

September 2018

Inspire



View from the Manse

What a wonderful summer we had this year! Peter and I had a glorious holiday on the Suffolk coast – the sea was so warm, I even went swimming in the sea several times! Let's hope that we also have a golden autumn. Autumn for me always feels like the beginning of the year as all our committees and groups start up again. A time of new energy and productivity.

Each season has its own beauty and brings its own pleasure, giving variety and marking the times. It was a good hot summer for the farmers to get their crops in before the cooler and more mixed weather of autumn. At harvest time we often quote the verse in Genesis 8.22 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.'

We will be celebrating harvest on 23rd September, which happens to be the official first day of autumn. It will be café style, and once again, I will lead the service with the Eco group. It is an opportunity for us to remember with thankfulness all the good gifts of the earth that God gives us.



Inside September Inspire

- Page 1 View from the Manse
- Page 2 View from the Manse
Heritage Open Days
Faith in Action Forum
- Page 3 Eco Group - The 3 Rs
Christian Aid Service
- Page 4 Commitment for Life
- Page 5 The Church Secretary
Guided Eco Walk
Wicken Fen
- Page 6 Fenstanton Hobbies Fair
Christian Meditation
Creation Tide and Harvest
Time from Peterborough
- Page 7 Church Activities
Community Activities
Samaritan's Purse Appeal
- Page 8 Contacts
Worship

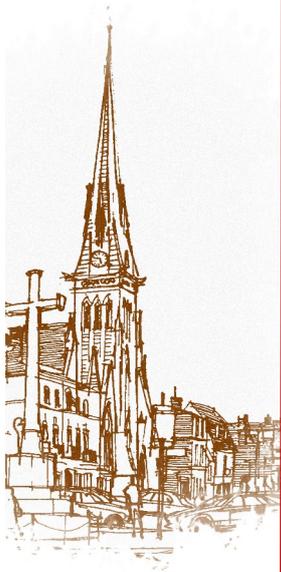
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*Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org*



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

⇒ Harvest is an opportunity to remind us that farmers need to be careful how we use Earth's resources, growing grains for people in sensible ways: not using insecticides that harm bees, keeping hedges for the birds and insects, leaving a field fallow so that it can recover its nutrients – tending and pruning orchards, providing natural habitats for animals bred for meat, fishing responsibly and so on.

We as consumers can seek to follow our LOAF principles of buying Local, eating Organic, being Animal friendly and using Fairly Traded products where possible.

Love in Christ

Catherine



**14th, 15th, 16th
SEPTEMBER 2018**

We plan to have the church open on these three days, from 10 - 4 on Friday and Saturday
And 1.30 - 4pm on Sunday.

We need people to be in the foyer to welcome visitors and possibly show them around the building.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the table upstairs. We need two people at a time of two hours.

The Heritage Trust gave us a very generous donation for our recent Spire Appeal.
Entrance is FREE

EASTERN SYNOD FAITH IN ACTION FORUM - CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Of the Five Marks of Mission recognised by the URC three are concerned with action.

These are :- (3) to respond to human need by loving service; (4) to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation; (5) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. These are the issues addressed by the 'Faith in Action' group, on behalf of Eastern Synod. It is clear from these that the agenda of the group is wide-ranging and complicated, and we call upon the expertise of various members of the group to inform our reports to Synod.

My special interest is with refugees and asylum seekers, which includes those who have been trafficked for sex or for labour. It is said that there is at least one brothel in every village, and in many streets in all towns. In these "establishments" there may be trafficked young people, some of them "minors", from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

There are very sad stories of young people being promised a good job here, only to find themselves being sold as sex slaves. If they do not speak English they may not know where they are, and be terrified of their captors, so do not find escaping an option. There are various charities which help those who do manage to get away, such as the Red Cross, Save the Children, the Salvation Army and Freedom from Torture. One of these, The Medaille Trust, has a specific role in providing "safe houses" where the complex needs, including physical and psychological rehabilitation, are met in a safe, secret, caring Christian environment.

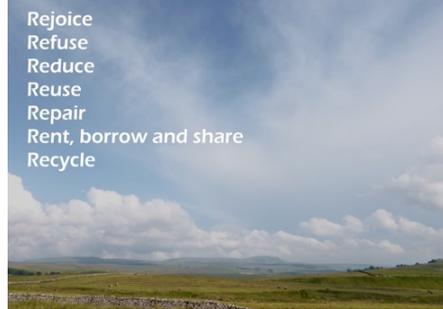
There are many ways in which we can help to tackle the scandal of modern slavery, including being alert to the problem, informing the police if we have suspicions, campaigning for an end to the demand for brothels, supporting agencies which work to end modern slavery in all its forms.

That is just one of the subjects on the ongoing agenda for the Faith in Action Forum. There is much to be done, and many opportunities to make a difference. The meetings are open to everyone. We hope you may like to join in this important part of our URC Mission. To get in touch with us, please ask the Synod office for our contact details.

With kind regards,
Ann Barton, Facilities Manager,
The United Reformed Church
020 7916 8647 | ann.barton@urc.org.uk | <http://>

FROM THE CHURCH ECO GROUP

Let's unpack the three Rs and add a few more.



What do we need to **Reduce**?

We need to buy less, travel less, and probably do less. Reduce the pressure we put on the earth's resources and reduce the pressure we put on our time-poor selves.

How can we **Reuse** more and bin less? By not buying anything that is intended to be used only once – packaging, coffee cups, paper plates, batteries, tissues.

Recycling involves a huge amount of energy for transporting and processing of the materials. It is important as it reduces the speed we are using up natural resources, but it should be the last resort. Recycling also means closing that loop by buying recycled things!

We can reduce our consumption by **Repairing** as much as we can. Get the sewing kit out, have a go at fixing that toy instead of binning it. Look after your stuff!

How many things do you have in your house that you use only once or twice a year? Why do you and your neighbour/friend all need a power drill and a hedge trimmer and a pressure washer? Many people are car-sharing now, especially in city centres where cars are not needed every day.

The fifth R is **Rent, boRRow and shaRe**.

Refuse, used to just mean Refusing plastic bags and the like. We don't automatically get given plastic bags any more but we still need to Refuse: Refuse to believe the adverts. Refuse to believe that your life is lacking something because you don't use a particular shampoo, have a particular electronic gadget, or you haven't been to a particular sunny destination. **Refuse to believe you are worth less because you have less.**

The seventh R is really the first. **Rejoice!** Take delight in all the good things that God has given us for free. And again I say Rejoice!

The full list of seven Rs, in order of importance is:

Rejoice
Refuse
Reduce
Reuse
Repair
Rent, borrow and share
Recycle

The three Rs does have a ring to it. Three is some kind of magic number used by speech writers and poets since Biblical times. But the Bible also uses seven as a perfect number – as it was in seven days that God created the heaven and the earth. And perhaps the greatest thing that God created was Rest on the seventh day. Rest could be another of the Rs, but I rather think it sums up of all of them.

Mary Cox

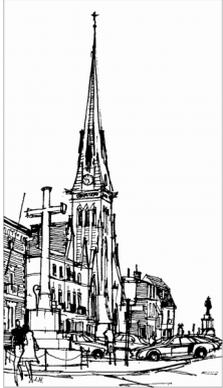
Date for your Diary

On Sunday 9th September

Pam Richardson

Christian Aid's Cambridgeshire Regional Coordinator
will be with us for our morning service at 11.00am





WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR EDITING TEAM FOR OUR
CHURCH NEWSLETTER
INSPIRE?

STARTING IN 2019 WE WILL BE PRODUCING BI-MONTHLY
EDITIONS
AND ARE LOOKING FOR A FOURTH MEMBER TO JOIN US.
CONTACT: EDITOR AS SHOWN ON FRONT PAGE



Commitment for Life is the world development programme of the United Reformed Church. It encourages participating churches to take action, pray and give for people across the world but especially in our four partner countries/region of Bangladesh, Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador), Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe. It works in partnership with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now and has raised millions of pounds.

In the past we in the Free Church have raised money to support work in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Zimbabwe. Below is a story of one of the people helped by our fundraising.

It means we are not forgotten



Khalid Mansau is a PARC (now called the Palestine Agricultural Development Association) staff member working out of the Nablus office in the West Bank. He oversees the many reclaimed land projects supported by PARC in this area. Land that was considered infertile is cleared of rocks and planted with fruit trees and vegetables.

Khalid's family were originally from Haifa but settled in a refugee camp in 1948 (following the declaration of the state of Israel). Khalid was born in the camp and still lives there today with his wife, two daughters and two sons. He is proud of what his children have achieved. One son is an engineer whilst the other is still at school. His daughters are in college studying engineering and multimedia. He still remembers when the camp was full of tents in straight rows. It took until 1949 before the UN started building houses for the refugee families.

Having trained as an agriculturalist in Nigeria he returned home to work for PARC in 2002. He would love to return to his original village in Israel one day, "I have refugee papers, it gives me a status; it means we are not forgotten. The world cannot forget."

Part of Khalid's work is to build good relationships with local councils. He is confident this has been achieved because they can see the good work PARC is doing with farmers. Long term development means building trust and showing by example: change does not happen quickly.

He said, "There is always hope but we need help from the world. Thank you for your support".

PARC is involved in many irrigation and agricultural projects across the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Their work sends out a positive message of hope to Palestinians living and working under Israeli occupation.

Image: Khalid Mansau showing one of the recently planted fruit trees

From the Church Secretary

Each year in September we run the process for the election of elders at the Free Church (United Reformed) Saint Ives.

The Ordination Service for elders contains the following: "Elders share with the minister in the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local church. They are responsible for making provision for Christian worship and education and for promoting witness and service to the community. It is their duty to arrange for the proper maintenance of church buildings, and to ensure the oversight of church finances."



As the church is now a charity, elders will also have responsibilities as trustees of the charity. Church members are asked to nominate up to twelve members for election. We are currently seeking seven additional elders. Please consider this during September and have your nominations in by 12.30 on Sunday 7th October.

Many thanks to Babs Moore and to Peter Davies who have served for six consecutive years as elders and trustees, and to Veronica Angus who has served three consecutive years and to Faith Sharp who has served five consecutive years, before stepping down.

We are also seeking more assistance with several rotas. If you can help with the preparation for serving communion, Helen Ackroyd would be pleased to hear from you. If you could help with the Audio-Visual rotas for church services, please speak to David Duffett. If you could help with the counting of collections on Sundays, please contact Babs Moore. Training and support will be provided. Valerie Temple co-ordinates the flower rota and would also value more volunteers to join in.

The nominations for new elders and trustees will be brought to the church meeting on 18th November 2018. We will then be ready for all that 2019 brings.

Christine Macleod

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

GUIDED ECO - WALK
WICKEN FEN

SUNDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2018

2.30PM - 5PM

BRING AND SHARE TEA

TICKETS £2 PER ADULT £5 PER FAMILY

£3 PARKING FOR NON NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS

Contact: Fiona Brampton
01353 74030

Fenstanton United Reformed Church



Hobbies, Crafts and Collections

On Saturday 15th September
10.00am - 4.00pm

**VINTAGE/CLASSIC CARS/
TRACTORS ON SHOW OUTSIDE**

IN THE CHURCH WILL BE

KNITTING, SEWING,

HANDMADE CRAFTS

HANDMADE JEWELLERY,

HOMEMADE JAMS,

ANTIQUA DOLLS AND PRAMS
ANTIQUA BOTTLES

CARDS AND PAPER CRAFT

HAVE A HAND MASSAGE

INVESTIGATE FAMILY/LOCAL
HISTORY

REFRESHMENTS ON SALE
AND LOTS MORE

ENTRANCE FEE IS JUST

£1-00

CHILDREN FREE

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION at Fenstanton:

The next meditation will be on Tuesday September 11th at 2:30 pm at Fenstanton URC. All are welcome to this session, even if you have not been before, give it a try and see what you think!

We will be using meditation and prayers from well-known Christian authors.

John Williams,
<jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk>
or 'phone 01480 463 117.

CREATION TIDE AND HARVEST

Dear all and each,

Creation Tide and Harvest
Time. September 1 – October
4 (feast of St. Francis).

At this time we remember god's goodness in and through creation and our responsibility for it.

This is being sent out to encourage you to stimulate and deepen your church's and/or community's celebration.

Creation care is very often forgotten in thanksgiving.

Some prayers and meditations are available.

A reminder that, as available, Peterborough Eco-faith Network can provide speakers/preachers for formal or informal settings.

Yours gratefully,

Paul Ballard via Peterborough

Eco Faith Network

Church Activities

Mon-days	19:00	Bowls Club
Wed	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers Term time only
Wed 19th Sep	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Wed 26th Sep	19:45	Poetry Group

Community Activities

Mon	10:00	CRUSE
Tues	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thurs	09:45	Sunny Steps
Sat 1st Sep	09:30 - 15:30	Saints Crafters Fair
Wed 5th Sep	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 13th Sep	19:30	WI
Sat 15th Sep	19:30	RAFA 'Wings Appeal' - Huntingdonshire Concert Band
Tue 18th Sep	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop-In Cafe
Wed 19th Sept	19.30	St Ives Gardening Club
Fri 21st Sep	10:00	U3A Local History
Sat 6th Oct	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair

ST IVES TOWN HISTORY TOURS

For
SEPTEMBER

TWICE A MONTH

FIND FURTHER INFORMATION

AT

THE NORRIS MUSEUM, THE
BROADWAY
ST IVES
(AN HISTORICAL FEATURE OF
THE TOWN TOO!)

Contact 01480 497314
Info@norrismuseum.org.uk

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE
SHOEBOX APPEAL**

The time has come now for you to look to your shoeboxes
To fill them up with gifts

Collect your forms from us at the Free Church

In **SEPTEMBER** for

Delivery back to us in early **NOVEMBER**

Watch this Space - flyers due very soon!!



Contacts

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Church Secretary

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churchsecretary@stivesfreechurch.org

Associate Church Secretary

Vacant

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alan@stivesfreechurch.org

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Freewill Offering Treasurer

Babs Moore 352627

Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Tookey's Manager

Pat Clarke 468886

Flower Convenor

Valerie Temple 466204

Eco Group Convenor

Mary Cox 300103

Chapel Prayer Coordinator

Gerry Swain 468053

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

Sun 2nd Sep	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 9th Sep	11:00	Pamela Richardson
Sun 16th Sep	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 23rd Sep	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Harvest Cafe Service
Sun 30th Sep	11:00	Nicola Grieves
Sun 7th Oct	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion

HOUGHTON CHAPEL

The next service will be held at this
venue

On

7th October 2018

At

6.30pm

Led by Revd Dr Catherine Ball

All are welcome

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 2nd Sep	09:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 9th Sep	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 16th Sep	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 23rd Sep	09:30	Revd Roy Muttram
Sun 30th Sep	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 7th Oct	09:30	Revd Derek Newton