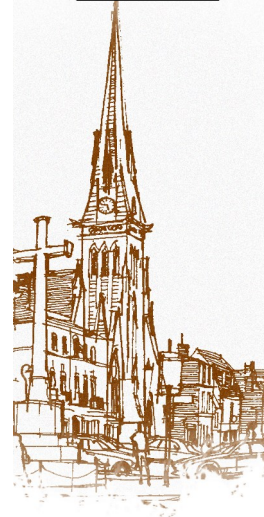


inspire



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

**View
from
the
Manse**



As the weather changes from autumnal dull and damp to downright winter cold and frost, we bundle up by putting on hats and scarves and gloves and jumpers and by cosying up in front of the fire or the telly in the evening. At the church we have been putting up our Christmas tree and all the decorations around the building to bring a sense of warmth and cheer and sparkle as we anticipate the celebration of our Lord's birth.

Especially at Christmas, we are warmed by tradition and the familiar things. We find comfort in people and homes we know well and we don't always welcome things that will bring change and uncertainty. This Christmas we will once more be celebrating our usual Advent services: Readings and Carols by Candlelight on the 16th, a café style Christingle service on the 23rd, and on Christmas Eve our all-age service at 6pm followed by our Candlelight Communion at 11.30pm. In addition, we will be hosting students from St Ivo school who will be leading a Readings and Carol service at our church for the first time. Cont'd

Inside December Inspire

- Page 1 View from the Manse
- Page 2 View from the Manse continued
Tapestry Concert
- Page 3 Birdwatching for The Spire!
- Page 4 Remembrance Sunday
- Page 5 The Church Secretary Reform Magazine
- Page 6 Lest we Forget Concert Posters
- Page 7 Fenstanton Worship What's On
- Page 8 Who's Who St Ives Worship

**January Inspire
Publication date
2nd January**

Inspire Editorial Team

December Editor
Christine Curtis ☎350787

Mary Anthony ☎469530
Val Bush ☎469189

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

The first Christmas was by no means familiar and comfortable and it brought dramatic change to those directly involved. Thereafter, it ultimately brought change for the better to the whole world. This began with Mary's visit from the Angel Gabriel - and ended with a group of wise men travelling thousands of miles to meet a new king's birth. The experiences of those in the biblical stories were startling. Mary, just a teenage girl, met an angel in her home. The angel told Mary that she, a lowly maiden, was to be mother of the long-awaited Messiah. This would not only change Mary's life socially and physically, but it would dramatically alter her understanding of God. She sees that God chooses the humble, hungry and the lowly, rather than the rich, powerful, esteemed and privileged in her society. She sees a God of justice, service and humility, and her world is transformed. Through his choice of arrival, God foretells of Jesus' ministry to come - one of service and humility and passive resistance and challenge to the status quo. She responds with the song of the Magnificat, "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the humble".

This act of disruption didn't stop with Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection, but surely is the commission of the church today too. We have a calling to step out of the comfortable, and the familiar, into a transformational encounter with the divine. This may mean doing something different this Christmas - volunteering to help at the Christmas lunch in our church, being extravagant in giving to a new charity, or choosing to offer gifts of time and talents rather than things as Christmas gifts. Do come to as many services as you are able, where we will be reflecting on those who experienced Jesus' birth and consider how their experiences may teach us how we may bring the good news of God's mercy and salvation in Jesus' coming, to some of the issues we currently face as a society. As we do so, we will be asking ourselves: Do we recognise where we need to be humbler and content with what we have? Do we see the hunger of those who hope to be filled? How can we join in the work of God to bring peace, justice and joy to all?

Happy Christmas!

with love from Catherine & Peter



One bit of bird information at hand is worth two (dozen) in the text book

On a clear dry autumn day, four of us set off to the RSPB reserve at Fen Drayton Lakes and surrounding areas to spot birds. Chris and Alan Curtis, members of the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology, passed on some of their expertise to Sally and Veronica. We identified species such as lapwing, little egret, marsh harrier and fieldfare, that Sally and Veronica were not so familiar with. We saw a wide range of habitats and bird feeding areas and enjoyed quietly monitoring and focusing on our wild friends, as well chatting to the tame ones in the car and the hides! We were all appreciative of this valuable LOCAL haven with corridors for wildlife leading off in every direction.



Alan and Chris offered this delightful event, complete with a light lunch including home-baked bread using farmers' shop cereal including seeds and grains, and further bird entertainment in their wildlife friendly garden. It was from the 2017 auction for the Save Our Spire appeal and we have been all too busy to meet together until this month. Thank you very much, Chris and Alan.

Sally Runham and Veronica Angus

Note from Chris—we saw 38 species in total on this occasion!

The Sequel

A week later a very similar route was followed by Chris, Alan, Babs and John and a friend of theirs who is a very experienced birder. On that occasion 44 species were identified though back at the house for lunch the garden birds were definitely on strike! Another auction bid fulfilled!



Remembrance Sunday

The morning started with a lone piper by the War Memorial playing the haunting lament "The Battle's O'er". The main service and tribute to mark the 100th anniversary of The Armistice saw Market Hill so full that no one could get a close up photo of our dear friend Revd. Roy Muttram who was leading the Act of Remembrance!



Other activities followed around town including the sounding of The Last Post and the lighting of the beacon at the Parish Church.

The day was rounded off by a concert in our church.

Sally writes:

"Catherine and Roy hosted the Huntingdon Big Band in the presence of the Mayor and supported by other senior church people from the town.

The band played music including Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Charlie "Bird" Parker.



From the Church Secretary....

Advent leading up to Christmas makes me think about the words 'Peace on Earth'. We continue to pray for peace in the world at chapel prayers and during all church services.

I read an article in Reform magazine, by Sam Walton, about peace. He notes that, 'When the writers of the Bible talked about peace, they meant something different to when the Roman empire used the word. When the empire talked about Pax it was of peace and quiet, the Pax Romana, an imposed peace, an order, where everything's all lined up. For example, the equivalent being that trains might run on time – when we should all sit down, shut up, stop listening to God and do what our betters tell us to do. But when the prophets talked about shalom – a wholeness, an integrity, a peace with justice, a connectedness, a living in right relationships – then we have to do and work towards something very different'.



Sam Walton goes on to say that in the English language, in our minds and in most organised religion, Pax and shalom are often conflated and confused. Jesus was referred to as the Prince of Peace. This makes us think about how we can spread peace in formal and informal ways as part of the church. We all have our unique gifts, roles and abilities to share. Our discipleship can involve singing, caring, charity, committee work and much more.

A New Year resolution for me will be to read more of the pages in the future editions of the Reform magazine. Jackie Ballard has information on how we can subscribe to this monthly church magazine for paper or electronic copies. The article also reminds me that while we must work within the regulatory frameworks of our era, it is the right human relationships that are so important in the way we work together for peace.

We have recently revisited our own organisation chart for how we organise things within our church. We reviewed this at the November church meeting and considered how working together in teams is so important, as we seek to serve the people of St Ives and further afield. Let's be encouraged in our endeavours for working towards peace.

Wishing all our readers a Joyous and Peaceful season of Goodwill.

Christine Macleod.

Reference. Live a radically just, simple way. Sam Walton. Reform magazine. Dec 2017/Jan 2018. P24.

REFORM MAGAZINE

Each paper edition subscription for 2019 costs £28.50.
Our church normally orders more than 5 copies which entitles us to one digital copy which is free for the year. The usual cost of a digital subscription is £18.

Please tell Gill Innes or Jackie Ballard if you would like to subscribe to either edition or take advantage of the above digital offer.

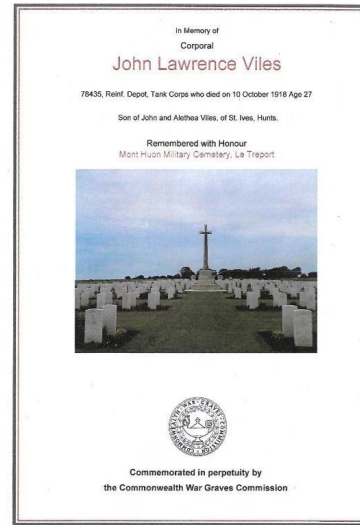
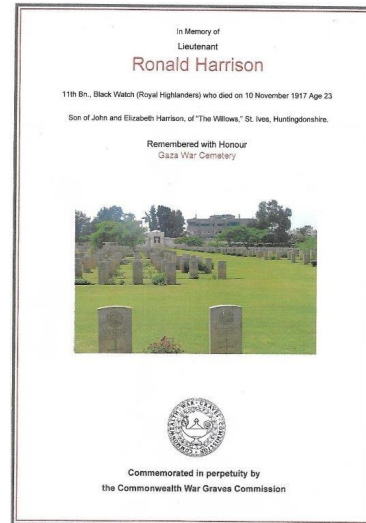
Thank you to present subscribers.

If possible please pay Gill or Jackie by the end of January.

Cheques can be made payable to Jacqueline V Ballard.

Lest we forget.....

An enormous thank you to Lin Fleming who produced the unique and very special Book of Remembrance which has been in our Porch Chapel during November. It commemorates the men associated with our church who are remembered on the War Memorial in the apse. Many, many hours of research went into this project which is a very fitting and touching tribute to these men.



St Ives Community Choir
presents
'TIS THE SEASON
Festive favourites and songs from the seasons

Saturday 8th December 2018
7.30 pm (Doors open at 7.00 pm)

FREE CHURCH, ST IVES
Refreshments: tea/coffee/biscuits/mince pies

TICKETS: £6 adults £3 children
(available from Just Sharing in the Free Church or on the door)

 **Proceeds to the Free Church Restoration Fund**


Mayor of St Ives Christmas Charity Concert
RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band in Concert
Friday 7th December 2018
7.30 - 10.00
The Free Church, Market Hill, St Ives

Home made Mince Pies and Mulled Wine during the interval

Tickets £12 from St Ives Town Hall 01480 388931

All profits go to the Mayor's Charities

by kind permission of the Station Commander Royal Air Force Wyton Headquarters

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 2nd Dec	09:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 2nd Dec	15:00	Fenstanton Carol Service
Sun 9th Dec	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
Sun 16th Dec	09:30	Revd Roy Muttram
Sun 23rd Dec	09:30	Keith Cakebread
Tue 25th Dec	09:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 30th Dec	09:30	Revd Chris Baker
Sun 6th Jan	09:30	Revd Derek Newton

Church Activities

Mondays	19:00	Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers Term time only
Tues 4th Dec	14:30	Christian Meditation— contact John Williams on 01480 463117 for venue and further details

Community Activities

Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Tuesdays	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wednesdays	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Sat 1st Dec	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Thu 6th Dec	19:30	WI
Fri 7th Dec	19:30 - 22:00	Mayor of St Ives Christmas Charity Concert
Sat 8th Dec	19:30	St Ives Community Choir Concert: 'Tis the Season
Sun 9th Dec	18:00 - 20:00	A Musical Christmas Cracker St Ives Rotary Club Concert
Wed 12th Dec	19:00	Gardening Club
Fri 14th Dec	10:00	COPE
Sat 15th Dec	18:30	St Ives Choral Society Christmas Concert
Mon 17th Dec	19:30 - 21:00	Tapestry Christmas Concert
Tue 18th Dec	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop-In Cafe
Wed 19th Dec	19:30	RSPB

**Come and worship with us
at The Free Church this
Christmas!**

**Sunday 16th December
6pm Readings and Carols by
Candlelight**

**Sunday 23rd December
11am Christingle Café Service**

**Christmas Eve
6pm All Age Christmas Eve
Service
11:30pm Candlelit Holy
Communion**

Contacts

Minister

Revd Dr. Catherine Ball 352058
Mobile: 07714 081930

Church Secretary

Christine Macleod 465921
churchsecretary@stivesfreechurch.org

Associate Church Secretary

Vacant

Communications & Media Convenor

Peter Davies 495835

Webmaster

alan@stivesfreechurch.org

Finance & Property Convenor

Peter German 352401

Freewill Offering Treasurer

Babs Moore 352627

Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Flower Convenor

Valerie Temple 466204

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
justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org

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



Chapel Prayers—at 10am

Mon– Sat

Sun 2nd Dec	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Advent Sunday Holy Communion
Sun 2nd Dec	18:30	Joint worship at St Mary's Centre (formerly Houghton Chapel) with the Parish Church
Sun 9th Dec	11:00	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 16th Dec	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 16th Dec	18:00	Readings and Carols by Candlelight - Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 23rd Dec	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Christingle cafe style worship
Mon 24th Dec	18:00	All-age Christmas Eve Service - Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Mon 24th Dec	23:30	Midnight Candlelight Communion Service Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 30th Dec	11:00	Led by The Elders
Sun 6th Jan	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion - Epiphany

For details of worship at Fenstanton URC please see Page 7.

Val Bush is our January editor. Please send copy to Val by 16th December. From February, Inspire will be published every other month.