

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 32***

***Thank you as always to those who have sent in contributions this week. The KIT deadline is noon on Wednesdays. Please send anything to c.a.curtis@ntlworld. It has been wonderful to hear from so many of you this week with contributions towards Philip's quiz. Hopefully we will have the answers for you next week! The article on page 3 is written by someone who I've been friends with since my teenage days in Mill Hill. I knew little of the work of HI International until recently***

***If you would rather just tell us something, rather than type, then please lift up the phone to Chris or Alan—01480 350787.***

### ***A note from Hazel and Derek Newton.....***

How blessed we are to belong to the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Both Hazel and I have recently needed to visit hospital, Myself with an appointment and Hazel to A & E. In both instances we were willingly transported by our loving church family friends.

Firstly a month or so ago David, our church secretary, twice took me to Hinchbrooke for a removal of a growth on my lower left leg, followed by a later check up. Each time he patiently waited to bring me home. Then on Saturday November 7th. Hazel had a fall in the garden and was seemingly badly bruised and shaken. However, following an afternoon visit to surgery the following Thursday she was urged to visit A.& E.. This time dear Helen Ackroyd came to the rescue and awaited over 3 hours to return Hazel home, arm in a sling with a revealed hairline fracture of the left upper arm bone. Helen has since transported Hazel to the fracture clinic. Such wonderful caring Christian service and love.

I also would like to pay tribute to all who have kept the wheels of Christian fellowship turning during this covid time of lock down. The one or two times for collective Worship, our organist, Brian, and the various Video service and meditations, not forgetting the background hymn singing supplied to us by Peter Davies. We have been, and are, truly blessed. I mustn't forget Alan and Chris for the regular weekly updates through the K.I.T medium.

Thank you one and all of our loving and prayerful Christian family. Yours in Christ Jesus, ***Derek.***

The next **Free Church Coffee morning** Zoom is on **3rd December at 10.30pm.**

All welcome to join in the chat. Who know where it will take us next time!

Mary Cox on [mary@jmcox.co.uk](mailto:mary@jmcox.co.uk) is hosting the next coffee morning. Please get in touch with her to be added to the Zoom invite list.



### ***Veronica recommends.....***

During current restrictions she has found Morrisons to be extremely helpful for vulnerable people.. You just telephone: 0345 611 6111 option 5 and give your order to a human being ! They pick your order from St Ives store and a very nice person with mask delivers it to your home the next day. In my case, as my utility room is via the side entrance porch, they also put food in the fridge/freezer and have items for the indoor kitchen cupboards separate - a very personal service .

### ***A personal note from Irene.....***

My brother living in Waltham Abbey, Essex is currently getting over a nasty bout of Covid 19. He has a heart condition) so I have been worried, but he has exercised a lot for years and is a slim build. He runs marathons for Cancer and Crohns, cycles and swims for charity too normally, so it has helped him to recover, but slowly. He has lost a lot of weight and is very weak and tired. We are thankful he seems to be gradually getting better.

This has confirmed to me how important it is to follow the rules. He was careful, but did go out and about much more than we are doing. Anyway, here is my poem.

### ***ECO tips for our times from the faith in Action Group of the Eastern Synod***

**Eat locally and seasonally.** During lockdown, particularly initially with fears of food shortages, it was very tempting to buy whatever was available during our limited supermarket shops. But when restrictions ease, it's more important than ever to support local initiatives and growers. Can you consider what locally grown foods you can add (back) to your diet/ shopping list? It's worth remembering that produce grown locally is picked at the peak of its ripeness (versus being harvested too early in order to be shipped and distributed to your local supermarket). Produce at 'peak ripeness' will be full of flavour and taste better than the produce that has been imported and travelled thousands of miles. By buying locally grown food, you are helping to maintain green and/or open space in your community, and invest into the local economy. Taste for yourself the benefits of seasonal *and* local food!

**Reducing waste at Christmas.** Plan your festive gifts well - for your pocket and for the planet! Get creative with home-made crafts or food or invest in something that helps someone else enjoy nature. If you're really trying to cut back from shop-bought stuff, why not offer to do something nice for someone? Going further - agree to a 'No Unnecessary Presents Pact' or send your Christmas cards online rather than by post or have a communal church card. More waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, so why not cut down on food or decorations or try buying recycled/ recyclable wrapping paper or crackers.



### **CHRISTMAS 2020**

Rumours circulating  
Christmas to be - or not to be?,  
Press run like headless chickens,  
We don't know, we'll have to see.

Every family has a routine  
A tradition they pursue,  
That is special for them only,  
Quite unique, a thing they do.

A date for baking Christmas cakes  
Or searching for the decs,  
Some people write their Christmas  
cards  
While peering through their specs.

The children get excited  
And start ticking off the days,  
While mum and dad get busy  
Buying toys to hide away.

This year it will be different  
With the virus on the rise,  
We have to forfeit mixing much  
To gain the greater prize.

We've shielded for so many months  
Can't throw it all away,  
Our families should understand  
There'll be another day.

Of course we'll miss our loved ones,  
But the time has come to choose,  
Should we chance it all to risk,  
Are we prepared to lose?

Let us have a simple Christmas  
Keep the rules, but still have fun,  
Remembering our Lord Jesus  
And his love for everyone.

cc IRENE CARTER

## **MISSION FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY – Dr Colin Ellis Haggai International UK Chair**

The world needs Jesus Christ, perhaps during the present pandemic, more than ever. The global population is approximately 8 billion and it's estimated that 2.8 billion have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Haggai International (HI) believes they are living in Gospel poverty. Christian mission is an uphill challenge but with God's help it is our resolve to put an end to this poverty through the work and ministry of Haggai International. Our name is not derived from one of the minor prophet's but from the ministry's founder, John Haggai a Baptist Minister and Evangelist of Syrian-American descent, who sadly died last week at the age of 96. After a vision he received from God when just 10 years old and obeying God's call upon him to obey the Great Commission he founded HI in 1969. John Haggai's parents were beneficiaries of the traditional western missionary model and he would be the first to endorse this method of spreading the Gospel, but even then he realised the challenges faced by western missionaries and considered the most effective missionary force is one that already belongs within a given culture, one comprised of a country's own nationals; while the Gospel message remains unchanging and unchangeable, the methods to communicate that message needed to be revised. Against a backdrop of millions of people living in countries where the authorities actively discourage or forbid attempts by westerners to share the Gospel, HI's model becomes so relevant and even more so as the world has largely become locked down because of the pandemic.

The HI model is based on selecting strategically placed Christian men and women leaders who have demonstrated formidable influence within their professional spheres including Government, Business, Law, Medicine, Education, Arts, Media and the Church, who are then equipped through the HI training course to present the Gospel to their own people (many are Hindus, Buddhists or Muslims) in a culturally sensitive way in their own language and within their own customs and culture. Our leaders are already mature Christians, HI is not a Bible school. They are credentialed and proven leaders who have a passion for evangelism which only the Holy Spirit can instil. The results of this God-ordained ministry are amazing with over 123,000 women and men trained over the last 50 years now working in 189 nations within their own networks and spheres of influence. This can have an immense impact on the spread of the Gospel – HI trained leaders include the current Coptic Pope of the Egyptian Coptic Church, the radio host in the ISIS occupied city of Marawi in the Philippines, the senior adviser in Mongolia's parliament, the Presidents of the Central African Republic and Malawi and the HI leader in the Lebanon who with his team helped in the aftermath of the devastating explosion in Beirut in August. Haggai leaders are there on the ground at this moment spreading the Gospel not needing visa's, furlough or education in local customs, language and culture.

Before the lockdown our training, which has been devised by our non-western faculty, took place at our international centre in Maui and in locations in the Middle East and China. Each period of training lasts for 23 – 25 continuous days and is paid for by HI, though each person selected contributes a small percentage to their training. Once trained, they commit to passing on what they have learnt to at least 100 Christian credentialed leaders in their own country. However due to covid 19 we had to cease face-to-face training at the end of March this year, but with God's providence the pre-covid development of our on-line training platform has been accelerated to the stage where we are now continuing training virtually with leaders from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. The implementation of our virtual training platform for training Haggai leaders during this pandemic has opened doors that were previously closed. Visa and travel restrictions have always been a potential barrier for our international leaders to attend training sessions, whether during a pandemic or not. Gone now are the days of denied visas, privacy concerns and intense government scrutiny of our leaders' travelling arrangements. By God's grace and provision, we truly believe that this virtual training platform is the next innovation in equipping our leaders to end Gospel poverty, and when circumstances permit, we will be using this method along with face-to-face training.

The world needs Jesus Christ, especially in those countries and peoples that have not heard the Gospel and especially during this pandemic. We currently have over 8000 Christian men and women who have been selected for training and it's our fervent prayer that the funding for this can be met.

**HI Vision:** Every nation redeemed and transformed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**HI Mission:** To equip and inspire strategically positioned leaders to more effectively demonstrate and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to prepare others to do the same.

Contact details:

Email: [hiuk@haggai-international.org](mailto:hiuk@haggai-international.org) for the attention of Dr Colin Ellis.

Post: Dr C. Ellis, Haggai International, 12 Branbridges Industrial Estate, East Peckham, Kent TN12 5HF

We can be found on Facebook and Twitter HaggaiIntlUK and Instagram @HaggaiIntlUK

## Reducing use of plastic by Sally Runham

Waste plastic is a scourge on our environment but tackling it needs new ideas, a better understanding of disposal options and, above all, a concerted effort. Twenty-five concerned people attended an online meeting on litter and plastic reduction on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Hosted by Helen Dye of St Ives Eco Action and with guest Heidi Field, waste minimisation officer of Huntingdonshire District Council, it was an excellent interactive discussion about reducing use of plastic, and how to recycle it. Helen suggested that people from across the town and villages can support the parish councils, town council and HDC in their efforts to tackle waste and littering.

### Practical ways to reduce use of plastic:

Consider taking a portable coffee cup when you call in at local cafes.

Pokito reusable collapsible cup—see right

Visit the town's two refilling centres, at the Courtyard and on East Street. Take your own plastic bottles to refill. They give lots of tips to reduce packaging. St Ives Refill Centre also has a stall on the Farmers' Market.



- Consider ordering milk in glass bottles from a milk delivery service. This is more expensive per pint than buying in plastic bottles from a supermarket. A range of other items in returnable glass containers may be delivered alongside the milk, if requested, such as juice and yoghurt.

Please do not use allegedly disposable plastic bags in kitchen caddies if you intend to put this waste into the Green Bin. These small plastic bags are not currently processable by HDC. HDC has conducted tests with Amey Cespa but they have not degraded successfully. You can home compost such bags with kitchen food waste, but they may take a long time to break down.

### The HDC process:

What happens to plastic put into our blue bins? Sorting recyclable items into the blue bin is vitally important. Heidi said that black bin general waste costs £100 per tonne to dispose to landfill whereas blue bin recyclable waste costs £38 per tonne to dispose of. Some 8.3 per cent of Blue Bin dry recycling is contaminated with, for example, food and metals such as batteries. Black bin liners are also incorrectly placed in the Blue Bin, causing contamination and rejection of whole consignments.

Cans extracted during the recycling process are valuable as reusing this metal requires only 5% of the energy compared with mining and transporting metal for new cans. Metal does not lose its quality. Dry recycling includes all grades of plastic waste which degrades eventually losing its quality. This is combined into a 'coarse plastic' product that has a range of lower value uses once processed.

[Cont'd on page 5](#)

## **Sally's article continued**

### Hope for our future:

Heidi Field indicated that in due course there will be a drinks deposit scheme which will mean plastic bottles can be returned and reused. Also, in due course bins in town will be dual purpose, general waste in one and recycled cans and plastic bottles in the other. Dual purpose bins are in St Neots and Huntingdon.

St Ives Eco Action will help to coordinate succinct information sheets on handling of plastics, and with the help of the Rotary Award Scheme for schools, children will be encouraged to tackle this issue at an early stage. Let's take care when filling our Blue Bins, and fine-tune our personal use of plastic

A less demanding quiz set for us by Char's friends Brian and Liz—answers next week

- 1 who told Sir Peter Laly to paint him warts and all?
- 2 Who was reputed to die following eating peaches and new cider at Kings Lynn?
- 3 Which anti slavery campaigner has a monument in the a fen town?
- 4 What does the post at Holme Fen show?
- 5 Which founder of the National trust was born in Cambridgeshire?
- 6 What was at Norman Cross between 1796 and 1814?
- 7 What did Celia Fiennes consider Ely to be?.
- 8 Where was Gildenburgh sacked by Hereward and the Danes?
- 9 Who founded Clare college?
- 10 Which was the fair that Daniel Defoe thought the greatest in the world?
- 11 what happened in the Cavendish laboratory in Cambridge in 1832?
- 12 What is the connection between Warboys and Pendle in Lancashire.

### ***Alan's article on farming memories last week reminded our friend Ken "Farmer" Huggins of his childhood.***

Ken was an arable and cattle farmer, now part-time working for his "boys" collecting potatoes from potato farmers throughout East Anglian and beyond and always generous with his crop for Tookey's.

Sindy continues -"Just like you, both of us are very happy to see combine harvesters at work, but the days of manual harvesting are long over.

Needless to say, Ken found your article really interesting and said it took him back to his younger days, when his dad, his brother and he worked on the family farm in Warboys and used to set the fields of stubble alight – again, those days are long over too. Ken said he used to come home from school and say to dad, "well I'm going out to play with my friends now" to which his dad replied "no you're not, get your jeans on lad, you're coming to do some farming with me".

## ***Ready, steady, census***

Office for National Statistics

**census 2021**

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Huntingdonshire will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk).

## ***Just Sharing***

### ***The Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church***

**We are reopening the shop on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**a big cheer**

**Hurray, Hurray, Hurray!!!**

The staff and volunteers in Just Sharing look forward to seeing all our lovely customers once again in the shop. In the meantime, please remember that you can contact Tracey Hipson or Mary Anthony for help with any purchases. We are happy to deliver to your door and take payment over the phone.

Contact details: Tracey Hipson, Just Sharing Assistant Manager on 01480 468350 or Mary Anthony on 01480 469530.

If you use Facebook take a look at the Free Church page: ‘St Ives Free Church URC’

Where we are showcasing lots of gifts and cards from Just Sharing.

