



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

Thoughts for the month ahead.

View from the Manse...



As the evenings draw in and the mists and frosts of the mornings make us want to curl up under our duvets and stay in bed a bit longer, we are encouraged to keep meeting and sharing with one another.

'Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.' *Hebrews 10.25*

It is when it is dark and colder outside that we need each other even more. The Free Church provides a warm and welcoming space for people to come and have a tea or coffee and a scone in Tookey's Café, to meet old friends and to make new friends. And if you are looking for a special gift for someone this Christmas, come in to Just Sharing, our Fairtrade shop where unique handmade crafts and gifts come from around the world, and help support people in developing countries to support themselves. These and our different church groups: Tots and Carers, Migrants practicing English, Poetry, Bowls, and community groups: Bereavement group, Dementia café, Photography club and Gardening Club, Seniors' Lunch and others serve all different people in the community.

It is into the darkness of this world that Jesus came as the light of the World, to bring peace and hope and the church as a house of prayer is a place of refuge and refreshment. We gather for worship each Sunday to give praise and thanks to God and celebrate special occasions such as funerals to weep with those who weep. This month we honour Frances Lovell (nee Peake) in service on Wednesday 2nd November at 1.30 pm. And we gather to rejoice with those who rejoice.

On 20th November we celebrate the baptism of Daisy Adamson.

As we fellowship together, we learn that we are not alone, that God's Spirit is always with us giving us wisdom and peace.

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



Services this month:

THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES	
6th Nov	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
13th Nov Remembrance Sunday	No service at the Free Church - there is a service organised by the British Legion in the Market Place
20th Nov	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
27th Nov	Revd Dr Catherine Ball

FENSTANTON URC	
6th Nov	Geraldine Swain
13th Nov Remembrance Sunday	Joint service with Anglicans at St Peter and St Paul's Church
20th Nov	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
27th Nov	Alison Jiggins

And we have each other and find we can help each other to face whatever the challenges winter brings, be it increases in heating costs, rising cost of living, stock shortages or simply the cold and damp, with the companionship of friends and a God who loves us and watches over us. Let it be so!

Love in Christ,
Catherine



Saints Crafters
Local Artists and Crafters

ART & CRAFT FAIR
Saturday 5th November 2022
Free Church Hall, Market Hill, St Ives
9.30am - 3.30pm

Buy original & handmade direct from the maker...
Free Admission

Tessles, greeting cards, jewellery, glass & fabric work, bound books, fused glass and much more...

Contact: saintscrafters@gmail.com

Tombola in aid of Hunts Society for the Blind

Follow us on Facebook

Saints Crafters
Local Artists and Crafters

CHRISTMAS ART & CRAFT FAIR
Saturday 26th November 2022
9.30am - 3.30pm
Corn Exchange, Market Hill, St Ives

Buy original, handmade items from the makers

Tombola in aid of Hunts Society for the Blind

FREE ADMISSION



Irene Calling.....

MY GARDEN

When worries mount and crowd my mind
My place of solace helps I find,
Peace and beauty, godly gift
To light the load my mood uplift.
My garden.

Within the realms of this small space
I lose myself and calm embrace,
Jobs to do or maybe not?
Rain or sunshine, cold or hot.
My garden.

News and Politics, what was said
Tucked back of mind and put to bed,
Instead I potter plant or weed
More fruitful for the mind indeed.
My garden.

While the world's this giddy place
Of problems many, in my space,
Just for a while I blank it out,
And clear away the fears and doubt.
My garden.

Everyone needs a place to chill,
An interest that fits the bill,
Worries come and worries go,
Relaxation helps you know.
For me it's my garden.

cc Irene Carter

REMEMBERING...

Ivy makes lovely crowns, here's Louie in Spain, a regular Inspire reader, it keeps her in touch with dear old St Ives where she grew up and attended the Free Church.

Louie Castle

(was a Harrison)



★ **Nativity Sets** ★
from around the world

A wonderful display of over
120 nativity cribs -
come and have a look!

St Ives Free Church
Saturday 3rd December 10am - 4pm
Sunday 4th December 12.30 - 3pm

FREE ADMISSION

CHILDREN'S CRAFT ACTIVITIES



Reform Magazine

Dear Subscribers,

Sarah and Gail in the Church Office have kindly taken on for me the responsibility for managing the ordering and payment to Reform Magazine for subscribers.

They will also manage the collection of the annual subscription from subscribers.

The subscription for 2023 remains at £29.50. This should be handed in to the Church Office, if possible by January 2023. Copies of Reform will continue to be sent individually. Grateful thanks to previous and present subscribers. New subscribers will be most welcome.

Please just contact Gail or Sarah via the Church Office. There are normally copies of the Magazine available to look at on the landing table.

Best wishes and thanks from Jackie Ballard

From the Church Secretary – Report from Eastern Synod

It was a bright and sunny autumnal day as Catherine and I travelled to the Eastern Synod meeting at Christ Church Braintree on 8th October. The changing and varied colours of the bushes and trees made the journeys very pleasant, at least for me as passenger but perhaps not for Catherine as she drove there and back with a low sun in her eyes! It was very scenic, particularly when the Sat Nav diverted us off the M11 onto some country roads on our return journey! The meeting was chaired by the newly appointed Synod Clerk, David Coaker, who some may remember from his time with us in St Ives some years ago. David had a “baptism of fire” since the Synod Moderator Lythan Nevard had tested positive for Covid on the Thursday, so others had to hastily cover her sessions while David held the meeting together very efficiently.

Amongst the sessions, we heard of a church who run a Wellbeing Centre working alongside other organisations and the NHS. There was a presentation on “partnership working” looking at how ministry and administration might be shared better between URC churches. This is quite a challenge particularly where churches are in LEPs (local ecumenical partnerships). For these churches, the structures of another denomination (e.g. Methodist) need to be taken into account. In fact, there were a number of Methodist ministers present and it was good to be able to mix and talk over lunch.

The afternoon included some items brought by the Resources Committee, whose role is: “... to sustain and develop the financial and property resources within the overall vision of mission and social engagement across the Synod...”. This included an interesting discussion on the M&M (Ministry and Mission) fund. I won't give all the details here - that will be something for our own Finance and Property committee.

One challenge is whether Synod should offer help in these challenging times to all churches via a simple scheme, or instead focus help on those churches with the greatest need. The latter approach requires a more complex approach with grant applications etc. but may be seen as fairer. As an example, we have just been successful in getting some grant funding for our Eco lighting project.

Whatever approach is taken, the Resources Committee has a key role to play and I'm pleased to say that our own Catherine Ball will be joining that committee from January. The meeting concluded with a communion service followed by the inevitable tea and cake before departing. It was a very interesting day – uplifting, interesting and challenging too.

This is just a snapshot of the day and full minutes will be published in due course on the Eastern Synod website under <https://www.urch-eastern.org.uk/council-and-committees/synod-meetings>. We will have the opportunity to say more at our next Church Meeting on 20th November.

Best wishes,

David Duffett

MEET THE PEOPLE...

This month: Tracey Hipson, Assistant Manger of Just Sharing

A few words about me and Just Sharing.

I first became aware of Fair Trade in the mid-1990s when the bookshop based in the church near where I lived at the time began selling coffee and raisins!

When the concept of Fair Trade was explained to me it just seemed obvious that people should be fairly paid for their produce and goods, and fairly treated.

When my parents moved to St Ives a few years later I was delighted to find that St Ives had its own Fair Trade shop, Just Sharing. I rarely had the chance to visit Just Sharing, but would usually compile a Christmas shopping list which would be made up for me to collect!

In 2001 a change in circumstances enabled me to move to St Ives and start volunteering in Just Sharing.

In 2006 I successfully applied for the role of Assistant Manager. I've worked various combinations of days and hours over the years; currently you'll find me in Just Sharing on Fridays.

It's an interesting job, and no two days are the same - we have all kinds of people come in to the shop, sometimes just to chat, to see a friendly face, or to ask for help with all kinds of things. Sometimes we even get customers who come in to buy things!

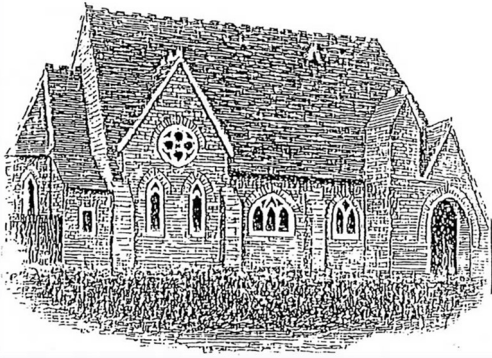
I've been lucky enough to meet some of our suppliers over the years, including Namaste, Created and Traidcraft, and learn more about the work they do and how every purchase makes a difference.

The only downside for me is that a a chunk of my salary goes straight into the till - we have such lovely things I just have to buy them!

The great joy of Just Sharing is the team we have with our volunteers - without them there would be no Just Sharing, and we are lucky to have them; coming to work is like spending time with friends.



... and from Fenstanton...



The congregation from Fenstanton joined those at the Free Church to celebrate the 50th Anniversary together...



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION at Fenstanton:

TUESDAY 8th November at 2.30 pm, Fenstanton URC*.

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

John Williams, <jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk> 01480 463117. (*the URC church is on the green in Chequer's Lane opposite Ron's greengrocer's shop.)

Meditation sessions are the second Tuesday of each month

The Fenstanton Knitters and Natters have been busy again!



**FENSTANTON UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH
CHEQUER STREET**

NOVEMBER FAYRE

SATURDAY

19TH NOVEMBER

10.00am - 1.00pm

BOOKS, PUZZLES

BRIC-A-BRAC

RAFFLE,

GIFTS

CRAFTS

AND LOTS MORE

AUTUMNAL MIUSINGS!

One of the sights of November is a hedge of blossoming ivy, love it or not it's the last feast of the year for the insects. Lovely to listen to the happy humming in the warm sunshine.

The Helichrysum, better known as the straw flower, loved the hot summer so there will be bright colours out there to enjoy yet awhile, I strongly suggest growing it next year, I will!

Have you any idea who has been munching my sunflower heads? It looks too tidy for a mouse but then Mrs Tittlemouse was Miss Potter's most fastidious character.

So many Saints in November -

1st All Saints' Day

2nd All Souls' Day

3rd St Hubert

11th Saint Martin's

22nd Saint Cecilia

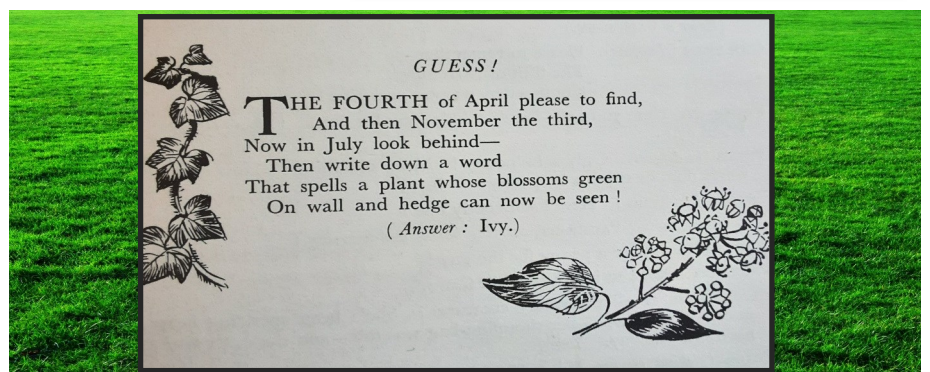
25th Saint Catherine

30th Saint Andrew

I suppose the only date the children are interested in is the 5th... The Anglo-Saxon name of November was Blotmonoth (blood mouth) probably due to the killing of the cattle for winter consumption.

Good job some things change!!

As ever, Char.





Lunchtime Concert series

Donations in aid of the Free Church, St Ives

Last Friday of each month at 1pm.
Here at the Free Church.

Forthcoming Concerts

28th October — COSI strings and friends
Relaxed programme for half term

Cancelled

25th November — Ermine Street Winds
A French programme

30th December — COSI strings and friends
A seasonal programme

Free Church
Market Hill, St Ives
PE29 5AL
www.stives-photoclub.org.uk



Annual Exhibition 2022



Favourite Image of 2021, by David Cole

Friday 11th November 2022 10am to 5pm

Saturday 12th November 9am to 1pm

Free entry – Everyone Welcome

Vote for your favourite image of 2022

NOVEMBER EVENTS

HUNTINGDONSHIRE ART GROUP

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Friday 25th November — 10am to 4pm
Saturday 26th November — 10am to 4pm

ST IVES FREE CHURCH

Market Hill, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

Guest artist Richard Allen from St Ives
will also be exhibiting some of his paintings

FREE ENTRY

This year the exhibition includes a themed section entitled "The River Great Ouse"

Sponsored by Domino Printing UK



Charity Concert

Tickets £10
£5 concessions) including refreshments!

In Aid of

DBMT

TEAM DBMT

Sun 06 November 2022
2:30pm
St Ives Free Church



What's on in

NOVEMBER



Mon - Sat	10:00 - 10:15	Chapel Prayers
Mon - Sat (not Thu)	10:00 - 15:00	Just Sharing shop
Mon - Sat (not Thu)	09:45 - 14:00	Tookeys Café
Mondays	09:30 - 13:30	Tookeys Snack Bar
Mondays	19:00	Indoor Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers baby group
Sundays	11:00	Worship
Tue 1st	12:00-14:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 2nd	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	11:00-13:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 3rd	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
	14:30-16:00	Migrant English Speaking
Fri 4th	12:00-14:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
Sat 5th	10:00-15:30	Saints Crafters
Sun 6th	14:30	DBMT Charity Concert (Deborah Biggs Music)
Mon 7th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group
Tue 8th	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 9th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 10th	09:15-13:15	Shirley's Coffee Shop
	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
Fri 11th	10:00-17:00	St Ives Photo Club Exhibition
	09:00-16:00	Rug Seller

Sat 12th	09:00-16:00	Rug Seller
	09:00-13:00	St Ives Photo Club Exhibition
	19:30	St Ives Choral Society Concert: Brahms
Mon 14th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group
Tue 15th	10:00-12:00	Dementia Cafe
	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 16th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	11:00-13:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:30-22:00	Gardening Club
Thu 17th	09:30-13:15	Diabetes Prevention Group
	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
Fri 18th	10:00-12:00	U3A Local History
Sat 19th	10:30-12:00	Climate Café: St Ives Eco Action
Mon 21st	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group
Tue 22nd	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 23rd	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 24th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
	14:30	St Ives Free Church Poetry Group
Fri 25th	10:00-16:00	Hunts Art Group
	13:00	COSI Concert:
Sat 26th	09:30-12:30	Diabetes Prevention Group
	10:00-16:00	Hunts Art Group
Mon 28th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group
Tue 29th	12:00-14:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
Wed 30th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:00	RSPB

Contacts

Minister

Revd Dr Catherine Ball

01480 352058

Church Office

Gail Wase 468535

office@stivesfreechurch.org

Open 9am—1pm Mon/Wed/Fri

Room bookings should be made

through the Church Office

Church Secretary

David Duffett 395308

Associate Church Secretary

Alan Curtis 350787

Fenstanton Church Secretary

Geoffrey Hawkins 462001

Media and Comms Convenor

Peter Davies 495835

Webmaster

Peter Davies 495835

Finance and Property Convenor

Peter German 352401

Freewill Offering Treasurer

Babs Moore 352627

Safeguarding Lead

Christine Curtis 350787

Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Flower Convenor

Valerie Temple 466204

Chapel Prayer Coordinator

Joey Dyke 07787 370201

Tookey's Manager

Helen Yates 07921 462640

Just Sharing Manager

Sue Billings 496570

Assistant Manager

Rosemarie Smith

Justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org

NEXT CHURCH MEETING:

Sunday 20th November

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

November Editors:

Val Bush
and
Sarah Bateman

December's edition of *Inspire*

If there's anything you would like us to include in *Inspire* for **DECEMBER**

please email it to:

office@stivesfreechurch.org

Deadline to receive content is 25/11

The Free Church (United Reformed) St Ives has a vacancy for a

CATERING MANAGER / COOK

This is a part-time post involved in running our Tookeys Café and our Monday Snack Bar.

You would be working up to 4 days a week
Hours by negotiation

For further details and application pack, contact the Church Office

01480 468535 Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm
or office@stivesfreechurch.org