

December 2016

Inspire



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

View from the Manse

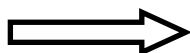


At this time of uncertainty in world politics we tend carry on with our lives, hoping that things will work out all right and that the future will be positive. But when we have a moment to pause and consider the realities in the world: Syria still at war; Israel and Palestine still in conflict; parts of Africa and Asia in poverty; tensions in Europe and unknown results of Brexit we may admit to ourselves that we feel apprehensive about what will happen.

It was into such a world as this that Jesus came. It was not all peace and light: the Romans were occupying oppressors of the Hebrews and Herod, the Roman puppet ruler, was a tyrant so the Hebrew people were restricted, kept in poverty and constantly worried that they would be in trouble with the authorities. Even their own temple priests were strict and severe and so people were oppressed in so many ways. Yet God was aware of their situation and in spite of the risks involved chose to send his Son into a world of sin and sorrow to bring his light and peace.

In light of the birth of Christ, even though we may face uncertainty in our world and in our own lives, we may know that God is with us and is leading us forward so that we can face life with hope for the future.

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**Deadline for January Inspire
Sunday 18th December**

Inspire Editorial Team

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*Copy preferably by email please to
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We have many opportunities to recall the story of Jesus' birth in services throughout December and through concerts and worship services at the Free Church. The Choral Society is holding a Christmas concert on Sat 17th; Tapestry has a Christmas concert on Monday 19th. We will be having a Nativity Service for all the family on 18th December; Readings and Carols by Candlelight that evening at 6 pm, and two services on Christmas Eve: All-Age Christmas at 6 pm and Midnight Holy Communion at 11.30 pm.

I hope that you will all come along and bring a friend or neighbour, to celebrate once again the Good News that God loves this world so much that he sent his Son into the world to bring peace and joy.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!
Love

Catherine & Peter



Tapestry Christmas Concert

*Come to a concert of
Readings and Music for
Christmas*

On

Monday 19th December 2016

In the Free Church

At 7.30.p.m.

Entry Free

*Retiring collection for
Dream Drops Children Charity.*

Christmas Services at The Free Church

Christingle Café Style Worship for all ages

Sun 27th Nov 11am

Nativity Service for all the Family

Sun 18th Dec at 11am

and

Readings and Carols by Candlelight

Sun 18th Dec at 6pm

Christmas Eve All-age service-Sat 24th Dec 6pm

and

Midnight Holy Communion by Candlelight

Sat 24th Dec 11.30 pm

All Services Led by Revd Dr Catherine Ball

**The Minister and Elders wish you
a happy and peaceful Christmas**



From the Church Secretary

The season of Advent is here and the start of the new church lectionary year. It is a time of fond memories. 'Silver white winters that melt into spring'. 'Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes' were cited as favourite things in the film "the Sound of Music". I wonder what your fondest memories are, or will become.? It can also be a thoughtful time when we think of those who are no longer with us. As the incoming church secretary, I have a profound admiration and gratitude for the contribution made by Keith Clarke over the years in our church, especially for the many years that he served as church secretary. In the January Inspire we plan to write a tribute to Keith in memory of his life and witness. Here was a man who inspired many of us by his acts of kindness and generosity.



At a recent evening service at Fenstanton, Geraldine Swain reminded us of the importance of simple acts of kindness. Perhaps at this time of the year we can take time to reflect on how we can help others. Tonight, as I write, the Christmas lights were switched on in St Ives, giving a sense of wonder and joy to all the families gathered in the town centre. Children had been practising carols, Santa visited, little children with painted faces enjoyed the fun fair. Imitation snow was sprayed over our heads. Everyone seemed to contribute and there was much entertainment and wonder. A mixture of entertainment and seasonal joy.

In Advent we all have much opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ and to do little acts of kindness. This edition of Inspire informs us of some of the many events over Advent leading up to Christmas. Let us be encouraged to give generously of ourselves and our money to support the concerts for various charities and responsive to the requests for donations that arrive daily in our post at this time of the year. For these acts of kindness, make Christian love a reality and a joy in our community.

Here are just a few of the forthcoming events, the Choral Society Christmas concert, the readings and carol services, 'Just Sharing's' supply of wonderful christmas gifts, the Tapestry concert, the lunchtime concert to raise money to help with the spire refurbishment, the Christmas Eve service and the Christmas Day services joint at Fenstanton and the Methodist church, and the Christmas day lunch. Let's rejoice that already this year more Christmas shoe boxes were filled than in previous years for children in need.

Let us never give up on acts of kindness in the Advent season and in the years ahead.

Christine

Luke 1: v 30—35

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."



Little Gidding Quiet Day



Peaceful Pastures



Little Gidding Quiet Day

October 2016





St Ives
CHORAL
SOCIETY

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

6.30 pm
17 December
Free Church St Ives

Tickets £5 (accompanied children under-16 free)
Available from the Fair Trade Shop
in the Free Church)



VolunteerCentre

Huntingdonshire



Would you like to help others and impart your skills, learn new skills and make new friends but most of all have fun? The St Ives Volunteer Centre (part of Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre) is here to help find the right volunteer role for you. Call us about volunteering in your local area. You can do anything from a couple of hours and all ages can volunteer.

We run a Community Car Scheme. All run by volunteers this scheme takes anyone who needs to make essential journeys e.g medical appointments, shopping etc where no suitable public transport exists and for individuals with mobility issues. There is a charge of 40 pence per mile or £2 minimum. We are always looking for volunteer drivers to help with this busy community project, if this could be you contact Natalie on 01480 301462, Mon-Thurs 12.30-3pm

In conjunction with Mavis, Pat and many others we also organise Christmas Lunch for people who would otherwise be alone. Last years event was a great success. Natalie who organizes the event said "It was the most heart warming thing I've ever been involved with. We had lots of volunteers and people gave of there time so freely and with such good will".

If you know of someone who would like to attend or

you would like to help all are welcome, please book via Natalie or Gill in the Free Church Office 01480 468535.

If you would like to volunteer and would like help recruiting volunteers for your project please contact Natalie on stives@huntsvc.org.uk or on 01480 301462



Just Sharing's Christmas Shop



Please come in and visit our lovely shop. We have lots of lovely Christmas gifts, cards, nativities, Christmas decorations and lots more. We shall be pleased to see you all.



SOS Save Our Spire Update



The team met on Monday 31st October and 28th November. The main events in Autumn are two cake stalls held in the foyer organised by Val Bush and Veronica Angus. These include home-made jams and marmalades together with seasonal table top decorations items, the latter organised by Mavis Williams. From late November, church members and selected associated user groups are invited to collect 20p coins in a fundraising SOS logo Smartie tube, initiated by Stewart Denham. People are urged not to rush out to the bank to change money into 20p coins (or £1 coins fit, too) but rather to gradually accumulate a donation over a leisurely period.

The team have organised several events for 2017 and those in the early part of the year are:

7th January 2017	A Concert by the Concert Orchestra of St Ives, offered by COSI and we are very grateful to them. If anyone wants further details, please contact Val Bush at vebush47@bocellibabe.plus.com
28th January 2017	A table top sale in the Church Hall to include a raffle, tombola and refreshments. Tables are available at £6 for a 6 foot long table. For offers of any help with this event or advance booking of a table, please contact: sallyrunham@btinternet.com
Around Easter	A sponsored swim at Huntingdon Pool. If you enjoy swimming and are prepared to have a go, please let John Williams know on jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk

The team is approaching people and organisations for assistance with funding. Keeping people informed through Inspire and in press articles is also part of our work. An article in St Ives Now has been written.

Articles in Inspire will update on progress with the structural work, with planned entertainment and activities and, God willing, with funds raised. Specific gifts can be made at the office, and please use a gift aid form if donated from taxed income.

The spire team is Veronica Angus, Val Bush, Stewart Denham, Nev Runham, Sally Runham, John Williams and Mavis Williams. Feel free to contact any of these people to discuss ideas.

Nev Runham leads the group as a member of the church General Purposes Committee which oversees the remedial work. He can be contacted on nevrnham@btinternet.com.

Save Our Spire!



FIRST BAKE SALE 14th NOVEMBER 2016

The tables were fully laden on Monday morning with cakes and bakes of all kinds. This was the first of two sales for the Save Our Spire project and many people were happy to buy and interested in what we have to do to mend our church spire.

There were only a few items left and we thought it was a great success as we made £125.

Well done and many thanks to everyone for their contributions and we look forward to receiving more cakes for the next bake sale which will be on Monday 12th December from 10am.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL GIVING THE LOVE



A big thank you to all who have contributed to our biggest number of shoeboxes collected in the Free Church for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. It means so much to each needy child that you have taken time and care and love to fill a simple thing such as a shoebox, filled with lovely goodies which is the tangible way of showing love at the blessed time of Christmas. You are all brilliant!! Thank you.

Val Bush

(And a Note of thanks from Elaine at the Methodist Church)

Thank you so much to the congregation at The Free Church for all their shoeboxes. This year 117 boxes will be added to the 8,000 which are being sent to The Middle East. 15,000 will also be sent to a further 16 countries.

Elaine



Save Our Spire!

Charlotte Jordan has asked us to collect small empty jam jars (the smaller the better please) for the Spire Appeal. Please bring them to church on Sundays or leave them in the church office for Charlotte to pick up.



Church Office Memories



Recently after covering the office in Gill's absence I was reminded of the years I spent working in the church office as secretary cum administrator. This was a job share with Barbara Stanton who I am sure many of you will remember. At that time the office was open Monday through to Saturday so we each worked 3 mornings per week. Later when Barbara moved to Devon I took on the job of working 6 mornings a week.

From my recent experience, I am sure many of the tasks Gill performs today are similar to those I carried out all those years ago (1985 – 1992) but of course the office equipment used now is far more advanced than during my time. No computer or fancy coloured photocopier but instead we used an electric typewriter and a Gestetner copy machine which was used to run off large quantities of documents such as the minutes and monthly newsletter. Minutes of meetings were typed up on a skin and any errors made were corrected using a liquid similar to nail varnish to cover up mistakes. Using the Gestetner was rather a messy job and involved using a lot of ink and required lots of patience. I often went home covered in ink.

In those days the coffee bar was held in the Warren Room from Tuesday through to Friday and on Mondays in the Hall. Tom & Margaret McQuitty were regular helpers running the coffee bar. I used to find it rather amusing when regular customers would phone the office saying they could not come and to make sure Margaret & Tom knew they were ok but couldn't be there. A very personal service! On occasions the coffee bar volunteer did not arrive and I spent the next couple of hour's running back and forwards from the office to the Warren Room to make coffee and talk to the customers whilst also making sure jobs were completed in the office. Certainly a role that required multi-tasking skills!

We often used to receive a visit from our local community Bobby to have a chat and a cup of coffee. I even have a picture of him with a red nose for Red Nose Day! Changed days now as we very rarely see a police officer in the town, let alone pop into the church for a coffee and chat.

At the end of 1991 Tookey's Coffee Shop opened and shortly afterwards in February 1992 Just Sharing our Fair Trade shop opened its doors to customers for the first time. This was a big step to take since all sales prior to this had been on a table in the Hall on Sundays after Worship and Monday morning during the coffee bar. At the same time the church office moved into the same space as the shop and existed side by side for a few years. After several years as the shop expanded it was decided to move the office back upstairs. By this time I had been "head hunted" by Martin Ballard to work as his Office Manager in Huntingdon at Fellows & Ballard. That's another story!



The role of the office secretary during my time was varied and included in the Job Description, after all the usual items - being able to type, banking, accounts and being pleasant to all visitors etc - was an item which said something along the lines "and anything else required to assist in the smooth running of the building". Well I won't list any of the strange and unusual things I did, but leave it to your imagination!

Mary Anthony

Church Activities

Mondays	19:00	Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers
Tue 13th Dec	14:30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton
Fri 23rd Dec	12:00	Christmas Music with Felicity and Friends

Dates of closure of church premises over Christmas period

The Church Office closes at

1:00pm Friday 23rd Dec 2016 and re-opens at 9:00 am on Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Tookey's closes at

2:00pm on Saturday 24th Dec 2016 and reopens at 9.45am on Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Just Sharing closes at

2:00pm on Saturday 24 December 2016 and re-opens at 9:30 on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

The Human Journey

Thursday evenings from 7pm—9pm in Tookey's at The Free Church for 9 consecutive Thursday evenings starting from Thursday January 19th. Please put these dates in your diaries.

'The human journey – thinking biblically about health'. This is a course that has been published by the *Christian Medical Fellowship* and comes with accompanying videos, study guide and website. *The Human Journey* has two main aims. First to establish a biblical framework that will help Christians and churches engage wisely and sensitively with current issues relating to health. Secondly to encourage more effective incorporation of healthcare expertise into pastoral life and ministry.

Christine Macleod

Community Activities

Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Tuesdays	19:30	St Ives Photographic Club
Wednesdays	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thursdays	09:30	Sunny Steps
Thursdays	10:00	U3A Italian Class
Thu 1st Dec	19:30	WI
Sat 3rd Dec	09:00	WEA Day School
Sat 3rd Dec	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Wed 7th Dec	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Fri 9th Dec	10:00	COPE
Fri 9th Dec	19:30	Mayor's Christmas Concert
Sat 10th Dec	19:30	Community Choir Concert
Sun 11th Dec	14:30	Rotary Club Christmas Cracker
Mon 12th Dec	13:00	U3A French Class
Wed 14th Dec	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Fri 16th Dec	10:00	U3A Local History
Fri 16th Dec	19:30	Concert
Sat 17th Dec	10:00	Craft Sale
Sat 17th Dec	18:30	St Ives Choral Society Christmas Concert
Mon 19th Dec	19:30	Tapestry Concert
Tue 20th Dec	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop In Cafe
Wed 21st Dec	19:30	RSPB
Sat 7th Jan	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Sat 7th Jan	19:30	COSI Concert

Contacts

Minister

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Mobile: 07714 081930

Church Secretary

Christine Macleod 465921
churchsecretary@stivesfreechurch.org

Associate Church Secretary

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Communications & Media Convenor

Peter Davies 495835

Webmaster

alan@stivesfreechurch.org

Finance Convenor

Peter German 352401

Freewill Offering Treasurer

David Duffett 395308

Tookey's Manager

Sam Cooper 07840 959090

Resident Musician

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

justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org

Church Office 468535

office@stivesfreechurch.org

Open 9am - 1pm Monday to Friday

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

Free Church Worship



Chapel Prayers Daily at 10 am Monday to Saturday

Sun 4th Dec	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Induction of Elders & Holy Communion
Sun 11th Dec	11:00	Keith Cakebread
Sun 18th Dec	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Nativity Service
Sun 18th Dec	18:00	Lessons & Carols
Sat 24th Dec	18:00	Family Service
Sat 24th Dec	23:30	Midnight Communion
Sun 25th Dec	09:30	Worship at Fenstanton URC
Sun 1st Jan	11:00	Keith Cakebread Holy Communion

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 4 th Dec	9:30	Pauline Zahner
Sun 11 th Dec	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
	16:00	Carol Service with Brass Band
Sun 18 th Dec	9:30	Revd Peter Ball
Sun 25 th Dec	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 1 st Jan	9:30	Revd Derek Newton

