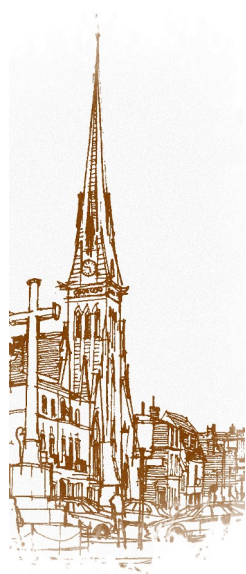


May 2016

Inspire



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

View from the Manse



Oh the glories of spring! After the rains of April I do hope that we will have the flowers of May! It will be a month of hospitality for us as several groups of family members are coming over from Canada and America for our son, James and his fiancé, Liz's wedding on Friday the 27th May. Most have never been to Britain before, so I hope they see it at its best!

Hospitality is an important feature of the mission of the church. The sharing of meals was an integral part of house churches in the early church. They had their Agape meals. Paul in his letter to the Romans identifying the marks of a true Christian, urges the Christians in Rome to 'Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.' Romans 12.13 Almost all Fresh Expressions of church in Britain today have meals or some kind of refreshment and hospitality as part of their ministry of generosity and compassion toward others, to develop friendships and invite opportunities to share the Christian faith.

My hosts in Wittenberg, Germany last month were very hospitable. After full days of lectures and discussions we went to the Bauhaus Inn afterwards for beer, bread, cheese and fruit . . . and pretzels. It was over the informal gathering around food and drink that we relaxed and were able to get to know each other better and could learn from each others' different cultures and perspectives. Hospitality is a respectful and mutual experience that helps people with different perspectives to begin to understand each other.

Jesus knew the value of hospitality – he often visited others, to receive from them and then to teach and share with them about God and God's ways. "Cont."

Inside *May* Inspire

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**DEADLINE for
JUNE Inspire**

15th May 2016

Inspire Editorial Team

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Keith Cakebread ☎462726
Mary Anthony ☎469530

*Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org*

"Cont"

In his last supper with his disciples he left the special sacred meal of Holy Communion for his followers down the generations that we may commune with him and each other and experience our unity in Christ.

Is there someone whom you would like to invite over for a drink or a meal? We show God's love and care as we share companionship and fellowship with others.

*Love in Christ,
Catherine*

URC EASTERN SYNOD WEATHER WARNING CONFERENCE



A conference on climate change for
Christians in Cambridgeshire

18th June 2016

18th June 2016 - St. Ives Free Church,
Market Hill, St Ives, PE27 5AL 10am-4pm
Cost: £10 (includes lunch)

Speakers: Vellore Diocese, India,
Christian Aid, Anglian Water, Local
farmers

Further Details: [Priscilla Barlow](#) on 01763
852841 or [Lily Whymer](#) on 01638 507576

From: Rev Roy Muttram

As most of you will know by now, Marion is now permanently in Hardwick Dene Residential Care Home, Buckden. I am no longer able to give her the level of care and stimulation that she needs so, in that sense, the decision was not difficult.

She has been having respite care there over the past year, so she is familiar with it and the staff know and love her.

I would like publicly to record my appreciation for the support and love we have received from the Free Church, and particular thanks to the "minders" (you know who you are) who have enabled me to maintain my work with the Air Cadets and the Royal British Legion. This has made the transition much easier and I do not have to re-establish a new social life.

I have rarely had to ask for assistance. It has always been there, and it is not enough to say: "That is what should happen in the Church!"

We all know that such support is not always there and I am more grateful than I can say that Marion and I belong to a congregation where love and care in many practical things has always been there when needed.

Thank you for your continuing love and care.
Roy

For Your Diaries:

RETURN OF FELLOWSHIP WALKS



After weeks of deliberation, discussion and perhaps some hesitation, Hilary and Lawrence Mottram together with Mavis and John Williams have decided to organise a few **Fellowship Walks**.

Following meekly in the footsteps of Chris and Alan Curtis, though perhaps not in exactly the same manner (who could match their excellence?) we have arranged a walk on **Sunday 22nd of May**, after church worship.

Although it is Cafe Church service day, we will in **Tookeys** after the service. The walk will start at the church, proceed over the ancient bridge and cross Hemingford meadow to the Hemingfords and thence to **Houghton**, (5 Km = 3.1 miles) where we will gather at the Mill for final refreshments (the tearoom is open until 5pm).

For those who wish to walk a **shorter route**, (2.5 Km = 1.6 miles) **transport** will be provided from **Hemingford Grey on to Houghton**. Would all those interested in going on the walk please **enter your names on the list** provided on the landing.

Note: **Getting back**: there are 3 options: 1, own or friends transport. 2, Wait for the bus. 3, Walk back the 2.5 miles to St Ives along the Thicket Path.
H & L M; J & M W.

Please ring 01480 463117 if there are any questions

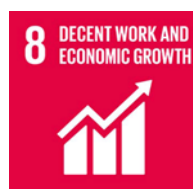
Fairtrade – and the Sustainable Development Goals

Part 3 – Improving productivity and quality

Farmers can earn more and protect the environment by improving the amount and quality of their crops, through technical support and better farming practices. Being part of Fairtrade means that co-operatives can learn more about their buyers and the importance of quality. They often use the Premium to supply farmers with tools and equipment or shared facilities to improve quality and reduce wastage, resources often out of the reach of individual farmers.

Latest data shows small producer organisations spent 37% of their Premium on investments supporting productivity or quality.

These actions contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 8 & 12



With thanks to the Fairtrade Foundation.

**The Free Church
(United Reformed)
St Ives**
has a vacancy for a

Part-time CARETAKER

for further details and an application pack, contact
the Church Office
01480-468535
Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm
or office@freechurchstives.org



ANNUAL WALK for MND (Motor Neurone Disease Cambridge Branch)

GRAFHAM WATER

Marlow Centre
Marlow Car Park
Huntingdon PE28 0BH

Saturday 21st May 2016

Come along to Grafham and take part
in another walk for Motor Neurone
Disease charity.

Start time is 10.00am

Meet in Car Park, £3 and registration
entry £4 - where there is also a café or
bring your own picnic!

Children under 12 is free.

Full Circle walk is 9 miles.

Dam Stroll walk is a 2-mile level walk.
For further details contact Veronica Angus

BANK HOLIDAY SNACK BAR

**MONDAY 30TH MAY
2016**



DO YOU HAVE AN
HOUR OR SO SPARE?

COME AND HELP
WITH A HAPPY TEAM!

LIST FOR NAMES ON
THE FREE CHURCH
UPSTAIRS TABLE



From the Free Church Eco Group

Cup of Coffee Anyone?

No one likes to see things go to waste: it's just common sense. We teach young children to finish their dinner and not throw away food, but how many of us blithely drink a cuppa coffee and give no thought to the cuppa? Would you believe that 2.5 billion takeaway coffee cups a year are thrown away in the UK? Campaigners say 399 out of every 400 are dumped and that makes 2.5 billion a year.

Most of the cups are made from trees that take 80 years to grow. Their plastic lining (polyethylene) makes them difficult to recycle and only two facilities in the UK have the necessary machinery. Mike Childs of Friends of the Earth said "It shouldn't be rocket science to ensure coffee cups are recycled in the UK. The public should be able to expect better." What can we do about this? Cups can be made from material that is either compostable or recyclable. Maybe we should start asking questions the next time we buy a cuppa in a large high street chain coffee shop.

Some people are taking things a step further. One suggestion is to always carry a mug and ask for hot or cold drinks to go into it. That will cause problems in many cafes and shops but it's something else to ask about, along with "Is the coffee you're serving made by Nestle?" To make it easier for the café we could measure in millilitres or fl oz the capacity of our thermos mug. That way we could tell the people behind the counter the capacity, so that they know whether to charge us for small, medium or large. This does happen in some places in the US. The key will be in getting Costa etc. to recognise this will be good for their eco-credentials.

It is indeed common sense to avoid wasting the Earth's finite resources. But in *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis calls the Earth "our common home". Maybe taking care of our common home is also part of what it means to live a Christian life? And maybe instead of talking about resources we should talk of God's gifts and our shared responsibility to take care of them? As American theologian Sister Elizabeth Johnson says, "A flourishing humanity on a thriving planet rich in species in an evolving universe, all together filled with the glory of God: such is the vision that must guide us at this critical time of Earth's distress".

Barbara Echlin
From Green Christian Website

Mary (Cox),

19 April 2016

'We are people of faith, and we are also people of hope' - I heard those words today, as your name and mine and those of thousands of others, faith leaders and communities were handed over to the United Nations in New York, supporting the Interfaith Climate Change Statement to World Leaders.

Days like today give me real hope. I saw faith leaders from many creeds, from around the world come together around a shared message - a desire and a commitment to act for a better, safer world from climate change for us all, and what we also saw was that **world leaders were listening.**

The French Ambassador to the United Nations spoke, he made it clear the vital role we all made in pushing for a climate deal at Paris - he said that without us, the adopted Paris Agreement wouldn't have been possible.

But what was also clear was that **our work is not done.**

We need to keep pushing and pulling, advocating and acting, praying, meditating, driving for change and bringing people hope. Because the way ahead will not be easy and we have much work to do, but we will not make it without hope or faith.

Thank you so much for lending your voice to this statement, our first step together this year. Plans are building for the next, **a day of faith climate action on June 12 called Sacred Earth, Sacred Trust.** I look forward to sharing more with you this Friday.

Yours with hope,

Rev. Fletcher Harper
Interfaith Climate Change Statement
<http://bhumipledge.nationbuilder.com/>

FROM THE INTERIM CHURCH SECRETARY

Dear Friends,

Throughout April, we have had two sessions with Tim Yau, each of them giving us food for thought. The evenings were interactive, with short videos and discussion. We have two more sessions in May, on 11th and 18th, and everyone is welcome to join the Elders at these meetings.

We celebrate Ascension Day on May 5th.



Catherine will lead a short Communion Service at 10am in the Porch Chapel. This is also the day of the local elections and election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire. At the end of May, on Mon 30th, we will have our second Bank Holiday Snack Bar. I hope the weather will be slightly kinder than at Easter! Help will be needed during the day.

Finally, on May 21st there will be a full moon. As this is the third of four full moons in this Spring season, it is, apparently, a Blue Moon!

Helen



Catherine The Chaplain

Your editor has very kindly invited me to contribute a piece to your newsletter for May, as 'it is the end of the Mayoral year'. As briefs go this is pretty broad and so I hope what

follows will fit the bill!

When I was elected Town Mayor last May I was invited to appoint a Chaplain. I checked the protocols: the Chaplain's role is to offer spiritual guidance to the Mayor, help to organise the Civic Service, says grace at Civic dinners and prayers at Council Meetings.

The choice was easy for me. The Free Church has been significant to Gilly, my wife, since she was a child through the close association with it of her mother Norrie Nelson. Norrie was a member of the Church for many years, and greatly appreciated the friendship and support she received from it. Gilly attended Sunday School and we were married there on a chilly morning on 22 February in 1969 (see, I remember the date!).

We left the town then for jobs in London, but returned for the christening of our son Nicholas. We returned again in 1994 and were delighted

that Reverend Ballard, who had married us, came out of retirement to officiate as we celebrated our 25th anniversary in a special service.

We finally returned in 2000 to St Ives and immediately became involved in local issues. This eventually led to my becoming a Councillor in 2012 on my retirement from a publishing career, and Gilly setting up FES (Festival Events St Ives) which organises a wide range of wonderful events we all enjoy every year. You could say we are very committed to the town!

But back to Catherine. I have been lucky to have had such a diligent Chaplain. Catherine has proudly marched with me on Civic Sunday and organised the service, helped me through a lovely Civic Service of Lessons and Carols, and said grace for me at my Civic Charity Masked Ball – all very special occasions that will stay in our memories for ever. And, she has turned up at Full Council Meetings to say prayers in her clear, calm and reassuring voice - which has always helped settle my nerves before facing sixteen argumentative robed Councillors!

Thank you Catherine.
Cllr Ian Jackson



The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:44-53



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| RISE | REPENT | PROPHETS | TAKEN |
| SUFFER | PSALMS | OPENED | FORGIVE |
| HEAVEN | SCRIPTURE | FULFILLED | MOSES |
| WORSHIPED | BLESSING | UNDERSTAND | MINDS |

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What is the Ascension? This year it will be on Thursday 5th May.

The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated forty days after Easter Sunday (therefore always on a Thursday) and tells of Jesus's ascending up into heaven. After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Scripture tells us, he was seen for forty days before he ascended into heaven to be "seated at the right hand of God the Father." The disciples waited for the promised Spirit in Jerusalem.

Father in heaven,
our minds were prepared
for the coming of your kingdom
when you took Christ beyond our sight
so that we might seek him in glory.
May we follow where he has led
and find our hope in his glory,
for he is Lord forever.
Amen

Church Activities

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| Wednesdays (term time) | 10:00 - 11:30 | Tots & Carers |
| Mon 2nd May | | Bank Holiday - NO Snack Bar |
| Tue 10th May | 14:30 | Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton |
| Sun 15th May | | Start of Christian Aid Week |
| Sun 15th May | 12:15 | Church Meeting |
| Mon 30th May | 08:00 | Bank Holiday Snack Bar |



St Ives Free Church Poetry Group

“Faith, Hope and Poetry”

The theme for our May meeting on Wednesday 25th will be “May.....”, (and if you see this in time, our April get-together on the 27th will be an ‘open house’ when you are invited to bring along a best loved poem or one of special significance to you).

We meet at 7.45 for 8pm, starting with a cup of coffee. Please feel free to come along just to find out what we do.

Everyone will be made most welcome.

Mary Cox and Lin Fleming

Community Activities

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Mondays | 10:00 | CRUSE |
| Wednesdays | 14:00 | Senior Citizens Club |
| Thursdays | 09:45 - 10:45 | Sunny Steps |
| Thursdays | 10:00 | U3A Italian Class |
| Sun 1st May | 14:00 | Bowls Club Service |
| Wed 4th May | 11:00 | U3A Current Affairs |
| Thu 5th May | 19:30 | WI |
| Sat 7th May | 09:30 - 16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair |
| Mon 9th May | 13:00 | U3A French Class |
| Wed 11th May | 14:00 | Senior Citizens Club |
| Fri 13th May | 11:00 | COPE |
| Sat 14th May | 12:00 | Book Jam |
| Wed 18th May | 11:00 | U3A Current Affairs |
| Wed 18th May | 19:30 | St Ives Gardening Club |
| Fri 20th May | 10:00 | U3A Local History |
| Fri 20th May | 19:30 | St Ives Civic Society |
| Mon 23rd May | 13:00 | U3A French Class |
| Fri 27th May | 19:30 | Concert |
| Wed 1st Jun | 11:00 | U3A Current Affairs |
| Thu 2nd Jun | 19:30 | WI |
| Sat 4th Jun | 09:30 - 16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair |



Contacts

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David Duffett 395308

Tookey's Manager

Sam Cooper 07840 959090

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 at 10am

Monday to Saturday

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|---|
| Sun 1st May | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion |
| Thu 5th May | 10:00 | Ascension Day Holy Communion |
| Sun 8th May | 11:00 | Dr Christine Macleod |
| Sun 15th May | 11:00 | Richard Lewney |
| Sun 22nd May | 11:00 | Rev Dr Catherine Ball - Trinity Sun - Cafe Style |
| Sun 29th May | 11:00 | Sarah Devereux |
| Sun 5th Jun | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion |



Fenstanton Worship

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|---|
| Sun 1 st May | 9:30 | Revd Derek Newton |
| Sun 8 th May | 9:30 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball (at Parish Church) |
| Sun 15 th May | 9:30 | Joint Service (with Parish Church) at URC |
| Sun 22 nd May | 9:30 | Geraldine Swain |
| Sun 29 th May | 9:30 | Revd Roy Muttram |
| Sun 5 th Jun | 9:30 | Revd Derek Newton |