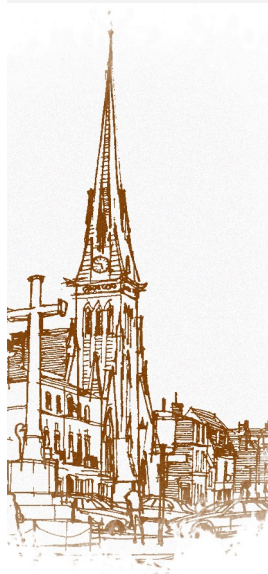


February 2018

inspire



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

View from the Manse



As the days get longer and weather becomes milder, we begin to have hints of spring to come, giving us hope and expectation as we look forward to brighter days and warmer weather. Late winter is a time of perseverance as we journey into Lent in the Church calendar, the time of preparation and reflection as we remember Christ's ministry leading ultimately to his death and resurrection.

Tuesday the 13th February is Shrove, or Pancake, Tuesday in which we cook and enjoy pancakes with lemon and sugar, signifying the last day we may eat rich foods prior to the start of the season of Lent. Then the following day, the 14th February, along with celebrating Valentine's Day, strangely this year the 14th is also Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent reflection. Traditionally on Ash Wednesday some churches mark people's heads with ashes to signify mourning and penitence. In the Reformed tradition we tend not to follow this practice, yet the six weeks of Lent is an opportunity for us to remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry of healing and self-sacrificial giving and remind ourselves all that Jesus Christ did for us. Josh will be leading a Lent course on Monday evenings from 19th Feb to 19th March starting at 7.30 pm. Please look out for the advert in this magazine and in posters around the church.

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***Deadline for March
Inspire
Sunday 18th February***

Inspire Editorial Team

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

Our thoughts and prayers in Lent need not always be a sombre, as we can be led to give thanks for Jesus' love of life and celebrate the healing and wholeness he brought to all who came to him.

We give thanks to God for the beauty of our changing seasons and for the different focusses in the Church calendar, giving us variety and spice to life, and various times for worship, reflection, celebration and sharing times of fellowship together. May we continue to grow in faith and witness as we share our Christian discipleship with each other.

With love in Christ, **Catherine**

You are invited to a

Bring and Share Lunch On Sunday 18th February 2018

After Worship on **Sunday Feb 18th 2018** we shall Share Lunch together and then stay together for a discussion on the contentious issue of **Fracking**. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please sign-up on the sheet on the landing to give the church eco-group an idea of numbers.

We will be joined by **Clare Redfern**, the Diocese of Ely **Environment Coordinator**, also one of the editors of **Green Christian magazine**, and we hope her husband, Simon, will be able to come too. Simon is professor of Mineral Physics at the University of Cambridge, Department of Earth Sciences.

The Eco Group

the **MYSTERY** *of* **EVERYTHING**

7.30—9pm every Monday evening from
Monday 19th February—Monday 19th March
St. Ives Free Church (URC)
In Tookey's café.

Join us for our Lent course based on the huge blockbuster film— 'The Theory Of Everything'

For more information please contact Josh—
jht1903@gmail.com

LOAF Recipe Books

A huge thank you to everyone who bought one of these recipe books!

They are now completely sold out and over £300 has been added to the SOS appeal.

Happy baking!

Local Organic Animal-friendly Fairtrade

IT'S FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT COME ON IN

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018
26 FEBRUARY—11 MARCH**



From the Church Secretary

Each year we complete an annual return about our church to Church House in London. At the start of the year, it is good to look back and to ponder on what might be achievable in the year ahead. We have 103 members and 67 people who are affiliated to the church in that they also attend periodically. Each Sunday an average of 63 people (including children) come to morning worship.



Our thanks to the six people who help to organise the weekly 'Tots and Carers' Group. Last term 41 children came along, with some 31 carers registering with them. The morning sessions are a delight to witness. Catherine our minister, or Josh tell a Bible story helped by a video. Margaret Cakebread has planned and prepared the activities for a year ahead, leaving the volunteers with clear instructions to follow. There is a wonderful singing session with the children and each session finishes with healthy snacks. The volunteers are quietly in the background helping the morning to run smoothly, and the children to have fun and play. Indeed, the grown-ups also feel refreshed by the entire experience. More volunteers would be welcome.

The church's priorities for mission are displayed on the screen in Tookeys, and cover most of the areas in the vision 2020 for the United Reformed Churches across the country.

Our church has 15 serving elders and 25 non-serving elders, which is about one quarter of the members. So there are many accumulated years of experience in church leadership. Being in the building demonstrates that everyone is involved in some way in the local work and mission of our church.

The church statistics and the names of the treasurer, the minister and the church secretary are appear annually in the Year Book, allowing networking across congregations, and the safeguarding lead person is also recorded.

While all of this is encouraging, we still have vacancies. The advert is still out for the substantive filling of the caretaker post. We are pleased that John Moore assisted by Sarah Clarke will help us all to cover most aspects of the caretaker's role on an interim basis – guided by the Finance and Property Group. However, both have other jobs and so we will need to continue to rely on the help of volunteers. We also need an Associate Secretary to fill the role taken by Andy Fleming. In addition, as David Duffett has taken on an active role supporting Esmond Edwards, we need to find a new Freewill Offering Treasurer.

Christine Macleod

HRAA St Ives Gardening Club offers you the following invitation to join them:

We are planning to visit Peter Beales Rose Festival, in Attleborough, on Saturday 16th June. Entrance to the festival is free. Cost of coach travel will be between £10—£15.

Anyone interested in registering for this Garden Club excursion should contact Robin Bletsoe at 01480 380 309 or email at: robin_bletsoe@yahoo.com



Saint Jerome

Whilst on holiday in Norfolk I visited a Flower Festival at St. Nicholas church in Dersingham. Each display depicted a saint – 43 in all. Surrounded by this host of holy men and women – many of whom, during their life-time, were under considerable pressure to renounce their faith, I learned that St. Nicholas was the patron saint of Pawnbrokers.

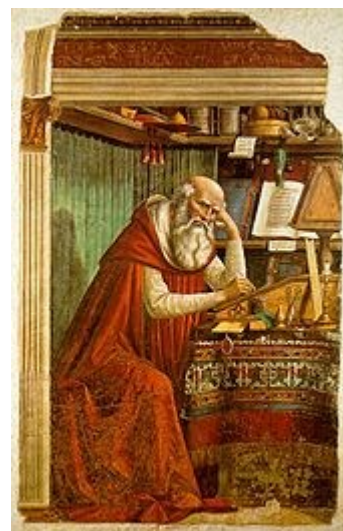
It appears that we have a patron saint for just about any line of work and occupation – even for creatures great and small. (St. Melangel for hares and St. Roch for dogs.) I was particularly taken by St. Regina, who watches over shepherdesses.

To my surprise, and unbeknown to me during my many years as a librarian, St. Jerome was appointed as patron, being a librarian himself.

In 375AD he joined a colony of Christian hermits in the desert of Antioch, where, legend has it, he drew a thorn from the paw of a lion; the lion stayed loyally by his side for years. He helped establish a papal library in Rome and began a revised version of the Psalms and New Testament which resulted in the standard Latin text for the Bible.

The Bible is a library in itself – the Word of God to us in many forms. If they were organised as today's libraries are, with the Dewey decimal classification system, we would find Psalms at 800 – songs, poetry and laments. Historical narratives at 940, biography 920. The long lists of 'who begot who' are family trees, 990. There are also official records, laws and letters. A treasure trove of reading material.

The hymn from Rejoice and Sing, no. 321 suggests how we might benefit from a regular study of this wonderful collection of books:-



Your words to me are life and health
put strength into my soul:
enable, guide and teach my heart
to reach its perfect goal.

Your words to me are light and truth:
from day to day I know
their wisdom, passing human thought,
as in their truth I grow.

Your words to me are full of joy,
of beauty, peace and grace:
from them I learn your perfect will,
through them I see your face.

Your words are perfected in one,
yourself the living Word:
print your own image in my heart
in clearest lines, my Lord.

Hazel Newton

The Boxing Day Hobby Horse Hunt

On a cold but sunny Boxing Day, runners and riders assembled beneath Oliver Cromwell in the Market Square for the first ever Boxing Day Hobby Horse Hunt.

This imaginative event was organised by the St Ives Town Team and directed by John Souter, looking resplendent on his mount and very much in charge as "The Hunt Master". After the traditional "stirrup cup" at The Golden Lion, and with a resounding "Tally Ho", the hunt set off in pursuit of The Fox (in the guise of Councillor Ian Jackson).

The route through the town took riders and runners to five local hostelrys where they were offered refreshments before answering a series of riddles which would guide them to their next destination.

On returning to Oliver Cromwell the winners were presented with their winning rosettes. Proceeds from the Hunt amounting to £220 were generously donated to our SOS Fund.



So thank you to the St Ives Town Team for your support to The Free Church and congratulations on a very enjoyable fun event for the town.



Here Sheila Stone from the Town Team is presenting the cheque to the SOS Team.

Stewart Denham

Sandy sends news from Amsterdam!

GoedeDag allemaal!

Good day everyone, I hope you're all keeping well. Amsterdam is treating me well and the projects I'm involved with are giving me great opportunities with some incredible people. A lot of my time is spent with either the older generation or with the huge number of homeless people in and around the world's capital of freedom. By far the most challenging experience I've been faced with is spending time with the homeless; it's also one of the most rewarding and it's one I both look forward to and am apprehensive about. I spend my Tuesday evenings in the Red Light District with the other resident Brit in the Mission House making food for the girls. Naturally I can't be the delivery guy as it makes outreach more difficult with a 'potential client' alongside but being part of the organisation is opportunity enough to learn about the industry. I know I'm not here to change the world, every day is different and offers varying opportunities to engage with people from all over Europe in English and my rather limited Dutch!

I'm definitely in a really great place to stress-test the call to community ministry in the URC, engaging with people in different settings, who are marginalised by society and all with a story to . It is a healthy mix of challenge, reward and privilege that is fulfilling and advances the Kingdom of God! I plan to resume candidating soon, the time has flown by and was aided by my girlfriend breaking her foot and acclimatising to the Dutch healthcare system.

Beste wensen voor Het Nieuwe Jaar!

Sandy

The Finale!



A fun-filled evening accompanied by a delicious meal prepared by Pat and Linda brought this fund-raising year to an end.



Music was provided by our very own John Williams and by the "Rocking Ukeleles of St Ives", members of which include Geoff and Irene.



The magnificent total of over £40,000 was revealed.

The SOS team were thanked for their wonderful contribution not only to the raising of such a great total, but also for the way they have strengthened so many links with the wider community as well as giving us so many opportunities to deepen our fellowship.



Well done to the whole team!



Sally writes on behalf of the team.....

The spire appeal has now ended, although, of course, the church is grateful for any donations received on an ongoing basis. The spire has been repaired during the period of the appeal. This work comprised extensive stone replacement, pointing, and weed removal. The structure is now better placed to withstand weathering.

Thank you for all of your support for the church in this way over the past fifteen months. We are pleased to say that we raised almost £43,000 during the appeal period - a phenomenal amount; further money is still coming in to replenish funds.

Church Activities

Mondays	19:00	Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers Term time only
Tues 13th Feb	14:30	Meditation with John Williams at Fenstanton URC
Sun 18th Feb	12:30	Eco group Shared Lunch Topic—Fracking
Mon 19th Feb	19:30—21:00	Lent Group in Tookey's "The Mystery of Everything"
Mon 26th	19:30—21:00	Lent Group in Tookey's
Wed 28th Feb	19:45	Poetry Group

Community Activities

Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Tuesdays	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wednesdays	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thursdays	09:45	Sunny Steps
Thu 1st Feb	19:30	WI
Sat 3rd Feb	09:30 - 16:30	Saints Crafters Fair
Fri 9th Feb	10:00	COPE
Mon 12th Feb	13:30	U3A French
Fri 16th Feb	10:00	U3A Local History
Tue 20th Feb	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop-In Cafe
Wed 21st Feb	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Wed 21st Feb	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Mon 26th Feb	13:30	U3A French
Wed 28th Feb	19:30	RSPB
Sat 3rd Mar	09:30 - 16:30	Saints Crafters Fair
Wed 7th Mar	11:00	U3A Current Affairs

Inspire Editorial Team

We are looking for another editor to join our small team. You need to have access to Microsoft Publisher but tuition on how to use it will be given.

Speak to one of the team if you are interested

Remember the Briggs Family?



They worshipped with us while dad Richard was serving with the US military locally.

Here are Georgia—now 14 - and Julian aged 12

Contacts

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David Duffett 395308

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Flower Convenor

Margaret Cakebread 462726

Eco Group Convenor

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Tookey's Manager

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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

Porch Chapel Prayers Monday—Friday 10am



Sun 4th Feb	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball, Josh Thomas and Sue Billings Holy Communion Just Sharing Annual Service
Sun 11th Feb	11:00	Rev'd Peter Ball
Sun 11th Feb	18:00	Rev'd Derek Newton Joint service at Fenstanton URC
Wed 14th Feb	10:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Porch Chapel.
Sun 18th Feb	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 25th Feb	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball - Cafe Style
Sun 4th Mar	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 4th Feb	09:30	Rev'd Derek Newton
Sun 11th Feb	09:30	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 11th Feb	18:00	Rev'd Derek Newton Joint service at Fenstanton URC
Sun 18th Feb	09:30	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 25th Feb	09:30	Keith Cakebread
Sun 4th Mar	09:30	Rev'd Derek Newton