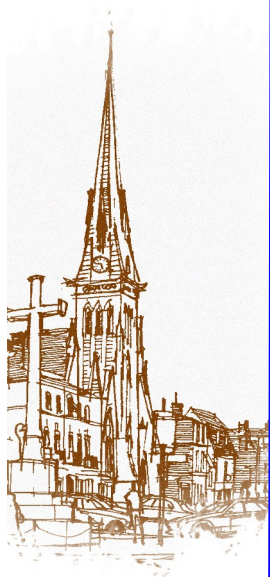


March 2018

Inspire



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

View from the Manse



Spring is in the air!! It gives us such a lift to be able to see the crocuses and green shoots of bulbs coming up out of the ground, ready to bloom. Spring always seems to be a season of hope, having a beauty all of its own, with fruit blossoms and buds on trees, and looking forward to the warmth and fullness of summer bounty. Doesn't our environment have an impact on how we feel! A bright sunny day can brush away negative thoughts, and fresh flowers and plants in bloom can give us a smile of pleasure.

Creation seems to be the theme of this month. On Friday 2nd of March the Free Church will be hosting this year's Women's World Day of Prayer on the theme of All God's Creation is very Good! prepared by women from Suriname. It will be a colourful and joyful celebration as we remember to care for our creation. I hope you will all come along – men are invited as well!

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**Publication date
for April Inspire
will be
Sunday 1st April**

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Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org

..... Cont'd

Throughout the month on Monday evenings Josh is leading a Lent course on the 'Theory of Everything'. This is a series of studies based on the film about Stephen Hawkins. His first wife was a Christian and she had much input into the film. It is an opportunity to grapple with the relationship between science and our understanding of creation.

Then on Sunday 11th of March we have a break during Lent as we celebrate Mothering Sunday. I hope daffodils will be out in bloom by then!

And then on the final Sunday of the month we have Palm Sunday when we remember Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, before we journey with him through his Passion, Death and Resurrection during Holy Week. This year we will be hosting the Methodists on Maundy Thursday on the 29th of the month and so I hope you will join with us as we welcome them for a very special recollection of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

As spring comes we are reminded of the core of our Christian faith, the good news of God's salvation through Christ, and the message of the story of Easter: God brings new life out of death and hope out of despair. Good News for us all!

Yours in Christ,

Catherine



"Good morning" is the greeting usually given by our group of Stewards on a Sunday morning. They are the people who make sure you have an Order of Service, hymn book if required and a token for your offering, again if required. Sometimes they may ask you to help with the collecting of the offering. Stewarding is not an onerous task, the average duty is about 4 times a year, but it all helps with the running of a smooth Sunday service and it would be good if we had a few new volunteers. Please speak to Irene or Helen if you are willing to help. Thank You

Tea or Coffee?



After service we usually gather downstairs in Tookeys for Tea or Coffee and to catch up with friends we perhaps haven't seen in a while. This also needs an army of volunteers to man behind the counter.

*This requires a small amount of setting up before the service
i.e. putting the cups out and switching on the boiler!*

If you feel you can help in any way please let Irene or Helen know. Thank you

A Little Fracking Goes a Long Way

To find out what this thing called 'fracking' is all about the St. Ives Free Church eco-group organised a discussion to follow on from an eco-service and a shared lunch. Clare Redfern, the Ely Diocesan Environment Co-ordinator and an Editor of Green Christian magazine, came over from Cambridge to lead the discussion.

Clare gave us the facts and figures of the processes of fracking and its potential harm to the environment, both in its emissions and the dangers of drilling and fracturing rocks at depth.



She then set fracking into the context of global efforts to reduce carbon emissions, showing graphically the slow progress that is being made, the effects on poorer communities who are already suffering the effects of climate change and the urgency with which change is needed.

She felt it was positive that China and America for example are cutting back on their use of coal and developing fracking as an alternative and less polluting source of energy. The UK's coal now comes entirely from open cast mining and imported coal, and its use has fallen significantly. But our use of renewables is growing all the time. So her conclusion was that fracking could at best play only a limited role in reducing UK carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement targets, though it is proving helpful in reducing carbon emissions in other countries. However, globally the ultimate need is for a transition from fossil fuels to renewables, and to 'decarbonize' heat by better insulation for homes, schools, and offices, must not be overlooked. Investment in these technologies is required from governments, industry and even churches.

Clare shared her belief that the Christian Church has an important role to play in these discussions, through engagement, prayer and hope.

The church eco-group has mounted an informative display on fracking in the Free Church hall to share some of what we have learned. Everyone is invited to come and take a look.

Mary Cox

Free Church eco-group Convenor

New Electronic Church Organ




We have a new electronic church organ kindly donated by John Hindley from the Methodist Church. It was agreed over 12 years ago that no further major costs would be incurred on our pipe organ but it would continue to receive regular maintenance. As the pipe organ had failed last December and it had posed problems with some of our Christmas concerts it was decided at Church Meeting to accept the kind offer from John Hindley. Both Brian Lodde and Irene McCormick reported favourably on the new organ.

A decision on what should happen to the pipe organ in the balcony will be decided at a later date. Brian will oversee the installation of the organ during March.

ST IVES
CHORAL
SOCIETY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Alison Daniels



Paula Downes -
soprano
Hamish McClaren -
countertenor
Karl Gietzmann -
countertenor
Louis Wilson -
baritone
Orchestra led by
Julia Frape

Tickets Adults £12, £10 (concessions),
accompanied children under 16 free
Available from The Free Church, St Ives

Registered Charity No. 291640

*Royal Rites
of Passage*

Purcell
*Come Ye Sons of Art
Thou knowest Lord
the Secrets of our Hearts*

Bach:
Suite no 3 in D Major

Handel
*My Heart is Inditing
Ode for the Birthday
of Queen Anne*

FREE CHURCH, ST IVES
Saturday 17 March 7.30pm

SOS Auction Meal with the Anthony's

On 10th February Mary & Jim Anthony hosted a special meal for Babs & John Moore and their friends John & Jackie. Babs & John were the successful bidders at a silent auction for the Save Our Spire Appeal last year. We aimed to make this occasion a special experience for our guests and we gave them a menu from which to make their choices on a 3 course meal. After much "ooing and aahing" choices were made. Not quite Michelin star perhaps, but good food and drink and a lovely informal and thoroughly enjoyable evening.



The evening was of course a small part of the tremendous effort of the SOS team over 12 months. If anyone would like to see a copy of the menu which emphasised the SOS team efforts, then Mary would be happy to provide a copy,

From The Church Secretary

At the beginning of the New Year the new team of serving elders enjoyed a team development and faith-building event. After a welcome cooked breakfast at Fenstanton church on a very cold morning on 6th January, Nicola Grieves from the Eastern Synod office facilitated our session. She brought lots of materials and video clips and music to help us in group work. One exercise that we found particularly useful was when she asked us to select six priorities to work on in 2018.



Our Christian faith is worked out in fellowship and it is interesting to see which priorities surfaced. You may also find these helpful, in your team endeavours.

Top of the listing is to develop shared aims. It is good to talk and to pray over, what we are part of and to seek guidance on our mission. Second came the importance of making everyone feel valued. We each have different gifts and this reminds us to encourage one another in them. Third was to pray together. We can find many opportunities for praying with each other about the life of our church. Fourth and fifth were about our behaviours. Fourth was to trust one another and fifth to appreciate one another. The sixth was to get support from the whole church. This reminds us that we are all part of the one body.

This month my church in Aberdeen shared this prayer for Lent with me on Facebook. I thought that this is helpful in this season of Lent. They are in the words of Pope Francis. Do you want to fast this Lent? May we:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
 Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
 Fast from anger and be filled with patience
 Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
 Fast from worries and have trust in God
 Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
 Fast from pressures and be prayerful
 Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
 Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
 Fast from grudges and be reconciled
 Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

Christine Macleod



Request For Help!

Flower Volunteers need your help



*Can anyone arrange two vases of flowers
over two weekends once a year in memory
of loved ones.*

*(Chapel and Betty's table in Foyer)
There is a flower fund to contribute to if
you would rather do that*

*But we do need more Volunteers, Pedestal
Arrangers needed as well*



*Contact Valerie Temple 466204
or Margaret 462726*

Vases needed, not glass, one per household

Church Activities

Mondays	19:00	Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers Term time only
Mon 5th Mar	19:30 - 21:00	Lent course: 'The Mystery of Everything'
Mon 12th Mar	19:30 - 21:00	Lent course: 'The Mystery of Everything'
Mon 19th Mar	19:30 - 21:00	Lent course: 'The Mystery of Everything'
Wed 28th Mar	19:45	Poetry Club



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 Mar	19:30	WI
Sat 3rd Mar	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Wed 7th Mar	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Fri 9th Mar	10:00	COPE
Mon 12th Mar	13:30	U3A French
Fri 16th Mar	10:00	U3A Local History
Tue 20th Mar	10:00	Alzheimers Support Drop-In Cafe
Wed 21st Mar	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Wed 21st Mar	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Mon 26th Mar	13:30	U3A French
Wed 28th Mar	19:30	RSPB
Thu 5th Apr	19:30	WI
Sat 7th Apr	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair

Contacts

Minister

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tba

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Freewill Offering Treasurer

David Duffett 395308

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

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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

Porch Chapel Prayers
Monday - Friday
10am



Fri 2nd Mar	11:00	Women's World Day of Prayer Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 4th Mar	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
Sun 11th Mar	11:00 18:00	Josh Thomas Dr Christine Macleod Joint service at Fenstanton
Sun 18th Mar	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 25th Mar	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball
Thu 29th Mar	19:30	Maundy Thursday with the Methodists at the Free Church
Fri 30th Mar	11:00 walk, 12noon service	Good Friday Witness Walk Leave Crossways 11-11.15am for 12noon service at Market Hill
Easter Day Sun 1st Apr	11:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 4th Mar	09:30	Rev'd Derek Newton
Sun 11th Mar	09:30 18:00	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion Dr Christine Macleod Joint Service at Fenstanton
Sun 18th Mar	09:30	Rev'd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 25th Mar	09:30	Keith Cakebread
Easter Day Sun 1st Apr	09:30	Rev'd Derek Newton