

# May 2018

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Deadline date for June  
issue  
is  
20th May 2018

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## View from the Manse



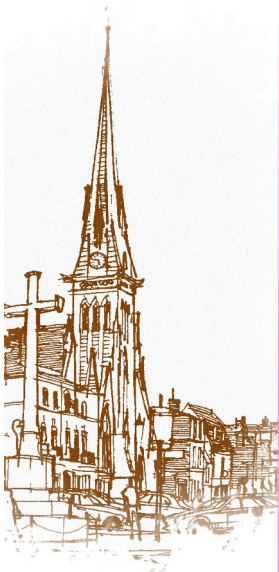
April showers bring May flowers! Well, we had lots of rain in April, so now we reap the benefit to see the flowers and trees in bloom this month! We may find the rain a bit dreary at times, but it is a precious resource that many other countries would be very grateful to have! It cleans the air, refreshes the land, nourishes the crops and waters our flower gardens and lawns. It is one of the main reasons that England is such a green and pleasant land!

Water is considered a blessing in Scripture – the Israelites were desperate for water in their years of wandering in the wilderness until Moses performed a miracle of providing water by striking a rock at Horeb and the people were able to drink. Water is also a symbol of refreshment and renewal. Jesus describes himself as the 'living water' to the woman at the well, for he nourishes our soul.

I wonder how many of us at times find ourselves spiritually dry. We come back from a spiritual high perhaps on a break to face normal routine; or we experience a deep disappointment or loss and wonder why God has let this happen to us; or as we get older we lose something of our ideals and enthusiasms, lower our expectations and can even become a little cynical. Well, if so, please don't give up!

Firstly, you are in good company! Even some of the most spiritual of people had times of deep depression and doubt. John of the Cross (1542 – 1591), experienced what he described as *The Dark Night of the Soul*, a time when he lost the pleasure that he once knew in his devotional life. He believed that this spiritual dryness was an opportunity to persevere in his ➡

# Inspire



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

⇒ spiritual life, not a loss of faith, but rather a maturing of faith.

Secondly, we have each other to rely on. We are never to be Christians on our own. As followers of Christ we become part of his body of believers, for better or worse, the Church. When our faith is weak and our spiritual life dry, we can rely on each other for support. Sometimes just by continuing to come to worship and sharing with each other, perhaps over a coffee in Tookey's coffee bar we may find that the 'joy of our salvation' returns. This means that we are to be ready to encourage others in the faith.

Do come to our Quiz night and hear Pamela Richardson who is a Christian Aid representative and let us hear and support this charity as it supports those in other countries. Also, this month we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit who fills us and helps us develop the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy and peace – may we show God's love in all we say and do. With all good wishes,  
*Catherine*



**GREGGS  
STRENGTHENS  
SUPPORT FOR**

#### **FARMERS THIS FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**

THIS FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT, the UK's leading bakery food-on-the-go retailer Greggs has helped farmers in the developing world to earn a better living. With more than 1,850 shops across the UK, Greggs has opened an ethical investment account with Shared Interest.

Shared Interest has over 11,500 UK members with a collective investment of £40m in share capital. This money is pooled together to offer loans and credit facilities to fair trade producers who struggle to find finance elsewhere.

Shared Interest Managing Director Patricia Alexander said: "We are delighted to welcome Greggs as the first high-street company to invest in Shared Interest. Last year, our members helped make a positive impact on the lives of 375,000 individuals, helping us to break the cycle of poverty in the developing world.

"Our work is not just about providing finance on fair terms. The Fairtrade certified farmers we work with say that we have helped change the lives of families involved. It is fitting that a company that has its roots in our local community is now helping us to transform communities across the globe."

## **PRAYER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

You spoke into the silence

Light suffusing darkness.

You spoke into the silence

Blowing clean life giving air into the space

You spoke into the silence

Warmth and cold infusing the air

You spoke into the silence

Solid ground formed out of gushing water.

You spoke voice carrying over the sound

People, plants and animals came to life.

You spoke each creation balanced against the next so life would be abundant and sustainable.

You saw everything you had made and declared it to be very good.

You spoke choosing to give us humans stewardship over all that You had made.

We speak and act

Darkness of pollution limits light levels and damages the air we breathe.

We speak and act

Ground poisoned, burnt, stripped bare.

We speak and act

Spoiling, limiting, destroying quality of life and life itself.

We speak and act

Without hearing Your call over the noise of the world to be good stewards.

You speak. You create. You want us to be stewards of Your creation.

We come to You to re-learn how to care for the earth and people you have made.

Katrina Rowland, April 2017

## Echoes of the Good Life....



One frustrated farmer plus retirement and the rest is history as they say.... We have always grown some vegetables and have always believed in eating local and eating "in season", but it was only when Alan retired that the idea of becoming self-sufficient in vegetables came to fruition. The chance of an allotment – a mini farm – plus a fair sized garden enabled us to set out on a project which has lasted 14 years. Chris is the planner and the seed sower – Alan is the labourer. We have bought some main crop potatoes, frozen peas as a stand-by and occasional salad out of season. Other than that we have been self-sufficient in vegetables and have eaten what was available. At this time of year it does mean we have mastered the art of "100 ways to eat kale" and other such specialities!

The venture has been enormously satisfying though our daughters may have something to say about the watering needed when we are away in the caravan (where we live by LOAF principles)! But like all good things it has to come to an end. Less supple bodies mean cutting back on the physical stuff and Hill Rise allotments are incredibly hard work, being almost solid clay – sodden one moment and hard as iron two days later! But we have proved you can have zero food miles in veg at least (unless you count Alan cycling to the allotment) and we have eaten things we wouldn't have tried otherwise. It has allowed us to live out our principles and hopefully do a little bit towards less damage to our precious planet.



So we now have raised beds in the garden and aim to grow at least half of the veg we eat – so, on to the next chapter!



*Chris Curtis*

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ST IVES

At last we have some sunshine – or at least whist I am writing this! The lovely weather makes me think of our preparations and plans for later in the year when hopefully we will be in glorious sunshine again.

At the end of March, all the churches of CTSI participated in a Good Friday Walk of Witness behind a large cross, kindly lent by All Saints. We started off from Crossways and ended in the market square outside the Free Church with a talk from the Methodist minister. The weather was cool but dry, making it much more pleasant for the assembled people and the Somersham Town Band than in some previous years. We continue to be grateful to the Band for the music and also to the market manager who protected the congregated group from traffic, with a temporary cordon.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, a gazebo (helpfully stored in the Free Church) is erected in the market square. Volunteers cover shifts from 9am-3pm and are available to answer questions, listen and to encourage folk to connect with churches. On 14<sup>th</sup> May we will have some pens to distribute with "God knows" written on them. These were also given out on Good Friday. Do drop by if you can, we are always looking for additional help.

Looking forward to a lovely summer, CTSI has booked a float in the carnival parade. The theme is TV and film, so we could not resist the opportunity to portray our favourite TV vicars! We will need all sorts of contributions to make the float happen, so do share your availability and enthusiasm with your CTSI reps.

*Sue Kinder CTSI chair*

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## FROM THE CHURCH ECO GROUP

In April the chancellor made his spring statement, giving us both a view of the current economic conditions and a set of new measures to tackle the issues our country faces. Many of these issues affect nature and our natural environment.



### ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

On the positive side, the movement away from single-use plastic continues, with a call for evidence on how the tax system can be used to discourage their use. The chancellor insists that the possible tax changes are intended not as a way of raising revenue, but of changing behaviour. He also announced new funding to stimulate “new thinking and rapid solutions” to tackle plastic waste. This is all welcome, but we should not lose sight of the need to radically reduce our use of plastic in the immediate future while we pursue longer term technological and cultural changes.

The chancellor also announced a consultation on providing tax incentives for commercial vehicle drivers to run cleaner, more efficient vans. With diesel engines contributing to poor air quality in many areas around the country, more action in this direction is welcome.

### REAL ACTION REQUIRED

As usual, however, there is a catch. Many of the “greener” initiatives announced are nothing more than consultations with no legally enforceable outcomes. In a time of terrifying environmental trends, we need action now far more than we need more words. The recent loss of the last male northern white rhino is a visible reminder that we are losing species every day. Recent reports from France and Germany have highlighted the collapse of ecosystems much closer to home. If the nature with which we have been entrusted is to be preserved, we need more than ever to raise our voices in support of tangible actions that will begin to reverse this decline.

From

### Jubilee Debt Campaign

**Do you remember?** On the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1998 70,000 people took to the streets of Birmingham and formed a “human chain” around the city which was then hosting a global summit with world leaders. Crowds of ordinary people were calling for debt cancellation for the world’s most indebted countries. Were you there?

Do you have any photos or memories of that day? This spring **Jubilee Debt Campaign** will celebrate and reflect on the 20-year anniversary of the action described as a “tremendous inspiration... a defining moment in history!

Some of us from the Free Church were there. So if you would like to share your experiences of the day, or the campaign in general, the JBC would love to hear from you. Email [jenny@jubileedebt.org.uk](mailto:jenny@jubileedebt.org.uk)

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## Over and out – Josh Thomas

Back at the start of September I started a nine-month final-year placement here in St Ives along with your sister church in Fenstanton. It is the culmination of four years' worth of theological training designed to go some way towards equipping you for full time ministry in the church. Nine months seemed like a really long time and I entered church on that first Sunday morning with a sense of trepidation, not knowing what was ahead of me - how we would settle in as a family and most importantly how I would get on with Catherine my supervisor for this placement. I needn't have worried, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I have experienced so many different aspects of church life from charring elders' meetings, to leading tots and carers and learning exactly what happens when a boiler breaks down in such a busy building! Most importantly though, I have met and worked with some wonderful people and learnt a great deal from so many of you so a big thank you for that.

At the start of June, Hannah, Isla and I move down to Petersfield in Hampshire which for those of you who don't know is about ten miles north of Portsmouth, the city in which I was born and raised. My family are still there, and Hannah's family aren't far away in Reading. It is a move that we are both excited and nervous about as I take on two churches and a fresh expressions project in Bordon – an ex-military town that is undergoing a huge transformation with new houses and businesses popping up all over the place.

We recently reflected on the subject of time through our lent course which was based on the film 'The Theory of Everything'. Time is a funny thing, sometimes it goes really slowly which is something I experienced back in October as I was waiting on a phone call to tell me about whether there was any potential pastorate for me to look at. At other times, it goes by in a flash and it's a case of you blink and miss it. This is what the rest of the year has felt like. I feel now I'm only just starting to get to know you all and suddenly here we are in May getting ready to leave on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

I want to take this time to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the love and acceptance you have shown us as a family, even when Isla is causing chaos on a Sunday morning. I especially want to thank Catherine and the elders for all their guidance over the last nine months. I don't think you can ever be prepared for all that ministry is going to throw at you, but during my time here I have certainly learnt a great deal and I feel equipped to step out in faith in this new chapter of our lives. Thank you all.

May God's blessing be upon you and remain with you as a church family now and into the future. My ordination will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm down in Petersfield and we would love to see you there, and if you can't make it, please do come and visit us in the future!

*Josh Thomas*

## **KIDNEY CARE UK**

I am collecting used stamps and old and foreign currency in aid of Kidney Care UK.

Each 1kg of stamps you donate generates around £20 of income to support kidney patients. It is estimated that nearly £2billion worth of foreign currency is simply sitting in drawers or boxes in UK homes.

A further £1.2billion of now unusable old currency is also hidden away. By donating your no longer needed coins and notes, you can help improve life for kidney patients.

If you would like to help Kidney Care UK, please let me have your used stamps and/or foreign currency and I will endeavour to send it to the Community and Events Fundraiser on a regular basis.

These can be left in my folder in the Church office or leave them in Tookey's Snack Bar.

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP**

*Sindy Surtees*

## **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

Back to our regular venue of the church at Fenstanton.  
Tuesday 8th May 2018  
Come along for 2.30pm  
A warm welcome awaits you

contact  
John Williams,  
<jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk> or  
'phone 01480 463 117.

Peterborough Eco-Faith Network

Invites you to join a

Guided visit to the

**GREAT FEN PROJECT**

**ON**

**MONDAY 4TH JUNE 2018**

**AT**

**2 - 4PM**

Meet at the New Decoy Farm Park on B660  
(PE73 PW Holme to Ramsey St Marys)

Donation £3 (waterproof footwear)

More details from John Harper 01733 688923

Revjohnharper@talktalk.net

## Church Activities

Wednes- days	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers Term time only
Sat 12th May	19:00	Christian Aid Quiz
Fri 25th May	13:00 - 14:00	Lunchtime Concert: violin and piano with Matthew Chambers For SOS
Wed 30th May	19:45	Poetry Group

### ***Silence Speaks Volumes!***

I don't know whether anyone agrees with me, but I feel the witness we bear on Good Friday should be in silence. All around me folk were chattering (about this and that) and the witness we show to the shoppers in town must be of folk out for a stroll and chat!

How much better if we were silent in our contemplation of our Lord, and what was happening to him on that first Good Friday. I can't help thinking that this is the point of it all, it certainly is for me.

I just wish our Good Friday Walk of Witness was a silent one, presenting to St Ives, a group of people in serious contemplation of a very serious occasion. Does anybody else feel the way I do?  
*Liz Denham*

## Community Activities

Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Wednesdays	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thursdays	09:45	Sunny Steps
Wed 2nd May	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 3rd May	19:30	WI
Sat 5th May	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Fri 11th May	10:00	COPE
Tue 15th May	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop-In Cafe
Wed 16th May	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Wed 16th May	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Fri 18th May	10:00	U3A Local History
Sun 20th May	16:00 - 19:00	Classical Vocal Recital
Sat 2nd Jun	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Wed 6th Jun	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 7th Jun	19:30	WI

**You are invited to a  
QUIZ NIGHT!**

**To raise funds for the fantastic work of  
Christian Aid around the world with speaker Pam Richardson from Christian  
Aid.**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
St. Ives Free Church (URC)  
7pm  
£10 per team or £2 per person  
(Maximum of six per team)**

All welcome, come as a team, bring a friend or come on your own and we will find a team for you to be on.

LOAF style refreshments will be provided and there will be prizes to be won.

**BOB!!**

(Bring your Own Bottle)

**Book your place please contact Josh Thomas – [jht1903@gmail.com](mailto:jht1903@gmail.com) or buy tickets from the church office or Just Sharing shop.**

## Contacts

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Vacant

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### Freewill Offering Treasurer

David Duffett 395308

### Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

### Tookey's Manager

Pat Clarke 468886

### 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](mailto:justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org)

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[office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto: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

### Daily Monday - Saturday

#### 10am

Sun 6th May	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sun 6th May	18:30	Service at Houghton Chapel and Parish Church
Thu 10th May	10:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Ascension Day, St Ives Porch Chapel
Sun 13th May	11:00	Revd Roy Muttram
Sun 20th May	11:00	Josh Thomas, followed by Church Meeting
Sun 27th May	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Cafe Style Service
Sun 3rd Jun	11:00	Revd Roy Muttram

## Fenstanton Worship

Sun 6th May	09:30	Revd Derek Newton - Holy Communion
Sun 13th May	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball at Parish Church
Sun 20th May	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball with the Parish Church
Sun 27th May	09:30	Josh Thomas
Sun 3rd Jun	09:30	Revd Derek Newton