



# Inspire

The Newsletter of The Free Church (United Reformed) St Ives and Fenstanton URC

## Thoughts for the month ahead.

### *View from the Manse...*



Lovely summer days!!!

I remember the beginning of July in Canada as a child meant that we had two full months ahead of lazy summer holidays – swimming, playing tennis and enjoying the sunshine.

Here in the UK the summer school break isn't so long – just one month rather than two – but you have half term breaks, which we did not have.

So, we are busy with work for much of this month. I will be attending General Assembly of the URC on the 8th-11th. We have a wedding on the 16<sup>th</sup> July and worship services continue each Sunday.

And Just Sharing and Tookey's café will be open to serve people.

Yet, things slow down a little as some activities take a summer break: Tots and Carers stops over the summer and Migrant Welcome in which we help new residents to St Ives practice their English, pauses except for some to play cricket and football.

There is a time to rest – after all God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> time period after creating the world – and identified the sabbath or Saturday a day not to work each week. One of my most favourite verses in the bible is Isaiah 30.15: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation.'

We do not need to work for our salvation. Jesus has already done all the hard work in giving his life for the world - we simply need to receive his gift of faith and enjoy his blessings.

Summer is a time to enjoy the flowers and fruit that grow in abundance in our green and pleasant land. It is a good time for us to build on our efforts to care for the environment – to reuse, recycle and produce lots of green spaces for plant and animal life.



## Services this month:

THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES	
3rd July	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
10th July	Mrs Penny Flynn
17th July	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
24th July	Revd Dr Catherine Ball

FENSTANTON URC	
3rd July	Revd Lythan Nevard
10th July	Revd Christine Davies
17th July	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
24th July	Mrs Gerry Swain
31st July	Mr Keith Cakebread

Then, enjoy your holidays! Peter and I are going to Canada this year, the first time in several years and are planning to go on the Rocky Mountaineer train journey through the Rockies. I hope you can enjoy some time of rest and relaxation too.

Love in Christ,

Catherine

**Just Sharing**  
The Fair Trade Shop  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday  
10am - 3pm  
Saturday  
10am - 3.30pm  
01480 496570



Read online at: [www.stivesfreechurch.org](http://www.stivesfreechurch.org) or visit our **Facebook** page

The Free Church, Market Hill, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AL

Contact us at: [office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:office@stivesfreechurch.org)

## ***Some Jubilee Highlights.....***



***Veronica attended the Fenstanton URC Jubilee Tea and reported that it was most enjoyable. There was plenty of lovely food, and willing helpers. They were entertained by the Fen Shanty Folk.***



***Veronica also sent in photos from earlier in the week at the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall where our very own Joyce Taylor had the honour of cutting the cake and tea was served by the Hemingford Hub Volunteers. Attendees also enjoyed being entertained in a local garden by the Hemingford Ladies Choir. The photo of Joyce comes courtesy of Joyce's daughter, Liz.***



***Jubilee Flowers in the Porch-  
can you spot the teapot?***

***Thanks Robin!***

## **Meet our User Groups..... The HRAA Gardening Club**

We are a club of about 50 members of which 90% are woman. Our age range is 40s to late 70s, a club average age of 60. We were formed back in 2011 as an arm of Hill Rise Allotment Association [HRAA] principally to address general gardening topics rather than veggies and associated crops. Our evening meetings are quite varied ranging from a fun quiz, a Gardener's Question Time, specialist guest speakers and club members filling other evenings with topical chats and photos. In December we hold a craft and social evening which gives an opportunity for members to meet more informally.



All our evening meetings are held in the Free Church Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month January to May then September to December giving us nine evening meets a year, always commencing at 7.30 pm. Refreshments are provided, via a club members rota, at no additional cost to members of the club. The Membership fee currently stands at £15.00 pp per annum renewable during mid-December and is reviewed each October at our AGM.

We annually arrange to visit a National or significant Garden within a reasonable distance from St Ives. Last July we visited RHS Garden Wisley. Our previous visits have taken us to Kew Gardens, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Coton Manor, Northamptonshire, Hidcote Manor with its neighbour Kiftsgate, Marks Hall Gardens and Arboretum and also the National Memorial Arboretum. In the past we have also arranged a programme of four members' winter / summer garden visits where practical tasks can be seen, discussed and gardening camaraderie enjoyed. Unfortunately, since the pandemic these have not been reinstated.

There are no additional charges for meetings except for a small contribution for our Christmas craft and social evening. On production of our membership card, Membership affords a 10% discount at several horticultural / garden centre retail outlets in the area which are printed on the reverse of the membership card.

We have a web site which will give a little more insight into our activities and copies of our newsletters are available to peruse. Have a look at: [sigc.weebly.com](http://sigc.weebly.com). Our membership supports St Ives in Bloom, we are an affiliated RHS Society and work with HRAA in promoting gardening with schools. For contact details please see our web site.

**Robin Bletsoe St Ives Gardening Club**

**e mail: [robin.bletsoe@yahoo.com](mailto:robin.bletsoe@yahoo.com)**

## ***The World in a Wall***

This is the title of a chapter in *My Family and Other Animals*.

Is your garden untidy? I hope so. Our gardens are Britain's biggest nature reserve yet we eradicate 'weeds', clip our hedges into perfect squares and annihilate great areas with herbicides .

Could the problem be...

What will the neighbours think?

Here is my very old wall, not a lot of mortar left now but overflowing with life, toads frogs, foxgloves, Canterbury bells, fleabane, sweet peas and so much more.

Gardens with biodiversity improve ones health, true. Go on, leave the mower alone, petrol too expensive anyway.



Here's your wonderful organist Brian and pal Louise Turnell at Broughton church. The church in the beautiful village is well worth a visit. The 600 year old Judgement wall painting is stunning.

As ever

Charlotte



## **Solitary Bee Homes**

Here are photos of a solitary bee box/hive/nest at a friend's house. It's placed on a south elevation. He has this one up for the current summer bees to spawn in, and then he has one in his shed which was populated late last year which he will swap with this one later in the year when the larvae/bees from the shed one are ready to emerge. The female bee essentially reverses in to the back of the tunnel, and creates a little cell out of materials she's collected (forming the nest and food for the larvae to eat); she then lays eggs

before closing off that cell with more material and moving on to the next one, laying eggs until the tunnel is full. So it looks like a set of little bricks in section which looks neat. The egg at the back of the tunnel is always female and the ones in front are male. The female gets the longest gestation and when she's ready she basically pushes the others (males) out. You can see the top bee just having a snooze (or dead). The box has to be kept away from woodpeckers who think it's an easy snack! There is a man in Durham who makes these boxes and sells them for £70 each and has a waiting list of a year!



There's not a lot to it so I'm sure it will be copied very soon, if not already.

***Sally Runham***

***Irene comes calling again.....***

## **QUESTIONS! QUESTIONS!**

Dear God,

I'm writing from a small child's view,  
I'd like to understand, and you  
Are wise, and also very good,  
I'm all confused, misunderstood.

My parents love me, that I know,  
And you do too, they told me so,  
But silly things they say and do  
Just don't make sense, what can I do?

At Bedtime they say "Go to sleep"  
I'm wide awake, it makes me weep,  
Morning dawns "Wake up they shout!"  
"Don't laze in bed, get up, get out!"

I drag my heels I'm dozy still,  
I slowly wash and dress until,  
"Breakfast's ready! Hear them cry!  
I get upset, they wonder why!

The naughty step is mine alone,  
I answer back, to this I'm prone,  
Questions, questions drive them mad,  
Answer me or I'll be bad!

Dear God, there's lots I need to know -  
What's good, what's bad before I grow,  
Please help them think before they speak,  
I'm muddled up, your help I seek!  
Amen.

PS. Who is this Amen?

**cc. IRENE CARTER**

### **Poppy Appeal 2022**

Good morning, please can you help, I was wondering if you could share with your congregation? We are looking for volunteers for this years Poppy Appeal in St Ives. In particular, we are looking for a Poppy Appeal Organiser. Delivery/collection of poppies and collection boxes, help with the supermarket collections, and preparing rotas are some of the volunteer roles available. Support and guidance in provided for the role. You get to meet some new friends, engage with the public and you also get to help and support the Armed Forces Community. You don't have to be a member of the Royal British Legion to join in, we welcome everyone. Please contact me for more information: 07768 307398 or [lacred@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:lacred@britishlegion.org.uk) kind regards and thank you in advance Lucy

***URC Eastern Synod—BIG DAY OUT***



***The booking form is available on the URC Eastern Synod Website or speak to Catherine.....***

***Mary Cox suggested this poem by Oscar Wilde.***

## **A Lament**

O well for him who lives at ease  
With garnered gold in wide domain,  
Nor heeds the splashing of the rain,  
The crashing down of forest trees. -  
O well for him who ne'er hath known  
The travail of the hungry years,  
A father grey with grief and tears,  
A mother weeping all alone. -

But well for him whose feet hath trod  
The weary road of toil and strife,  
Yet from the sorrows of his life  
Builds ladders to be nearer God.

*Oscar Wilde*

## Meet the staff..... This month: Sarah Bateman, IT Administrator

Most of you will have met me by now but for those who haven't, my name is Sarah and you'll find me working in the church vestry on Tuesday mornings.

My official job title is IT Administrator and it's a role that didn't exist until I started in January 2017.

This was perfect timing for me as I was approaching the end of maternity leave with my first daughter and ready for a new challenge. My mum told me about the job advert as soon as it was posted in the window of their post office, I applied and, well, the rest is history!

One of the many things I love about my role is being able to use my creative side, designing anything from posters and *Inspire* covers to banners for the church carnival float! I also update the noticeboards - and the church Facebook page - with what's happening in the church and create slideshows for Sunday worship on Presenter... as well as other varied administrative tasks in sync with Gail in the office. It's wonderful to be able to sometimes work with the sound of a choir, orchestra or pipe organ in the next room!



I like to think that my background in proofreading, writing and design is put to good use in my role. I studied English at university then went on to complete a postgraduate NCTJ magazine journalism course at Harlow College, followed by an Adobe InDesign course in London.

I've had administrative roles at Cambridgeshire County Council and Ofsted, and proofreading roles in the publishing sector. I even dabbled in voiceover work for a year!

After living in Birmingham for some years, I returned to my hometown of St Ives with a Brummie husband in tow to settle down and start a family. St Ives will always be 'home' to me and I would like that for our children. I grew up next door to Chris and Alan Curtis, and their daughters sometimes babysat me and my siblings! Small world...

Being part of the community really matters to me and I love being able to meet and chat to the people who come through the church doors. Everyone has a story to tell and I've met some wonderful characters here and through my weekend work in the post office (often the same faces!).

Aside from work and parenting (you may find me in the church on my days off at various baby groups with my youngest daughter!), my interests include getting stuck into a giant crossword, delving into a book, playing the piano, taking photos of everything (especially bluebells) and swinging a kettlebell!

 <p>Join us for an update on local environmental issues and to connect with like minds at our first ever...</p>	<h3>Climate Café</h3> <p>The Third Saturday of each month here at the Free Church. 10am - 12pm</p>	<p>Climate Café dates for 2022: January - Saturday 15th February - Saturday 19th March - Saturday 26th April - Saturday 16th May - Saturday 22nd June - Saturday 18th July - Saturday 16th August - Saturday 20th September - Saturday 17th October - Saturday 15th November - Saturday 19th December - Saturday 17th</p>  <p>The future of the planet is in our hands...</p>
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	<h3>SUMMER CONCERT</h3> <p>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 8pm, Free Church, St Ives</p> 	
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## What's on in

# JULY



Mon - Sat	10:00	Chapel Prayers
Mon - Sat (not Thurs)	10:00 - 15:00	Just Sharing shop
Mon - Sat (not Thurs)	9:45 - 14:00	Tookeys Café
Mondays	9:30 - 13:30	Tookeys Snack Bar
Weds (term time only)	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers Baby Group
Sundays	11:00	Worship
Sat 2nd	09:30-15:30	Saints Crafters Art and Craft Fair
Mon 4th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Wed 6th	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 7th	09:15-13:30	Shirley's Café in Tookeys
	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
	19:00	W.I.
Sat 9th	19:30	Royal British Legion Concert: 100 years
Mon 11th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Tue 12th	12:00-14:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
Wed 13th	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 14th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
	20:00	COSI Summer Concert
Fri 15th	10am-12pm	U3A Local History
Sat 16th	10am-12pm	Eco Action Group Climate Cafe

Mon 18th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Tue 19th	10:00-12:00	Dementia Cafe
Wed 20th	11:00-13:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 21st	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
Mon 25th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Wed 27th	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 28th	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
	14:30	St Ives Free Church Poetry Group
Fri 29th	16:00	COSI Concert

**NEXT CHURCH MEETING:**

**Sunday 17th July**

**July Editors are:**

**Chris Curtis and Sarah Bateman**

## August edition

If there's anything you'd like us to include in August's edition of Inspire, please email it to:

office@

stivesfreechurch.org

**Deadline to receive content is: 22/07**

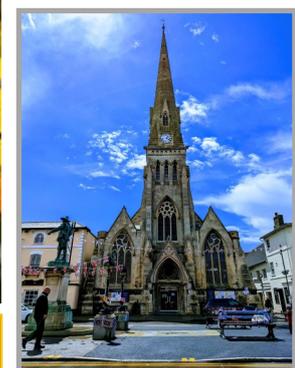


Photo taken by Sarah Bateman during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations

## Contacts

### Minister

Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
01480 352058

### Church Office

Gail Wase 468535

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

Open 9am—1pm Mon/Wed/Fri

Room bookings should be made through the Church Office

### Church Secretary

David Duffett 395308

### Associate Church Secretary

Alan Curtis 350787

### Fenstanton Ch Sec

Geoffrey Hawkins 462001

### Media and Comms Convener

Peter Davies 495835

### Webmaster

Alan Curtis

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

### Finance and Property Convener

Peter German 352401

### Freewill Offering Treasurer

Babs Moore 352627

### Safeguarding Lead

Christine Curtis 350787

### Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

### Flower Convener

Valerie Temple 466204

### Chapel Prayer Coordinator

Joey Dyke 07787 370201

### Tookey's Manager

Helen Yates 07921 462640

### Just Sharing Manager

Sue Billings 496570

### Assistant Manager

Rosemarie Smith

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