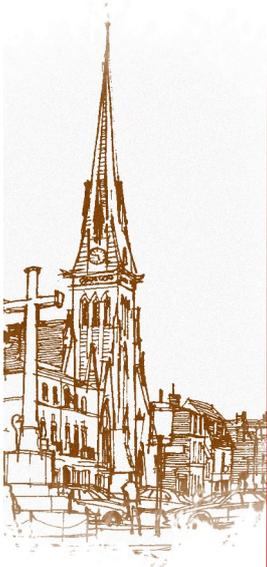


July 2017

Inspire



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

View from the Manse



Thank you to all for the Weekend Away at beautiful Launde Abbey, those that helped plan it and those that attended – it was a wonderful time of rest, reflection and refreshment. Sorry to those who could not come along – you missed an enjoyable time.

As the summer unfolds and many of us look forward to the freedom and happiness of a holiday break, sea and sunshine, we are reminded to think also, of others who will not have that luxury. Many are instead suffering from loss and bereavement from terror attacks and the Grenfell Tower inferno.

I always wondered why at Greek and Jewish weddings couples are given china or glasses to break as part of the service, until a Jewish friend explained to me, that in the midst of our joy we must also remember those who have sorrow and loneliness.

I do not want to put a damper on our summer months! Of course, we are to enjoy the warmth and bounty of the summer and to have times of relaxation.

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Copy preferably by email please to
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View from the Manse (contd)

As Christians, we are to be grateful for our many blessings and give thanks to God for them. However, we are not to be so self-satisfied and secure in our own comfort, that we do not care for others in distress. We are challenged to live in community with others, to care for all people, particularly those in need.

The local community, neighbours and faith communities in London rallied round to help the victims of the fire; and local and national governments are working to help those who are now homeless. They are also working to make sure that other tower blocks are assessed and safety measures are put in place so that this will not happen again. And for those who suffered terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, medical services and family are supporting the injured and bereaved, and police and MI5 are doing their best to prevent future attacks.

We can do our part by praying for those affected and by giving financial assistance where we are able, but most of all, by building a sense of community where all are valued and respected in society.

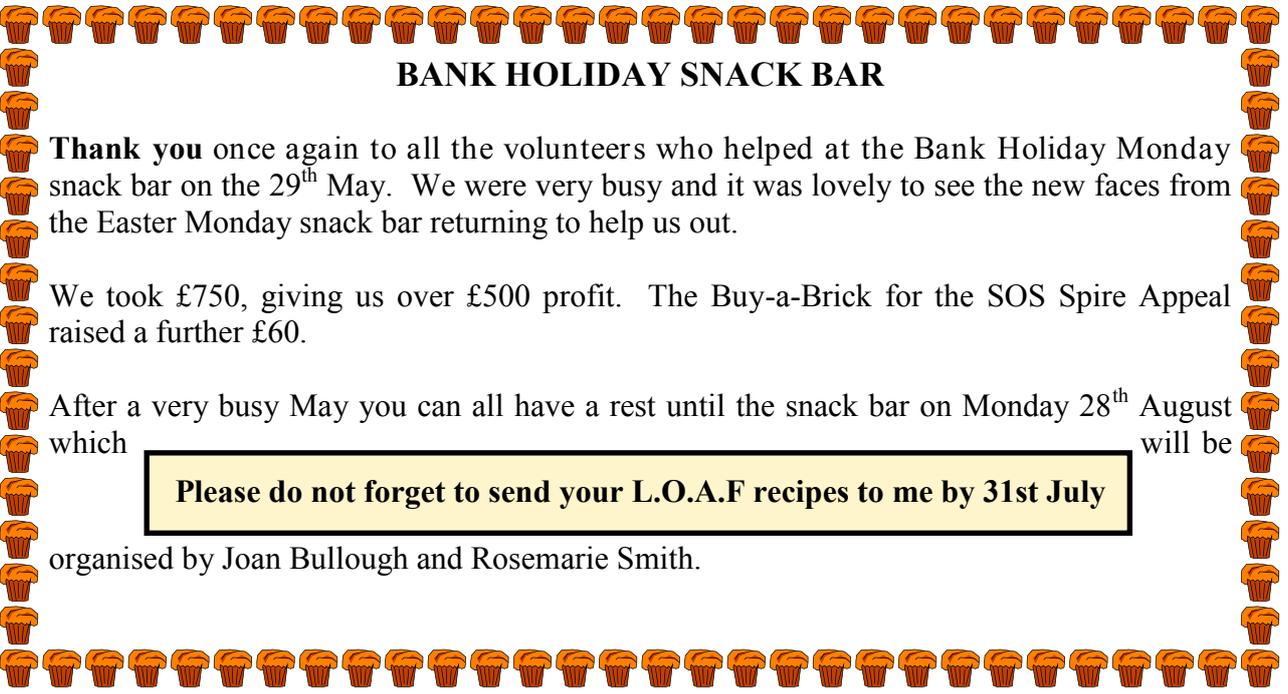
The church is a place where we promote the dignity of all those who are made in the image of God. This means that we are not just to offer provision for the poor, but to stand alongside them and to speak up for them where they are being neglected and disregarded.

It means seeking to foster understanding between people who are divided from one another, and to show tolerance and grace to those who are different from us. As the Joint Public Issues Team of the United Reformed, Methodist and Baptist and Church of Scotland stated, *'This is a time for Christians to stand for truth, justice, peace and wellbeing for all'*. The church would then be a positive voice in society, furthering Jesus' ministry of healing, feeding the hungry and liberating the oppressed.

Wouldn't it be great if everyone could enjoy a peaceful, relaxing and restful time for the rest of the summer?

God's blessings,

Catherine



BANK HOLIDAY SNACK BAR

Thank you once again to all the volunteers who helped at the Bank Holiday Monday snack bar on the 29th May. We were very busy and it was lovely to see the new faces from the Easter Monday snack bar returning to help us out.

We took £750, giving us over £500 profit. The Buy-a-Brick for the SOS Spire Appeal raised a further £60.

After a very busy May you can all have a rest until the snack bar on Monday 28th August which will be

Please do not forget to send your L.O.A.F recipes to me by 31st July

organised by Joan Bullough and Rosemarie Smith.

From the Church Secretary.....

In July we begin to get feedback from some of the church events. The **Exhibition Day** in the church on 24th June allowed many of the organisations that use our church for meetings to meet each other and chat. Our buildings are used by a wide variety of groups. Present were groups such as the Gardening Club, Saints Crafters, U3A Italia, the Photography Club and the RSPB.



Then there were the sports groups such as Bowls Club and Sunny Steps. Society and history were well represented by the Civic Society and U3A Local History. There were groups addressing current issues such as the Credit Union, Eco Group and Women's Institute. Also there, were charities and groups with special pastoral concerns such as the Volunteer Bureau and the Alzheimer's Group. Also our church groups were well represented with exhibits from the worshipping church, from Chapel Prayers and the Poetry Group to Tots and Carers. Tookey's was also represented. There were lots of handouts and free helpful advice.

Each group was enthusiastic and celebrated being local, but are also being careful to ensure that they could balance their finances with sufficient members. However, people were expressing interests in the different groups on the day, and there were many interesting conversations across groups. There was a sense of inclusion and also awareness of those who could not attend for the day, but who do valuable work in St Ives. Our thanks to Babs Moore for coming up with the idea for the day with the help of her planning team – Irene McCormick, Joey Dyke and Sandy Nunn.

The **Big Day Out for the Eastern Synod** was a joyful occasion with carefully planned worship and activities for all ages. In dazzling sunlight, I stood by my posters on the subject of 'mental health and wellbeing'. In response to my question about the topics that people would most like to see articles written on health and wellbeing, the top responses included: loneliness; dropping in to visit; how to be a good visitor and companion; and understanding the phases of dementia. Also included were young peoples' mental health, anxiety and eating disorders. Other areas were preventing alcoholism and substance misuse.

The analyses of our **Church Questionnaire** is still underway and we handed out more questionnaires at the Exhibition in June. We hope that this survey will report soon.

The **Save Our Spire Appeal** continues at pace with work about to begin on the Spire. On Sunday, 9th July from 3.00pm to 7.00pm we are all invited to the Garden Party in Oakington (see Page 8). Tickets are now on sale from Just Sharing. Special thanks go Sonia Spurling and Charlotte Jordan (see Page 9) for their work on procuring some excellent raffle prizes from local businesses for the Save our Spire fund-raising appeal (see Page 11). Please do consider buying tickets for the Garden Party, with the contributions also going to help fund the repairs to the Spire.

This month the **Elders Meeting** is on 5th July; and the **Church Meeting** is at 12.15pm on Sunday 16th July where we will consider the use of the building for the registration of same-sex marriage. The church is responding to changes in English law and according to a resolution from the 2016 General Assembly. The discussion will be facilitated by Rev John Filsak.

Christine Macleod

News from the Eco Group



In March this year a group of us visited the **Amey Recycling Centre** at **Waterbeach**. Since then a few people who were unable to go that day have expressed an interest in another visit being organised.

We would need between 12 and 16 people to make the visit viable. So if you would like to be one of those people, please let Mary Cox know on 01480-300103.



We are sure that you will be pleased to be made aware that the status of the Free Church as an **Eco Church** is now displayed on the blue board in the Foyer.

Tots & Carers Group

Wednesdays from 10:00am to 11:30 am

If you have a few hours to spare on Wednesday mornings, once or twice a month (in term time only), perhaps you would like to come and help us give very young children and their carers a structured yet relaxing fun-time in a safe Christian environment.

Please contact Revd Catherine Ball on 352058 or 07714-081930



Please note: all our volunteers have to be DDC checked

Christian Women for Iraq

Iraqi women, whose lives had come under the control of ISIS, have suffered terribly. For instance, many are bereaved because of the constant killing; and many more have been brutally raped by so-called 'soldiers'.



To help them come to terms with their situation, groups of British Christian women have been travelling out to Iraq to bring pastoral care and prayer to the women now in refugee camps.

Mandy is one such Christian who wishes to go on a 5-day mission to help these women.

She is asking you to **remember both groups of women in your prayers.**

Also, the British visits have to be self-financed through the support of family and friends. If **you would like to give towards Mandy's costs** please contact:

Kevin Gouldthorp
on
(01480) 381195

News from Tookey's Coffee Shop

In Memoriam—Pam Reddig

Sadly, Pam passed away on 25th April 2017 after a short illness.



Over the past couple of years, Pam had been a volunteer in Tookeys. She was very reliable and thoroughly enjoyed her time with us. She often said it made her happy to chat with customers and she enjoyed the friendships forged during her time in Tookey's.

Due to circumstances, no-one from Tookey's was able to attend her funeral. However, we did send a card of condolence to her family with our thanks for all she had contributed.

Pam worked on Wednesdays with Pat Humphrey and, to show her appreciation, Pat very kindly made a floral tribute to Pam, which was placed on the Communion table upstairs.

Retirement of Val Firth

Val Firth, who has worked in Tookey's for many years, on a Friday afternoon, has had to retire due to a severe ankle problem. She will be greatly missed as she has made an enormous contribution to our coffee shop—as do all our volunteers.



A card expressing our thanks has been sent to Val.

Pat Clarke

Calling all Would-be Bakers!

Tookey's Coffee Shop is looking for amateur bakers to join our scone-making team.

If you can spare a few hours approximately once a month, we would be pleased to welcome you into our friendly team. No previous experience required, as full training will be given.



Please contact Pat Clarke on 468886

Hunts Art Group

will be holding an

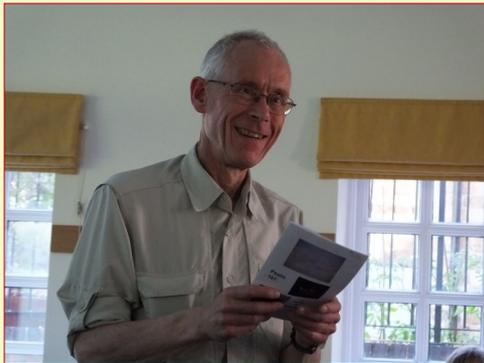
Exhibition

in the hall inside
The Free Church

on

**Friday 28th July
and
Saturday 29th July**

Images of our Weekend Away Launde Abbey: 16th—18th June 2017



**FENSTANTON
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

INVITES YOU TO

SONGS OF PRAISE

SUNDAY 2ND JULY 4-00PM

AND



**THE FREE CHURCH OF ST IVES
SPIRE APPEAL**



A MUSICAL GARDEN PARTY

SUNDAY 9TH JULY 3.00 – 7.00PM

WAVERLEY, HIGH STREET, OAKINGTON CB24 3AG

**(EASY PARKING NEXT TO WAVERLEY
HOUSE)**



**SUMMER TEAS, WINE, GARDEN GAMES, CONCERT
BY THE PHOENIX PLAYERS OF ST IVES
AND OTHER MUSICIANS
A SPECIAL RAFFLE AND A CAKE COMPETITION**

TICKETS £12.50

CHILDREN 10 YEARS AND UNDER FREE

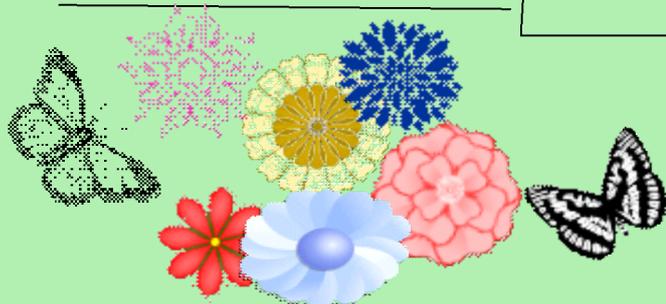
AVAILABLE FROM OUR “JUST SHARING” SHOP

AT THE FREE CHURCH

OR TELEPHONE 01223 233929



**For details of Raffle Prizes
see Page 11**



Tapestry and Synergy Concert on 10th June

The SOS team was speechless with wonder at the support of the teamed choirs, Tapestry and Synergy, and the fantastic audience participation in the whole event that gave rise to **£1,400** for the 'Spire Appeal.' The evening of sheer delight, emotion and fun was the culmination of detailed planning and preparation by Irene.

Tapestry (pictured below) is a mixed-voice, a-cappella chamber choir of 14 singers based in Cambridgeshire. Formed in 1996, its repertoire has grown considerably every year, offering period and contemporary sacred music, via a wide variety of genres, to more up-beat popular songs – almost always unaccompanied. Tapestry is well known



locally and events often sold out.

Neither a male voice choir nor a barbershop chorus, **Synergy** (pictured below) aims to blend the best of both genres into beautiful a-cappella, four-part close harmony. Formed in 2006 and based in Abergavenny, South Wales, Synergy offers a varied repertoire from the Beatles to Queen, American Classics to Showstoppers, touching ballads to laugh-out-loud barnstormers, all held together with light



humour.

Highlights for **Tapestry** were the rendition of *Bridge over Troubled Waters* and *Nimrod*; and for **Synergy** *Bring Him Home* and *Teddy Bear's Picnic*. These led

SOUP LUNCH at FENSTANTON United Reformed Church

On a cold wet day in June 38 people enjoyed a lovely bowl of soup; six varieties were on offer. A raffle was also held.



A total of **£178** was raised for the
Free Church SOS Spire Appeal



Charlotte Jordan
and her friend Sonia
in Tookey's Coffee shop
planning the
Oakington Garden Party
for the SOS Spire Appeal

A Pastoral Message

From: the Presidents of Churches Together in England (CTE)

To: all engaged in the work of Churches Together, locally, at Intermediate level and nationally



As the Feast of Pentecost dawned, we learnt of another appalling terrorist attack in London, the third attack within weeks. It is therefore important that we say clearly alongside our fellow faith leaders that such horrific acts are abhorrent to God and to all people of faith. Life is precious, the gift of God, and it is to be prized.

Our thought and prayers will continue to be with those who have been bereaved and those who are recovering from injuries suffered in those attacks.

Churches Together across the land have been praying in these past weeks for the coming of God's kingdom. In the face of increased terrorist activity those prayers are particularly poignant. The kingdom of God is love, justice and joy, and the gifts of the Spirit given for building it. Even in such acts of darkness, we have caught glimpses of the kingdom in the kindness of strangers to each other, the extraordinary bravery of the emergency services and the dedication and skill of medical teams. We thank God for them.

Part of our vocation as Christians is to stand together with our friends and neighbours of all faiths and none to seek the flourishing of all, and refuse to let violence and hatred deflect us from living compassionately and kindly together. Another part of our vocation is to share in Christ's ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation, to pray for those who hate that they may grow close to the God of mercy and love and be transformed.

In this season of Pentecost we invite all who are part of Churches Together to pray for the gifts of the Spirit so that they may be activists for the love of God, building healing, reconciling and forgiving communities where God's kingdom can grow and all be valued as children of God.

Archbishop Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster

Revd Dr Hugh Osgood, the Free Churches Moderator

The Revd Canon Billy Kennedy, the President nominated by the New Churches, the Religious Society of Friends (ie the Quakers) and the Lutheran and German-speaking Churches

Bishop Angaelos, the President for the Orthodox Churches

Bishop Dr Eric Brown, the Pentecostal President

Note: The United Reformed Church was a founder member of

Church Activities

Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 Tots & Carers (term time only—last one before the Summer Break is on 19th July)

Tue 11th Jul 14:30 Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton URC

Wed 26th Jul 19:45 Poetry Group

Raffle Prizes

As at 25th June, local businesses had kindly offered the following prizes for the Raffle associated with the Oakington Garden Party (see page 8):

Electric Boat Trips:

Boat trip for 12 people on River Great Ouse

Olivers Lodge: **Bottle of wine –Tempranillo**

Piggotts: **Leather wallet**

Heffers: **Ice cream maker**

Oliver Cromwell pub:

Bottle of wine – Des Vignes

Wetherspoons:

Voucher for meal for two with drinks

Nero Hairdressing:

Collection of hair care products

Slepe Hall Hotel:

Voucher for cream tea for two

Nick Jordan:

Sports injury/remedial treatment at Neal's Yard or Waverley House, Oakington

Tile and Stone Company:

Two bottles of wine and Gift voucher

Oakington Garden Centre:

Cream tea for two and garden tool

Amore restaurant: **Meal for two**

Tickets available now from Just Sharing

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 1st Jul 09:30 Saints Crafters Fair

- 16:00

19:30 St Ives Choral Society Concert

Wed 5th Jul 11:00 U3A Current Affairs

Thu 6th Jul 19:30 WI

Sat 8th Jul 19:30 Community Choir Concert

Fri 14th Jul 10:00 COPE

Sat 15th Jul 18:00 COSI concert

Tue 18th Jul 10:00 Alzheimer's Support Drop-In Cafe

Wed 19th Jul 11:00 U3A Current Affairs

Fri 21st Jul 09:00 U3A Local History

Fri 28th Jul 10:00 Hunts Art Group Exhibition
- 17:00

Sat 29th Jul 10:00 Hunts Art Group Exhibition
- 17:00

Sat 5th Aug 09:30 Saints Crafters Fair
- 16:00

**Deadline for August Inspire
Sunday 16th July**

Contacts

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Mobile: 07714 081930

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Peter German 352401

Freewill Offering Treasurer

David Duffett 395308

Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Flower Convenor

Margaret Cakebread 462726

Eco Group Convenor

Mary Cox 300103

Chapel Prayer Coordinator

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Manager

Pat Clarke 468886

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

The Free Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Free Church Worship

Monday Chapel Prayers Daily at 10:00 am Monday to Saturday

Sun 2nd Jul	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 9th Jul	11:00	Roy Muttram
	18:00	Joint Service at Fenstanton - CANCELLED
Sun 16th Jul	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 23rd Jul	11:00	Faith Sharp
Sun 30th Jul	11:00	Keith Cakebread
Sun 6th Aug	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 2nd Jul	9:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 9th Jul	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball – Holy Communion
	18:00	Joint Service - Margaret Cakebread
Sun 16th Jul	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 23rd Jul	9:30	Paul Whittle
Sun 30th Jul	9:30	Keith Cakebread
Sun 6th Aug	9:30	Revd Derek Newton