

August 2016

Inspire



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

Prayer for Summer

Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

Amen.

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**Deadline for
September Inspire
is
Sunday 21st August**

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*Copy preferably by email please to
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Dear friends in Christ Jesus,



I write these few words in the absence of other more regular scribes, due to holidays etc. It is a privilege to be asked to share a few thoughts, which I am compiling on a scorching summers day.

So rare are these, that in preparation to lead worship in various churches, I never dare select the hymn 'Summer suns are glowing' for the following Sunday!

As we enjoy these lovely days in the beautiful world of God's creating, it is sad to reflect on all the evil things happening all around us. France has suffered so much from terrorist activity, as has Belgium, Turkey and the Middle East. Now we are hearing of racial division and tension in the USA. Potential dangers of flying are emphasised by the chaos and delays at airports, and the destruction – or even disappearance - of aircraft. So much of what is happening can be summed up in the words of H.E.Fosdike's hymn,

*'Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.'*
(R&S 344)

Leading worship and preaching in so many churches around St. Ives and further afield in the Fens, I was often asked, prior to the Referendum, what were my views, and what did the Bible say on this issue? The only answer I could give was – whatever the result, God remains our eternal refuge and underneath are his everlasting arms. (a paraphrase of Deut. ch. 33 v 27) As we head forward into the unknown I am reminded of an old Moody and Sankey hymn, written by Joseph Parker:

*'God holds the key of all unknown, and I am glad.
If other hands should hold the key,
or if he trusted it to me,
I might be sad.'*

The Bible offers great encouragement for the living of these challenging days. Consider the passage from Romans ch.8 vs 35-39.

*'Who (or what) shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or danger or sword?
No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

As followers of Jesus we are overcomers, entrusted with a Gospel to proclaim – Good News to share whenever an opportunity arises. To be a blessing and to be truly blessed.

Yours in Jesus *Derek Newton*

A Visit to
**Holt
Island**

**Sunday 14 August
at 3pm**



MEET AT HOLT ISLAND AT 3PM; TEA AT 4.30PM;
SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 5.30PM... THIS REPLACES
THE MONTHLY FENSTANTON EVENING SERVICE

IF WEATHER INCLEMENT WE WILL MEET IN THE HALL
FOR TEA...
A SHEET TO SIGN IS ON THE LANDING...

ENQUIRIES TO MARY COX 01480 300103

*Just Sharing's Annual Barbeque
held at the home of Chris & Alan Curtis*

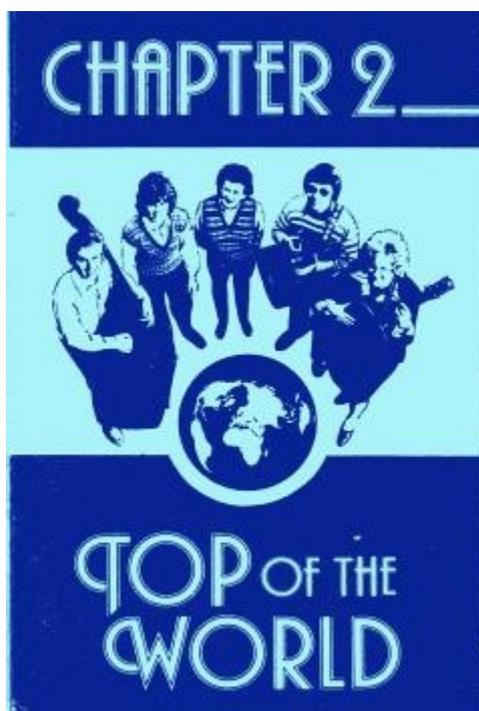


Down Memory Lane

In her book 'Not An Easy Church', Mary Carter writes about the Rededication Service to celebrate the reopening of our refurbished church building in 1980.

Mary writes: "On Saturday 27th September, the building was re-opened under its new name The Free Church Centre. After eighteen months of planning and hard work, the vision was transformed into reality. The congregation began to arrive an hour before the time of the service and were entertained by the Church's Folk Group."

So - who was this folk group? Well here they are photographed in 1982. They were called 'Chapter 2' and all were members of the Free Church. Many of you will recognise on the left Stewart Denham and Valerie Fleming who are still church members today. Some of you will recognise Joan Simpson in the centre who has since moved from St Ives and now lives near Catworth, and on the right Jackie and Dennis Barrington-Light. Dennis was church treasurer during the 1980 refurbishment and his wife Jackie was the first office secretary when the new building opened.



Although Mary Carter refers to Chapter 2 as the church's folk group, they performed only occasionally in church worship. The group sang and played together for about 5 years performing mostly in village halls and churches in the local area. On a number of occasions they performed with Jancis Harvey, a Cambridge folk singer well known on local radio and TV. Chapter 2 gave their final concert performance in The Free Church in March 1983.

If anyone has any memories of Chapter 2 which they would like to share in Inspire, please send them in.

CWM General Assembly held in Korea



“As a director of Council for World Mission (CWM) Europe I was fortunate enough to be asked to represent the United Reformed Church at the General Assembly which was held on Jeju Island, Korea, during 17th—24th June 2016. It provided me with a wonderful opportunity to share stories and insights with people from all over the world as well as learning about the Korean church, its culture and their view on mission

both at home and abroad. Some of the story of Jeju Island was hard to hear as they have been persecuted at various times. However, they are now attempting to be an island of peace and in the forefront of trying to unite North and South Korea. The hospitality offered was at times overwhelming and this was an experience that will live long in the memory. I have also learnt things that hopefully I will be able to put to good use in my ongoing ministry. If you are interested in hearing more about Korea or the trip, please do speak to me when I am in worship at St Ives.

Best wishes, *Peter Ball*

“The Council for World Mission (CWM) Assembly took place on Jeju Island, Korea, during June 17-24 2016. People gathered from all over the CWM world family to explore the theme of the Assembly “HEALING – hope in action. The Assembly explored this through an exposure field study, Bible studies and workshops alongside of keynote speakers. The URC was represented by Rev’s Peter Ball and Zaidie Orr, Stephen Ball and outgoing

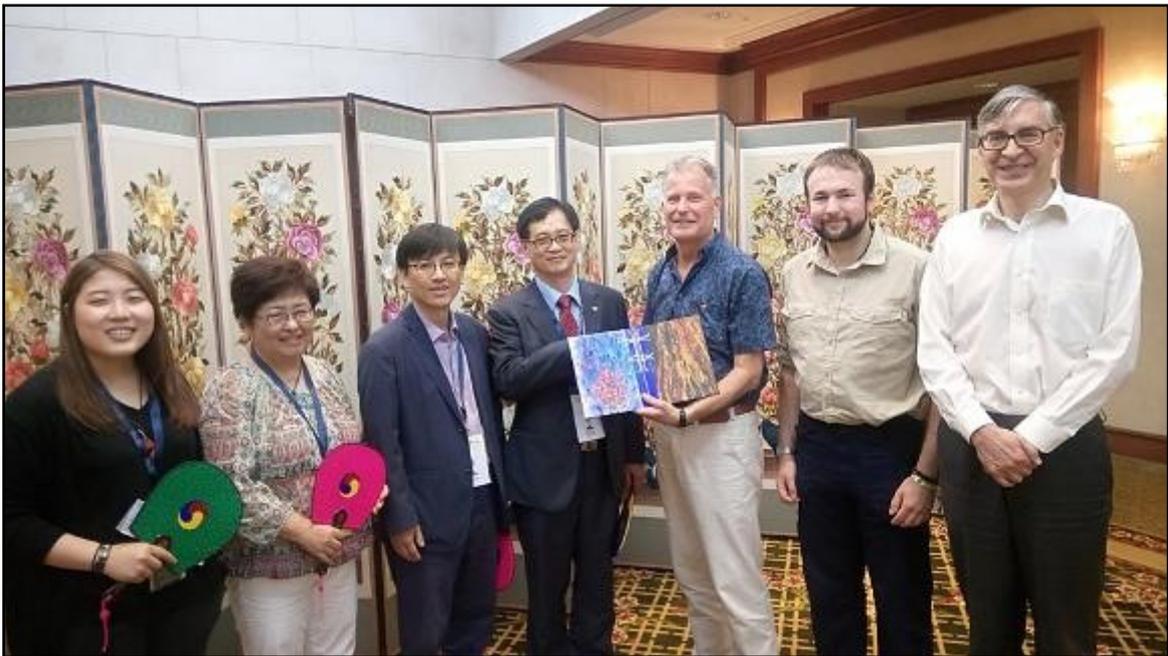


Moderator of General Assembly John Ellis. During the election of officers to serve CWM for the next four years John Ellis was elected treasurer.



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Rev Neil Thorogood and Sally Whitehead of Westminster College had produced an oil painting for Peter Ball to present to the Protestant Church in Korea as a gift from the URC. The painting depicted the burning bush and Pentecost and was produced in a book form to place the painting within the living word of God. The picture shows Peter presenting the painting to Rev Kwan Jin Kim, the Moderator of the Jeju Presbytery of the PCK. In return they gave a Korean fan with an inscribed handle marking the occasion of the 2016 Assembly for Peter to present to Westminster College.



August Bank Holiday Snack Bar

**The next Snack Bar will take place on
Monday 29th August**

**Please put the date in your diary and look out for further
information nearer the time.**

**Volunteers will be needed to serve, cook,
clear tables, wash up etc**



The Power of a Kind Word

I have been reflecting on my mum's death and in particular how people reacted to it and the support that many friends and family were able to give in a very difficult time. Although Mum had not been in a good way for many years, she was still my Mum and someone I had always been extremely close to.



I was surprised at the number of sympathy cards and letters John and I received. I recalled the times I have thought in the past should I send one, the recipient's will have loads and won't even notice if I send one. I know now, that each and every one is important and read. I sent a letter to all on Mum's Christmas card list and let people know of her death and funeral arrangements. We received some lovely letters back from old friends and relatives of hers I barely knew. I sent the order of service and my eulogy to one or two too frail to travel. In particular a cousin of mum's from Blanaevon sent a second lovely letter back on receipt. Despite being in his mid 80's and suffering many ailments himself, he recalled holiday visits to Mum's parents and Mum when he was a young boy; previously I had only heard Mum's version. It was lovely. We gave out Mum's autobiography at the wake and I was touched by the emails and letters I received from some, including my old Pathfinder leader from my childhood church, saying how he could here Mum's voice coming through the words and that despite Microsoft's best efforts to clean up local dialect!

I emailed my five flatmates from university, who all knew Mum well from her visits there, and with whom I am still very much in touch and see regularly. It was interesting to see what came back. I got some lovely emails recalling especially the food Mum used to bring to university for us all to share; and her sense of fun and wanting to join in whatever we were doing. One friend remembered a reunion with Mum and me when Mum was in her 70's. She wanted to carry on playing

French cricket with the children when most (younger) adults had had enough. I also noted the friend who knew Mum best, and who runs her own business sent, a polite but perfunctory reply from her work email. It felt like someone just getting another email out of her busy in tray and that is a lesson for

me to remember. Time matters when a friend is in need of support. I was very touched by my best friend from school days. She rang up when she heard the news and, even though I was in floods of tears, talking to her on the phone for 30 minutes, she was there for me. She also came down from Yorkshire with her 85 year old mother for the funeral in Hereford even though they had both committed to come down to another much sadder funeral in Herefordshire later the same week for a significantly younger person. Finally this same friend wrote a moving letter afterwards in a card with a chicken on it (which was a theme at the funeral) saying my Mum would have loved it and saying there were things she wanted to say that she did not have the opportunity to do so at the funeral. She recalled her memories of staying on the farm as a child and it was so obvious, and I had not appreciated, that my Mum had meant as much to her as a teenager as her late father had to me. It was emotional and wonderful to read.

I also appreciated the texts and emails, while I was with Mum as she died and in the immediate aftermath. It felt a very lonely time, and to know friends were thinking and praying for us meant a lot, thank you.

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So what have I learnt? Sympathy cards matter. It is worth taking the time to write something for the bereaved to read. I was taught, by my Mum, who else, to always say something positive about the person who had died and share a memory. It is hard when you may not know the person but a word of support or card or text or email or comment on social media, however hard to do, is still much appreciated. I hope, pray and trust that I will find myself able to give others as much or more support than I received when they are going through difficult times.

Babs Moore

(The photo of me with Mum is with a hat John got Mum to give me for my birthday and is the last photo we have of her)



Ann Sheldon

I am sure many of us remember Ann who was with us during Bill Mahood's last year as part of her final training for ministry. Ann was ordained and took up her first ministry in the Birmingham area but sadly died suddenly within two to three years of being ordained. Her home church was Hampton Dene URC in Hereford and I went there a few times while in Hereford during Mum's final few months when she was in hospital and care homes. The church has a modern style and was built in 1963 as a multi-purpose building. This includes a badminton court marked out on the floor of the main body of the church, although I have not yet found out when it is used. Like so many churches, it has a warm friendly moderate sized elderly congregation. They refurbished a stain glass window back to its original blue colour and dedicated it to Ann's memory and I thought I would share a couple of pictures.

Babs Moore



Comment: Poll For The Planet



However we voted in the EU referendum, and whatever we feel about the result, at least we had the right to vote. Nature has no vote. Yet the result leaves UK nature under great threat.

But Christians acting together have a key role in defending it.

OFFER MORE

Many of our key environmental protections in the UK – on birds, habitats, as well as air pollution and water quality – originated as EU legislation. Even before the referendum, some senior politicians were seeking to water this down. The danger now is that, in departing the EU, we lose these protections.

So, what can we nature-loving Christians do?

We must pray for the protection of nature. We must use our democratic rights to help answer that prayer, urging legislation and action in favour of nature.

But we can offer much more. The referendum exposed deep divisions in UK society. Many have indicated that they voted to leave the EU as a protest vote – against perceived loss of identity, control, and being left behind in the economic race. In some extreme quarters this has expressed itself in racism.

BUILD UNITY

Yet we know that access to a healthy environment and abundant nature is important for people's well-being. Working alongside others on a practical project – from developing a community nature reserve to conducting a church energy audit – strengthens relationships and builds unity.

With churches present in all communities up and down the land, containing people who voted both Remain and Leave, we can demonstrate love and unity by caring for God's creation, with a positive impact for all – whatever their economic status, ethnicity, or faith. We can bring hope.

As a Christian conservation charity, A Rocha UK is committed to helping all people enjoy, nurture and defend the environment in whatever political context we live.

Andy Atkins, Chief Executive

Church Activities

Tue 9th Aug	14:30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton
Sun 14th Aug	15:00	Visit Holt Island + Tea + worship (5.30)
Thu 18th Aug	18:30	Fellowship Walk
Mon 29th Aug	08:00	Bank Holiday Snack Bar
Mon 5th Sep	19:00	Bowls Club
Wed 7th Sep	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers

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
Thu 4th Aug	19:30	WI
Sat 6th Aug	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Mon 8th Aug	13:00	U3A French Class
Tue 16th Aug	09:00	Alzheimer Drop In Cafe
Fri 19th Aug	10:00	U3A Local History
Mon 22nd Aug	13:00	U3A French
Sat 27th-29th Aug	10:00	Art Exhibition
Thu 1st Sep	19:30	WI
Sat 3rd Sep	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Tue 6th Sep	19:30	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 7th Sep	11:00	U3A Current Affairs

Little Gidding Quiet Day

We may be experiencing a heat wave now but in the cooler days of Autumn there is the Little Gidding Quiet Day to look forward to. This year it will be on 29th of October. This now annual event of fellowship and reflection will continue in its usual format, a restful combination of meditation, images and music, poetry, strolling, peaceful activities and a delightful lunch. Or for those who would simply relax, the opportunity to do just that. There are 24 places and I'll put up a sign up sheet at the start of September, when I return from my holidays. If you haven't been before, ask someone who has to tell you all about it. And if you have been before, and having a burning desire to engage in a different form of craft activity (trainee knitters from last year, you know who you are!), let me know and I'll see what can be done. Any questions, please email me. Geraldine is having a well earned break from having organised this lovely event for several years, so hopefully she can partake in the day in a relaxed manner. Here's hoping I can live up to her skills!

My email is jo.dyke@ntlworld.com and due to the delights of satellite technology I will still be contactable at the bottom of the planet.

REMEMBER- 29th OCTOBER



Church Flowers

Can anyone help with
decorating the Church?
Simply arrange the flowers in
a vase or for the more adventurous
arrange them on a pedestal.
Starting Next Year 2017
Instructions given
Perhaps 3 or 4 times a year
Talk to Margaret if you are interested



Contacts

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Freewill Offering Treasurer

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

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Open 9am. - 1pm. Monday to Friday

**Room Bookings should be made
through the Church Office**

The Free Church Worship

Chapel Prayers Daily At 10am Monday to Saturday



Sun 7th Aug	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 14th Aug	11:00	Revd Elizabeth Caswell
Sun 21st Aug	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 28th Aug	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine ball - not Cafe Style
Sun 4th Sep	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion



Fenstanton URC

Sun 7th Aug	9:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 14th Aug	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 21st Aug	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 28th Aug	9:30	Keith Cakebread
Sun 4th Sep	9:30	Revd Derek Newton