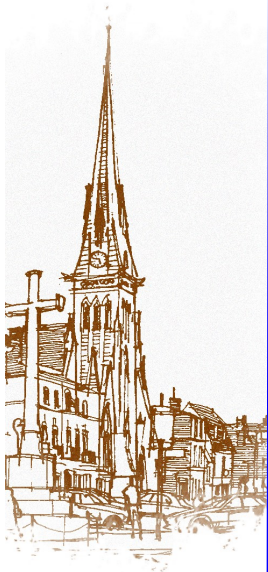


# May 2013

# Inspire



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

## View from the Manse



Hurrah! The weather has finally warmed up! It is incredible how much a little sunshine can lift the spirits and cheer us up after such a long cold winter. May is the time of year that we enjoy the blossoming of flowers and leaves coming out on trees and gives us hope for months of summer ahead. In the Christian calendar we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection to new life as we remember his Ascension to the Father on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. We will have a service of Holy Communion as part of our chapel prayers that morning. Jesus *is* alive and reigns with the Father and his Spirit is let loose in the world to bring healing and hope. We of all people should be full peace and joy!

Yet this does not mean that we are sheltered from the realities and difficulties of life – we all face disappointment, illness and bereavement. However, we know that in many ways we are deeply fortunate and blessed and have God's abundant provision and the promise that God will remain with us throughout any challenges that we face. As well as rejoicing and giving thanks for the many benefits and blessings that we enjoy, we are to support those who face poverty and

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## Deadline for June Inspire Sunday 19th May

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and hardship. Christian Aid Week 2013 is May 12 – 19 and this week is an opportunity for us to share our thoughts and prayers and provide financial support for those who are less fortunate than us. This year the theme is 'Bite back at hunger'. The money raised is to help some of the world's poorest families get enough food to eat – in an ongoing and sustainable way. As we give out of our plenty, we become signs of God's kingdom of justice and wholeness to those in other lands. We will be handing out Christian Aid envelopes on both Sundays of the week – please give generously. Some envelopes will be delivered door-to-door as in the past, but as we will not be covering all of St Ives, if you have neighbours or friends who normally give to this charity or who might like to do so, please pick up extra envelopes from the display in the front lobby or at the back of the Centrum, our worship area upstairs.

We also have two bank holidays this month, in which we may serve those who come into our community for the market. May stallholders as well as visitors and customers enjoy the warmer weather and find in our church a place of welcome and friendship.

Love in Christ,  
*Catherine*

### St Ives Choral Society

will be performing Handel's Saul  
Saturday 18th May  
7.30pm at the Free Church, St Ives

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions)  
accompanied children under-16 free

Available from Just Sharing  
the Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church

Handel's Saul is one of his most richly orchestrated and dramatic oratorios, dealing with emotions of joy, festivity, love, suspicion, reconciliation, jealousy, fear, anger, hate, tragic self-recognition, bereavement and determination. Written for choir, soloists and orchestra including trumpets, trombones and 'bells', this is the story of the heroic Saul's descent into madness and contains glorious Baroque vocal, choral and orchestral music of the highest order of composition.

### Celebrating Creation in Our Community Calling all photographers



To celebrate Earth Day the theme of our morning worship on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June will be **Celebrating Creation in Our Community**. We are asking for photos on this theme to form a photo montage. This could be a photo of you working on your allotment, wind turbines producing energy in the Fens, the Great Ouse as a source of pleasure or problem; whatever you would like to illustrate creation in your locality. We would ask that the photos are handed in to the church office before 16<sup>th</sup> June. The suggested size for the photos is that they should measure at least 6 x 4.

*Mary Cox*  
*St Ives Free Church Eco-group*

*Make a purchase that makes a difference*

**Just Sharing**  
FAIR TRADE SHOP

**OPEN**

*Come in and explore our wide variety  
of crafts, toys, jewellery, cards and food  
from around the world.*

**Open 9.30am - 4.30pm**

Monday to Saturday

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Products with the FAIRTRADE Mark available here



Look for this Mark  
[www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

# My Favourite Hymns

What are my favourites? That is a rather difficult question for me. When I sing hymns they are my prayers and praise and poetry to almighty God, though of course, other people have written the words; but what apt and stirring words they are! Singing to the Lord is such a great comfort to me.

I must admit that there are so very many hymns and carols that I love to sing and hear. But here goes: I shall try to list a few of my favourites and why.

Timothy Dudley's rendering of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song about her love for – and trust in – the Lord her God, was sung at my mother's funeral. It represented something of my mother's faith in the Lord; her love for her husband and family; and her real and genuine love for other people which stayed with her all her life. And what could better complement those beautiful words than Walter Greatorex' soaring music in the tune *Woodlands*?

Another two favourites are those Keith and I chose for our wedding. *Immortal, Invisible God only Wise* was Keith's school hymn, while *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* has such inspiring words. Both hymns give such focus and hope when one is starting a new and meaningful life with someone you love!

Next is *Hills of the North Rejoice!* Its words – in my mind's eye – bring the world in all its glory together under heaven: Gods' world!

John Newton's *Amazing Grace* brings to mind humility and love; while Henry Francis Lyte's *Abide with Me* makes me think of the fallen and the Lord's guiding light even in our darkest hours – especially my (maternal) grandfather and great-uncle in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.



John Bunyan's *Who would True Valour See* reminds me of my infant school in Houghton Conquest near Bedford: my best loved school – happy memories indeed.

William Whiting's *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* always turns my thoughts to my (paternal) grandfather who sailed the seven seas from the age of fourteen, and who – as a captain – made many dangerous trips across the North Atlantic in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. He was shipwrecked twice on those convoys, yet remained such a kind and gentle man!

As for Christmas carols, there seems to be no limit to my favourites: *Silent Night*, *The Sussex Carol*, *A Spotless Rose*, *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, *A Virgin most Pure*, *The Holly and the Ivy*, *Once in Royal David City*, and many, many more. Many of these – and others – I have sung with the St Ives Choral Society, which is always such a great joy for me!

Where does one end when one is surrounded by so much inspiration and talent?

*Margaret Cakebread*

## From the Church Secretary

Changes happen around us all the time and we inevitably find ourselves having to make adjustments as we go along. Some people are newly retired whilst others are finding they will have to work much longer than they thought they would need to, or are trying to work out when they should retire, myself included!

Churches are not immune from change and have to evolve in the same way as other organisations. The Catholics have a new leader in Pope Francis, the Anglicans in Archbishop Justin Welby so we wait on their evolving ministry. They both have a very different style from their predecessors.

We called Catherine to be the minister of this church five years ago. Is it really 5 years I hear you say! She has introduced us to some new ideas, different styles of worship and greater informality. We have welcomed new members but we have lost many of our older one as they have passed away. We now have fewer Elders willing to stand and we make a financial loss each year, but we have also started up new groups up and replaced the kitchen.

Just as we have been thinking of how to change the way we do things, while continuing to express our faith, new people have come to us with their ideas. Heather our TLS student has enlivened the services she has led with the support of Catherine; and Christine has asked us to consider our prayer life. Both will have made us think, helped us understand our faith and we wait to see the outcome of Christine's prayer survey.

Several of us recently attended a meeting of the Cambridge Area Partnership, where we were asked to consider how we can make the best use of our present ministers across the area. The URC faces difficulties in both recruiting and financing its ministry as do other denominations. These problems can sometimes feel overwhelming but by supporting one another and continuing to seek God's support in prayer we can cope with the changes and find our way forward.



*Barbara*

## Drina & Stephen become Members at their new Church

Drina and Stephen Hampson, together with three other members of the congregation, were welcomed into membership at Trinity Methodist Church, Brede, East Sussex, on Sunday 13 April 2013. The service was conducted by Revd Ian Pruden.

Trinity Methodist Church is within walking distance of Drina and Stephen's new home. The worshipping congregation is quite small in number, but very strong in fellowship. Drina and Stephen have been made to feel most welcome and are clearly 'at home' there. It will come as no surprise to St Ives folk to know that Stephen has already been appointed Treasurer at his new church.



We were very pleased to be able to join Drina and Stephen for the service, the theme of which was "New Beginnings". It was a pleasure and a privilege to share their day with them.

*Lin and Andy Fleming*

# The Dire Plight of Farmers – Action to help



Many farmers are suffering from the effects of floods and snow over recent months with lambs suffocating under snow drifts, and fields too wet to sow this season's crops, and now the temperature still too low for grass to grow.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs estimates current total income for hill grazing livestock farmers is a mere £14,000 – down 53% on last year. Pig farming income is down 51% and dairy 44%. Lamb and sheep losses in the recent heavy snow coupled with rises in feed prices means that hill farmers will be badly hit, and incomes for the coming year are likely to be even lower. Feed wheat prices are already 28% up on last year, whilst lamb prices are only up around 10%. Britain's farmers have one of the highest suicide rates of any employment group, and the current stresses are likely to drive the rate higher. Hill farmers are particularly isolated and under stress.

There are some practical things we can do:

1. Buy British. Vegetables and Fruit are all labelled with country of origin, so this is easy. However processed meats, such as sausages and bacon, may be made in Britain from meat sourced anywhere in the world. Look out for product made from free range or outdoor reared UK animals. Cheese is always labelled with country of origin and a wide range of British cheese is available including brie and mozzarella!
2. Write to David Heath MP, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, and ask him what he is doing to help those farmers with sharply falling incomes – particularly hill farmers. His email is [david.heath.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.heath.mp@parliament.uk)
3. Support Charities specifically supporting farmers in need – There are various farming charities including the Farming Community Network. This is a Christian charity with volunteers providing pastoral and practical help to farmers in need <http://www.fcn.org.uk>. FCN is not yet 20 years old, but has proved to be of great help, especially when there are crisis situations, like the Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak a few years ago. The Farming Community Network has about 300 Volunteers in the UK who 'walk with' those who need someone to talk to: many farmers are isolated and elderly & are really grateful for help in finding a way to solve difficult problems. [www.fcn.org.uk](http://www.fcn.org.uk)

Mary Cox - St Ives Free Church Eco-group

## Bank Holiday Snack Bars



We have two Bank Holiday Snacks Bars in May. The first will be on Monday 6th and the 2nd on 27th May.

We will need volunteers to serve, cook, clear tables and wash up. Please give us two or three hours to help if you can.

We also need cakes and scones etc to sell.

## Fellowship Walk

A small group walked along The Thicket to Houghton on our monthly Fellowship Walk. If you would like to join us for the next walk it will take place on Saturday 18th May. More details from Chris & Alan Curtis Tel: 350787



## A number quiz from the Bible for our Younger Readers

1) In how many days did God create the earth?

7 6 8 40

2) Noah was in the ark for about how long?

40 days One year  
20 years 7 years

3) Jesus was in the tomb for how many days?

3 4 100 200

4) Animals went into the ark:

2 by 2 10 by 10  
3 by 3 4 by 4

5) The number of the plagues sent on Egypt:

2 1 20 10

6) The number of apostles that followed Jesus:

1 2 12 144

7) The number of days and nights it rained during the flood:

7 40 6 3

8) The number of gospel accounts:

4 2 10 40

9) The number of tribes of the children of Israel:

12 5 3 4

10) The number of books in the Bible:

2 10 66 40

(Answers in June edition of Inspire)



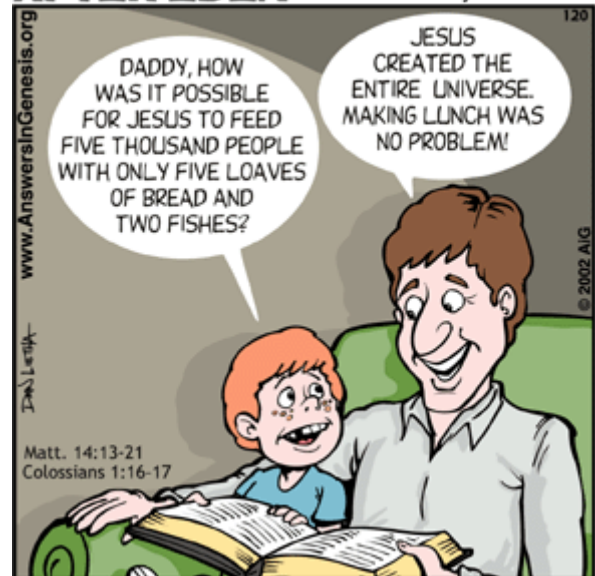
## Christian Aid Week prayer

For laughter where there were tears;  
For resilient communities more able to  
withstand disasters;  
For voices speaking out against injustice,  
which were previously silenced;  
For feasting where there was hunger;  
For all the ways that Christian Aid is helping  
to transform communities,  
enabling our sisters and brothers to lead  
fuller lives,  
Thanks be to God.  
We are a part of that.  
Thanks be to God!  
Amen



## AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



## Community Activities

Thu 2nd May	19:30	WI
Sat 4th May	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Wed 15th May	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Thu 16th May	19:30	Amnesty International
Fri 17th May	19:30	Civic Society
Sat 18th May	10:00	Homestart Craft Fair
Sat 18th May	19:30	Choral Society Concert
Sat 1st Jun	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Thu 6th Jun	19:30	WI

## Church Activities

Wednes- days	10:00 - 11:30	Tots and Carers
Wed 1st May	19:45	Elders Meeting
Mon 6th May	08:30 - 15:00	Bank Holiday Snack bar
Sat 11th May	09:00 - 13:00	Spring Clean
Sun 12th May		Start of Christian Aid Week
Tue 14th May	14:30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton URC
Sat 18th May	10:45	Fellowship Walk
Sun 19th May	12:15	Church Meeting
Mon 27th May	08:30 - 15:00	Bank Holiday Snack bar
Wed 29th May	19:45	Poetry Group
Wed 5th Jun	19:45	Elders Meeting
Sat 8th Jun	10:45	Fellowship Walk

## Books For Christian Aid

### How to fill this box



Use this box to donate unwanted **non-fiction books**. Christian Aid can sell these to help in the fight against poverty.

### YES PLEASE

Christian and theological books.  
Non-fiction in good condition, with an ISBN number printed on the copyright page.  
Non-fiction in good condition, with a barcode printed on the back or on the (dust jacket).  
Academic, educational and professional textbooks in good condition, with an ISBN number printed on the copyright page.

### NO THANK YOU

Encyclopaedias,  
Hardback and paperback novels.  
Very old books.  
Books in poor condition.  
Books published by clubs or Reader's Digest.

Thank you to everyone who has donated books. We have filled more than four boxes. As we can only accept non-fiction all books that Christian Aid did not want have been donated to other charities.

## The Chamber Orchestra of St Ives (COSI)

is holding a concert on  
**Saturday 22nd June 2013**  
at the Free Church

works by  
**Elgar – Stanford – McCunn – Coates  
and Ronald Binge**



## Contacts

### Minister

Revd Dr. Catherine Ball 352058  
Mobile: 07714 081930

### Church Secretary

Barbara Duffett 395308

### 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

(vacant)

### 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 Manager

Rosemarie Smith

### Church Office 468535

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

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

## Free Church Worship



Sun 5th May	11:00	Heather Smethurst & Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
Thu 9th May	10:00	Ascension Day Service Holy Communion
Sun 12th May	11:00	Keith Cakebread
Sun 19th May	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
	6pm	Service for Pentecost at Crossways arranged by CTSI
Sun 26th May	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball—Café Style
Sun 2nd Jun	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball

## Fenstanton Worship

Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> May	9:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> May	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> May	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> May	9:30	Keith Cakebread
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	9:30	Revd Derek Newton

