

**inspire**



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

**View  
from  
the  
Manse**



As the weather changes from autumnal dull and damp to downright winter cold and frost, we bundle up by putting on hats and scarves and gloves and jumpers and by cosying up in front of the fire or the telly in the evening. At the church we have been putting up our Christmas tree and all the decorations around the building to bring a sense of warmth and cheer and sparkle as we anticipate the celebration of our Lord's birth.

Especially at Christmas, we are warmed by tradition and the familiar things. We find comfort in people and homes we know well and we don't always welcome things that will bring change and uncertainty. This Christmas we will once more be celebrating our usual Advent services: Readings and Carols by Candlelight on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a café style Christingle service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on Christmas Eve our all-age service at 6pm followed by our Candlelight Communion at 11.30pm. In addition, we will be hosting students from St Ivo school who will be leading a Readings and Carol service at our church for the first time. Cont'd

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Inspire**

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**January Inspire  
Publication date  
2nd January**

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The first Christmas was by no means familiar and comfortable and it brought dramatic change to those directly involved. Thereafter, it ultimately brought change for the better to the whole world. This began with Mary's visit from the Angel Gabriel - and ended with a group of wise men travelling thousands of miles to meet a new king's birth. The experiences of those in the biblical stories were startling. Mary, just a teenage girl, met an angel in her home. The angel told Mary that she, a lowly maiden, was to be mother of the long-awaited Messiah. This would not only change Mary's life socially and physically, but it would dramatically alter her understanding of God. She sees that God chooses the humble, hungry and the lowly, rather than the rich, powerful, esteemed and privileged in her society. She sees a God of justice, service and humility, and her world is transformed. Through his choice of arrival, God foretells of Jesus' ministry to come - one of service and humility and passive resistance and challenge to the status quo. She responds with the song of the Magnificat, "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the humble".

This act of disruption didn't stop with Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection, but surely is the commission of the church today too. We have a calling to step out of the comfortable, and the familiar, into a transformational encounter with the divine. This may mean doing something different this Christmas - volunteering to help at the Christmas lunch in our church, being extravagant in giving to a new charity, or choosing to offer gifts of time and talents rather than things as Christmas gifts. Do come to as many services as you are able, where we will be reflecting on those who experienced Jesus' birth and consider how their experiences may teach us how we may bring the good news of God's mercy and salvation in Jesus' coming, to some of the issues we currently face as a society. As we do so, we will be asking ourselves: Do we recognise where we need to be humbler and content with what we have? Do we see the hunger of those who hope to be filled? How can we join in the work of God to bring peace, justice and joy to all?

Happy Christmas!

*with love from Catherine & Peter*



## One bit of bird information at hand is worth two (dozen) in the text book

On a clear dry autumn day, four of us set off to the RSPB reserve at Fen Drayton Lakes and surrounding areas to spot birds. Chris and Alan Curtis, members of the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology, passed on some of their expertise to Sally and Veronica. We identified species such as lapwing, little egret, marsh harrier and fieldfare, that Sally and Veronica were not so familiar with. We saw a wide range of habitats and bird feeding areas and enjoyed quietly monitoring and focusing on our wild friends, as well chatting to the tame ones in the car and the hides! We were all appreciative of this valuable LOCAL haven with corridors for wildlife leading off in every direction.



Alan and Chris offered this delightful event, complete with a light lunch including home-baked bread using farmers' shop cereal including seeds and grains, and further bird entertainment in their wildlife friendly garden. It was from the 2017 auction for the Save Our Spire appeal and we have been all too busy to meet together until this month. Thank you very much, Chris and Alan.

### **Sally Runham and Veronica Angus**

*Note from Chris—we saw 38 species in total on this occasion!*

### **The Sequel**

*A week later a very similar route was followed by Chris, Alan, Babs and John and a friend of theirs who is a very experienced birder. On that occasion 44 species were identified though back at the house for lunch the garden birds were definitely on strike! Another auction bid fulfilled!*



## **Remembrance Sunday**

The morning started with a lone piper by the War Memorial playing the haunting lament "The Battle's O'er". The main service and tribute to mark the 100th anniversary of The Armistice saw Market Hill so full that no one could get a close up photo of our dear friend Revd. Roy Muttram who was leading the Act of Remembrance!



Other activities followed around town including the sounding of The Last Post and the lighting of the beacon at the Parish Church.

The day was rounded off by a concert in our church.

### **Sally writes:**

*"Catherine and Roy hosted the Huntingdon Big Band in the presence of the Mayor and supported by other senior church people from the town.*

*The band played music including Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Charlie "Bird" Parker.*



## ***From the Church Secretary....***

Advent leading up to Christmas makes me think about the words 'Peace on Earth'. We continue to pray for peace in the world at chapel prayers and during all church services.

I read an article in Reform magazine, by Sam Walton, about peace. He notes that, 'When the writers of the Bible talked about peace, they meant something different to when the Roman empire used the word. When the empire talked about Pax it was of peace and quiet, the Pax Romana, an imposed peace, an order, where everything's all lined up. For example, the equivalent being that trains might run on time – when we should all sit down, shut up, stop listening to God and do what our betters tell us to do. But when the prophets talked about shalom – a wholeness, an integrity, a peace with justice, a connectedness, a living in right relationships – then we have to do and work towards something very different'.



Sam Walton goes on to say that in the English language, in our minds and in most organised religion, Pax and shalom are often conflated and confused. Jesus was referred to as the Prince of Peace. This makes us think about how we can spread peace in formal and informal ways as part of the church. We all have our unique gifts, roles and abilities to share. Our discipleship can involve singing, caring, charity, committee work and much more.

A New Year resolution for me will be to read more of the pages in the future editions of the Reform magazine. Jackie Ballard has information on how we can subscribe to this monthly church magazine for paper or electronic copies. The article also reminds me that while we must work within the regulatory frameworks of our era, it is the right human relationships that are so important in the way we work together for peace.

We have recently revisited our own organisation chart for how we organise things within our church. We reviewed this at the November church meeting and considered how working together in teams is so important, as we seek to serve the people of St Ives and further afield. Let's be encouraged in our endeavours for working towards peace.

Wishing all our readers a Joyous and Peaceful season of Goodwill.

***Christine Macleod.***

Reference. Live a radically just, simple way. Sam Walton. Reform magazine. Dec 2017/Jan 2018. P24.

### **REFORM MAGAZINE**

Each paper edition subscription for 2019 costs £28.50.  
Our church normally orders more than 5 copies which entitles us to one digital copy which is free for the year. The usual cost of a digital subscription is £18.

Please tell Gill Innes or Jackie Ballard if you would like to subscribe to either edition or take advantage of the above digital offer.

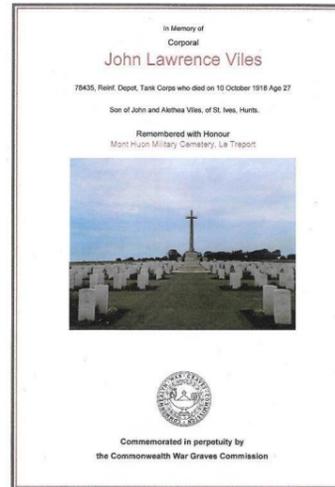
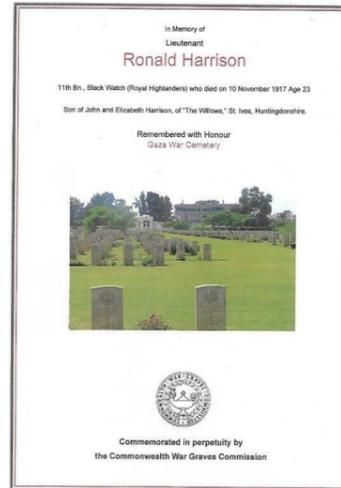
Thank you to present subscribers.

If possible please pay Gill or Jackie by the end of January.

Cheques can be made payable to Jacqueline V Ballard.

## Lest we forget.....

An enormous thank you to Lin Fleming who produced the unique and very special Book of Remembrance which has been in our Porch Chapel during November. It commemorates the men associated with our church who are remembered on the War Memorial in the apse. Many, many hours of research went into this project which is a very fitting and touching tribute to these men.



**St Ives Community Choir**  
presents  
**'TIS THE SEASON**  
*Festive favourites and songs from the seasons*

**Saturday 8th December 2018**  
**7.30 pm (Doors open at 7.00 pm)**

**FREE CHURCH, ST IVES**  
Refreshments: tea/coffee/biscuits/mince pies

**TICKETS: £6 adults £3 children**  
(available from Just Sharing in the Free Church or on the door)

 **Proceeds to the Free Church Restoration Fund**

 **ROYAL AIR FORCE**

Mayor of St Ives  
**Christmas Charity Concert**  
RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band in Concert  
**Friday 7th December 2018**  
**7.30 - 10.00**  
The Free Church, Market Hill, St Ives

Home made Mince Pies and Mulled Wine during the interval

Tickets £12 from St Ives Town Hall 01480 388931

All profits go to the Mayor's Charities

by kind permission of the Station Commander Royal Air Force Wyton Headquarters

**Fenstanton Worship**

|              |       |  |
|--------------|-------|--|
| Sun 2nd Dec  | 09:30 | Revd Derek Newton                        |
| Sun 2nd Dec  | 15:00 | Fenstanton Carol Service                 |
| Sun 9th Dec  | 09:30 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball<br>Holy Communion |
| Sun 16th Dec | 09:30 | Revd Roy Muttram                         |
| Sun 23rd Dec | 09:30 | Keith Cakebread                          |
| Tue 25th Dec | 09:30 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball                   |
| Sun 30th Dec | 09:30 | Revd Chris Baker                         |
| Sun 6th Jan  | 09:30 | Revd Derek Newton                        |

**Church Activities**

|              |               |  |
|--------------|---------------|--|
| Mondays      | 19:00         | Bowls Club   |
| Wednesdays   | 10:00 - 11:30 | Tots & Carers<br>Term time only  |
| Tues 4th Dec | 14:30         | Christian Meditation—<br>contact John Williams on<br>01480 463117 for venue<br>and further details |

**Community Activities**

|              |               |  |
|--------------|---------------|--|
| Mondays      | 10:00         | CRUSE  |
| Tuesdays     | 20:00         | St Ives Photographic Club                                  |
| Wednesdays   | 14:00         | Senior Citizens Club                                       |
| Sat 1st Dec  | 09:30 - 16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair                                       |
| Thu 6th Dec  | 19:30         | WI   |
| Fri 7th Dec  | 19:30 - 22:00 | Mayor of St Ives Christmas<br>Charity Concert              |
| Sat 8th Dec  | 19:30         | St Ives Community Choir<br>Concert:<br>'Tis the Season     |
| Sun 9th Dec  | 18:00 - 20:00 | A Musical Christmas Cracker<br>St Ives Rotary Club Concert |
| Wed 12th Dec | 19:00         | Gardening Club   |
| Fri 14th Dec | 10:00         | COPE   |
| Sat 15th Dec | 18:30         | St Ives Choral Society<br>Christmas Concert                |
| Mon 17th Dec | 19:30 - 21:00 | Tapestry Christmas Concert                                 |
| Tue 18th Dec | 10:00         | Alzheimer's Support Drop-In<br>Cafe                        |
| Wed 19th Dec | 19:30         | RSPB   |

**Come and worship with us  
at The Free Church this  
Christmas!**

**Sunday 16th December  
6pm Readings and Carols by  
Candlelight**

**Sunday 23rd December  
11am Christingle Café Service**

**Christmas Eve  
6pm All Age Christmas Eve  
Service  
11:30pm Candlelit Holy  
Communion**

## Contacts

### Minister

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### Church Secretary

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Vacant

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Valerie Temple 466204

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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

#### Mon– Sat

|              |       |   |
|--------------|-------|---|
| Sun 2nd Dec  | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball<br>Advent Sunday<br>Holy Communion                           |
| Sun 2nd Dec  | 18:30 | Joint worship at St Mary's Centre (formerly Houghton Chapel) with the Parish Church |
| Sun 9th Dec  | 11:00 | Revd Derek Newton   |
| Sun 16th Dec | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball  |
| Sun 16th Dec | 18:00 | Readings and Carols by Candlelight -<br>Revd Dr Catherine Ball                      |
| Sun 23rd Dec | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball<br>Christingle cafe style worship                            |
| Mon 24th Dec | 18:00 | All-age Christmas Eve Service -<br>Revd Dr Catherine Ball                           |
| Mon 24th Dec | 23:30 | Midnight Candlelight Communion Service<br>Revd Dr Catherine Ball                    |
| Sun 30th Dec | 11:00 | Led by The Elders   |
| Sun 6th Jan  | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball -<br>Holy Communion - Epiphany                               |

**For details of worship at Fenstanton URC please see Page 7.**

***Val Bush is our January editor. Please send copy to Val by 16th December. From February, Inspire will be published every other month.***