

## ***Keeping in Touch..... Number 50***

***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 is noon on Wednesday. Please send anything to [c.a.curtis@ntlworld.com](mailto: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.***



### ***View from the Manse***

#### ***Easter Greetings!***

It is hard to believe that this is the second Easter in which we are under a form of lockdown and unable to gather in person for worship! However, we have learned much over the past year and are very grateful to Peter Davies who is able to upload our worship services to our church website so that those on the internet may join in from home, and to Gail in the office so that a written copy of the service may be sent to those not on the internet. So, despite the restrictions, we are at least still able to follow the same worship, even if we need to do so separately.

Easter is the time of celebration of new life. This year it has cheered us up immensely to see daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths springing up in people's front gardens and on grass verges around the town. Although we may not be able to be with all our families and friends, it is encouraging that we can get together with one other household and to wish each other a Happy Easter by phone or video. Peter and I plan to have son Chris and grandson Thomas over for a visit. We are going to prepare a little Easter hunt for Thomas with some Fairtrade Chocolate Easter eggs for him to find. Although traditionally I suppose lamb is the meal for Easter, what we will be eating is turkey, having bought an extra one at Christmas and kept it in the freezer until now. Do you have some of your own family traditions? I hope that you are able to continue them as best as much as possible.

Easter is when we recall Christ's resurrection from death. We are filled with joy and peace at the knowledge that we can find new life in him – a lasting friendship with the Lord that begins now in our life on earth and lasts forever with him in eternity. We also have hope for this world knowing that illness and death will not have the last word. God is renewing, refreshing, and restoring the world to a place of health and wholeness.

We may be encouraged that this Covid pandemic will ease, with thanks to those who have discovered vaccines to combat it and the many of health care



### ***View from the Manse cont'd***

workers who have cared for those who have become ill with it. This means that it is time for us as a church to think about how we may be restored to worship and fellowship once again. We are grateful that Just Sharing our Fairtrade shop and Tookey's Coffee shop will be able to open soon – and some groups may resume use of our building.

This is an opportunity for us to explore ways in which we may be refreshed and renewed in our church life. Should we continue our on-line worship for those not able to attend on Sundays? Will we want to try Zoom services so that they may be more interactive? As we will need to maintain social distancing, would we like to hold café style worship and sit around tables? Would we like to do some things outdoors so that we may be seen in the community? There will be many things for us to consider, so do please offer your suggestions to elders so that we can begin discussions.

Wishing you joy and peace at this special time,

***Catherine and Peter xx***

***Char thought this extract from Agatha Christie's autobiography would be particularly suitable for Holy Week.***

*I can picture one teacher there.....I can't recall her name. She was short and spare and I remember her eager jutting chin. Quite unexpectedly one day ( in the middle I think of an arithmetic lesson) she suddenly launched forth on a speech on life and religion. "All of you" she said, "every one of you—will pass through a time when you will face despair. If you never face despair then you will never have faced or become a Christian, or known a Christian life. To be a Christian you must face and accept the life that Christ faced and lived; you must enjoy things as he enjoyed things, be as happy as he was at the marriage at Cana, know the peace and happiness that it means to be in harmony with God and with God's will. But you must also know , as he did, what it means to be alone in the garden of Gethsemane, to feel that all your friends have forsaken you, that God himself has forsaken you.*

*Hold on then to the belief that that's not the end. If you love, you will suffer, and if you do not love, you do not know the meaning of a Christian life".*

*She then returned to the problem of compound interest with her usual vigour, but it is odd that those few words, more than any sermon I have ever heard, remain with me, and years later they were to come back to me and give me hope at a time when despair had me in its grip. She was a dynamic figure, and also, I think, a fine teacher. I wish I could have been taught by her longer.*

***Char adds that "I was lucky enough to have many inspirational teachers both at Hemingford and Slepe Hall, all have now departed, so I will never be able to thank them. Of course, when they were teaching me, I was a badly behaved real pain of a pupil and I am now regretful. I do hope they forgave me".***

**Irene calling.....**

**LAW AND ORDER**

I'd had my jab,  
My mood was high,  
And thankful, full of hope,  
A glimmer of the Lock Down end  
Put normal life in scope.

The sun it shone  
And I was glad,  
And dared to future think,  
But when I heard the daily News  
My heart began to sink.

The Bristol riot  
Played on screen,  
Right there before my eyes,  
People chanting, goading Police,  
No thought - that's no surprise!

Antagonistic violence  
Erupted on the street,  
Police had no choice  
They had to stop  
The danger on their beat.

The fireworks they  
Aimed at Police,  
For hours it was bad,  
Twenty Police, were injured  
By unruly crowds, I'm sad.

Protest Yes! it is your right,  
But better ways there are,  
How does it help to fisticuff  
Or set alight a car?

The Covid Rules  
Are now in law,  
The Police must these enforce,  
They risk their lives to keep us safe  
Repel this hostile source.

cc. IRENE CARTER

If you would like The Messiah at Easter this performance is just blooming with happiness and cracks along with sheer joy .

This is my favourite production.

<https://youtu.be/JH3T6YwwU9s>

The strong message of resurrection and re birth being apt ,most relevant for this particular Easter,giving us the chance to change , to strive to be better people which is what Handel wanted us to be.

Thanks Pa Pa Handel.

Happy Easter to All

And Lots of Love ,Char x x



Next Zoom coffee morning will be on Thursday 8th April from 10:30.

Men and women welcome. Let Barbara know if you would like to be sent a link to join.

***Easter Quiz answers.....***

***1. Faberge***

***2. March and April***

***3. Anglo Saxon goddess of the dawn.***

***4. Rabbits***

***5. Palm Sunday***

***6. Maundy Thursday***

***7. Barabas***

***8. Myosotis***

***9. Eleven—one for each disciple other than Judas***

***10. Eastern Pacific, - a Chilean dependency, also called Rapa Nui but Spanish is now spoken by the 5.000 inhabitants and Rapa Nui is being forgotten.***

***The Dutch named it Paaseiland to commemorate the day on which they arrived,5th April 1722 which happened to be Easter Day.***



*I thoroughly enjoyed the article in KIT49 written by John Williams and my response to his question "Was anyone else's first love Music?", is: YES*

Along with most children, I played the recorder at junior school. I had been told I was to learn to play the cello in the school orchestra, but I didn't find it a particularly feminine instrument to play so I changed to the violin. My grandad wasn't too pleased as he felt I should learn to play the piano, like him. He was a very accomplished piano player, having passed all his exams by the age of 7 years.

I had an exceptionally good music teacher at grammar school (Mr Thomas) who used to play the piano at morning assembly. I remember one particular lesson where he tapped out a tune on his desk and the class were asked if they recognised the tune. My hand went up first as it was "God Save the Queen". I was very familiar with the anthem as my grandad used to play it on his piano and my mother sang along. Unfortunately, I didn't inherit my mother's beautiful soprano voice. She too was quite musical but didn't play any instruments. She always had the best singing part in school plays and went on to have private singing lessons from the age of 14 years. Many years later and a mum to 4 children, we were living in Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, and there was a car accident outside our house. My mother dashed across to help, only to find the driver dead. The driver had been her singing tutor (Nelly Kane) whom she hadn't seen for over 20 years - what a shock that was to mum.

My musical knowledge was refreshed when our dear pianist/organist, Brian Lodde, agreed to give me piano lessons and said I should practise for at least 10 minutes every day. Unfortunately, my husband, didn't like me practising on our electronic organ at home and he used to fold it up and put it away in its box each day instead of leaving it upright - we did have 4 spare bedrooms after all! Needless to say I didn't improve much. Over the last few years I have joined Hemingford Ladies Choir (Alto 2) and learnt how to play the ukulele. I now play with 2 ukulele groups - one in Bluntisham and the other in Somersham.

I have many CDs and vinyl records which I still play as I love to listen to all sorts of music and, now that I live alone, I play the ukulele every day and no-one can hear me as everyone else living at Hemingford Lodge goes out to work and I am happily retired. I have recently purchased a small piano which has a separate earpiece, so I can start practising again and won't be a nuisance to anyone.

There was a record made in 1976 by John Miles called "Music is my first love" and it certainly was mine.

*Sindy Surtees*

***Hilary and Graeme Patrick  
would like to thank every-  
one for their good wishes  
and care since their home  
was flooded.***

***To all our dear friends at the Free Church we send Easter  
Greetings with our love, - and grateful thanks to every-  
one who has created the means for us all to remain in  
touch during this last year. What would we have done  
without such loving support, and especially our amazing  
KIT! God Bless us everyone!***

***Liz and Stewart***

## **More favourite prose.....**

**From Helen Ackroyd.....**

**'From "Through the Looking Glass' by Lewis Carroll**

Alice is talking to Humpty Dumpty about un-birthday presents. They have worked out, with difficulty, that  $365 - 1 = 364$ .

Humpty Dumpty says 'that shows that there are three hundred and sixty four days when you might get un - birthday presents and only one for birthday presents. There's glory for you!'

'I don't know what you mean by 'glory' ' Alice said.

Humpty Dumpty smiled contemptuously. ' Of course you don't - till I tell you. I meant 'there's a nice knock - down for you !'

'But 'glory' doesn't mean 'a nice knock down argument' ' Alice objected.

'When I use a word' H D said in a rather scornful tone, 'it means just what I choose it to mean.'

'The question is' said Alice 'whether you can make words mean different things'.

'The question is' said H D , 'which is to be master, that's all'.

### **Church Humour from Babs Moore**

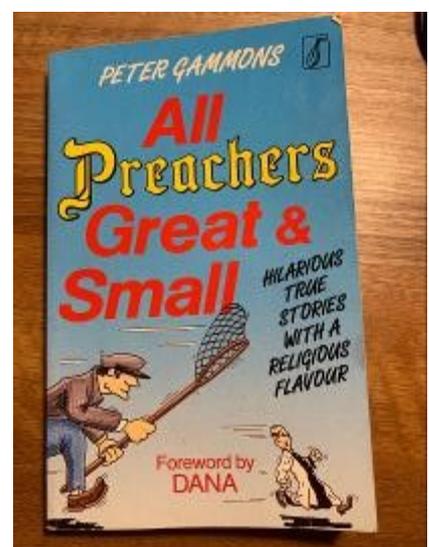
Many years ago at Hengrave Hall (c.1990) I did the only thing I have ever done resembling a stand-up routine, probably as part of the evening entertainment. Recently, when doing some lockdown tidying up, I came across my script. Many of the anecdotes were lifted from All Preachers Great and Small and it got me wondering if there was material we could gather from our ministers and lay preachers connected to our church.

#### **For example....**

*A vicar announced at a meeting of the PCC that he was going to install a second font near the chancel so he could "Baptise babies both ends".*

*And then there was the vicar who announced at the end of the service, having been reminded by his wife, that the Young Mothers' Group was starting that week. He continued , "if any young women in our church wish to become Young Mothers, please see me in the vestry at the end of the service.*

*A butcher, with a sense of humour, chose for one of the hymns at his funeral "Sheep may safely graze".*



at

**More favourite prose from Li z Denham ..... This from Bleak House by Dickens, her favourite author. This one makes her cry.....**

**Bleak House, death of Jo, crossing sweeper.**

It's turned wery dark, sir. Is there any light a comin?

It is coming fast Jo.

Fast .

The cart is shaken all to pieces, and the ragged road is very near its end.

Jo, my poor fellow!

I hear you sir, in the dark, but I'm a gropin.....a gropin.....let me catch hold of your hand.

Jo, can you say what I say?

I'll say anything as you say , sir, for I know it's good.

OUR FATHER

Our Father!.....yes , that's wery good, sir WHICH ART IN HEAVEN Art in Heaven.....is the light a comi, sir?

It is close at hand. HALLOWED BE THY NAME!

Hallowed be.....thy.....

The light is come upon the dark benighted way.

Dead!

Dead, your Majesty. Dead, my lords and gentlemen. Dead, Right Reverends and Wrong Reverends of every order. Dead, men and women, born with Heavenly compassion in your hearts. And dying thus around us, every day.

**Easter Blessing - by Kate McIlhagga**

**How beautiful is the blossom**

**spilling from the tree,**

**the hidden primrose**

**and the bluebell**

**ringing out the news.**

**He is risen**

**He is alive**

**we shall live**

**for evermore.**

**the dark winter is past, the slow, cold,  
foggy days are over.**

**May the warmth of your resurrection  
touch our hearts and minds  
as the warmth of the sun  
blesses our bodies.**

