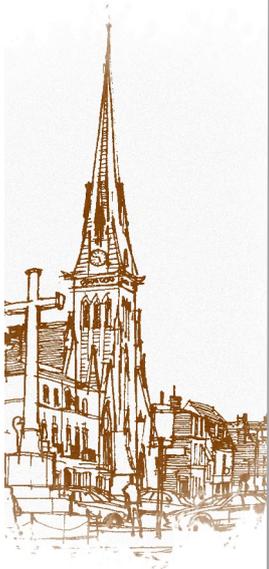


February 2016

Inspire



THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE FREE CHURCH
(UNITED REFORMED)
SAINT IVES

View from the Manse



Even though the days are still dull and grey, we as Christians may still be filled with light, since Christ the Light of the World came among us. Since God is with us in Christ, even the depth of winter can shine with the light of God's love. Sadly it is still a dark world, with wars and violence, with homelessness and poverty, illness and bereavement. Yet Jesus came to bring love and friendship and to bring health and energy where we feel weary and worried. Hatred and death will not have the last word in the world, for we know that this same Christ will come again to renew and restore our weary and broken world.

Jesus came to bring peace and justice in a world where there is no peace. This month we celebrate the 24th Year of our Fair Trade shop, Just Sharing, in our service on Sunday the 7th. Fairtrade Fortnight begins on 29th February and we continue to support the movement that provides jobs and dignity to many in developing countries.

We are also concerned for our natural world →

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Deadline for March Inspire:

Sunday 14th February

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Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org

and on the 21st February we will be having speaker David Chandler from A Rocha to give us some theology of the environment and practical suggestions as to how we can better care for it. The service will follow with a soup, bread and cheese lunch so that we may have a question/answer time afterwards with David. I hope you all can come!



With such a mild winter this year, we hope spring will come sooner than usual. Spring is a time of hope and new life. May we pray for healing and renewal in our lives, in our community and in our world as we continue our pilgrimage as followers of Jesus.

With love in Christ

Catherine



21st February at 11am “What a Wonderful World” Special ‘Green Christian’ Service

David Chandler, a speaker with **A Rocha** will be preaching. David lives in Cambridge and is a member of the Cambridge Community Church. He is a trustee of A Rocha and is involved in their new Nature Reserve in Essex. He works for the RSPB at Sandy and is also a freelance writer. Among other things he co-wrote “The RSPB First Book of Birds”.

A Rocha is an environmental NGO with an interdenominational Christian ethos.

Worship on that morning is being organised by the church eco-group.

The service will be followed by coffee as usual, and that will be followed by **a shared lunch of soup, bread and cheese.** The lunch, as well as a time of fellowship, will give us an opportunity to chat with David more informally.

Donations would be welcome to cover the cost. There is a list to sign up for the lunch on the landing.

Christmas Day Lunch at The Free Church



The Christmas Day Lunch at The Free Church, St Ives, was a great success with over 60 guests enjoying lunch together.

Over 30 volunteers helped on the day, both serving lunch and providing transport to and from the venue.

Many more volunteers also helped to prepare everything in the run-up to the event, especially Pat Clarke and Mavis from the Free Church.

The Mayor and Mayoress came to meet all the guests and spent much time chatting with them all.

Great thanks go to Huntingdon Volunteer Centre, St Ives Branch who co-ordinated the event; The Rotary Club of St Ives who underwrote the event; Waitrose who donated money; Home Instead who organised presents for the guests; The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal who donated food; and St Ives Free Church who organised all the cooking and provided a fantastic and festive venue for this real community effort.

Natalie Leigh-Brown, HVC St Ives Office Organiser, Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre

Ten Years of Fellowship Walks

The *Fellowship Walks*, started and managed by Alan & Chris Curtis in 2005, have now come to an end—at least in their present format. Alan and Chris aimed to stage a local walk every month of the year, come hail or shine. Mostly that was achieved—just occasionally the English weather got the better of us. Altogether over the ten-year period more than 70 people associated with Free Church took part in the walks—and over 100 walks were staged. Alan, who carried out the reconnaissance for almost all the walks, reckons he must have clocked up over 500 miles during the ten years.

The walks were a great way to get to know our fellow worshippers, something difficult to achieve if we only see each other on Sunday mornings. Nor did the fellowship end with the walking because almost invariably the route terminated close to a hostelry where the fellowship could continue over a drink and a bite to eat.

On Saturday 9th January 2016, some of us gathered at the Curtis' home for a bring-and-share lunch to celebrate a decade of walking [see photo].



I am sure that everyone who ever came on a Fellowship Walk will join me in saying a big

THANK YOU
to Alan and Chris!

Keith Cakebread



From the Church Secretary

It's February and winter did finally arrive a few weeks ago! The Just Sharing service will be on the 7th February when we can celebrate justice through Fairtrade. Then the Church calendar moves us this month from Epiphany into Lent, Ash Wednesday falling on the 10th of February. Look out for details of the lent course which you can attend either at lunchtime or in the evenings.

Last month I did promise you a few statistics for our church in 2015, so here they are:- Our membership has fallen slightly to 108.

The average congregation on a Sunday is 55 adults and 3 children. Our monthly communion service averages 64 adults and 1 child.

The best attended morning service was Easter Day (April 5th) 93 adults and 5 children, and the lowest were two Sundays in June which coincided with Civic service (held at the Parish Church and led by Catherine) and the following week which coincided with our Church Weekend away; these were attended by 27 and 28 adults respectively.

Easter Day was beaten by the ever popular service of Lessons and Carols with over 100 people attending in the evening.

Café services average 53 adults and five children. The Christingle service tops the cafe rankings with 73 adults and 15 children, with the 25th of January service winning the wooden spoon at 37 adults and 1 child. Two café services included baptism parties.

Last year we gave thanks for the lives of 4 members, Gaye White, Stanley Whiffen, Marjorie Hobden and Cicely Bidwell and two well-loved adherents, Phyllis Burling and Anne Calvert. They all rest in peace with the Lord.

Our ministry to young children and their carers continues with about 30 families coming to the Tots and Carers worship and play on a Wednesday morning in term time.

Catherine did not conduct any weddings last year, but there are already bookings for this year and 2017!

That is enough for you to digest now, so let us give thanks for all our services, those who take them and our many and varied ministries to all who we encounter each day.

Barbara

**The Free Church
(United Reformed)
St Ives**



has a vacancy for a

COOK/CATERING MANAGER

This is a part-time post with a minimum of 75 hours per month

For further details and application form, contact the Church Office
01480-468535
Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm

Volunteers Needed

For the preparation of Communion Elements by one or two people
to be done once a year



Instruction given

see Margaret Cakebread

Churches Together in St Ives

2016 LENT COURSE

15th February - 21st March

The Lent Course will take place at the Methodist Church at 11a.m. beginning on Monday 15th February, and continuing for six weeks, finishing on 21st March.

This Lent Course is quite different from previous years. The emphasis is on listening to God, and growth within that relationship, and is in no way prescriptive, but focuses on the aspects that participants find most helpful.

Refreshments provided

All Saints will be repeating the sessions at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

Please come and support this united event.

For further information speak to Val Bush.

**BEFORE YOU FINISH
EATING BREAKFAST
IN THE MORNING,
YOU'VE DEPENDED
ON MORE THAN
HALF THE WORLD**

Martin Luther King Jr, A Christmas sermon on peace, 1967



*In The Wilderness.....**A prayer for LENT by Michaela Youngson*

God who calls us on a journey, as we remember Jesus' time in the wilderness, help us cast aside those things that get in the way of hearing your word.

Help us to seek you in the places of bounteous beauty and of barren bleakness.

Help us to see you in the faces of friends and in the smile of strangers.

Help our devotion be made real in the actions of our lives.

When we have looked deep into our own hearts and struggled with who we are, send angels to minister with us and draw us out of our own wilderness to fulfil our calling to serve you.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Alan Farrant

By the time you read this, Alan Farrant, our super efficient caretaker will have said his Goodbyes and retired to the East Coast.

Many of you will not have seen Alan during the past two years or so, because he came into the Church early, worked tirelessly to make sure that everything was running smoothly and then disappeared. However, you will have been affected by his excellent work.

Alan always spoke of the Free Church in terms such as 'my' and 'our', symptomatic of his dedication to all the people who came into the building.

In recognition of Alan's dedication, the Minister and Elders have made him an Honorary Member of the Free Church.

He leaves us with our hopes and prayers for a happy and peaceful retirement

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has joined forces with *Raymond Blanc OBE* to suggest six food tips:

1. Eat more plants such as fruit, vegetables and nuts
2. Get experimental with food. Spice up your life with something different
3. Waste less food. Eating leftovers not only benefits the planet, but eases the bank balance
4. Moderate your meat consumption. Why restrict yourself to sheep, pigs, chickens and cows when peas, beans and nuts are also great sources of protein and allow you to be more creative
5. Buy foods that meet a certified standard such as MSC for fish, free-range for eggs and fair trade for everything – with preference for local foods, so helping rural farmers and communities
6. Eat fewer foods high in fat, salt and sugar. An occasional treat is fine, but with cakes, sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks, cured and processed meats, the emphasis should be on occasional.

From **Green Christian** ["Care for creation" February Prayer Guide](#)

Website : www.greenchristian.org.uk

Church Activities

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| Mondays | 19:00 | Bowls Club |
| Mondays from 15th Feb | 11:00 | Lent Course at Methodist Church |
| Wednesdays | 10:00 - 11:30 | Tots & Carers (not 17th) |
| Tue 9th Feb | 14:30 | Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton |
| Wed 24th Feb | 19:45 | Poetry Group |

Community Activities

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mondays | 10:00 | CRUSE |
| Tuesdays | 19:30 | St Ives Photographic Club |
| Wednes- days | 14:00 | Senior Citizens Club |
| Thursdays | 09:30 | Sunny Steps |
| Wed 3rd Feb | 11:00 | U3A Current Affairs |
| Thu 4th Feb | 10:00 | U3A Italian Class |
| Thu 4th Feb | 19:30 | WI |
| Sat 6th Feb | 09:30 - 16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair |
| Thu 11th Feb | 10:00 | U3A Italian Class |
| Fri 12th Feb | 11:00 | COPE |
| Tue 16th Feb | 09:30 | Alzheimer's Society Drop In Cafe |
| Wed 17th Feb | 11:00 | U3A Current Affairs |
| Wed 17th Feb | 19:30 | St Ives Gardening Club |
| Fri 19th Feb | 10:00 | U3A Local History |
| Fri 19th Feb | 19:30 | St Ives Civic Society |
| Thu 25th Feb | 10:00 | U3A Italian Class |
| Tue 1st Mar | 14:00 | U3A Singing Group |
| Wed 2nd Mar | 11:00 | U3A Current Affairs |
| Thu 3rd Mar | 10:00 | U3A Italian Class |
| Thu 3rd Mar | 19:30 | WI |
| Sat 5th Mar | 09:30 - 16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair |

Volunteers needed

to help with
Tots & Carers Group



There is a Rota for volunteers
Three terms a Year
To be there up to twice in a Term
from 9am to 12 midday

Checks will be made for working
with children

Carers remain responsible for their
children

See Margaret Cakebread

***Don't forget that Just Sharing is open 9:30—4:30 Mon to Sat
and Tookey's is open from 9:45—2 Mon to Fri—and later till 3:30 on
Saturdays!***

Contacts

Minister

Revd Dr. Catherine Ball 352058
Mobile: 07714 081930

Church Secretary

Barbara Duffett 395308

Associate Church Secretary

Andy Fleming 468055

Communications & Media Convenor

Peter Davies 495835

Webmaster

alan@stivesfreechurch.org

Finance Convenor

Peter German 352401

Freewill Offering Treasurer

David Duffett 395308

Property Convenor Vacant

Tookey's

Convenor Val Bush 469189
Manager Pat Clarke 468886

Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Flower Convenor

Margaret Cakebread 462726

Eco Group Convenor

Mary Cox 300103

Chapel Prayer Coordinator

Gerry Swain 468053

Just Sharing Manager

Sue Billings 496570

Asst Manager

Rosemarie Smith
justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org

Church Office 468535

office@stivesfreechurch.org
Open 9am. - 1pm. Monday to Friday
**Room Bookings should be made
through the Church Office**

Free Church Worship



Chapel Prayers—daily at 10am

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| Sun 7th Feb | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion Just Sharing |
| Wed 10th Feb | 10:00 | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion |
| Sun 14th Feb | 11:00 | Sam White |
| Sun 14th Feb | 18:00 | Joint Service at Fenstanton URC Margaret Cakebread |
| Sun 21st Feb | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball Eco Service David Chandler |
| Sun 28th Feb | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball Cafe Style |
| Sun 6th Mar | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball Mothering Sunday Holy Communion & Baptism |

Fenstanton Worship

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|
| Sun 7 th Feb | 9:30 | Revd Derek Newton |
| Sun 14 th Feb | 9:30 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion |
| Sun 14 th Feb | 18:00 | Joint Service with St Ives -Margaret Cakebread |
| Sun 21 st Feb | 9:30 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball |
| Sun 28 th Feb | 9:30 | Keith Cakebread |
| Sun 6 th Mar | 9:30 | Revd Derek Newton |

