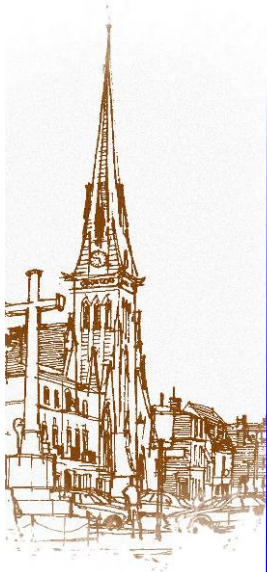


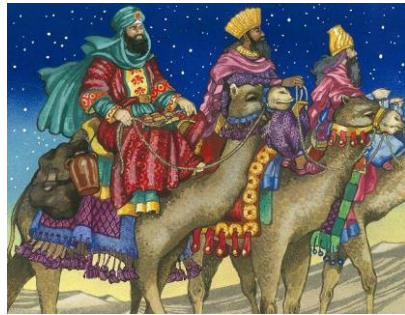
# January 2013

# Inspire



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

## The Three Kings Feast of the Epiphany



The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The legendary visit would later give rise to the custom of gift giving at Christmas on the Feast of the Epiphany traditionally observed on January 6.

Epiphany goes by various names in different cultures, i.e., Little Christmas, Three Kings Day, or Twelfth Night, which remains the official end of the season's "Twelve Days of Christmas" counting from Christmas evening on December 25 to the Epiphany on January 6.

## Inside *JANUARY* Inspire

- 1 The Three Kings
- 2 View from the Manse  
Ladies Night Out
- 3 My Favourite Hymn(s)  
A Prayer for January
- 4 Christian Aid Chair  
From the Church Secretary  
STOP PRESS
- 5 90th Birthdays
- 6 & 7 Fashion Show
- 8 Christingles
- 9 New & Retiring Elders
- 10 Children's Page
- 11 Community & Church  
Activities
- 12 Contacts  
Worship

**Deadline for February  
Inspire  
Sunday 20th January**

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# View From The Manse



Happy New Year! This is the time of the year when churches look back over the past year, review how it went, and identify areas for celebration and areas for regret. Having done that we are hopefully then able to look forward with greater wisdom having learned from what we have done in the past – how to continue doing the things that worked well, and also to think of ways of doing differently, those things that haven't gone so well.

In the main, I think we as a church have much to be pleased and proud about over the past year. Worship using the projector has consolidated and we used cafe style worship for festivals which did seem to encourage more families and children to take part. This coming year we are planning to extend this type of worship to monthly and to continue to invite baptism families and those from Tots and Carers.

Eldership has reduced in numbers, so it is a greater challenge for those who are serving to cover worship duties as well as pastoral care. We have thought about how we may reorganise ourselves in order to make sure that we still fulfil our responsibilities. Thus the church membership has been divided into two rather than three 'parishes' – pastoral groups, so that elders may serve together in teams to provide pastoral care and also parish events.

The property group successfully had a new kitchen put in, which has enabled us to extend our catering through Tookey's Café, including market days. The guided bus gave us lots more business, and Pat, the Manager is preparing light meals as well as drinks and scones, so we are able to serve a greater variety of goods to more people. The warm welcome people receive means that they often come back, and we have developed many 'regulars', who come not only for something to eat and drink, but for a friendly chat. This ministry of hospitality is also financially supportive of the rest of the church. Also helped by the guided bus is Just Sharing, our fair trade shop, which has gone from strength to strength.

Our Eco Group has continued to challenge and inspire us to serve God by better caring for our environment. Our Thursday night discussion groups have provided food for thought as we considered Science and Christianity and ethical issues. This again is something for us to build upon in the coming year. Our Lent course went well and also the joint Advent course with Fenstanton URC and also the joint Meditations led by John Williams continue to encourage our Christian growth and development.

One area that we have struggled to work toward is to be financially sufficient. The Finance Committee sent out letters considering good stewardship. The positive response of people to offer themselves for different tasks and to give extra donations is greatly encouraging. Again this is something we will need to work on in the coming year.

These are only highlights of a rewarding and stimulating year. I have found it a great pleasure to serve in this pastorate. Let's give thanks to God for our many blessings and ask for his guidance and leading into the New Year. May God's Spirit indwell all that we do and help us to continue our worship and witness for years to come - to his glory.

Love and best wishes,

**Catherine**

## Ladies Night Out

**The date for the next Ladies Night Out  
will be**

**Wednesday 23rd January  
at the Queen's Head, Needingworth  
7pm for 7.30pm**

**Menus available after Christmas  
Mavis Williams  
01480 463117**

## My Favourite Hymn(s)

So yet another panic-stricken victim. Choose your favourite hymn and tell us why. Easy! Hmm..... All self-inflicted, of course, as I could have said no. However, never one to flinch from a challenge, etc. Even though I write this just a few days before Christmas, I won't include any advent hymns BECAUSE I LOVE THEM ALL.

This has certainly been anything but easy, as my "favourite" hymn will change more often than my mood swings. So I've chosen a few of those that mean something to me; hopefully, you will know of them (especially if, like me, you're a bit of an old traditionalist) and may even count them among your favourites too.

"Jesus Calls Us! O'er the tumult" (tune: St Andrew). Nothing to do with my Caledonian upbringing and the link to St Andrew; at least not overtly. My earliest hymn-singing memory is of this one. School assemblies at Victoria School in Airdrie always began with this one, and it was used regularly in worship at the Congregational church that I went to until I left that town. It's more than that, though; the words set out the great challenge that Jesus gave to us all, "Day by day His sweet voice soundeth, saying 'Christian, follow Me'", "Give our hearts to Thy obedience, serve and love Thee best of all."

"For the beauty of the earth" (tune: Lucerna Laudoniae). I've always been inspired by the beautiful simplicity of the message that comes from the words of this hymn; there are so many everyday things around us that we take for granted, all gifted to us by God. This hymn is all about appreciating and giving thanks for the simple things in life, physical, sensory and emotional; things that I believe are even more important now than ever before.

"Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart" (tune: Gatescarth). My final choice is a hymn that I never knew until I started coming to the Free Church, which is a real shame as I think it's one of the most inspiring statements of enduring faith in the face of the many challenges of life. It encapsulates the hope and optimism that comes from the Christian faith and longing for the Lord's kingdom. Maybe I'm just becoming sentimental as I get older.

"Will your anchor hold in the storms of life" (tune: Will your anchor hold). A bit self-indulgent, I know, but I love this rabble-rousing Boys Brigade anthem. Always sung with great gusto by the 5th Airdrie BB Company (the best BB Company ever!!), for me it really is all about articulating the strength that the Christian faith gives to us all. The words of the refrain say it all, "We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!" Wonderful stuff.

**Jim Riddell**



## A Prayer for January

God of grace,  
creator of a world of plenty,  
the heavens declare your glory  
and the earth your generosity.

In love, you created us  
and in your likeness you  
made us to be partners in  
creation.

In greed, we have turned  
away and have marred your  
image of us to fashion a  
fragmented world.



Renew us in your vision of  
wholeness, that the rich  
restore wealth to the poor  
and the poor share  
blessings with the rich.



Revive us in our  
passion for justice,  
that the tyranny of profit be quelled  
and the whispers of freedom find voice.

Refresh in us our sense of calling,  
that we follow Christ in serving others  
and live simply with those who simply live.

## **Rowan Williams**

### **Becomes Christian Aid Chair**



Dr Rowan Williams is to become chairman of the board of trustees at Christian Aid from 2013.

Announcing the appointment today, Christian Aid director Ms Loretta Minghella said: "Archbishop Rowan brings a passionate interest in tackling the symptoms and causes of poverty, a profound theological understanding and deep experience of addressing issues of environmental, economic and social justice with church and political leaders across the world. This is wonderful news for Christian Aid."

Dr Williams is stepping down as Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of December to take up a new position as Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Commenting on his new appointment, Dr Williams said: "I am very honoured indeed to be invited to chair the Board of Christian Aid.

"I had hoped very much to be able to continue some regular involvement in support and advocacy in the area of international justice and development, and this will allow such an involvement to flourish.

"Many years of co-operation with, and support for, Christian Aid have made me familiar with the excellent quality of all that they do, and I am personally very happy indeed to be working with them in this new role at a time when international development issues will need the most dedicated and sustained attention."

## **From the Church Secretary**

The new year has arrived, Happy New year to all our readers. 2012 was such an incredible year for the country that 2013 cannot possibly have so many



highs, although there will be a royal baby to get excited about, all being well for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. I'm sure 2013 will have a character all its own, and if you have made resolutions or wishes I hope they are fulfilled.

In church we continue to move forward with all our activities. As we have fewer Elders this year the two northern parishes have been combined to form simply the north parish. The south parish remains as it was last year. Please feel free to approach any Elder on your parish team as listed on the note with your Christmas card.

In the summer (June 14-16) we look forward to our Church Weekend away at Feldon Lodge near Hemel Hempstead. The theme is moving forward. There will be talks, workshops and free time to enjoy and find fellowship. If you would like to know more please speak to Catherine, Val Bush or myself as soon as possible.

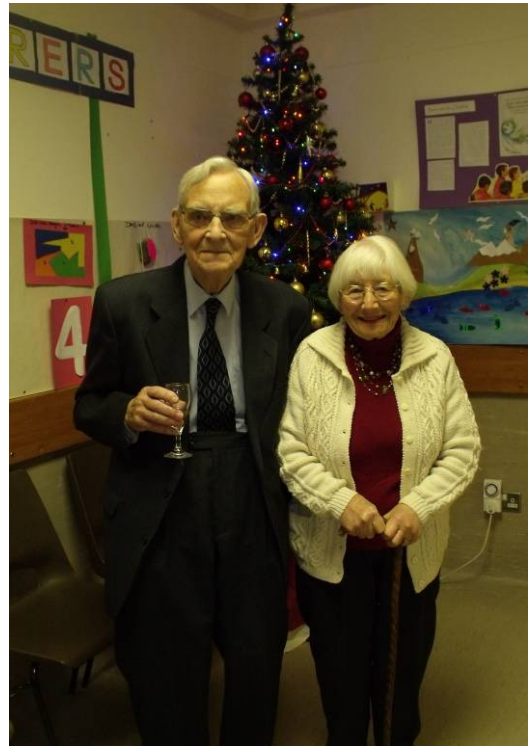
**Barbara**

## **STOP PRESS**

**The collection from Christmas services has been counted and has realised £550. This will be split between the Food Bank based in Godmanchester and Christian Aid**

## 90th Birthday Celebrations for Ivan Lane and Audrey Dilley

Congratulations to them both for reaching this grand age. Ivan celebrated his birthday with family and friends at the Free Church after worship followed by numerous family events. Audrey's celebrations took place over a number of days with her family and friends from the W.I. May they have many more years of health and happiness.





*Fashion Show at the Free Church*  
*30<sup>th</sup> November 2012*

As one of the many ideas for raising money for its new Kitchen, the Free Church hosted a Fashion Show of ladies clothing and accessories supplied by **M&Co** in St Ives.

Ten very brave ladies – all associated with the Church – elegantly modelled the clothes along a catwalk built especially for the occasion. Each lady displayed three outfits, all of which are available for sale in **M&Co** on Market Hill.

The Fashion Show raised around £500 for the Kitchen Fund, and we would like to thank all the brave models who agreed to parade before us:

*Ann*  
*Veronica*  
*Val H*  
*Margaret*  
*Val B*



*Barbara*  
*Helen*  
*Rosemarie*  
*Tracey*  
*Sue*

We would also like to offer our thanks to:  
 Val Bush for the original idea and for bringing it to fruition,  
 to Catherine, Keith, Jane, Joan, Joey, Pat C, Pat H and Sindy on the night,  
 and to **M&Co** for so much support.

*Thank you one and all!*

# The Young and Not So Young Making Christingles



## Farewell to retiring Elders and welcome to new Elders

At Worship in December we said thank you and goodbye to our retiring Elders, Freda Barnard, Veronica Angus, Irene McCormick, Peter German and John Pike and we welcomed Babs Moore and Peter Davies to the Eldership.



They say that time flies, but it's still a bit surprising to me to think that it's 19 years since we, my wife Louise and eldest sons Matt and Sam moved to St Ives. Our youngest son James was born a couple of years later. Nowadays, Louise teaches in Holywell Primary School, Matt is working locally, Sam is studying Maths at Reading University and James is in the final year of his 'A' levels.

Prior to moving to St Ives, I'd worked for 10 years as a local authority housing manager in North Somerset and then in South Lincolnshire. My new job with a software company meant moving to somewhere with good transport links and somehow we ended up in St Ives. The job involved helping new customers implement the software and working with existing customers to develop ways of using that software. I'm still doing much the same job, although I now also manage a team of colleagues who do similar jobs. I'm normally able to work from home one or two days a week and the rest of the time I'm out and about working at customer sites. As well as working in the UK, we also have a number of overseas customers and I've recently enjoyed visits to Ottawa and I'm off to Alberta for a fortnight during January.



I've attended the Free Church on and off ever since moving to St Ives, however with the demands of family life, in particular the many Sunday mornings spent supporting the boys in their various sporting endeavours, my attendance for many years was rather infrequent. When I was able to attend, I was always taken by how friendly and welcoming everyone was. In recent years I've enjoyed being able to attend more regularly and have seen just how much time, effort and love so many of the congregation put into keeping the church here running. Having recently become an Elder, I'm hoping that I can also make my own small contribution to this.

***Peter Davies***

# Children's Page

## Epiphany 6th January

**Happy New Year, everyone!**

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year, a time to remember the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The new year begins with another festival.

**Do you remember this joke from a previous issue of Inspire?**

What's a 'piffany'? asked Joe.  
I don't know, replied Mum. Why?  
Well, said Joe, We had turkey at Christmas, and the minister said that after Christmas we have a piffany!

Of course, the minister had actually said EPIPHANY, which means an appearance, or insight, something made clear. In the West, this festival is connected to the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ child, a visit which represents that Christ is for the whole world.



The Wise Men (and we do not know how many there were), found not a baby, but a child, and the child in a house. It would seem then that this was sometime after Christmas, and not by just a few days! In the East, where this festival originated,

the Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.



Here is a Word Search Puzzle from [www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/](http://www.geocities.com/lectionarypuzzles/). The words from Matthew 2:10-11, run left to right or top to bottom.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. {11} On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

M S T A R X E J O O W T L  
 Y M A R Y G N O P F D H F  
 R G I F T S T Y E F C E R  
 R Q D P W N E S N E H I A  
 H O U S E I R T I R E R N  
 T H E Y O T I O N E S G K  
 R T H E N H N P G D T O I  
 E E W E R E G P H I S L N  
 A O V E R W H E L M E D C  
 S P T C H I L D W H E N E  
 U A H S H I M O T H E R N  
 R I A A K N E L T A N D S  
 E D T W C W I T H D Q E E  
 H O M A G E M A T T H E W

### Community Activities

Tue from 19:30 Photo Club  
8th Jan

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

Sat 12th 10:00 Book Sale  
Jan

Wed 19:30 St Ives Gardening  
16th Jan Club

Thu 17th 19:30 Amnesty International  
Jan

Sat 19th 10:00 Homestart Craft Fair  
Jan

Fri 25th 19:30 Civic Society  
Jan

Wed 19:30 RSPB  
30th Jan

Sat 2nd 09:30 Saints Crafters Fair  
Feb -  
16:00

Thu 7th 19:30 WI  
Feb

### Church Activities

Wed from 10:00 Tots and Carers  
9th Jan

Mon from 19:00 Bowls Club  
7th Jan

Wed 2nd 19:45 Elders Meeting  
Jan

Tue 8th 14:30 Meditation led by John  
Jan Williams at Fenstanton  
URC

Thu 17th 20:00 Christian Perspectives  
Jan discussion group

Sun 20th 12:15 Church Meeting  
Jan

Sat 26th 10.45 Fellowship Walk  
Jan

Wed 30th 19:45 Poetry Group  
Jan

Wed 30th 19:45 Elders Meeting  
Jan



### GREETINGS FROM THE BRIGGS FAMILY

Many of you will remember Richard and Julia Briggs and their two children Georgia and Julian. They became members of our church family for the brief time that Richard was stationed at RAF Alconbury with the USAF.

They remember their time with us here with great affection and their Christmas card for 2012 shown here comes with best wishes to all their friends at the Free Church.

Email address for Richard and Julia is richjules@hotmail.com .



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

## Contacts

### Minister

Revd Dr. Catherine Ball 352058  
Mobile: 07714 081930

### Church Secretary

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### Associate Church Secretary

Helen Ackroyd 494005

### Communications & Media Convenor

Alan Curtis 350787

### Finance Convenor

Peter German 352401

### Freewill Offering Treasurer

Andy Fleming 468055

### Property Convenor

John Pike 301178

### Tookey's

Convenor Val Bush 469189  
Manager Pat Clarke 468886

### Organist

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 Managers

Rosemarie Smith  
Kevin Gouldthorp  
Tracey Hipson

### Church Office 468535

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

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



## Free Church Worship January

Sun 6th 11:00 Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
Jan - Holy Communion

Sun 13th 11:00 Revd Roy Muttram  
Jan

Sun 13th 18:00 Joint Service at  
Jan Fenstanton  
- Keith Cakebread

Sun 20th 11:00 Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
Jan

Sun 27th 11:00 Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
Jan - Cafe Style

## February

Sun 3rd 11:00 Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
Feb - Holy Communion

## Fenstanton Worship January

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Revd Derek Newton  
Jan

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
Jan - Holy Communion  
6:00 Joint Service with St  
Ives - Keith Cakebread

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
Jan

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Revd Roy Muttram  
Jan

## February

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30 Revd Derek Newton  
Feb