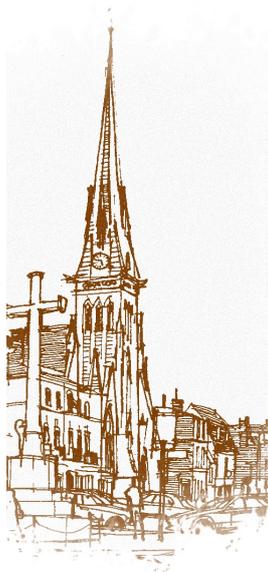


# June & July 2019

# Inspire



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

## View from the Manse



June 9<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. It was a prominent feast in the calendar of Ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law on Sinai, as well as becoming a Christian festival commemorating the filling of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection. It is also called Whit Sunday, Whitsun, or Whit. It always falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter. Pentecost means "fiftieth day": it is celebrated 50 days from Easter Sunday (including Easter Sunday in the counting).

Jesus' disciples had seen him resurrected to new life after his death on the cross and were commissioned to spread the message of God's love as shown in his ministry and death to bring salvation for the world. Then Jesus had returned to God and now they were left on their own to fulfil their calling. But Jesus had promised that he would always be with them and so the Spirit of God was sent to them to remind them of all that Jesus had said and done and to guide them and support them as they spread the good news of God's love as seen in Christ Jesus.

Cond't.....

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**Deadline for Aug / Sept  
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We as Christ's followers today have also been given God's Spirit to support, guide and lead us as we seek to fulfil our calling to share the Good News of God's love for our generation and people.

There have been many types of mission projects down the years set up by Christians – overseas missionaries, large rallies and door-to-door evangelism. More recently, as the Christian faith has grown and spread throughout the world, we are encouraged to be a witness to Christ in our own country, where it has become more secular and sceptical of the institution of the Church.

Like the early disciples, we can feel hesitant and unsure of ourselves, yet we have the history of God's work amongst people, the many faithful who have gone before us who have shown that God can draw them to the Divine Presence. Just as the Holy Spirit emboldened and empowered the early disciples, the Holy Spirit may strengthen and enable us to show God's love in all we say and do.

Having seen some unsuccessful evangelistic attempts, we often become reluctant to 'impose' our beliefs upon others. However, Jesus never 'imposed' upon anyone he simply offered and invited. That is all we are required to do. We also become doubtful that God is still at work in the world, as it seems to be better in some ways, with scientific and technological advances, but also worse in its destruction through violence and all forms of pollution. Yet we know that God tends to work secretly, changing the world from the inside through changing people's hearts.

We have opportunity in the warm summer months to naturally and appropriately share something of the peace and joy our faith in Christ gives us with others, as we show hospitality and enjoy the outdoors and neighbourly conversation. We will also have the friendship and fellowship of each other with the Church Weekend away on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July. We have freedom to visit the sick, bring words of encouragement to the lonely or fearful, and opportunities to stand up for justice, peace and healing for our world. Let's take these opportunities – and see what amazing things the Spirit will do through us this summer!. Love in Christ,

*Catherine*

**Thank you to everyone who gave to the Lent Appeal for Traidcraft Exchange. All the pounds together raised £159. Below is a letter of thanks from Traidcraft Exchange.**

I wanted to say thank you for your kind and generous response to our urgent appeal and to update you on the impact your donations are having.

Last year, like you, we were very concerned about how producer groups would be affected by what was happening at Traidcraft plc. We hoped you would help, and we're happy to report that your donations are already making a difference.

Our team have been working alongside the twelve most affected producer groups, helping them to formulate new plans for a future without sales to Traidcraft plc. We've been offering individually tailored support to each group, building on our years of expertise working with farmers and artisans across some of the world's poorest communities.

This work is a little out of the ordinary for us – the producer groups affected by Traidcraft plc's downsizing are larger-scale fair trade businesses. However, the majority of the people Traidcraft Exchange supports through our development projects may never be in a position to export overseas, but struggle to make a basic living.

That's why your donations are also helping support our core projects, reaching the most vulnerable and exploited through trade across the world.

In the changing political and economic landscape, we know the next few years will continue to be uncertain and challenging. We also know that around the world, many very poor people face far greater challenges every day as they continue to be excluded or exploited by trade in ways they cannot control. Once again, thank you so much for all you've done and continue to do for Traidcraft Exchange and the people we support. You're a vital part of a movement dedicated to changing the world, and we hope you're encouraged to hear of the difference we can make together.

With warmest wishes,

Esther Stevenson CEO Traidcraft Exchange



## *My Favourite Hymn*

This is an explanation / request / acknowledgement of my roots! And it is all about my favourite hymn, which seems inexplicably to have slipped into oblivion of late! So here goes.

**It was written by John of Damascus, in the 8th century.**

Considered to be one of the last Fathers of the early Church, he is also described as a Saint. He wrote many hymns or poems, but the only one we have in our book is the following one

(I think originally written in Greek):

***The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God!  
From death to life eternal, From earth unto the sky,  
Our Christ hath brought us over With hymns of victory.***

***Our hearts be pure from evil, That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light,  
And, listening to his accents, May hear so calm and plain,  
His own All hail! And hearing, May raise the victor-strain.***

***Now let the heavens be joyful; Let earth her song begin;  
The round world keep high triumph, And all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord hath risen, Our joy that has no end.***

It was beautifully translated by John Mason Neale, a clergyman of the Victorian age, who did more than anyone else to make English speaking congregations aware of the centuries old tradition of Latin, Greek, Russian and Syrian hymns.

As a Methodist, by upbringing, I have known this uplifting hymn for more decades than I care to mention. I am so pleased it is included in our present hymn book. However, that doesn't mean that it ever gets an airing! We always sang it to the tune Ellacombe, from a Gesangbuch, 1833, which is a well known and stirring tune. So I suppose this is a request for it to be included in the Easter canon of hymns. There are many amazing, beautiful Easter hymns in our book. We neglect them at our impoverishment!



*Liz Denham*

## FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Summer fast approaches. Just as the weather has been unpredictable, we have had to cope with a variety of developments recently. We can now all benefit from the improvements to our church building, including the new heating and plumbing to provide warmth. Now that the dust has settled, we can return to normality for bookings and concerts.

In May we made three new temporary appointments. Tracey Hipson will be our IT administrator covering maternity leave. Also, we welcome Joanne Dodds as our temporary Administrator and she started working in the church office on 28<sup>th</sup> May and Sarah Clarke will be covering the cleaning role on a temporary basis.



I attended the Synod-led Elders Roadshow on 8<sup>th</sup> May for our Area Partnership Meeting, with our minister. I was wondering how one keeps up to date with legislation and gets capacity for training of staff and volunteers. However, a participant in the Faith in Business retreat held at Westminster College had usefully pointed out to me that our local church should join the Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations [www.huntsforum.org.uk](http://www.huntsforum.org.uk). It is a charity and similar umbrella organisations exist all over the country. We are now joining for £25 a year subscription. Hunts Forum offers information, guidance and support to help voluntary and community organisations set up, develop and grow. They also attend key meetings with County Council, District Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure the needs and services of the Voluntary and Charitable Sectors are understood and incorporated. They also offer some training and advice on funding and run quarterly update meetings. We look forward to being a member of the Forum and working alongside other organisations in Huntingdonshire.

Preparation is well advanced for us to roll out our mandatory training for our staff and volunteers soon.

Many people have reported back on how they enjoyed the Lent retreat at Little Gidding, and our thanks go to the organising team. We are also looking forward to the Church Weekend at Launde Abbey in July. These days are welcome especially as we have started our Quinquennial review.

Finally, we will be reporting back on the work of our Organisation and Operations group meeting at the July Church meeting and continue to collate all the helpful and constructive feedback.

*Christine MacLeod*

## Diamond Wedding Anniversary

David & Josie Viles will be celebrating their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary on 1st August this year. Everyone at the Free Church wishes David & Josie a very happy time celebrating with their family and friends on this happy occasion.

David & Josie have a long association with the Free Church as they were married here and Josie has attended church here for most of her life.



***“One more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new  
keep me travelling along with you.”***

July 8<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of our move, in 1998, from Canterbury to St. Ives.

Many years before, in 1964, Derek completed his training and accepted his first pastorate at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire – familiar territory not too far from home.

Now was the time to put theory into practice.

In addition to pastoral care and, being a practical man, he found many opportunities to offer help where needed, including instructing a young couple in the art of wall-paper hanging without recourse to hammer and nails.

Seven years later we moved to Hertford – a very ‘county town’ - where our Midlands accent was a great source of amusement. However, anyone born south of Watford Gap knows there is no letter ‘r’ in bath or path.



Eight years later we moved to Hemel Hempstead – a church set in the heart of a large housing estate. Here Derek found it essential to improve his guitar-playing skills (?). The town was famous for what became known as ‘the magic roundabout’. People from around the world came to view this phenomenon.

***“Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn”***

The next 3 years were spent at a Bible College not far from Horsham, living in community. A new experience. Whilst there, we became part of the team helping to build a small church and bible college in Poland. Our visit to the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie was sobering indeed.

***“As I travel from the bad and good  
keep me travelling the way I should”***

Following a major road accident, we lived for a time in a vacant manse in Loughborough before receiving a call from the church in Canterbury.

A city centre church, so a gathered congregation. We were part of the inter-church group providing soup and sandwiches to the homeless who were sleeping in shop doorways in the town centre.

In Canterbury we encountered for the first time Hell’s Angels (motorcyclist division) They looked very fierce and awesome, but closer acquaintance revealed their ‘pussy-cat’ side.

In our spare time and around 1982, we helped establish a church in Spain for ex pats, and Brits wintering in the sun – or anyone who could benefit from the preach which was always in English.

We met Scandinavian, German, French - all were made welcome. Although we are no longer Trustees, we retain a strong interest.

Now, settled in one place for the first time in many years, is it time for rocking chair, pipe and slippers? (Derek can make his own plans)

***“From the old things to the new  
keep me travelling along with you”  
Amen to that.***

R&S 549

*Hazel*

## Church Activities

Tues 11th June & Tue 9th July	14.30	Meditation led by John Williams
Wednes- days	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers
Wed 26th Jun	19:45	Poetry Group in Tookeys
Wed 31st Jul	19:45	Poetry Group in Tookeys

## COSI Summer Concert

Come along to the Free Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 14th July to hear the Chamber Orchestra of St Ives (COSI) perform a delightful selection of music from around Europe for a summer evening and to mark the 10th anniversary of FESSt (Festival and Events in St Ives)

The evening features music by Poulenc (Sinfonietta), Mendelsohn (Fair Melusine overture), Elgar (Romance for bassoon and orchestra) and Sibelius (Karelia Suite).

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Children under 16 go free. Available from Just Sharing in the Free Church or online:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives)

## *A date for your diary:*

### Sunday 11th August

**Tea in Tookey's followed by a lovely relaxing boat trip along the river then return to church for a short service**



**More details to follow soon**

## Community Activities

Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Wednes- days	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thurs- days	09:45	Sunny Steps
Sat 1st Jun	09:30 - 15:30	Saints Crafters Fair
Sat 1st Jun	10:00 - 16:00	WEA Day School
Thu 6th Jun	19:00	WI
Sat 8th Jun	19:30	St Ives Choral Society Concert: Rutter: Feel the Spirit
Fri 14th Jun	10:00	COPE
Sun 16th Jun	19:30	Harmonia Music Concert
Tue 18th Jun	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop- In Cafe
Sat 29th Jun	19:30 - 21:30	St Ives Community Choir: Summer Concert
Thu 4th Jul	19:00	WI
Fri 5th Jul		Rotary Art Exhibition
Sat 6th Jul		Rotary Art Exhibition
Sat 6th Jul	09:30 - 15:30	Saints Crafters Fair
Fri 12th Jul	10:00	COPE
Tue 16th Jul	14:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop- In Cafe
Fri 26th Jul		Huntingdonshire Art Group Exhibition
Sat 27th Jul		Huntingdonshire Art Group Exhibition

## Fenstanton Worship

Sun 2nd Jun	09:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 9th Jun	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Tue 11th Jun	14.30	Meditation led by John Williams
Sun 16th Jun	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Father's Day
Sun 23rd Jun	09:30	Keith Cakebread
Sun 30th Jun	09:30	Pauline Zahner
Sun 7th Jul	09:30	Revd Derek Newton
Tue 9th Jul	14.30	Meditation led by John Williams
Sun 14th Jul	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
	18.00	Joint service with St Ives, John Williams
Sun 21st Jul	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 28th Jul	09:30	Geraldine Swain

## Free Church Worship

Sun 2nd Jun	11.00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
Sun 9th Jun	11.00	Christine Macleod
Tue 11th Jun	14.30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton URC
Sun 16th Jun	11.00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Father's Day
Sun 23rd Jun	11.00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Café style service
Sun 30th Jun	11.00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 7th Jul	11.00	Revd Roy Muttram
Tue 9th Jul	14.30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton URC
Sun 14th Jul	11.00 18.00	Revd Peter Ball Joint service at Fenstanton URC led by John Williams
Sun 21st Jul	11.00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 28th Jul	11.00	Christine Macleod

## BANK HOLIDAY SNACK BARS

The snack bar held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April was extremely busy and we took £768. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked non-stop throughout the day.

The snack bar held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May was also very busy and we took £695. Many thanks to Anne Strong and her family, Liz and Esmond Edwards and all the other volunteers.

These snack bars were very successful but without the volunteers would not have happened. Many people volunteered on both days and we cannot thank them enough. The profit from the first two bank holidays is around £1000.

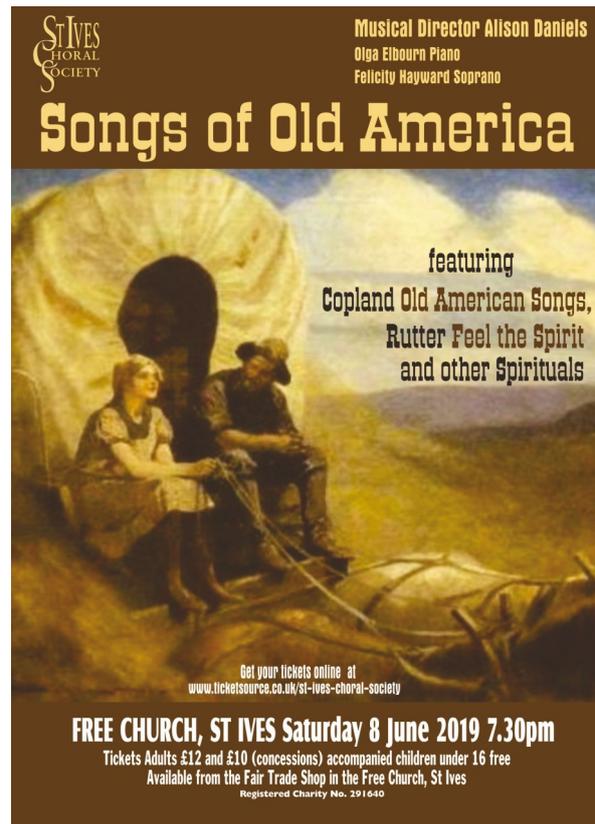
Ps. The snack bar on Monday 27th May took £834

*Mavis*

## *Choral Society Concert 8th June*

For our summer concert this year we at St Ives Choral Society bring you a programme of music inspired by America. Copland's Old American Songs are settings of American folk tunes collected in the 19th and early 20th centuries, including the famous shaker melody "Tis the gift to be simple". The songs sung by African American slaves have inspired many composers in Britain and further afield. Rutter's Feel the Spirit brings together seven of those spirituals including When the Saints and Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho, with the choir being joined by a soprano soloist.

June York ,  
Publicity Officer, SICS



## **Christian Aid Week: 'All mums should live'**

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.' This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.



This year Christian Aid Week was 12-18 May. If our church raised £300, it could help provide a new delivery bed so more mums like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely.

## Lesvos is still in the grip of a migrant crisis; holiday there and you can still do your bit.



Four years ago, my husband and I were in a beautiful field. It was a still evening. We were surrounded by wild flowers, watching flamingoes, stilts and avocets feed in the nearby salt-pans. It was idyllic. Behind us we saw a trail of exhausted people dragging themselves along the quiet, sandy road. They were Syrian and Afghan refugees.

Lesvos is the most beautiful Greek island I know — and I have visited most! There are many compelling reasons to go there, but it is now unthinkable to ignore the presence of the refugees. In 2016, half a million refugees landed there (island population: 85,000), part of the largest flow of humanity since World War II. Visitor numbers dropped by 80%, the tourist trade was going bankrupt. Things are improving now, with aid workers and volunteers filling the hotels.

Our garden party on 12 May was in aid of the Pikpa Camp, near Mitalini, which is open to the most vulnerable refugees, those who have lost their

families through shipwreck, diabetes or serious mental illness. My dear friends Willy and Ali Wilson and I will be there on 18 May, and we shall take the funds raised by the garden party. The generosity shown at the party was astonishing: we can now take over £2,000 to Pikpa.

The refugees haven't gone — the boats are still arriving — but they are afraid of being forgotten.

I recommend a holiday in Lesvos: share your love, I am sure you will return having had a truly wonderful and happy holiday.



With love, *Charlotte.*



## **Banks can have a social purpose to address climate change but they need to step up the fight**

***Bevis Watts is managing director of Triodos Bank U.K., a sustainable bank***

It has been a momentous year for environmental activism, with protest groups Extinction Rebellion and Youth Strike 4 Climate making their voices heard on the global stage and calling for real change to prevent climate catastrophe.

Another often overlooked but powerful form of democracy in placing action against climate change, however, is money. From choosing a green energy supplier to eating less meat or boycotting products with unnecessary plastic packaging, consumers are increasingly thinking about how they can help alleviate the ills of climate change through their everyday spending habits. The logical next step is to look at how they save their money and demand transparency about where their bank is lending and investing – but we are not there yet. **Recent research**, commissioned by Triodos, found ethical finance is low down in many consumers' list of priorities. Although Britain's ethical finance market is now **worth 19 billion** pounds (\$25 billion), only 9 percent of British savers consider it a priority – in sharp contrast to the 67 percent of savers who prioritise increasing recycling and reducing plastics use.

Even as awareness increases, consumer pressure alone will not be enough to tackle climate change. Banks need to step up the fight. Banking may not be the first industry you think of when considering action to tackle climate change, but the sector plays a key role in shaping how economies and societies operate and therefore has a significant influence on the future of the environment. First and foremost, it's the responsibility of banks to keep people's investments and money safe. As important, however, is for banks to use that money in the long-term interest of their customers, not simply in the short-term interests of shareholders and senior management.

Every financial decision makes impact after all. It is up to banks to determine whether that impact is positive or negative. Some banks may, unbeknown to their customers, invest in or lend extensively to the fossil fuel sector. A **report by campaigning group BankTrack** showed the world's top banks have poured \$1.9 trillion into fossil fuel financing since the Paris Agreement was adopted. However money can also be used to do good things that help build the society we want to live in – such as supporting social housing, arts venues or renewable energy. Banks can have a social purpose to address climate change and much more.

Little more than a decade on from the financial crisis, there's been a stark new warning on the impending volatility of the global economy. This time, the phrase "economic meltdown" seems particularly apt, as the governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney last week **warned** banks that they must face up to the challenge of global warming.

It's a welcome sign of change, but we must go one step further and better control how banks use money in the first place. We should make this change not solely to protect the financial sector, but because it is essential for our own future prosperity. Earlier this year, a cohort of **British politicians** became the latest group to throw its support behind the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) **Principles for Responsible Banking**, an ambitious framework to embed sustainability at the heart of banks operations, helping to tackle climate change and promote the SDGs.

Given the magnitude of the environmental and social challenges we face, global initiatives such as this – which has also been endorsed by 49 banks so far – are very important to achieve systemic change. More banks must now commit to adopt the initiative and align around the much greater impact the banking industry could have in leading society to meet its goals for a sustainable, equitable and prosperous future.

As we all learn about the potential of money to shape the future, many more of us – business leaders and consumers alike – will need to make real choices about how we use our money in ways that will make it better.

**\* Any views expressed in this opinion piece are those of the author and not of Thomson Reuters Foundation.**

## From the Church Eco Group

Did you know that on many beaches there can be found 5,000 pieces of plastic waste per mile in addition to pieces of fishing nets etc from fishing boats? So, please help to clean up our oceans and protect marine life by collecting any plastic and other rubbish when visiting the beach this summer, and put them in the bin. Beach cleaning is a good form of exercise too!



*Mavis*

# THE TIME IS NOW

**JUNE 26TH**  
WESTMINSTER  
LONDON

JOIN US ON 26TH JUNE IN LONDON TO TELL OUR POLITICIANS #THETIMEISNOW IF WE'RE TO END OUR CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

**WHY NOW?**  
This Summer the government will decide whether to end the UK's contribution to climate change by committing to a net zero emissions target. They will also have the chance to end nature's decline by committing to a strong Environment Bill. Now is the time to push for bold action.

**WHAT ARE WE DOING?**  
On June 26th, thousands of us from every corner of Britain will take our message straight to Parliament in what we hope will be the largest mass lobby for climate and the environment the UK has ever seen. We will line the streets of Westminster to tell them that The Time Is Now to take action.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**  
Join us and many of your fellow constituents in London on 26th June! We need as many people as possible to ensure our voices are heard and that MPs leave feeling compelled to tackle climate change and protect our environment.

Sign up here  
[theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow](https://theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow)

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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.*

## QUIZ NIGHT

The quiz night held at the end of March made a profit of £329. We all had an enjoyable evening.

Many thanks to Sally and Nev for researching and providing the questions.

Thank you all for the large number of raffle prizes too and thanks to Peter and Gill German for selling the tickets.

My thanks to everyone for the excellent recycling of the fish and chip containers, bottles and the collection of waste food which was taken home and put in my green bin for collection. *Mavis*

## Just Sharing, the Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church

We have a new selection of coffee cups in Just Sharing. They are made from natural rice husk which are genuinely biodegradable as they do not contain melamine which is a plastic. They are dishwasher safe, and you can warm your drink up safely in the microwave. Look after it and it will last years. When you are ready to dispose of this cup soak in water overnight, crush and bury in compost or soil. Rice husk cups will start to biodegrade in soil within six months.



We also have a lovely selection of jute bags. They are made from a fast growing vegetable fibre and are 100% biodegradable and recyclable.

