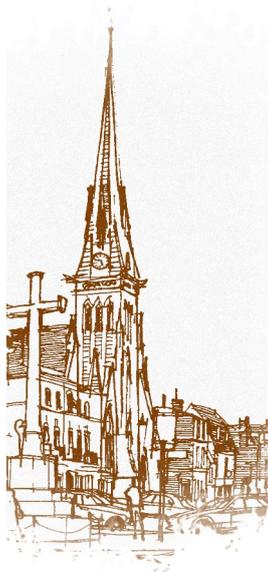


# July 2018

# Inspire



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

## View from the Manse



Variety is the spice of life! Wouldn't life be boring if we all had to wear the same thing each day, or the same thing as others? Or eat the same thing for dinner each evening? Or view a grey sky with brown grass and grey pavement on the ground?

One of the joys of July is the colour in our gardens – out the front of the manse we have a yellow tea rose, orange day lilies, a vermilion verbena, yellow and pink alstroemerias, crimson and peach climbing roses, blue perennials and multicoloured hanging baskets! A rainbow of colours give interest and beauty for the eye and fragrance to the nose. God has created this amazing world with such an incredible variety of plants and trees and animals and insects of different shapes and sizes, that we should be protecting and caring for and enjoying!

This month we have opportunity to get outside and take part in our Town Carnival on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> July as Churches Together in St Ives will be driving a float with a gorgeous banner designed by our own Sarah Bateman with Stewart Denham. I hope you will all be able to support us as we seek to be a witness to our community. We will be dressing up as famous TV and film vicars and church people.

Cont'd.....

## Inside July Inspire

- Page 1 View from the Manse
- Page 2 View from the Manse Cont'd  
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust  
COSI Concert
- Page 3 From the Church Secretary  
Westminster College Events
- Page 4 Church Eco Group Invitation  
May Lunchtime Concert
- Page 5 Time—what is Time?  
Media & Comms Team
- Page 6 The Green Thing
- Page 7 Community Activities  
Church Activities  
St Ives Choral Society Concert
- Page 8 Contacts  
Free Church Worship  
Fenstanton Worship

**Publication date for August Inspire will be Sunday 29th July**

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Christine Macleod and I will be travelling to Nottingham to the URC General Assembly on the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> July. We will both be representing the Eastern Synod and would appreciate your prayers as we listen to speakers about our wider church, consider issues relating to our church and mission for today and decide on resolutions which will lead us forward into the coming years. We plan to give a report at the following Church Meeting so that we can all be informed.

July is often a time for a change of scenery as many take time out for weekend breaks and holidays. 'O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.' Psalm 104.24 May we give thanks for God's blessings and the beauty of nature as we are out and about. Every blessing,

*Catherine*

*OSI French-themed Concert*  
*Saturday, 14th July 2018 at 7:30 pm*  
*The Free Church,*  
*St Ives*



*Delibes*  
*Le Roi s'amuse*  
*Fauré*  
*Pavane*  
*Ravel*  
*Tombeau de Couperin*  
*Debussy*  
*Clair de Lune*  
*Grovez*  
*Sarabande et Allegro*  
*Mozart*  
*Symphony no 3 'Paris'*

**Tickets: £8 adults—£5 children**  
**from Just Sharing at the Free Church**  
**or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives)**

## Grant from Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

The Save Our Spire appeal team thanks the CHCT trust for their generous grant of £4,000 for the restoration of the spire.

The Trust offers grants and loans to help congregations look after their historic places of worship such as essential repairs to their churches. Its main source of income is the annual "Ride, Drive and Stride". Each September sponsored cyclists, motorists and walkers visit churches, chapels, and colleges throughout Cambridgeshire, sharing the money raised between the Trust and their local church.

Churches are encouraged to stay open over the weekend of 14th, 15th and 16th September to allow people to visit and look around. Participants can be sponsored to walk or cycle to several churches and at each base they receive a signature to verify that stage of their journey. Half of this sponsor money is for the work of CHCT and the other half for the participant's nominated church.

There is an opportunity to support the Ride, Drive & Stride event at the Free Church over that weekend. Please consider taking part either by walking or cycling and gaining sponsors for your hard work, or by putting your name down for the rota to welcome people when they visit the church over that weekend.

*Sally Runham*



## From The Church Secretary

I woke up this morning, ready for July humming the tune – “Come and join the celebration. it’s a very special day”.

I had taken part in the “Day of Celebration” for the Training for Learning and Service (TLS) Course in Birmingham the day before. Some of us in our church have benefitted from the course over the years including Stephen & Drina Hampson, Keith Cakebread and myself. We were able to celebrate how many lives had been blessed through this course offered by the United Reformed Church and to thank the tutors and examiners and the course administrators. I wrote and read the prayers of intercession for the service in the URC church at Carr’s Lane, and took part in a video of TLS graduates which will be shown at General Assembly. The new course will be known as “Stepwise” and so there are ample opportunities for lay training in the URC and also lifelong learning through Westminster College in Cambridge each year.



Catherine and I are attending General Assembly this July, and are persevering in reading the pre-conference book of papers on a wide range of subjects. I was interested that the first page is a reminder of the Vision 2020 Framework for Mission for the United Reformed Church. It is good to remind ourselves of this as we anticipate that we will be invited to do our five yearly LMMR review sometime soon. There is much to celebrate on how faith is being worked out in churches up and down the country.

The 14<sup>th</sup> July is set to be a day of celebration. Watch out for the Churches Together in St Ives (CTSI) carnival float and see if you can recognise some of our members there. The South Parish is also having a tea party on that afternoon.

And if you have time to “Draw Breath”, there is the teaching session at Westminster College for elders (serving and non-serving) from 9<sup>th</sup> July. Application is through College. We will be covering this and much more at our church meeting, after morning worship on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Do come along, if you can.

Have a fulfilling July. “Come and join the celebration. It’s a very special day”.

## Westminster College Summer Events

### **Eldership on the Front Line - 6th-8th July**

A chance to be refreshed and resourced for the important role Elders play in the URC. As the tasks and role change along with society you will be given the chance to think about what this means for you and your church and to hear stories and experiences that will get you thinking and sharing together.

### **Draw Breath and reflect upon: God’s Amazing Creation through Art & Photography**

In the busyness of life we all need the opportunity to step back and spend time in the company of God reflecting upon life, our faith and what God is calling us to. Each of these days will have a different emphasis allowing a variety of approaches that make the most of Westminster’s stunning buildings and facilities.

### **Living the Life of Jesus through our worship - 13th-15th August and 15th-17th August**

For Lay Preachers and Worship leaders in 2018 we are offering a mix of Bible study, worship and reflection alongside of some practical ideas on how we bring alive the life of Jesus for today’s worshippers. There will be a variety of session leaders and styles, all looking to provide you with the tools and new insights for your important ministries.

## An invitation from the church eco-group



We have so many fascinating and beautiful places on our own doorstep. Join us as we celebrate and enjoy our own riverscape with a trip down the Great Ouse in a beautifully quiet electric boat.

The date to put in your diary is:

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

To give us strength for the journey we shall start with a LOAF tea in Tookeys at 5.00pm. We shall then take the short walk down to the Quay at 6.00pm, be taken down the river, and return refreshed for a short service of celebration in the Free Church at 7.00pm

In July there will be a sheet on the landing for you to sign up for a place on the boat. There are only 24 places between the two boats so do make sure you get your name down early. We would ask for a donation of £6.00 each to cover the cost of the tea and the boats. If you do not wish to go on the boat please join us for tea and the service.

## MAY LUNCHTIME CONCERT

In May, it was a delight to welcome back accomplished violinist Matthew Chambers to perform at the second of this year's Friday Lunchtime Concerts - which realised £100 towards our Spire Restoration.

In his performance last year, Matthew was accompanied by his brother on the piano. This year he performed unaccompanied, giving us a very welcome and rare opportunity to hear the violin as a solo instrument. With a carefully chosen programme of pieces by JS Bach, Tartini and Béla Bartók, Matthew demonstrated perfectly the violin's wide range of sound colours and voices.

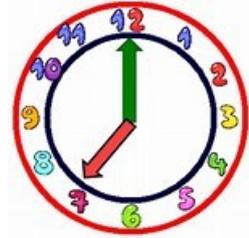
Matthew is a recent Masters graduate from the Royal Academy of Music and is about to embark on a period of further study in Switzerland. He currently plays on an Ettore Soffritti violin made around 1900 in Ferrara, Italy, which has been generously loaned to him by the Harrison-Frank Foundation. Sadly, due to insurance restrictions, he is not allowed to take this violin to Switzerland, so is now looking for a replacement instrument.



We wish Matthew every success in his search for a violin and best wishes for the next stage of his journey in Switzerland. SMD

## Time – what is time?

We may think of a clock face – a calendar – a diary. All in some way measure, divide or record time.



According to scripture our allotted time on earth is three score years and ten – but may be longer. We may plan our time, organize our time, but our days will be the same length whatever we do in them. We believe that our times are in God's hands – is our time in God's hands? We have no control over when we were born and generally no control over when we die – there are times in our lives when we feel that we have little control over the times in between.

There are several verbs associated with time – we can spend time, waste time, pass time and use time. I suspect that our lives are a mixture of all of them. When we are young our parents are in control of the way our time is spent – time for play, for friendship, for learning. As we grow there are different demands on our time – school, leisure activities, entertainment, study and relationships. At College I was accused of suffering from the protestant work ethic. A strange term really because protestants believe that we do not earn our salvation but that it is bought for us by Christ's death on the cross. We do not have to work for or earn salvation.

Since retiring to St Ives I have found that the use of my time has changed. Before I moved I was working in a small village Chapel. I only preached once a month in the village chapel, but served other villages around. There were school assemblies, ladies' meetings, hospital visiting and visiting in the village – it was a full and satisfying life. So I have been discovering ways to spend time since. I have found the structure of coming to morning prayers helpful. I seem to have more time to read but less inclination!

Retirement is strange because during your working life you are often defined by what you do – I was a midwife. Being brought up in the manse I was the minister's daughter. I remember quite distinctly as a young adult stamping my feet and saying 'I am not my father's daughter!' (I don't know how people interpreted that!) But of course as Christians we are our Father's children. We need that relationship with our Father through Jesus so that, enabled by the Holy Spirit, we grow in Christlikeness – not sanctimonious self righteousness, but an expression of God's love and grace in every aspect of our lives. We need other people's understanding and acceptance – 'please be patient with me, God hasn't finished with me yet' – and we need to give that acceptance to others. Our faith is expressed not necessarily in words but in actions and relationships – the way we spend our time and live our lives. As Christians we have a hope for the future, at the end of our earthly life we receive the inheritance that Jesus died to bring us. We have hope – not dependent on feelings but on Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection and the promise of His presence in eternity. "I go to prepare a place for you and I will come again and receive you to myself". We have something to look forward to at the end of time!

*Faith Sharp*

### Media & Communications Team

Media & Comms are looking for new people to join the group. We meet 3 times each year at the home of Chris & Alan Curtis. We look after all aspects of communication within the church: noticeboards, leaflets, website, Tookey's TV, archives, press, Inspire Magazine, Christmas Cards, Easter Cards, Church Facebook Page etc. We have recently lost a couple of members due to a house move and it would be great if we could encourage one or two people to join us. If you are interested please speak to Pete Davies or Catherine. We look forward to welcoming you to the group

# The Green Thing'

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because the plastic bags are not good for the environment. The woman apologised to the young girl and explained "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my early days." The young girl responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations." The older lady said that she was right – our generation didn't have the 'green thing' in its day. The older lady went on to explain:

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilised and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the 'green thing' back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable, besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalise our books on the brown paper bags. But, too bad we didn't do the 'green thing' back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300 horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the 'green thing' in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's nappy because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 240 up volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers and sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the 'green thing' back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of a house. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the 'green thing' back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the 'green thing' back then.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mums into a 24 -hour taxi service in the family's £40,000 SUV, which cost what a whole house did before the 'green thing'. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerised gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the 'green thing' back then?

## Community Activities

|                 |                  |                                      |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mondays         | 10:00            | CRUSE                                |
| Wednes-<br>days | 14:00            | Senior Citizens Club                 |
| Thurs-<br>days  | 09:30            | Sunny Steps                          |
| Wed 4th<br>Jul  | 11:00            | U3A Current Affairs                  |
| Thu 5th<br>Jul  | 19:30            | WI                                   |
| Sat 7th<br>Jul  | 09:30 -<br>16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair                 |
| Sat 7th<br>Jul  | 19:30 -<br>21:30 | St Ives Choral Society<br>Concert    |
| Fri 13th<br>Jul | 10:00            | COPE                                 |
| Tue 17th<br>Jul | 10:00            | Alzheimer's Support Drop-<br>In Cafe |
| Wed 18th<br>Jul | 11:00            | U3A Current Affairs                  |
| Fri 20th<br>Jul | 10:00            | U3A Local History                    |
| Sat 21st<br>Jul | 19:30            | St Ives Community Choir              |
| Fri 27th<br>Jul | 09:30 -<br>16:30 | Hunts Art Group Exhibition           |
| Sat 28th<br>Jul | 09:30 -<br>16:30 | Hunts Art Group Exhibition           |
| Thu 2nd<br>Aug  | 19:30            | WI                                   |
| Sat 4th<br>Aug  | 09:30 -<br>16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair                 |

## Church Activities

|                 |                  |  |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Wednes-<br>days | 10:00 -<br>11:30 | Tots & Carers<br>Term time only                      |
| Wed 4th<br>Jul  | 10:00 -<br>11:30 | Tots & Carers  |
| Fri 6th<br>Jul  | 13:00 -<br>14:00 | SoS lunchtime concert -<br>clarinet & string quartet |
| Wed 11th<br>Jul | 10:00 -<br>11:30 | Tots & Carers Picnic at<br>Warners Park              |
| Wed 25th<br>Jul | 19:45            | Poetry Group   |

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SOCIETY

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Alison Daniels

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Maciek O'Shea, bass

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**Saturday 7 July 2018 7.30pm**

Tickets Adults £12 and £10 (concessions) accompanied children under 16 free  
Available from the Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church, St Ives  
Registered Charity No. 291640



## Contacts

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tba

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### Freewill Offering Treasurer

Babs Moore 352627

### Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

### Flower Convenor

Valerie Temple 466204

### Eco Group Convenor

Mary Cox 300103

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Gerry Swain 468053

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### Church Office 468535

[office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:office@stivesfreechurch.org)

Open 9am - 1pm Monday to Friday

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

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

## Free Church Worship

### Porch Chapel Prayers

10am

Monday to Saturday



|                 |       |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| Sun 1st<br>Jul  | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball -<br>Holy Communion |
| Sun 8th<br>Jul  | 11:00 | Media & Comms Team                         |
| Sun 15th<br>Jul | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball                     |
| Sun 22nd<br>Jul | 11:00 | Faith Sharp                                |
| Sun 29th<br>Jul | 11:00 | Faith Sharp                                |
| Sun 5th<br>Aug  | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball -<br>Holy Communion |

## Fenstanton Worship

|                 |       |                                      |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun 1st<br>Jul  | 09:30 | Revd Derek Newton                    |
| Sun 8th<br>Jul  | 09:30 | Revd Roy Muttram -<br>Holy Communion |
| Sun 8th<br>Jul  | 18:00 | John Williams                        |
| Sun 15th<br>Jul | 09:30 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball               |
| Sun 22nd<br>Jul | 09:30 | Music Group                          |
| Sun 29th<br>Jul | 09:30 | Revd Chris Baker                     |
| Sun 5th<br>Aug  | 09:30 | Revd Derek Newton                    |