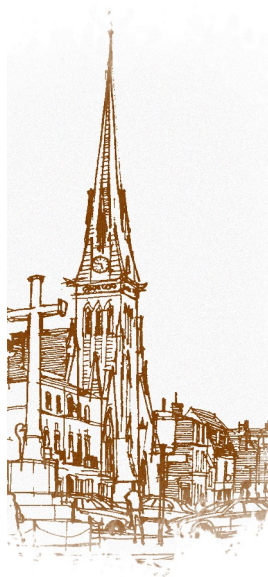


# November 2018

# Inspire



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

## View from the Manse



In November, as the weather cools and the days grow shorter, we celebrate All Saints Day and Remembrance Day, recalling those who have gone before us and remembering those who lost their lives in war. It is a special Remembrance year this year as it is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1.

In May 2018 the Revd David Pickering, Moderator of URC Synod of Scotland made a pilgrimage to the Somme with Pfarrer Martin Henninger, minister of the Lutherkirche in Frankenthal and convener of the Friends of the URC of the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz. Both of their grandfathers served in and survived the First World War. They explored friendship and reconciliation in the present and looked back remembering with sadness the carnage experienced by their grandfathers.

The seeds of the relationship between the Protestant churches of the Palatinate region of Germany and our Congregational forebears began with an act of Christian compassion in the aftermath of WWII. A German woman, Mrs Radbone, who lived in west Sussex with her English husband, visited her relatives in Wolfstein, Germany

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**Publication date  
for next Inspire  
will be Sunday  
2nd December**

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There she witnessed the utter deprivation of the period - and wanted to do something about it. She inspired the Congregational Church at Shelley Road, Worthing to send two food parcels which were received in 1947.

This broke new ground for people to support their former enemies and in 1957 the British and German churches signed a covenant of Pulpit and Table Fellowship and have maintained a friendship with exchanges and theological consultations to bring peace and reconciliation between nations. One hundred years on they want to ensure that peace and friendship continues in Europe.

A Prayer based on 2 Corinthians 1.2 and Isaiah 49.16

***Dear God,  
Thank you for our names,  
Frederick or Friedrich, Freda or Frida,  
Echoes of peace in meaning,  
Engraved on identity tag in conflict,  
Inscribed on the palms of your hands in eternity.  
Help us to forget 'sides',  
Recognise the child of God in each person,  
And draw closer to living as sisters and brothers in peace.***

From worship material given by URC to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice Day 1918



## Memories from 30 years ago

Some of you may remember Michael Pernt-Weigel and members of his church from the Palatinate region of Germany coming to stay in St Ives with church families in the late 1980s. This is the church referred to in Catherine's article above. A strong bond was forged between many members of our congregation and the church members in the Palatinate.

If anyone wishes to share their memories of these visits please contact one of the editors of Inspire.

## HOW MUCH THEN - HOW MUCH NOW?

Ever had one of those nostalgic chats with friends when you compare what you paid all those years ago for your first car, first house etc. Comparing prices then with prices now can be both fascinating and revealing. So how do some of the costs spent on our church building from the very beginning compare to the costs of creating the same again but at today's prices? Here are just some of those comparative figures.



For instance, our building was first opened in September 1864 - a Gothic style brick building clad in stone with a 150 foot spire and a capacity to seat a congregation of 700 people (it had a much larger rear gallery then). All of this at a cost then of £6,000 - equivalent to £700,000 in today's money.

Most people know that the very wealthy Miller Potto Brown from Houghton contributed half of the building's cost. So the £3,000 he gave in the 1860's would be equivalent to a gift today of £350,000.

It was not until 7 years after the opening that a full pipe organ could be afforded and installed in the church's apse. This first organ was built by G M Holdich, a well known organ builder from London. The cost of the organ in 1873 was £300 having been raised by 'subscription and various collections'. The equivalent cost today would be £31,000.

The Free Church's 'turret' clock was made by the established firm of J Smith & Sons of Clerkenwell, London. The clock, bell and installation was paid for by the Town Commissioners (Councillors) at the time and is still maintained by the current Town Council. The clock's single bell was 'turned' by G Mears & Co, a top London foundry later to become the famous Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The cost of just the bell and it's fittings was £44 or £5,000 today. There is no record of the cost of the clock mechanism which drives the external faces.

The cost of the 1980 internal remodelling of our building was £235,000 - equivalent to £1.1 million today. This was only possible because 40% of the 1980 total (£90,000) came from a Government scheme at the time called the Manpower Services Commission, who paid the wages of the tradesmen employed on the project, who would otherwise have been unemployed.

Stewart Denham

## From the Church Secretary

Our church is due to have a Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR) soon. The United Reformed Church Manual lists twenty-six functions of Synod, including, as number nine – “to care for all the churches of synod ensuring that visits are made at regular intervals for consultation concerning their life and work”. This is integrated now with the Ministers’ Accompanied Self Appraisal.

The church visit should happen every four years with a ‘check-up’ between reviews. It includes producing a Pastorate profile which can become a regularly updated description of the life of the church and a useful tool for mission.

A partner will be appointed to accompany our church in undertaking this task, the role essentially being that of a critical friend.

The pastorate profile is a description of the pastorate, which includes mission objectives and the like. A Mission Manifesto follows which should be a tool to enable effective mission.

In our church an Organisation and Operations’ Group has been meeting to look at what changes could be made to make the day to day experience of running the church better. We have looked at churches such as Carrs Lane in Birmingham, Downing Place in Cambridge and Rubislaw Church in Aberdeen, and regularly update the church meeting.

We have come to realise that we need to match our vision with the capacity to deliver. As a first step we want to involve the congregation and our staff in coming up with the way forward for our church over the next five years. The church meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November will start to prepare us for the LMMR and to raise awareness of some of the pressures we are under. We have been working hard to be in step with all the requirements made on us under charity rules and regulations. Please do come on 18<sup>th</sup> to the meeting in the church at 12.15pm after morning worship, bringing your ideas to the meeting. All contributions are welcome.



*Christine Macleod*

 A poster for a Christmas concert. The background is a dark blue space with stars and colorful nebulae. The text is in a white, elegant serif font.
 

*Tapestry*  
*Christmas Concert*  
*Monday 17th December*  
*Free Church St Ives 7.30pm*  
*Free Entry*  
*Retiring collection in aid of Epilepsy Action*



## The 'True Cost' of our Clothes

We choose our clothes to help us feel good, feel confident. However, surveys suggest that we own more clothes than we need and a good proportion are in fact never worn.

But have we stopped to think what is the 'true cost' of our clothes!

Those of us who watched the recent BBC documentary 'Fashion's Dirty Secrets' must have been aghast at the extent of the pollution caused by this industry and the sanity of what is allowed to happen to satisfy modern society's demand for clothes.



Some food for thought!

Because cotton growing requires extremely high levels of water and pesticide to prevent crop failure, this causes a major problem, especially in developing countries that may lack sufficient investment and are at risk of drought.



Vibrant colours, prints and fabric finishes are appealing features of fashion garments, but many of these are achieved with toxic chemicals. Textile dyeing is the second largest polluter of clean water globally after agriculture and many of the pollutant chemicals are disruptive to hormones and are carcinogenic.

Polyester is the most popular fabric used for fashion. But when these are washed, they shed microfibres that add to the increasing levels of plastics in our oceans.

But finally, despite the growth of charity shops and other recycling points in UK, three-quarters of unwanted clothes in Britain end up in landfill.

On a positive note, Greenpeace through their Detox Catwalk Campaign (check it out on the website) are aiming to drive the industry to 'toxic-free fashion'. They have had some success with a few brands but there's still much to do!

So what action can we take?

We can think twice when we shop – do I need to buy? And if we buy, we can purchase brands that are setting targets to eliminate hazardous chemicals and PFCs (perfluorochemicals).

Further reading:

1. [www.greenpeace.org.uk/detocatwalk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/detocatwalk)
2. [www.theconversation.com/the-environmental-costs-of-fast-fashion](http://www.theconversation.com/the-environmental-costs-of-fast-fashion) – Dr Patsy Perry/ Snr Lecturer in Fashion Marketing

# Inspire

Inspire will be published bi-monthly from February 2019

As you may be aware we are now operating with 3 editors since Keith Cakebread left the editorial team earlier this year. With regret, as no one has come forward to help with production of Inspire, the team with the agreement of the Media Group, will be publishing every other month. This will start in 2019 for the February / March edition. Articles for inclusion in that edition of Inspire will need to be with the Editor in good time in January. If articles arrive late they will have to wait for the following edition in two months time.

**Chris, Mary & Val**

## Traidcraft faces end of 40 years' trading

### Ethical consumption is challenged in difficult economic climate

Traidcraft plc, the Fair Trade pioneers whose church-based retailers have transformed shopping in the UK, subject to consultation, could cease trading by the end of 2018 unless a solution can be found in the coming month.

The plc, which generates £10m in annual sales was founded by six people in Newcastle in 1979. It's now in formal consultation with staff and other stakeholders following recent poor trading figures. The business has experienced shocks caused by the decision to leave the EU and, along with other retailers, sales have been hit by economic uncertainty and stagnating wages.

Chief Executive Robin Roth said:

"We are the sort of business that pays up front – that's in our nature as an ethical business. So when the pound fell after the Brexit referendum, we took a hit. We also stand by our published prices, so unlike other retailers we stood by our customers, absorbed a lot of the additional cost, and kept price rises to a minimum."

These factors, together with a disappointing online relaunch, contributed to the decision by the Traidcraft board to propose to cease trading at the end of the year unless a solution can be found. Traidcraft plc's charity arm, **Traidcraft Exchange**, is a separate organisation and will continue its work with producers and in campaigning and lobbying for trade justice in the UK regardless of what happens to Traidcraft plc.

All the plc's 68 staff, based at Traidcraft HQ in Gateshead, are facing redundancy.

Traidcraft's 4,300 Fair Traders, 85% of whom are motivated by faith, account for about half of Traidcraft's revenue. Their sales of tea, coffee, cards and crafts at church fetes and school fairs have even changed the buying decisions of major supermarkets.

"Our wonderful, committed Fair Traders make a daily difference in the life of fledgling enterprises in hard-to-reach parts of the world", says Robin. "Because of their love for the cause, Fairtrade got on the High Street, and a new generation is growing to understand justice as an everyday matter."

Fair Traders, customers, and supporters have been encouraged to continue supporting Traidcraft plc as a good autumn season is a pre-requisite if the company is to have a future model.

Alliances between Fair Traders and Traidcraft's charity arm will continue, by means of fundraising events, donations and campaigning for change, even if trading ceases.

The Chief Executive wants people to get in touch with ideas for a future for Traidcraft plc:  
lovetraidcraft@traidcraft.co.uk

## A recent conversation in Just Sharing:

"Sorry to hear that you are closing – we have seen the article about Traidcraft closing, it's such a shame after all this time you will have to close the shop".

Our response:

"Just Sharing is definitely not closing and is very much open for business regardless of the position of Traidcraft".

We have around 30 Fair Trade Suppliers whom we buy our stock from and Traidcraft is just one of them. We are very sorry to hear the news about Traidcraft, whom we have supported as a church from its very beginnings, and understand that a final decision has not yet been made as to its future.

We look forward to seeing lots of customers visiting us in the run up to Christmas to buy cards, gifts, confectionery, festive food and lots more.

## Mary Jones and her Bible

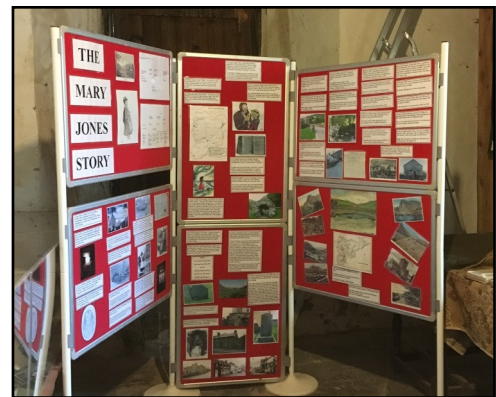
Imagine a journey by car up a lovely valley in the shelter of Cadair Idris on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. The scenery is stunning as are the ruins of the Castell y Bere, originally a Welsh stronghold of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. There a tiny sign suggests you travel on up this valley, that leads to nowhere other than mountains, to visit the chapel that Mary Jones attended. A name that rang bells for us both: a story heard often in Sunday School of Mary Jones and her Bible. So on up this remote and beautiful valley to the hamlet of Llanfihangel-y-pennant. There stands a typical Welsh non-conformist chapel of the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century. Cautiously we open the door and find a plain Calvinist chapel still used to this day and in the vestry a simple exhibition describing the life of Mary Jones.



Born in the 1780s in this tiny hamlet, Mary was of course brought up speaking Welsh and she went weekly to the tiny chapel and heard God's word read in her native tongue. She committed to Christ at an early age and desperately wanted to read the Word for herself. The chapels promoted learning in these lonely valleys and Mary learned to read and then she began at the age of 9 to save everything she could to buy her own Bible. Eventually in 1800, aged about 15, she had enough! But the nearest place she could buy a Bible was at Bala, some 26 miles away. Undaunted Mary set off, alone and barefoot, to walk across the mountains in the hope of acquiring this much wanted treasure, a bible in her native tongue. No click or collect in those days! She walked on her own to the town and sought out the one person who had a Welsh Bible, the Revd Thomas Charles. It is unclear whether he had any immediately available or not, or whether she went home with one or three – accounts differ. Nevertheless it is clear she achieved her aim and took the treasure that we take so for granted home to her village.

The Revd Thomas Charles was so impressed by her determination he decided to set up a society to ensure that people could read the Bible in their native tongue and out of this emerged the British and Foreign Bible Society. This society works in over two hundred countries today, spreading the Word in language people can understand. And it all started with one very determined person from the humblest of backgrounds.....

Her later life was hard, as it was for many at that time. She married and had six children of which only one survived to adulthood. He emigrated to America and she never saw him again. She lived to a ripe old age, blind and unable to read her Bible anymore but still faithful to her God.



**Chris Curtis**



**ST IVES CHORAL SOCIETY**  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
Alison Daniels

# Autumn Concert

Piano duet: Olga Elbourn and Anne Taylor  
**17 November 2018**

**BRITTEN**  
**St Nicolas**  
Tenor: Alex Pidgen

**BRAHMS**  
**Liebeslieder**  
**Waltzes op. 52**

**7.30pm Free Church**  
**St Ives**

Tickets Adults £12 and £10 (concessions)  
accompanied children under 16 free  
Available online from  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society)  
and from the Fair Trade shop in the Free Church, St Ives

Registered Charity No. 291640

## A Date For Your Diary

Dear Friends,

A day of Lenten Reflections is to be held at Little Gidding on Saturday April 6th 2019.

Further details to come very soon but a possible date for your diary. If you have never visited before do think about it. The place and surroundings are very beautiful. It will be lovely in the spring, not too far away at all and we are cared for kindly and there is time to rest and be thankful.

Gerry, Joey, John & Robin



## Church Activities

|                   |                      |   |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Mondays</b>    | <b>19:00</b>         | <b>Bowls Club</b>                                       |
| <b>Wednesdays</b> | <b>10:00 - 11:30</b> | <b>Tots &amp; Carers Term time only</b>                 |
| Tues 13th Nov     | 14.30                | Christian Meditation at Fenstanton led by John Williams |
| Wed 28th Nov      | 19:45                | Poetry Group  |

## Community Activities

|                  |               |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>10:00</b>  | <b>CRUSE</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>20:00</b>  | <b>St Ives Photographic Club</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>14:00</b>  | <b>Senior Citizens Club</b>  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>09:45</b>  | <b>Sunny Steps</b>   |
| Thu 1st Nov      | 19:30         | WI   |
| Sat 3rd Nov      | 09:30 - 16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair   |
| Fri 9th Nov      | 10:00         | COPE   |
| Sun 11th Nov     | 19:00         | British Legion Concert (Big Band)  |
| Fri 16th Nov     | 19:30         | Civic Society of St Ives - Michael Knight: Mile Stones and Turnpike Roads      |
| Sat 17th Nov     | 19:30         | St Ives Choral Society: Britten's St Nicolas and Brahms's Liebeslieder Waltzes |
| Tue 20th Nov     | 10:00         | Alzheimer's Support Drop-In Cafe   |
| Wed 21st Nov     | 19.00         | St Ives Gardening Club   |
| Wed 28th Nov     | 19:30         | RSPB   |
| Sat 1st Dec      | 09:30 - 16:00 | Saints Crafters Fair   |
| Thu 6th Dec      | 19:30         | WI   |

## Contacts

### Minister

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### Flower Convenor

Valerie Temple 466204

### Eco Group Convenor

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### Just Sharing Manager

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### Asst Manager

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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.*

## Free Church Worship

### Porch Chapel Prayers 10am Monday - Saturday



|                 |       |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| Sun 4th<br>Nov  | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball<br>Holy Communion   |
| Sun 11th<br>Nov | 11:00 | Remembrance Sunday at<br>St Ives Methodist Church  |
| Sun 11th<br>Nov | 10.45 | Hospital Service at<br>Hinchingbrooke Hospital   |
| Sun 18th<br>Nov | 11:00 | Revd Roy Muttram followed<br>by Church Meeting   |
| Sun 25th<br>Nov | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball<br>Cafe Style Service   |
| Sun 2nd<br>Dec  | 11:00 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball<br>Advent Sunday<br>Holy Communion<br>Ordination and Induction of<br>Elders |
| Sun 2nd<br>Dec  | 18:30 | Joint Service at St Mary's<br>Centre (formerly Houghton<br>Chapel) and Parish Church               |

### Fenstanton Worship

|                 |       |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| Sun 4th<br>Nov  | 09:30 | Revd Derek Newton  |
| Sun 11th<br>Nov | 09:30 | Remembrance Sunday with<br>Revd Dr Catherine Ball and<br>the Parish Church |
| Sun 11th<br>Nov | 18:00 | Gerry Swain  |
| Tue 13th<br>Nov | 14:30 | Christian Meditation at<br>Fenstanton with John<br>Williams                |
| Sun 18th<br>Nov | 09:30 | Revd Dr Catherine Ball<br>Holy Communion                                   |
| Sun 25th<br>Nov | 09:30 | Pauline Zahner   |
| Sun 2nd<br>Dec  | 09:30 | Revd Derek Newton  |
| Sun 2nd<br>Dec  | 15:00 | Fenstanton Carol Service   |