A T S
S K K P Z U R N F H O R X B O H O Z I I
F V K R Q J J G Q H L E D W N M P Q A A
J Y Q X F C N P D P F A M P G B E K F M
T J R T B F R Y Z I A F O U H N K C G M
J Y Q X F C N P D P F A M P G B E K F M
T J R T B F R Y Z I A F O U H N K C G M

BIBLE
CHAPEL
COMMUNION
ETERNAL
FAITH
FREECHURCH
GENESIS
HEAVEN
HOLY
HOPE
LOVE
PRAYER
RELIGION
SHARING
SPIRE
VESTRY

Poetry Page

From Irene

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT

The quiet stillness of the morning,
The chirp of birds as day is dawning,
The yellow rays that catch the light
As Sunshine wakens our delight.

The wildlife hidden from our view

Creeps out to greet the morning dew,
And in that special quiet time
When all the world seems good and fine
I walk, I ponder the life I lead,
What really matters, I concede
Is what I have, it's simple, true,
A loving life that's spent with you.
My faithful husband, partner, friend,
There by my side at every bend
Through ups and downs of normal life
I'm here your ever loving wife.

cc Irene Carter

Frances Peake sent this poem whilst in Addenbrookes. It is written by a friend with a similar lung condition and is reproduced with his permission

I've always loved my gadgets
Just never got enough
iPhones, iPads iPods
Keeping up with them was tough
Then they made them smarter
And smartness began to spread
TVs, fridges, everything,
More manuals to be read
Whilst they worked as should do
This was very fine
Lots of nice new things to use
All of them were mine.
Then the darn things started playing up!
Rebelling don't you see.
I think they've come to realise
They're all a lot smarter than me!

Peter German found this in an old edition of Inspire (Summer 20010 . It is attributed to a cousin of Betty Yeandle.

With all committees currently meeting by ZOOM some might be nostalgic for the days when you could contribute at greater length!!

An Ode to a Committee

Oh give me your pity, I'm on a committee
which means that from morning to night
we attend and amend, and contend and defend
without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur
And reiterate all of our thoughts
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda
and consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we support and oppose
and points of procedure are fun
but though various notations are brought up as motions
there's still very little gets done

We resolve and absolve, but never dissolve
since that's out of the question for us!
What a shattering pity to end our committee

A message from Derek.....

A follow up to my "Best laid Plans " comments. To say I enjoyed a super 90th birthday would be an understatement, It was not a disappointment at all but a celebration with family and friends, neighbours, and the church in widest terms. There were cards and phone calls reliving past years in Hertford, Hemel Hempstead ,Canterbury, and local churches visited with preaching appointments over many years. So many blessings and I've been counting them one by one over the past few days. I want to express my sincere thanks to friends of St Ives Church. and Fenstanton. So many calls, visits (keeping the distance!) a lovely bouquet of flowers and a birthday cake from dear "Jenny of Fenstanton. These blessings and so many more. And to cap it all, a most delicious birthday meal cooked with the loving hands of my dear Hazel. A sumptuous Steak Dianne and chunky chips with the appropriate trimmings. Followed by a favourite sweet ,Profiteroles. Plus ,of course, a nice glass of Red wine.!! So thanks to all for your love, friendship and best wishes.. Every blessing to one and all, in Jesus' name. **Derek**

Oh Joy!

What have you been doing asked Chris and Alan in the last edition of Keeping in Touch, what have you missed or found positive? Well that covers most of life doesn't it....

We have been doing things very differently of course. We found time to clear the shed (long overdue), had time to take daily walks or cycle rides and explore some of the paths around the nature reserve which were less familiar to us. There was an impromptu VE day 'party' on our road so tea and scones were hastily made, and we met a lot of our younger new neighbours who we don't normally see as they are at work and school. It was also nice as the 8th of May is our wedding anniversary and could not be celebrated in the usual way. All socially distanced of course!

I have sewn a few more scrub sets, the last set were fun as the fabric was covered in script reading 'Just Press Snooze' – the chance would be a fine thing for whoever ends up wearing them- but it may raise a smile. David has unexpectedly found himself spending hours at the computer trying to keep up with the ever- changing advice re the pandemic. This wasn't in the Church Secretary's job description. I just keep him supplied with tea and coffee and take him out for walks!!

The wonderful weather has of course helped. Who normally sits outside with the parasol up to eat lunch in April!! We had a near normal day the other week, going to the garden centre and coming back with plants and ended up redesigning a border in the garden. It was most unsettling but reassuring at the same time.

Apart from not seeing people except by video link, I have missed our family the most. We all had to make adjustments when Claire moved back in with us for nine weeks, but we enjoyed it. We last saw our grandchildren on the 8th March and that hurt us the most, along with half the rest of the country. Of course as soon as we are "allowed" to see them in the garden the rain returned! On Sunday we travelled down to south London and two hours later we were reunited without hugs and kisses but it didn't seem to matter. Elsie has recently had her 6th birthday and understood not to cross the line she and Jonathan had drawn to mark our seating area! Our separate lunches were enjoyed in sunshine and Arthur whose 2nd birthday was the next day unwrapped the diggers we gave him and happily played with them in the sand tray. We couldn't have wished for more, and then the rain returned!

Despite the anxiety that surrounds us all, we have to make the best of the joyful moments. Online church is comforting and so are all the efforts church and other friends are making to keep in touch.

Love and blessings to you all

Barbara

From Sally Runham on behalf of the Elders....

Ways forward, tentatively

Easing of lockdown will be monitored very carefully by the church Taskforce Group, a small rapid response group, which includes a few elders plus others with property, H&S, IT and safeguarding roles. Planning for lockdown easing has been started tentatively by church secretary, David Duffett and he has initiated the topic groups listed below. Their aim is to start the thinking process for each aspect of church activity and discuss with others involved how best to proceed. Each small group will engage with key users of the church to come up with an overall strategy.

In the first instance, David has asked the elders to think about the following topics over the next month.

Worship & Pastoral Group How should our worship practices change? How should we continue to provide pastoral care with social distancing?

Property Group How do we maintain and improve our building in an affordable way to make it a safe environment for all who use it to carry out their activities?

Finance Group How do we finance the work which we want to do in the next year?

Staffing group How can we best support them during the weeks and months ahead? Will we need extra help for such tasks as cleaning between users?

IT group What IT resources are required to support our church life and mission to make us more efficient in what we do?

And even a Vision 2025 group! Where do we want to be in five years' time? What are the main priorities?

One of the first of these to 'meet' is the small property group including Mick Lovell, our caretaker. They are measuring and planning for social distancing.

Of course, all aspects link with each other and we look forward to contacting you for ideas and help. Please pray for our church and church centre as we go forward in as sound a way as possible.

Answers to Helen's Collectives nouns from last week:

Bishops	bench, psalter, sea
bells	clarion, peal
cattle	drift, drove, herd, kine, mob, team
hawks	aerie, cast, kettle, leash, molting, screw, schizophrenia
hares	down, drove, herd, husk, kindle, leap, trace, trip, warren
magpies	tiding, charm, flock, congregation, parliament
.....	And there may be more!!