



Inspire

The Newsletter of The Free Church (United Reformed) St Ives and Fenstanton URC

Thoughts for the month ahead.

Easter thoughts from the Associate Church Secretary



The sun was shining brightly out of a clear blue sky, daffodils and hyacinths were blooming, trees were bursting into leaf, birds were singing and frogs had laid spawn in the garden pond. All seemed right with the world...

But, all was not right with the world. A mere 1500 miles away people are fearful for their lives in Ukraine as they face a cruel and terrifying invasion. We see the devastation of cities on our TV screens and millions flee for safety. Many have died and been injured and lost homes and livelihoods.

Then too, COVID is still very present in our communities and has affected a number of people in our own church community. After two years we hoped it was ending, but it is still rampant.

All this against a backdrop of climate change, which is already affecting many of the poorest people on our planet.

So, no, all is not well with this world!

And yet, we are approaching Easter, a time of new life and new hope. We believe that Jesus suffered and died and rose again, so death and hatred have been defeated and good will triumph over evil.

It is not easy to reconcile the Good News of Easter with the pain and hardship we see in the world, but we believe that Jesus suffers with those fleeing from Russian soldiers and bombs. We believe that he feels the pain of those with illness, and that ultimately, in ways we perhaps cannot understand, love will triumph!

Happy Easter. *Alan*



Services this month:

	THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES
3rd April	Reverend Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
10th April	Dr Christine Macleod
14th April	Maundy Thursday
15th April	Good Friday - starting at Parish Church at 11am
17th April	Reverend Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
24th April	Lindsay Brown

	FENSTANTON URC
3rd April	Alison Jiggins
10th April	Reverend Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
17th April	Reverend Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
24th April	Reverend Roy Muttram

BANK HOLIDAY SNACK BARS

There are two Bank Holidays in quick succession this year, **Monday 18th April** and **Monday 2nd May**.

On both occasions we require volunteers to help run the Snack Bar in the hall. If you can spare an hour or two on those dates, please look out for the signing-on lists which will be on the landing table of the Free Church in early April.

Alternatively you can phone me on: **01480 463117**.

Thank you, Mavis

Just Sharing
The Fair Trade Shop
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
10am - 3pm
Saturday
10am - 3.30pm

Read online at: www.stivesfreechurch.org or visit our **Facebook** page

The Free Church, Market Hill, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AL

Contact us at: office@stivesfreechurch.org

Meet our regular User Groups.....

St Ives Civic Society

The Civic Society has had a strong connection with the Free Church ever since our formation in 1968. The first meeting to which members of the public were invited was held in the School Rooms in Free Church Passage, in those days the School Rooms were used for Sunday School as well as being hired out.

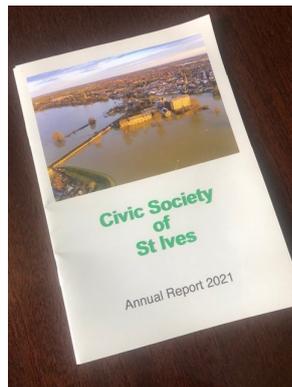
The Society came about because the then Huntingdonshire County Council planned to build a bypass for St Ives, to avoid the traffic light controlled single line working on the old St Ives Bridge. The plan was to build a new bridge and viaduct across Holt Island and Hemingford Meadow, from Ramsey Road to London Road, a short route. There was great concern in the town the view from the old St Ives Bridge across Hemingford Meadow would be lost and the peace of the meadow destroyed. Instead a route to the east was proposed. Eventually, after a long struggle, the eastern route was built and opened in 1980. Later still the name Harrison Way was agreed, paying tribute to Bill Harrison, the first secretary of the Society who, with his sister Molly, were prime movers in promoting the eastern route for the bypass.

Today, the Society continues to work for sympathetic development of the whole town, for the benefit of the residents, both now and in the future. We consider planning and development proposals and comment where appropriate. We undertake projects and raise funds to complete them. We occasionally make grants for the preservation of buildings and have made grants to the Free Church a number of times. Most recently for the work to the Church spire.

We hold open meetings in the Free Church from September to May. We have had speakers on the excavation of Spitfire X4593, the David Parr House in Cambridge and Blood Runners, (the work of motorcycle volunteers who deliver blood and lifesaving organs across the country). Members of the public are welcome to join us, there is a small fee for non-members. Better to become a member for £7 a year, £12 a couple.

Our meetings are held in the Centrum, a space we find ideal for our meetings, usually on the third Friday of the month. However, our meeting this April is a week later, on 22nd April at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Ian Mason, his talk is on The Treasures of Ramsey Abbey. Ian will explore the three year community Archaeology Project that commenced in 2017.

David Stewart — Chairman



Irene comes calling.....

TROUBLED TIMES

When worries cloud the mind

With Fear,

I call to you Lord,

Need you near.

The world can be

A scary place,

As war and peace

See-Saws with pace.

Help us to keep

A balanced view

Evil rages, goodness too.

Every creed

And colour hue,

Deserves respect

And justice too,

Forgive our failings

Bless the weak,

Strengthen faith

Bring peace we seek.

AMEN

cc IRENE CARTER



Meet the staff..... this month Helen Yates—Tookey's Manager.

I interviewed Helen for this first article on our staff.

How long have you worked with us?

About 3 or 4 years and I've recently taken over from Pat as the manager. I was encouraged to apply and aim to carry on Pat's "beacon".

How many hours do you work?

I work two days a week at the church (about 14 or 15 hours) but in addition there are admin. duties outside that time.

Do you come from a catering background?

No, I served in the RAF as a specialist dental nurse and then as a civilian dental nurse at Addenbrooke's. I did work for a time in a school kitchen when my daughter started school.

What do you enjoy most about the job?

The people! The other staff, the volunteers and the clientele – they are so friendly! Coming to work puts a smile on my face!

What are your other interests?

We enjoy walking, skiing in the winter and visiting the Greek Islands in the summer.



The Eco Café is a focal point for St Ives Eco Action and Eco-Faith group

Eco Action encompasses many facets including helping nature to flourish and reducing the rate of climate change. Recently, the group tackled setting up a Repair Café, to fix broken equipment or mend clothes so reducing waste to landfill. Action to reduce flooding of properties in the town was another excellent discussion. Eco Faith group are progressing setting up a peace garden as a place of quiet reflection easily accessible from town. Valuing churchyards and cemeteries as nature reservoirs and encouraging wildflowers is a goal shared with local villages.

The Eco Café currently runs on the third Saturday of each month at the Free Church from 10am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome: please contact Helen Dye (stivesecoaction@gmail.com).



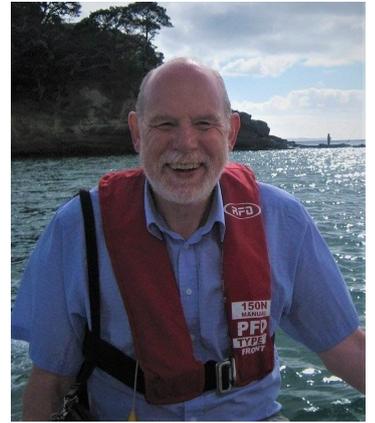
A hot topic is improving the cycling facilities in and around St Ives.

Sally Runham

Remembering Lawrence with much love.....

Charles Lawrence Mottram 1951—2022

Lawrence belonged to the local Art Group and one day when visiting their exhibition in church, he and Hilary picked up a leaflet about the Fellowship Walks and decided to come along. They soon became regulars on our walks, always enjoying the refreshments at the end. They also joined our congregation whilst retaining their links with the local Baptist Chapel in Somersham and they soon became an indispensable part of the Tookey's team. Lawrence was invariably polite, patient and thoughtful in everything he did and he will be greatly missed by us all. **Chris**



And extracts from Catherine's eulogy.....

Charles Lawrence Mottram, known as Lawrence, was born in Normington, Derby in May 1951. He had an older brother, Stephen. They attended the local primary school and then Dale secondary school for boys. Lawrence went on to become head boy. The family attended Brooke St Chapel in Derby and they went to the Sunday School there and the family went on church hikes and outings. Lawrence left school at age 16 and took an apprenticeship with City and Guilds to become a Painter and Decorator. He then worked as a Painter and Decorator for the Derby County Council.

Lawrence met Hilary when they were teenagers at a dance. They were both tall and so told to partner each other and their relationship went on from there. Hilary worked in Nottingham for the Water authority and they married in 1975 .

In 1981 they had a daughter, Lynda and then in 1983 a son, Rob. Hilary gave up work to work to look after the children. She helped at a playgroup where she took her children. They moved to Essex where Lawrence worked as a Painting and Surveying Supervisor for at the Essex County Council.

Three years later they moved to Hatfield in Hertfordshire where Lawrence became a Maintenance Inspector for the Herts County Council. Once the children were at school, Hilary trained as a lab technician and was able to work during school hours.

Lawrence was a kind and loving family man. They spent their evenings and weekends doing things together as a family.

Lawrence loved nature and the outdoors. He was also a very practical man and would do anything to help others. As the children grew up, they enjoyed holidays around Britain, often travelling by train or ferry.

Their children grew up, and left home. Sadly, Lawrence developed heart difficulties and so retired early when he was to have a heart operation. In 2008 Lawrence and Hilary moved to Somersham where they have been ever since.

The family remained close, even though apart. Lynda studied science at university and did scientific research living in Italy and then to Sweden and Hilary and Lawrence visited her there or she came home to visit every few months. Lawrence was very proud of his kids. He was kind and gentle and supportive. The family were able to get together at Christmas when Lynda turned 40 and they went out for a meal where there was lots of family banter. And again, two weeks before Lawrence died, they all spent the day together.

Then sadly his heart problems led him to become weaker, however he never made a fuss and then unexpectedly one night he died peacefully in his sleep at home. He was a quiet and thoughtful Christian who we will all miss.

John Williams writes: I can't remember producing this poem for the old K.I.T. magazines (I might have) but I thought it might be a reassurance of our faith at such worrying times.

JUST

"And I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth"¹
Coming out of the shades of the Lock-downs,
And with great mirth
The people celebrated the beginning of the end,
Or was it the end of the beginning of the Great Contagion?
Just like the others that
"Smote the Earth with a curse."²

Is this our just desserts for our sins?
Or is this just the way of Nature?
All manner of things go in circles or cycles:
Carbon; Nitrogen;
Water; The Seasons:
Winter, spring, summer and fall,
How much do we really know about it all?

Where is the justice and where are the just?
Who has not wondered about great happenings?
Given enough time, destruction comes along:-
Volcanoes, earthquakes,
Meteorites, storms,
Tsunamis, floods,
Wars and conflicts
The like of which we haven't yet seen...

But God knows better -
He has kept us safe for 2000 or more years.
Now we face an uncertain future
We hope that somehow we'll come through.
A new Earth awaits us, are we ready for it?

"And God will wipe away all tears from your eyes."³

Come away, all you who suffer,
And see what can be done,
Store up your riches of faith
Just like a battery, charged with life anew.
Another spring is here for you
Now that equinox is here,
No more dark nights,
No more bad dreams,
No more will you suffer yourself to be led
In so many directions at once.

You will follow the Way of Light
In just one narrow path,
"And God will wipe away all tears from your eyes."³

21 / 3 / 2021 J D W

Bible quotes: 1 Revelation 21 v 1
2 Malachi 4 v 6
3 Revelation 21 v 4

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION at Fenstanton:

The meditation session for next month will be on TUESDAY April 12th at 2:30 pm, at Fenstanton URC*.

All are welcome to these sessions, even if you have not been before.*

They are held on the SECOND Tuesday of each month.

Guidance will be given on relaxing the body and mind and we will be using meditations and prayers from mostly Christian authors in all our sessions as well as short bible readings.

Meditation has been recommended by many doctors as positive to our health.

At the end of each session there will be the usual refreshments.

John Williams,
<jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk>

01480 463 117.

A Note from Gila who performed back before Christmas.

My dear Friends,

I greet you all very warmly, and say that, despite all the difficulties of the last couple of years, I have managed recently to put on another good concert, and to host a party for 40 of my friends; both events in honour of my 70th Birthday.



St Ives is an historic town, about 15 miles from Cambridge, with a thriving market and a variety of churches. The Free Church (United Reformed) stands tall at the edge of the market square just along from the Town Hall, and is home to a variety of activities in the local community, with The Centrum, or Worship Space, right at the top.

Over 20 years ago I had earmarked this beautiful space as a lovely place to sing-and-I was right! In 2019 I performed there in the presence of the Mayor of St Ives and the Mayor of Huntingdon. This time the current Mayor also graced us with his presence. Councillor Hussain, a well-known business man in the town of St Ives and from a Muslim family, listened attentively, especially to the Jewish music. Some new people came this time, and some made a great effort to attend, and hopefully it brought them some joy.

Blessings, and may the Light of Epiphany shine on you and your families.

Shalom from Gila



On Sunday 6th March, Jackie celebrated one of those "milestone" birthdays! It was suitably marked during the morning service!

Congratulations Jackie!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Spring cleaning, with a difference and perfect pets.

At this time of year how about giving your kitchen shelves a **fresh supply of UK grown grains and pulses...**

Some of the traditional staple crops are being revived, many British farmers are experimenting and adapting as the climate changes.

What about reducing your meat and fish consumption and scrutinise 'food miles' ?

Keep choosing organic which will do both the topsoil and your bodies a favour.

Louie in Spain sent this photo of her friend's spring peacocks displaying spectacularly, well no peacocks here but hens and violets just as wonderful. The hens were being

discarded as they are from a giant chicken farm and have proved the perfect, gentle pets and generously lay every day .

Highly recommended.

With love

Charlotte



Migrant Café

In consultation with the Dolphin Hotel, SERCO, Migrant Help and the Town Mayor we held our first Migrant Café on Thursday 10th March. It was delightful to meet seven men from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iran. The Mayor, Pasco Hussain came with two friends who could speak Kurdish who helped translate as we started to welcome them and to explain what we were planning. We had ten volunteers who sat with the men around tables and had initial chats with the men to get to know them and to give them an opportunity to practise their English. We gave them pens and workbooks and used felt pens and paper to draw pictures to help with understanding.

A huge thank you to All Saint's Parish Church who donated tea, coffee and biscuits from the St Ives Food Bank, to individuals who had already donated coats, sweaters and hats, and to the Fenstanton Parish Church who had donated suitcases and toiletries that the men were able to take back to the Dolphin Hotel. The plan is to meet weekly at 2.30 pm on Thursdays to continue to chat and to find out more about what they would like to do. One thought is to join with the Eco Group to form a Repair Café on Saturday mornings. Another, along with Nick Witham from the Methodist Church is to set up Five-a-side football and or cricket as the weather improves.

It is a privilege to show hospitality to those who seeking shelter and security. If others would like to come along, they would be very welcome. Do give me a ring.

Revd Dr Catherine Ball 01480 352058



Cross-carrying Jesus by Kate McIlhagga

Cross-carrying Jesus,

As you stagger on your lonely journey

Time slips,

Worlds reel.

Forgive us that we turn away

Embarrassed

Uncaring

Despairing.

Help us to stay with you through the dark night

To watch and wait.

To know the depth of your anguish

And to realise that you carry us,

Forgive (even) us

And love us

Forgive us

That we get on with our work unthinking,

That we gamble unknowingly with precious things.

Cross carrying Jesus,

Nailed to the tree of life,

Forgive us

And grant us your salvation.





What's on in APRIL



Mon - Sat	10:00	Chapel Prayers
Mon - Sat (not Thu)	10:00 - 15:00	Just Sharing shop
Mon - Sat (not Thu)	9:45 - 14:00	Tookeys Café
Mondays	9:30 - 13:30	Tookeys Snack Bar
	19:00 - 21:30	Indoor Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers
Sundays	11:00	Worship
Sat 2nd	09:30-15:30	Saints Crafters Art and Craft Fair
Mon 4th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Tue 5th	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 6th	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 7th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise Prog)
Mon 11th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Tue 12th	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 13th	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 14th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise Prog)
Fri 15th	10:00-12:00	U3A Local History
Sat 16th	10:00-12:00	Eco Action Group Climate Cafe
Mon 18th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Tue 19th	10:00-12:00	Dementia Cafe
	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club



MAY EDITION

If you have anything you would like us to include in the May edition of Inspire, please email it to:

office@stivesfreechurch.org

Deadline to receive content for the May issue is: 20/04.



What's on in APRIL



Wed 20th	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:30	HRAA Gardening Club
Thu 21st	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise Prog)
Mon 25th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Tue 26th	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club (last class till Sep)
Wed 27th	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:30	RSPB
Thu 28th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise Prog)
	14:30	Poetry Club
Fri 29th	13:00	COSI Concert (Chamber Orchestra of St Ives)

April Editors are:

Christine Curtis and Sarah Bateman

CHURCH MEETING

Our next Church Meeting is tbc.

Contacts

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office@stivesfreechurch.org

Open 9am—1pm Mon/Wed/Fri

Room bookings should be made

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Helen Yates 07921 462640

Just Sharing Manager

Sue Billings 496570

Assistant Manager

Rosemarie Smith

The Free Church is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.