



Dear Reader This final issue of Keep Connected! draws your attention to **Christian Aid Week**, which runs from 10-16 May. Activity, organised through Churches Together In Mottingham (CTIM) is largely online, as last year. Details are on the parish website www.standrewandstalban.org.uk, so do take a look and support this worthwhile cause. Donations can be made on the CTIM Just Giving page, accessible from the parish website home page or directly via this link - <https://www.justgiving.com/team/MottinghamCAW2021>. This year's target is £2000, but please dig deep, rattle the virtual collection tins enthusiastically and hopefully, we'll beat the 2020 result!

CTIM Christian Aid Co-ordinator, **Diane Hudson** highlights this year's activities:

- CTIM Zoom Quiz 8pm 14 May, renowned quizmaster, Mick Wood.
- CTIM Zoom Read-in & Sing-in noon - 6pm 22 May, host Revd Ian Welch
- Christian Aid general knowledge, sports, arts, music & 2020 facts quiz on the parish website. Please print, copy and share - £1 donation per copy requested.
- Red envelopes will be delivered to some homes (no personal calling) and churches.
- Christian Aid online activities include 'Quiztarian Aid' at 7pm on 8 May and 'Song of the Prophets - a Requiem for the Climate' 7-8pm on 9 June. Sign in to both on the Christian Aid Virtual Events website.



Please contact Diane in the first instance for Zoom joining information for all events. CTIM raised almost £3000 (plus gift aid) last year. **Please donate to help families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice.** Thank you Diane for leading us in the right direction.

KeeP Connected! - Looking Back In Summary:

Issue 1 was published on 6 April 2020 with the aim of keeping community together whilst people had to isolate during the first lockdown. Thelma sent me Kathleen O'Mara's poem 'And People Stayed At Home', first published in 1869 and reprinted in 1919, the year of the first pandemic. Here we are again a century later!



Subsequent Issues covered: support for the NHS, carers and front line workers with 8pm clapping & rainbow pictures in windows; the rise of Zoom and coping with lockdown (Marley's tale); **Christian Aid Week 2020** and VE Day - celebrated nationally and remembered by local 'oldies' (just about)!



Mottingham's virtual 'Chelsea Flower Show' featuring an array of flowers, plants, vegetables and trees in readers' and local gardens proved to be a popular subject, which attracted many contributions. Sadly, no prizes and no celebrities present!



Other topics covered St Ed's Foodbank, young people's education and play at home during lockdown; what brought you to Mottingham; hopes and aspirations on easing of the first lockdown; churches re-opening; closure of the parish office. A reader survey and a new format for Keep Connected! followed.

Subsequent issues covered a range of subjects including, the Home Group garden party to celebrate Jim's 90th birthday and later, a sad farewell on Marley's passing. The issue on reversal of the first lockdown included Julia's moving poem, 'The Shoes' (you'll find it in **Issue 17** with this photo). Other themes reported back to school, the introduction of new categories, Remembrance Sunday, St Ed's Christmas Hampers, local politics and community, the St Andrew's Day service fund-raising organised by Beverley, video recorded by Ray, produced by Tom Bridges and uploaded to our website (the easy bit) by me - a great team effort!



Christmas 2020 saw a two part bumper issue, followed soon after by the New Year issue and St Ed's Christmas Hamper supplement. The arrival of the vaccination rollout and then Spring led up to the first anniversary issue (29) at the end of March this year.



Throughout there have been sprinklings of cartoons and humour, poems, interesting facts, history, geography and nature, words of wisdom and guidance from a range of luminaries, leaders and practitioners - all relevant ingredients at a time when our local community (like most others) was enduring the impact of this dreadful pandemic. I drew strength from the St Andrew's stained glass window which depicts the church in Court Road, a passing bus and the quotation 'And other sheep I have which are not of this fold' To me, the meaning is clear - reach out, spread the word and grow the community. Keep Connected!, together with the parish website, was a response to that challenge at a time when the community was forced into isolation and separation.

Thank you all for inspiring and helping me to do this with the many contributions you have willingly provided. Special thanks to those older members without internet access who have sent me their written contributions. My thanks especially to St Andrew with St Alban for endorsing the creation of the HeartEdge-inspired website and giving me the opportunity to meet so many of the community.

Looking Forward: As we begin to emerge from a virtual reality, the time is now right for me to bring Keep Connected! to a close; this is the final issue. After almost four years, it is also right for me to hand over the management and administration of the parish website. I will, of course, try to ensure that the transition is a smooth one. I'm sure the new parish team will rise to the challenge of addressing the significant challenges it faces; difficulties that have been exacerbated by a prolonged lockdown and brought about a substantial loss of regular income.

I wish the parish well as it considers its future Mission Action Plan and develops plans for communication, the website, a future magazine or newsletter and essential income generation. I know this can be done if there is clear vision, inspirational leadership, organisation and unity of purpose by determined and willing volunteers.



The Creation - Eliza Robinson

Keep Connected! has opened my eyes to our wider community and its needs in general. I am, therefore, exploring ways of keeping the community of Mottingham more connected. This will require scoping and a feasibility assessment, so it will be a while before the project crystallises. Naturally, I will let you know as things develop and if you are interested, then please do contact me. In the meantime, I wish you well and encourage you to keep connected!

With sincere thanks

Bob Lawrie
E: bob@standrewandstalban.org.uk T: 020 8857 0685