

11 Templand Road

ELGIN

Moray

IV30 8PR

3rd February 2021

Dear all

February now! Nearly one year since lockdown!

February is busy month:

12th



Happy Tet to Lap Tan!



14th



16th



Shrove Tuesday

22nd Feb – 7th March



Fairtrade Fortnight

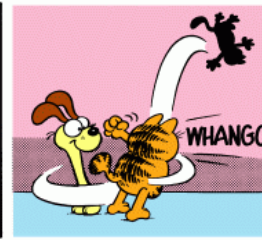
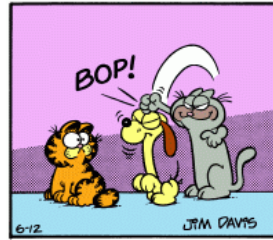
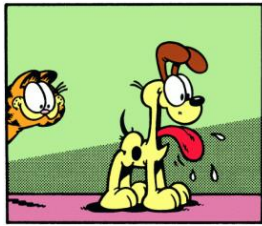
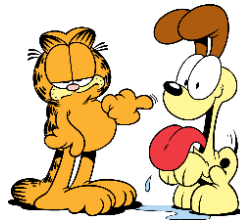
Remember 2 weeks ago I drew dog and 2 cats with vaccine jab running after 3 Covid virus?



I forgot to add photo of Covid Destroyer with Polo in it!

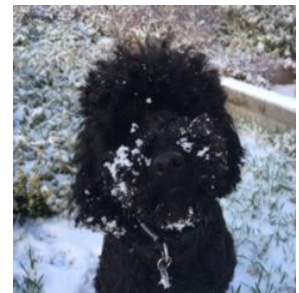


This week envelope draw of Clark and Polo fighting! They are like Garfield and Odie...

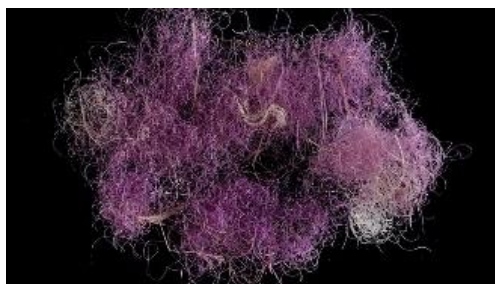


Most of time both Clark and Polo ok but then suddenly Clark tease / mock Polo first. Sometimes Polo suddenly attack Clark! Every morning all dog and 2 cats sleep together on my bed! Sometimes another cat from up my road come into my garden – Polo always chase this cat off because this strange cat tease / mock Clark!

Last Monday woke up with snow
Clark meet Snowdog!
Clark enjoyed himself!



Few days ago Len Mellis send me news about Israeli archaeologists found 'Biblical royal purple dye.' I text back told him about Lydia in Bible.

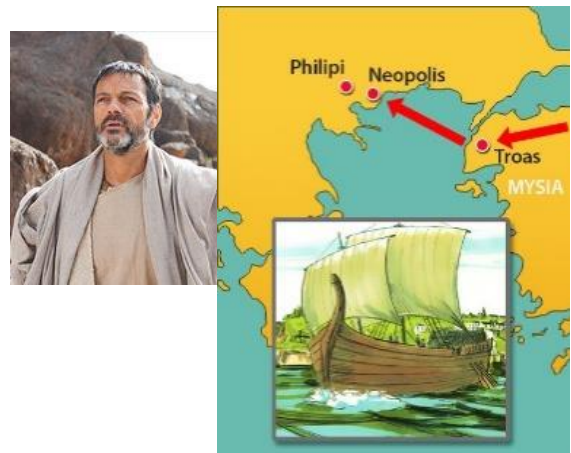


And Len shared with me what Richard Durno text back to him
“Very interesting information about the colour purple. Lydia who was the first woman to become a Christian and converted through Paul. (Read Acts 16: 11 – 15; 40. Philippians 4: 2). Lydia worked with cloths made with purple dyes.”

Thank you Len!

First Bible story about Lydia then will explain about purple dye.

At Troas, Paul have vision of man from Macedonia want him come over to help. So Paul went on boat and sailed over.



Philippi – 1st time in Europe Paul visited.



Paul looked around the city for few days and visited this busy market place and found amphitheatre and temples to false gods. There are few Jews but most are not Jews.



(You can visit ruined amphitheatre and temple)

Paul went out of the city and walked along river when he met group of women praying. Paul asked if he can join them.



One woman wear purple name Lydia
She work with purple cloth.
She is not Jew but she believed God.
Paul tell Lydia and her friends about Jesus.

God opened her heart and she believed in Jesus. Then she asked to be baptised. So Lydia and all people who live with her were baptised.



Then Lydia invited Paul and his friends to stay at her home.

Thanks be to God

We now finish learn about Joseph – Jesus' earth father. Bible said no more about Joseph so we don't know what happened to him.

Today is about Lydia and purple.

Lydia was very good business woman who buy and sell purple cloth.

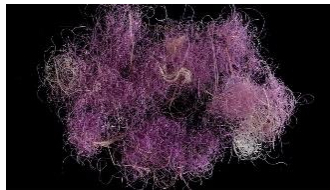
The colour purple is very very expensive - only very rich people and King or Queen can afford purple clothes.

Lydia have strong faith in God and believed in Jesus then baptised.

She have big house share with people and give Paul and his friends bed, food, fellowship. Possible Lydia's house became 1st Christian home fellowship worship in Europe.

And she helped pay Paul and his friends to travel around telling good news about Jesus.

Len Mellis shared about archaeologists found purple dyed piece

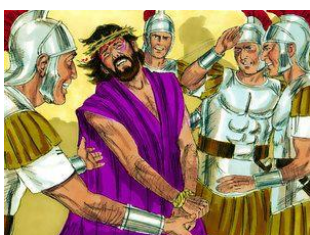


Archaeologists tested it and found it very very old – about 3,000 years old! They think it came from 1,000 BC (Before Christ) around same time as King David and his son King Solomon. Bible said about 3 men wearing purple robe:



King David from Old Testament wear purple robe.

David's son King Solomon also have purple robe.



Roman soldiers mocked Jesus and put purple robe on Jesus like King

Mark 15: 17

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

John 19: 2

The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe....

Why purple very expensive?

More expensive than gold at that time.

Colour purple came from molluscs / seashells →



Snails inside shell no colour but when out in sun colour change to purple



But one big problem – you need about 10,000 seashells to make 1 gram of purple dye!! If you want to buy from Lydia – cost about £160,000!

Different seashells make different colours.



It can take hours and hours to squeeze purple out from each seashell!

That is why this special purple cloth very expensive.

No you cannot go to Aberdeen beach and collect seashells because we have no special purple molluscs / seashells!

Only in eastern Mediterranean e.g. Greece (old name Macedonia where Paul visited) and Turkey. And you cannot smuggle out 10,000 of seashells!

We can follow examples of Lydia:

- She have prayer meetings with other women
 - We keep meeting together (*we can't at the moment due to Covid!*) and encourage each other (Hebrews 10: 25)
- She have heart for God
 - We need to put God first in our life (Exodus 20: 3)
- She offer her home to strangers
 - We can share with people who need us. Look after them. (Romans 12: 13)
- She worked hard to become successful business woman
 - We can work for God with all our heart (Colossians 3: 23)

We all can help each other and encourage each other through this difficult time of lockdown. We may not able to meet together but we can text, write card, make something to give, etc. Praying for our family / friends is important. We easy think only ourselves but we know some people need us to help / encourage them. I pray we all know and feel God's presence with us. We pray for those who are ill and for those who lost loved ones. We pray for peace of our minds through lockdown missing each other. We pray for those problem with money / lost job.

We pray we learn from Lydia example how we open our hearts and minds to God's word and give support for people who need help.

Amen

I think we all need to be kind to ourselves – why not put kettle on and make cup of tea then think about our family and friends.



Take care. Keep well. Keep safe. Keep warm

God bless you all!

Rev Mary Whittaker