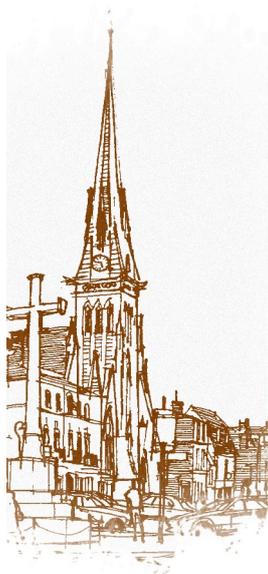


August 2017

Inspire



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

Thoughts on Wisdom

When the great King David began to grow old and frail, some of his older sons began to make moves to take his place. Mayhem ensued, with brother rising against brother and open civil war.

David was persuaded to rise from his death-bed and stabilise the situation by abdicating his throne in favour of one of his younger sons, Solomon.

It was an inauspicious start to Solomon's reign, so he took his problems to the Lord God. And in a dream the Lord said to the new king: "Ask what I should give you".

Despite his tenuous position, Solomon did not ask for power. Rather he asked for the *wisdom* to do what is right for his people. This God granted, making Solomon the *wisest* man that ever lived.

Like Solomon, we live in uncertain times. Following the close-run referendum on Brexit and a General Election with no outright winner, it is impossible for us to assess what our future might hold.

But there is one thing we can do—we can pray. We can pray that God will grant his *divine wisdom* to all those negotiating our exit from the EU—that they will do what is right for the people on both sides of the English Channel.

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Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org

Marion and I celebrated our 61st Wedding anniversary on 27 June 2017. Nothing elaborate; Jim (our elder son) and I went in with a celebration cake and I took in our original wedding photos. Marion seemed to react at first but soon lost interest.



The pictures were taken by one of the carers and posted on the Hardwick Dene Facebook Page.

Roy Muttram

St Ives Free Church – Save Our Spire

Welcomes you to a concert with

CORONA BRASS

The Programme includes
Gershwin, Arnold, Sousa and Bach
on
Friday 8th September 2017
at
7.30pm
Refreshments and Raffle

Tickets available at Just Sharing or on the door
Adults £10 Under 17s £7



Information: Val Bush 01480 469189

Just Sharing's Annual Volunteer BBQ

31 volunteers, staff and friends enjoyed a lovely evening at the home of Mary & Jim Anthony. The weather was glorious and the food and drink plentiful.

Thank you to everyone for coming along and enjoying the fun.



**You are invited to a LOAF Tea
followed by a service organised
by the church Eco Group
on
Sunday 13th August
at
Fenstanton URC
Tea at 4 for 4.30pm
Followed by the Service at 6pm**

**If the weather is clement please
bring a garden chair so we can
have tea outside.**

**There will be a signing up list on
the table on the landing.
For more details contact
Mary Cox on 300103**



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

August is upon us. "Summer time and the living is easy" comes to mind. August provides us with opportunities to think back on previous summers and to relax and enjoy new things in the summer vacation. The present and future can be re-envisioned in the light of the recollection of summers' past.

I trust that all our readers will have ample opportunity to enjoy their favourite summer pursuits. The life and work of the local church continues through the summer, building on the good work of the past. I enjoy more time for sports each summer and still try to work at perfecting a few sports.



A dip in a mountain pool, can be refreshing in the warmth of the sun. Over the summer we can continue to be refreshed spiritually as morning worship services continue at the St Ives Free (URC) Church and the Fenstanton (URC) church.

I can recall team uphill cycling in Derbyshire and a speedy downhill runs on trotti bikes in the Swiss alps. Both can be exciting, but also demanding, requiring some nerve. Over the summer we are still seeking more people to serve on the Property Committee, which has recently merged with the Finance Committee. Maintaining our building can be demanding, but very rewarding as we watch the building being used in so many valuable ways. There are also jobs within the treasurer role that need to be filled, such as the setting up and monitoring of 'best value' contracts for our facilities, such as gas, electricity and water. Then there is the need for a lead elder for caretaking and a lead elder for catering. I will be writing to non-serving elders and approaching individuals to see if we can fill these posts before the autumn. A team effort can be much more enjoyable and less arduous with sufficient volunteers.

For the golfers among us, summer can help reduce our handicaps, with long runs on the fairways and putting greens. On line and on target can be satisfying. Over the summer the church office will be busy trying to bring some projects in on target. We are preparing the paperwork for the elders' election in September. Please consider carefully your nominations for September and consider prayerfully if you would accept the role of an elder starting in December 2017. Elders are also the trustees as our church is a registered charity. There is ample opportunity to serve. The roles also are rewarding and build on the good work of countless elders who have served in this place in the past and the present. We will also be starting staff appraisals and beginning to archive church records. It will be satisfying when all of this is complete.

Have a great summer and fit in time for enjoyment and relaxation. I write this with thanks for the multiple daily contributions to the life and work of our church. Take time also to mull over what you might like to try differently in the autumn ahead.

Christine Macleod

Food for thought



According to research from the University of Oxford, a person moving from a diet high in animal products (100g a day) to a diet low in animal products (50g a day) would save as much carbon dioxide a year as their carbon footprint from an economy return flight between London and New York.

Statement in support of Fairtrade mark following launch of Sainsbury's Fairly Traded range



The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, has made the following statement regarding the news that the Fairtrade Foundation is unable to accredit Sainsbury's new Fairly Traded range of tea products with its official mark.

'Over the past two decades, the United Reformed Church has been proud to support the work and aims of The Fairtrade Foundation, which seeks to improve the wages and working conditions for farmers and workers in developing countries.

'The Fairtrade Foundation's vision of a world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential, and decide on their future, is one that the United Reformed Church believes in. Since 1993, we have been committed to promoting the sale of goods that are accredited with the Fairtrade mark.

'It is therefore deeply worrying that, in the past year, Cadbury's Chocolate and Sainsbury's Supermarkets have taken steps to alter the nature of their partnerships with The Fairtrade Foundation. We are particularly concerned that Sainsbury's has chosen to withdraw many of its products from the Foundation's accreditation scheme in favour of a new, in-house Fairly Traded scheme, which will not be monitored by The Fairtrade Foundation. We are concerned that other retailers and brands might follow suit, and we urge them not to do so.

'The Fairtrade mark is an important independent indicator that products meet the high economic and social standards necessary to guarantee farmers and workers a fair deal. Fairtrade reputation and success over the past two decades have empowered producer groups to negotiate terms for farmers and whole communities. Farmers have expressed their concern that Sainsbury's withdrawal from the Fairtrade scheme will "bring about disempowerment."

'We continue to support the work of the Fairtrade Foundation. It is vital that the Foundation is not forced into a position by retailers where it feels it must dilute or compromise its high standards. We encourage our members to favour and buy products which carry the Fairtrade mark, and to write to Sainsbury's expressing their concern at the change.'

What you can do:

- * Continue to buy Fairtrade products which bear the Fairtrade mark, and encourage your friends to do the same.
- * Write to Sainsbury's Chief Executive, Mike Coupe, expressing your concerns. You can find more information and guidance on how to compose and send a letter [on the Joint Public Issues Team website](#).
- * You may also wish to raise concerns with your local Sainsbury's supermarket.



A Window to Faith

A recent article in a newspaper caught my eye. A photograph of a woman of 87 who, with the help of her local education centre, has learnt to read. Her beaming smile warms the heart.

During our years in Canterbury I joined a team teaching Adult Literacy, teaching my students on a one-to-one basis, hopefully preparing them to feel confident enough to move on into group work.

One student, Stephen, aged 28, a successful painter and decorator, longed to be his own boss - own his own business. He worked hard, keen to succeed. The day when he wrote his name and address without having to copy from the piece of card secreted in his pocket - we both shed tears of joy!

One of the rules governing 'good practice' - no mention of politics or religion unless the student introduced these topics.

Opportunity rose one evening when a cloudburst prompted Derek to call at the centre offering me a lift home. As he had been hospital visiting he was wearing a clerical collar - a rare event.

The following week Stephen asked if I was a church person. 'Yes,' I said. 'Have you ever been to a church?' 'How could I?' he asked. 'What's stopping you?' 'I said. 'I've seen it on tv. Everyone is holding a book. It's no place for me.'

Another incident revealing an 'outsiders' perception of what is expected of a church-goer occurred also in Canterbury. Derek and a group of elders met regularly in the church for morning prayers. On arrival at the church one morning they discovered a soldier, made redundant by budget cuts, had chosen our church doorway as his campsite. After organising a shower, a good breakfast and a room in a hostel, they returned to the church, followed by their new recruit. After morning prayers the soldier drew Derek to one side.

'Why do you sit in a circle, close your eyes and talk to someone who isn't there?.'

Two opportunities, both to see ourselves as others see us - and aim to be a 'window' to faith, the gospel, the church, rather than a door.

Hazel Newton

Save Our Spire Garden Party



The Jordan family would like to say a very big thank you to the team of wonderful party helpers. A healthy sum was raised for the spire. A truly memorable occasion overflowing with sunshine, flowers and friends. Again thank you all for joining in. With love

Charlotte



SOS

Save Our Spire!



Spire Repair Work

This is just to update readers on the repair work on the Spire. This started on Sunday 2nd July at 5am. Alan Farrant and Nev Runham opened the church coffee bar and facilities for access by the team who are responsible for repairing the Spire.

This first visit was for the attachment of ladders from the roof to the top of the spire. An up-to-date report of the spire structure will be prepared and the work planned. It was the first chance for Rodells, specialist church conservationist steeplejacks, and Helen Axworthy an associate with RH Partnership architects (RIBA), to have a close inspection of the work required.

At the end of July, it is hoped that the scaffolding will be erected. A banner will be placed on the scaffolding to inform local people of the work to be done.

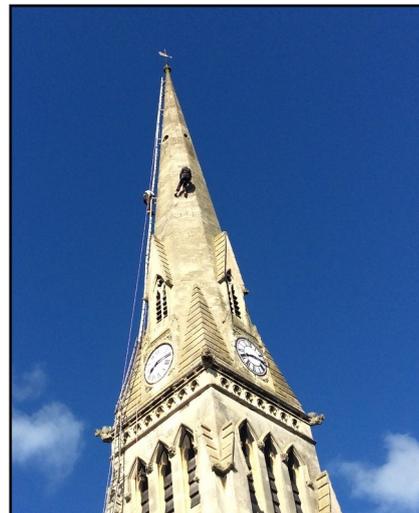
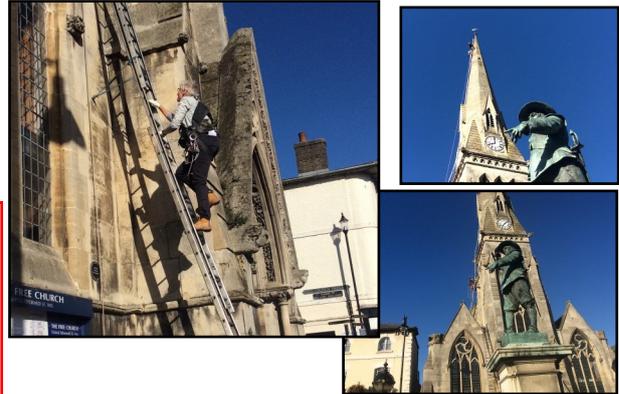
Stewart Denham took photographs to keep all up to date with the progress of the work. Some of his excellent work is shown here.

Generous Donation from St Ives Masonic Lodges

In June, our SOS Appeal Fund received a tremendous boost. We were given a very generous donation of £3,000 - a combined gift from five of the local Masonic Lodges in St Ives and also from the Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire Provinces. The presentation took place at the Lodge Rooms on the Quay in St Ives.

In the photograph, Nev and Sally Runham of the SOS Appeal Team are presented with the cheque by WBro Mike Nixon, Charity Steward of Sothius Lodge. They are surrounded by members of each of the five contributing Lodges, who are from left to right - WBros Robin Ayres, Albert Bareham, Richard Anderson, Brian French and Joe Batten.

The donation was given in recognition of the Free Church's ongoing commitment to the local community. Our very grateful thanks go to the local Masonic Lodges and the Provincial Charities—and to Rex Fleming in particular, whose advocacy of our Spire Appeal to colleagues was largely responsible for this most welcome and extremely generous gift.



St Ives Carnival



St Ives Carnival
8th July with Churches Together in St Ives
We gave out well over 400 pom-pom sheep with the label,
'Jesus says 'I am the good shepherd'
and 50 years anniversary of Churches Together

Knitting For Greenbelt



The United Reformed Church is packing its tent, its folding chair and a rather fetching sunhat, because it's off to Greenbelt again, with the help of the **Fenstanton Knitters and Natters**.

They and 57 other squads of knitters from around the URC have been creating knitted food items (see the Fenstanton knitting above). Their cakes, sandwiches, etc. will be helping to fill the picnic hampers for the family friendly treasure hunt around the beautiful grounds. This is all part of the theme for the festival of 'More Than Welcome'. Jesus invited all people to the feast, but do they all find themselves welcome in the church? Festival goers will be able to discuss welcome and poverty issues as part of a long weekend of music, talks, and engagement.

Greenbelt takes place from Friday 25th to Monday 28th August inclusive at Boughton House in Northamptonshire.

For more information go to www.greenbelt.org.uk

UPDATE FROM SANDY NUNN

In what has been the penultimate month of my time here with you all since the previous Church Meeting it has been very busy! Much of the focus has been with a view to my leaving imminently. However, there has been lots going on regardless: the exhibition, the weekend away, the foodbank group (plus a few) meeting to watch the 'I, Daniel Blake' film and the carnival! I have successfully handed over the CTSI Facebook page which means it will continue after August 3rd which is good news as well. And of course the usual meetings that go on in the background that keeps this stunning Church moving forward!

At this point I'd like to have in writing my formal thanks to St Ives Free Church. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with you all and I've been challenged and been challenging! I've grown and moved along with you all in this 10-month period of your life and it's been a privilege and a pleasure to have done so. God bless.



On Sunday 16th July Sandy was presented with gifts from the church which included a print of the Free Church. It has been a joy to have Sandy with us for the last 10 months and we wish him well in his new venture with CWM.

Café Worship

At a recent Café Style Service we were pleased to welcome a group of bikers from the Christian Bikers Association. They arrived from all parts of the country to attend the annual St Ives Festival of Motorcycles. We look forward to welcoming them back again next year.





From next month, you'll no longer see the FAIRTRADE Mark on the front of Cadbury Dairy Milk bars, hot chocolate and Buttons.

This is because Cadbury's parent company, Mondelez International, have decided to roll out their own sustainable sourcing programme called Cocoa Life across all Cadbury products. This is so they can safeguard their supply chain by taking complete responsibility for the sustainability of the cocoa they buy.

The difference between Cocoa Life and the FAIRTRADE Mark

The Cocoa Life programme isn't an independent farmer-owned system like the one behind the FAIRTRADE Mark. Instead, Mondelez work directly with cocoa farming communities to develop action plans that tackle challenges such as climate change, improving cocoa quality and making cocoa farming a more attractive profession for young people.

Instead of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and the Fairtrade Premium, Mondelez pays farmers the market price for their cocoa and then a loyalty payment on top to boost their incomes.

They also invest in projects that address the challenges identified by community action plans, which farmers create and deliver with Mondelez.

Fairtrade's involvement with Cocoa Life

Here at the Fairtrade Foundation we've been working with Mondelez for many months to make sure Fairtrade farmers have been properly consulted on the Cocoa Life programme, and that they will receive at least the same value as they have under Fairtrade certification. As part of its development we have been able to make sure farmers' views have been heard and they have told us they fully support it.

Five times as much Cadbury chocolate will be sourced on sustainable terms through Cocoa Life than was Fairtrade certified. Mondelez have committed to continue buying the same volumes of Fairtrade certified sugar as they do now. The Fairtrade Foundation exists to represent and protect farmers' interests, and we see it as our responsibility to ensure that this continues to be the case. That's why we've worked with Mondelez on developing Cocoa Life and will continue to help them monitor it to ensure it truly benefits cocoa farmers and will publish an annual report on how we think that's going. Our work with Mondelez on their Cocoa Life programme is indicated by the Fairtrade Foundation's name appearing on the back of packs.

Jonathan Smith,
Head of Campaigns, Fairtrade Foundation

Church Activities

Mondays	19:00	Bowls Club (restarts 4th Sep)
Wednes- days	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers Term time only (restarts 6th Sep)
Tue 8th Aug	14:30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton

Community Activities

Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Tuesdays	19:30	St Ives Photographic Club (restarts 5th Sep)
Wednesdays	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thursdays	09:30	Sunny Steps (restarts 7th Sep)
Sat 5th Aug	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Fri 11th Aug	10:00	COPE
Tue 15th Aug	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop-In Cafe
Sat 26th Aug	09:00 - 17:00	Art Exhibition
Sun 27th Aug	13:00 - 17:00	Art Exhibition
Sat 2nd Sep	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Wed 6th Sep	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 7th Sep	19:00	WI

Save Our Spire

Would you like to know where you came from and who were your ancestors?

As part of the Save Our Spire appeal I am offering my amateur genealogy skills to help you on your way.

With just a small amount of information from you I hope to take you back in time to find your roots. I am unsure of what I will be able to find so would only ask you for a donation to the appeal on completion of my search.

The details required to enable me to start are:

- 1 Your name, place and year of birth.
- 2 Your parents names, place and year of marriage, if known.
- 3 Names of any siblings with year of birth.

Should I need any more information, it would help me if I could have your email address.

It will also enable me to send you the completed work so you have it for future reference and allow you to update any further information or even add photographs, if you have any.

Dave Shaw
email <daveshaw52@gmail.com>

Dave is a regular customer of Tookey's and well known by staff members. He does Family History as a hobby and not as a business. He is keen to help in our fundraising for the spire.

Any queries please see Mavis Williams.

St Ives Food Bank

We are now receiving regular updates of current shortages in the Food Bank store. I will endeavour to keep you up to date by leaving lists on the landing table. Please note the lists are double-sided; the reverse showing items which are not currently required. Many thanks for your continuing support.

Lin Fleming

Contacts

Minister

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Mobile: 07714 081930

Church Secretary

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churchsecretary@stivesfreechurch.org

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alan@stivesfreechurch.org

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Freewill Offering Treasurer

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Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Flower Convenor

Margaret Cakebread 462726

Eco Group Convenor

Mary Cox 300103

Chapel Prayer Coordinator

Gerry Swain 468053

Tookey's Manager

Pat Clarke 468886

Just Sharing Manager

Sue Billings 496570

Asst Manager

Rosemarie Smith
justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org

Church Office 468535

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

Chapel Prayers At 10am Monday to Saturday

Sun 6th Aug	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 13th Aug	11:00	Geraldine Swain
Sun 20th Aug	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 27th Aug	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 3rd Sep	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion



Fenstanton Worship

Sun 6th Aug	9:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 13th Aug	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball – Holy Communion
	18:00	Charlie Jenner
Sun 20th Aug	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 27th Aug	9:30	Keith Cakebread
Sun 3rd Sep	9:30	Revd Derek Newton