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office@stivesfreechurch.org
Open 9am. - 1pm. Monday to Friday

Room Bookings should be made through the Church Office

FREE CHURCH WORSHIP

Sun 1st Jan	11:00	Keith Cakebread - Holy Communion
Sun 8th Jan	11:00	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 15th Jan	11:00	Revd Roy Muttram
Sun 22nd Jan	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Cafe Style
Mon 23rd Jan		Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Fri 27th Jan		Holocaust Memorial Day
Sun 29th Jan	11:00	Elders leading worship
Sun 5th Feb	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Just Sharing Service Holy Communion



Fenstanton Worship

Sun 1 st Jan	9:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 8 th Jan	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 15 th Jan	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball (with C of E)
Sun 22 nd Jan	9:30	Revd Roy Muttram
Sun 29 th Jan	9:30	Pauline Zahner
Sun 5 th Feb	9:30	Revd Derek Newton

January 2017

Inspire

Happy New Year!

After all the hubbub and frantic activity that Christmas and new year celebrations bring, it's heartening to know that we can now look to 2017 with some peace and quiet, for a while.

This is just the best time to review the old year and consider what lies in wait for us and what we can contribute to our Lord's world and serve Him the best way we can.



We all have special, God-given talents and skills so what can we do individually and together, as part of the church family and the community, around us?

Let's all be renewed and refreshed together for what lies ahead - there will be new opportunities and new possibilities for us to experience. As January might feel rather flat this is just the right time to listen to what God's plans are for us. It may not happen immediately - that's fine - just be ready and be joyful!

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Deadline date for February 2017

15th January 2017

Inspire Editorial Team

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Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org

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



**Save Our Spire
Lunchtime Concert
December 2016**



The first lunchtime concert just before Christmas was a lovely start to the season. There was a lovely relaxed atmosphere of chamber music including solo instrumentals singing. Look further details concerts to the future



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AND PLUS

Table Top Sale

28th January 2017
Save Our Spire Appeal
from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm.

TABLES are available for either £4 (four foot long) or £6 (six foot long). Doors open at 8.30am for setting up.

Refreshments will be available.

To book your table please contact:
Sally Runham
sallyrunham@btinternet.com
Or

John Williams
jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 9th February Sheila and Cliff Downing celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Sheila was born in St Ives and christened by Rev. Nelson Bitten the minister of the Free Church at that time. She has been a member of the Church since 1953. The couple met at the Church youth club, when Cliff Wyton. Cliff became a January 1957 so they membership of the wedding day! Rev. at the service. Martin Man and Sheila's nieces wore red velvet dresses Youth club friends took and the reception was Dolphin Hotel.



John Ballard was the Best were bridesmaids and made by the bride. the wedding photos held at the original

Sheila and Cliff honeymoon in London Railway Station where

Following their wedding travelled to their by train from St Ives they enjoyed several West End shows. The couple, who at the time of their wedding, were both Sunday school teachers, made the front page of the Hunts Post. Their first home was a cosy cottage in Laughton's Lane in Houghton. They later lived for a short time in Ely before moving to their present home in St Ives in 1965.

For much of their working lives they both worked locally. Sheila's last job was in Woolworths and Cliff's was with Cambridgeshire County Council. Retirement gave them the opportunity to enjoy their many hobbies. On summer afternoons, if they are not on one of their many holidays, you can often find them both enjoying a game of bowls at the Needingworth Bowls Club. They are also members of the Free Church short mat bowls club.

Sheila and Cliff have a daughter, Marian, grandchildren, Natalie and Daniel and great grandchildren Alfie, Amelia, Ollie and Elizabeth, who together with other family members look forward to celebrating their special anniversary.

And so say all of us! Editor

Church Activities

- Mondays 19:00 Bowls Club
- Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 Tots & Carers
- Tue 10th Jan 14:30 Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton
- Sun 15th Jan 12:15 Church Meeting
- Wed 18th — 25th Jan Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Wed 25th Jan 19:45 Poetry Group
- Sat 28th Jan 09:30 Table Top Sale - Spire Appeal**

Community Activities

- Mondays 10:00 CRUSE
- Tuesdays 19:30 St Ives Photographic Club
- Wednesdays 14:00 Senior Citizens Club
- Thursdays 09:30 Sunny Steps
- Thursdays 10:00 U3A Italian Class
- Sat 7th Jan 19:30 COSI Concert
- Mon 9th Jan 10:00 CRUSE
- Mon 9th Jan 13:00 U3A French Class
- Fri 13th Jan 10:00 COPE
- Mon 16th Jan 10:00 CRUSE
- Tue 17th Jan 10:00 Alzheimer's Support Drop In Cafe
- Wed 18th Jan 11:00 U3A Current Affairs
- Wed 18th Jan 19:30 St Ives Gardening Club
- Fri 20th Jan 09:00 U3A Local History
- Fri 20th Jan 19:30 St Ives Civic Society
- Wed 25th Jan 11:00 U3A Current Affairs
- Wed 25th Jan 19:30 RSPB
- Thu 2nd Feb 19:30 WI
- Sat 4th Feb 09:30 - 16:00 Saints Crafters Fair

Date for your diary

On Sunday 5th February the annual Just Sharing service of worship will take place. The service will be followed by a shared lunch to celebrate Just Sharing's 25th birthday. If you would like to stay for lunch please sign the list on the table at the top of the stairs.

Many thanks
Mary Anthony

**HUMAN JOURNEY
STUDY GROUP**

TOOKEY'S COFFEE SHOP

7—9pm

Session 1 - Thursday 19th January 2017

Session 2 - Thursday 26th January 2017

There will be 9 sessions until 16th March 2017

LEADER: Christine Macleod



Launde Abbey

A Christian Retreat and Conference Centre in the heart of the East Midlands

You are invited to

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

**2017 Church Weekend
Away**

**Friday 16 June 4 pm -
Sunday 18 June 2 pm**

For more
Information &
Booking form
Contact:
David Duffett
395308

david.duffett@ntlworld.com



From the Church Secretary

At the Tapestry Christmas Concert on December 19th one of the poems read was the work of Christmas by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

I found the litany inspirational as we leave the Christmas season behind and move into the New Year of 2017. Our church and halls were buzzing with activities throughout December and we have much to achieve and to look forward to in 2017. As church secretary, I am aware of the many things we should do to keep everything running smoothly. From January, we are looking for people to come forward to help the assistant secretaries with their leadership roles. The minister and/or I would welcome expressions of interest. One person is needed to help Andy with the rotas for our church services and pulpit supply and oversight of the office staff. Another person is needed to help an elder with the oversight of the catering, and cleaning in our buildings and to help deal with day to day property issues. Another person is needed to assist the elder with responsibilities for the caterer and liaising with other groups. Together with the church secretary the team can help with the line management of our 10 staff and engage with the staff meetings.

All of this will enable us to continue to serve our communities well and to let the work of Christmas begin in the New Year. It is good to reflect at the start of a New Year on the portfolio of things that we do and to readjust our commitments and priorities, both as individuals and as teams.

We wish a Happy and courageous New Year to all our readers.

Christine



United Reformed Church

BIG DAY OUT

20th May 2017
10am—5pm

- Worship for everyone with live music
- Access to Warwick Castle and attractions
- Meet with friends, old and new from all over the country
- A duffle bag for use on the day plus special badges

Prices: £16.50 per person - 17 years +

£11.00 for 4 - 16 years

Under 4s - Free Entry

For further information please contact
Christine Macleod Church Secretary

A TRIBUTE TO KEITH CLARKE

Keith Douglas Clarke was born on 13th November 1940 in Ipswich, the first son of Henry and Evelyn Clarke. He remained an only child for nearly 6 years until his brother Michael was born.

He grew up in a loving family environment and was educated at St John's primary school and then Copleston Secondary Modern in Ipswich. Growing up, he was an active member of the 17th Ipswich Scout group as a Cub, a Scout and then a Rover. He enjoyed badminton and competed in the local league.

The family had many family holidays. Mike remembered a holiday in Windermere in the early 1950's. The family travelled all the way from Ipswich on a pre-war motorbike and side care. The two boys and mum were packed into a sidecar along with the tent, equipment, and food for the week. They had a great time camping albeit in the rain.



Another place they visited was the New Forest where they could watch the Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary coming up the Solent into dock and dream of sailing on them. Later in his life he did enjoy time on cruises.

The Norfolk Broads also played a large part in his life for many years. In 1957 he left Copleston and was accepted as a junior by Ipswich and East Suffolk Council and worked his way

through the ranks of local government planning.

He married in 1962 and moved to Caversham near Reading. His first son John was born while they lived in Berkshire. He then returned to Suffolk County Council and moved back to Ipswich where Andrew and Christopher were born. Keith then moved to Basildon and then Horsham in Surrey.

In April 1974, he remarried and then moved with his wife Gill to St Ives. They adopted Nick. They enjoyed their boat Joybell on the Broads and then brought it closer to home, mooring at Needingworth. It is rumoured that he would take it to Godmanchester some mornings and after work would cruise back to St Ives with work colleagues and a few drinks en route.

The boat was then substituted for a caravan and he and Gill spent much of their early retirement caravanning all over the country. After Gill's passing he continued caravanning and met Ruth a like-minded tourer (so like-minded they had the same type of van and towed with the same type of car). They married in the St Ives Free Church in November 2009. They then set about touring the world and would report back to the family about their great adventures.

For many years, he was the church secretary at St Ives Free Church. We will also remember him as a gadget man. A man who studied the technical side of everything whether it be cars, computers, or cameras. He liked to draw and paint, loved bird watching and the great outdoors. You will all have your special memories of Keith. He was one of a kind, and he was indeed a kind and gentle man. He lived his life to the full and we know that we will all miss him.



KEITH CLARKE

For me it was a great privilege to conduct Keith's funeral services and particularly the Service of Thanksgiving at the Free Church. It caused me to reflect on why people are elected to be Church Secretary. I believe there are a few reasons for this. One is that they already have a record of service to God and to God's

Church. Keith had been a leader of Fury at the Free Church and this was combined with Fury at a national level and particularly with *Anchors' Away*. Keith's long experience going back to childhood of the Norfolk Broads made him a natural for this type of leadership. He was good at combining service at a local level and the vision of the larger Church life.



It is also very important that Church Secretaries are good with people. This was certainly true with Keith. He noticed what was happening around him and certainly what was happening to people. In short, he

cared about them and somehow they knew that to be true. He cared about individuals and also about how they related to one another, to the harmony of the Church, of people together.

Keith's dedication and drive were significant and showed us that he was keen on being busy in serving us. He was like many of us and we could relate to him. He loved us.



I will continue to look back on my time at The Free Church and to working with Keith as a great blessing. I remember his care of Gilly. Again I use the word privilege of being there to conduct Gilly funeral and to be able to give thanks for her great determination in the face of much suffering. For all of us who were close to Keith at that time we were so glad when Ruth came into his life, the joy of their marriage and of their seven good years together.

There is much more that could be written about his service to the Church and the town including his leadership in the Town Centre Initiatives and his organisation of summer concerts. In the end it is enough to say that say that he was a good man, a faithful Christian and we all benefitted greatly because we knew him.

Bill Mahood