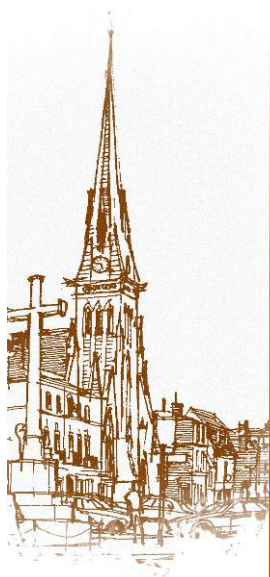


October 2014

Inspire



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

View from the Manse



Our celebrations of 150 years of ministry and service in our Free Church building on the weekend of 13-14 September were fabulous!

The floral displays of each decade from 1860s till now taught us much about our heritage and social context. The evening meal on the Saturday was a wonderful time of friendship and fellowship, and the morning songs of praise worship, including our congregation's top ten favourite hymns was surprisingly emotional.

Reading newspaper articles of the opening of the building and Mary Carter's book, *A Remarkable Journey*, taught me much about our local nonconformist church history. I was moved by the courage of those ministers who sought to reform the church at significant cost to themselves. It helped me understand a little of where we have come from. It also helped me to appreciate how in many ways we continue the mission of our forebears in our church life

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**Deadline for November
Inspire
19th November**

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*Copy preferably by email please to
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today. We are proud to be in the centre of the market place and have joined with Churches Together in St Ives to set up Church in the Market Place; we make pastoral visits to those with different needs or who are ill at home and in hospital; we seek to help the poor locally through the Churches Together St Ives Food Bank and across the world through our Fair Trade shop; we debate current issues such as the relationship between science and Christianity; and we enjoy hearing the Word of God explained in preaching and Holy Communion celebrated around a communion table. May we go forward into this church year with encouragement and hope!

October is often a genteel, golden month – slightly cooler than the heat of summer, but still warm – and often sunny. Hasn't it been a fabulous year for weather in Cambridgeshire this year?! We have been blessed and so have the farmers who rely on several months of warmth and sunshine . . . and a bit of rain now and again, in order to let their crops grow to maturity. We have much for which to be thankful. Do come to tranquil Little Gidding for our Quiet Day to enjoy our gorgeous autumn weather on Saturday 4th October 2014 at 10 am – 5 pm. The cost is £26 which includes lunch. If you would like to come please contact Gerry Swain on 468053 or by email mail@geraldineswain.plus.com

Let us continue to live and work to God's glory.

Love in Christ,

Catherine


Christmas Shop
 and Annual Sale
at
Just Sharing
Friday 31st October
Saturday 1st November
9:30am-4:30pm
Make a purchase
that makes a difference

Date for your diary!

Church Weekend
19th—21st June 2015
At Launde Abbey

More details from Catherine or Barbara

Fellowship Walk

A dozen people enjoyed a fairly long stroll to the Ferry Boat and back after church on the 7th September. It was a really glorious afternoon with the countryside looking at its best!

The next walk is also an afternoon walk—after worship on 5th October. Do join us if you are able!



From the Church Secretary.....

What a success the 150th Anniversary exhibition was over the week end of 12-14th September! Visitors were greeted in the entrance lobby by this stunning exhibit (1860's), then 15 more. I think everyone who came through our doors learnt something new about both our church and the town. A huge amount of time and talent went into the whole weekend, thank you everyone, it was spectacular.

The following weekend we hosted the superb Cromwell Quilters, so all the history boards had to come down. These will be put back up until Christmas, and then hopefully some of this information will be permanently on display for all to enjoy beyond our anniversary.

Church in the Market Place had a successful launch in September and the next one will be in November as this month the fair will be outside on the 2nd Monday of the month.

Catherine and I will be attending the Eastern Synod meeting on 11th October and the Cambridge Area Partnership meeting on the 20th. Anyone is welcome to these meetings and we hope some people will be able to come with us to Bar Hill on the 20th as scoping deployment) of Ministers is the main topic. Two posts are expected to be lost across the Cambridge area.

The end of October will see Just Sharing launch its annual Christmas display of Fair Trade goods from many sources around the world. This is always worth a good look around as we continue to promote Fair Trade and justice.

Barbara



Some quotes from the Visitors' Book on the 150th Weekend.....

Superb historical "walk" through the church and town's life.

First visit – enlightened and impressed!

Awed by all the talent on display here. A credit to the town!

Brilliantly planned, designed and executed.

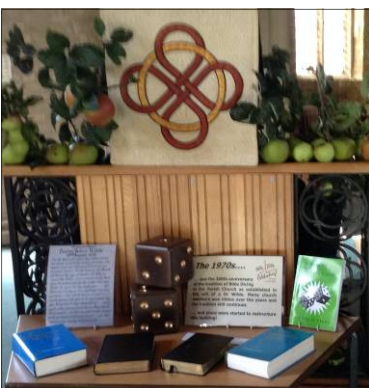
Congratulations on the wonderful flowers – it is a beautiful space to see them in.

Congratulations on 150 years – bless you in your serving of the community!

Wonderful journey through the decades – spectacular flower arrangements complementing the text.

1864 2014
Celebrating!
 150 years
 in our building





News from the Free Church eco-group

Many thanks to everyone who entered the **Great LOAF Bake-Off** - part of the 150th Anniversary celebration supper. Congratulations to Barbara Duffett, Ronnie Tullet and Anne Strong, the winners in the "Tastiest", Most Attractive" and "LOAFyest" categories respectively. Everyone there certainly enjoyed tasting and eating the entries.

Sunny forecast for green energy As declining costs make renewable energy more competitive, a report predicts that two thirds of the investment for new power plants by 2030 may go to renewable projects. Over the next decade and a half, the report says, solar power will be the most popular form of clean energy installed. Meanwhile solar power generated in the UK rose to record highs earlier in the summer. According to industry body, the Solar Trade Association, 8% of UK energy came from the sun on 21 June. This is nearly double the amount for the same period last year.

Run on Sun Schools that run on solar power can save up to £8,000 a year – that's lots of cash and lots of lovely clean energy (which we urgently need). Too often schools don't know solar can save them money, aren't sure how to get solar panels and can't afford the high up-front costs. Also, did you know that schools can't borrow cash for solar panels, even though they can borrow money for insulation? Friends of the Earth are campaigning to change that. Find out more and add your name to their campaign at foe.co.uk/runonsun.

Sir David Attenborough urges faith leaders to fight for nature

Leading naturalist Sir David Attenborough has joined Christian conservation charity A Rocha UK and others, in encouraging faith groups to save nature.



Sir David and A Rocha UK's Conservation Director Andy Lester were both on the speaking team at the 'Conference For Nature' event in Church House (3rd September 2014) – which drew more than 250 people, including other experts from across the environmental lobby.

Just before the event, Sir David urged religious leaders to pursue conservation. 'From you and I in our own domains, from business magnates to politicians, and from farmers to faith leaders, everyone has an opportunity to save nature,' he said. 'With an increasing global footprint, mankind is intensifying the crisis for wildlife, but as individuals we can all be a part of the solution for saving it, too,' he said.

Prayer

Father God,
Thank you for this beautiful world, for the rich variety of living things and the wonder of new life each day. We pray for your protection over all creation that it may grow and flourish.

We are privileged to be stewards of the earth. Help us to faithfully fulfil this responsibility and be respectful and compassionate for all that you have created.

Let us remember that all that we do impacts on others around the world. May we live together in harmony as a community committed to caring for one another. Help us to share our resources and love creation as you do.

Amen

Greenbelt 2014

A new site for Greenbelt this year—a real “greenfield” site in the beautiful grounds of Boughton House in Northamptonshire.

Some logistical problems as can only be expected in the first year on a new site, but overall a great event for all ages.



Wonderful talks from John Bell, Dave Tomlinson, Sarfaz Mansoor, Becca Stevens, Mpho Tutu, Loretta Minghella and many more. Plus a wonderful communion service in the open air led by Mpho Tutu and others.

Hopefully next year we can organise a day trip so others can share in this special experience.



Worship, music, talks, activities for young and old. A vibrant mix which plays out the claim that Greenbelt is where faith, arts and justice collide. By the end our heads were whirring with ideas we came away with much to reflect on.



Chris and Alan Curtis

St Ives Christian Aid Group

Houghton & Wyton	£5793	{2013	£6066}
Fenstanton	£2025	{2013	£1931}
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	£1123	{2013	£810}
St Ives Free Church	£1584	{2013	£1015}
Other congregations	£527	{2013	£956}



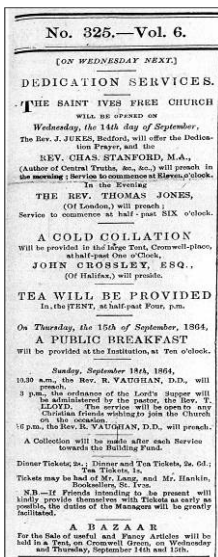
Overall, an increase this year over last of £275 — thanks to everyone's time, effort and generosity.

Brian Lodde— Area Treasurer.

1864—a very special year!

As compiled by Liz and Stewart for the 150th anniversary service.

1864 must have been a year of great civic pride for St Ives, with two major public buildings - The Free Church and the Corn Exchange, arriving on opposite sides of the market square.



Reading the press cuttings of the time, there is no doubt that the arrival of the church was anticipated with enormous interest and great excitement by St Ivisians and the surrounding villages.

For example, in Oct 1863 the Eastern Counties Gazette printed a very full report of the laying of the Foundation Stone. In the next issue one week later, the Editor printed this statement: "Since our last publication, we have received so many applications for the Gazette

(which we could not possibly supply), that we reprint here our report in connection with the laying of the Foundation Stone at the Free Church in St Ives. Already we have received orders for several hundreds of additional copies, and have made arrangements which we hope will meet the demand."

As the opening day got nearer, it was obvious that huge numbers of people would flock to St Ives to be present for the opening of the church on that September day in 1864. Anticipating this, the local railway company posted this notice in the press the week before the opening.

ST IVES - OPENING OF THE FREE CHURCH - RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS:

For the accommodation of the friends residing in the various places between St Ives and Cambridge, the Great Eastern Railway Company have consented to attach carriages to the 8.40pm goods train from St Ives to Cambridge, which will stop at intermediate stations if required. A special train will also leave St Ives for Huntingdon after the evening service.

And so the great day arrived and the Eastern Counties Gazette gave a full report of the opening of the wonderful edifice, known as the Free Church. The tone of these articles is fascinating, being so completely different from anything we would expect to read in a modern newspaper!

The influence of Charles Dickens, at the top of his game in 1864, and widely read by everybody, is clearly at work in the well turned phrases of some humble reporter, name unknown today. By way of explanation, Jupiter was the head of the Roman gods, and coupled with the description Pluvius became the rain bearer. This then is a small extract from the Eastern Counties Gazette, dated September the 17th 1864.

Wednesday morning opened sullenly enough, just as if it had got up "on the wrong side", and had not made up its mind to be out of temper or otherwise. Heavy rainclouds came in fast procession, driven swift onwards by a stirring wind, and now and then Jupiter Pluvius seemed as if he was inclined, after his long holiday, to set vigorously to work, by way of compensation, for lost time. But as the day went by, little flashes of sunshine broke through the scudding grey clouds, and thus the weather if not exactly brilliant, was not unfavourable. It would have made small difference if it had poured. No amount of damp could have kept people at home, not withstanding damage to toilets, and damp feet. There were evidences of preparation at an early period. People with packages, carts with flowers, cooks and bakers bearing odourous trays, ladies in carriages, gentlemen in ditto and on foot, crowds of holiday-attired children, and groups of strangers from all parts of the country by road and rail, all tending to Cromwell place, or sauntering through the streets, gave the town an unwontedly stirring aspect.



Your Favourite Hymns

You voted We counted!

So your top 25 were (note lots of tied votes!):

- 1 How great thou art
- 2 Love divine all loves excelling
- 3 O love that wilt not let me go
- 4jnt The day thou gavest Lord, is ended
Lord of all hopefulness
- 6 Dear Lord and father of mankind
- 7jnt The love of God is broad like beach
Guide O thou great Redeemer
Make me a channel of thy peace
When I survey the wondrous cross
- 11jnt I, the Lord of sea and sky
Brother, sister, let me serve you
Be still, for the presence of the Lord
- 14jnt My song is love unknown
Now thank we all our God
I lift my eyes to the quiet hills
Great if they faithfulness
Give me joy in my heart
- 19jnt Abide with me
Psalm 23—Stuart Townend version
Come down O love divine
Take my life and let it be
Colours of day
Be thou my vision
The king of love my shepherd is
What an eclectic mix!

At Number 1 “How Great Thou Art”

The hymn *How Great Thou Art* travelled a long road before it ended up a favourite edition to English hymnals. The original version was a poem written by a Swedish pastor, Reverend Carl Boberg in 1886, and entitled *O Stor Gud*. Boberg published the poem in his periodical *Sanningsvitnet*. Several years later he was surprised and delighted to hear his poem being sung by a church congregation, to the tune of an old Swedish folk melody.

Boberg's poem was soon thereafter translated into German by Manfred von Glehn, who entitled it *Wie gross bist Du*. In 1925, an American Reverend E. Gustav Johnson translated the Swedish poem into an English version that is somewhat different than the one popular today. For instance, the first line of Johnson's hymn reads *Oh mighty God, when I behold the wonder..*

In 1927, I.S. Prokanoff translated Glehn's German version into Russian, to be enjoyed by that culture also. Throughout all of these translations, the original Swedish folk tune remained the same.

In 1933, English missionaries to the Ukraine, Reverend and Mrs. Stuart K. Hine heard the song for the first time, fell in love with it and sang it often throughout their missionary journeys. As they travelled the Carpathian Mountains, the couple was inspired by the incredible beauty to translate the first three verses of the song into English. When WWII broke out in 1939, the Hines returned to England carrying *How Great Thou Art* to its new home. After the war they wrote the fourth verse and arranged the original Swedish folk tune to be published in English hymnals.

In the 1950s, the song was copyrighted and widely published in America, becoming more and more popular. When George Beverly Shay and the Billy Graham gospel choir, directed by Cliff Barrows, began to sing the song at virtually every crusade event, *How Great Thou Art* soon became one of the most recognized songs around the world. It was also recorded by several popular artists, including Elvis Presley. A poll conducted by the *Christian Herald* magazine in 1974 named *How Great Thou Art* the most popular hymn in America.

Recently it was voted Britain's number one hymn by “Songs of Praise “ viewers. Even more recently it was voted as our favourite hymn at The Free Church, St Ives!

For our younger—or perhaps not so young -readers..

Michaelmas!

For any youngster in St Ives, Michaelmas means only one thing—THE FAIR!



Every year children assemble near the dodgems to hear the fair proclamation, scramble for coins thrown by Town Councillors and, if they are very lucky, get one of the much prized free rides! The fair, which fills the streets of the town, dates back to the Middle Ages and is an integral part of being the historic market town that we are.

Why Michaelmas though? Strictly Michaelmas, or the feast day of Archangel St Michael, falls towards the end of September but the season of Michaelmas seems to have extended over a longer early autumn period these days.

Michaelmas is one of the four “quarter days” in the traditional calendar, others being Christmas, Lady Day and Midsummer Day. Lady Day, named after the Annunciation and so nine months before Christmas, was in former times the date when rents were due. Michaelmas though was the time when farm hands were hired and the farming year traditionally began. Hence, there are many fairs around this time which started as “hirings” but today are simply fun!

Prayers based on the Lord's Prayer

As we forgive those who trespass against us.....



God of merciful love,
Help me to forgive
Those who have hurt me,
For I cannot do it alone.

Forgive me
When I nurse
And even feed
resentment.

Forgive me
When I choose
To remain
Someone's victim.

Forgive me
When forgiveness
Seems like soft giving in
To wrong done.

Prepare me for the high calling
And the hard work
Of forgiveness
And give me grace
To answer my own prayer
That I might forgive
Those who sin against me. **Amen**

Susan Durber—URC Prayer Handbook 2010

Church Activities

Mondays	19:00	Bowls Club
Wednesdays (term-time)	10:00	Tots & Carers
Tue 14th Oct	14:30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton URC
Wed 29th Oct	19:45	Poetry Group
Fri 31st Oct	09:30 - 16:30	Just Sharing Christmas Shop
Sat 1st Nov	09:30 - 16:30	Just Sharing Christmas Shop
Wed 5th Nov	19:45	Elders Meeting

Community Activities

Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Tuesdays	19:30	Photo Club
Wednesdays	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thursdays	09:30	Sunny Steps
Wed 1st Oct	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 2nd Oct	19:30	WI
Sat 4th Oct	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Sat 4th Oct	19:30	Concert - Community Choir
Fri 10th Oct	10:00	COPE
Sat 11th Oct	18:00	Sea Scouts Fundraiser
Mon 13th Oct	13:00	U3A Fench Class
Wed 15th Oct	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Wed 15th Oct	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Thu 16th Oct	19:30	Amnesty International
Fri 17th Oct	19:30	St Ives Civic Society
Tue 21st Oct	14:00	U3A Book Group
Wed 29th Oct	19:30	RSPB
Thu 30th Oct	19:00	Friends of Norris Museum
Wed 5th Nov	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 6th Nov	19:30	WI
Sat 8th Nov	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair

Do you occasionally need a



wheelchair?

Contacts

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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

www.justsharingshop.co.uk

Church Office 468535

office@stivesfreechurch.org

Open 9am. - 1pm. Monday to Friday

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

Free Church Worship

Mon-Sat 10:00-10:15 Chapel Prayers



Sun 5th Oct 11:00 Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball & Faith Paulding Holy Communion

Sun 12th Oct 11:00 Rev'd Janet Tollington

Sun 12th Oct 18:00 Joint Service at Fenstanton URC

Sun 19th Oct 11:00 Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball

Sun 26th Oct 11:00 Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball - Cafe Style

Sun 2nd Nov 11:00 Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 5th Oct 9:30 Rev'd Derek Newton

Sun 12th Oct 9:30 Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball – Holy Communion
6:00 Joint service with St Ives at Fenstanton

Sun 19th Oct 9:30 Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball

Sun 26th Oct 9:30 Rev'd Roy Muttram

Sun 2nd Nov 9:30 Rev'd Derek Newton – Holy Communion

Sun 2nd Nov 11:00 Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion

