



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

Thought for the month ahead.



What's in a name?

So Shakespeare asked?

And of course, we all know the answer.....

A rose, of course (Romeo and Juliet). But are you called by the name you would have chosen or have others shortened or altered it and why?

I'm highly irritated by a well known TV/radio presenter who tends to either shorten or make a play on people's name without their permission. I seem more annoyed than they do!

One of the most important lessons I learned from a colleague in my teaching career was this.....

I was working in a multicultural inner city school which also took children from the Women's Refuge and a large number of refugees. This wise colleague (M) said to me early in my time there that some children arrive in my class with a plastic bag full of worldly goods (if they're lucky) and their name.

Their given name. For some their only possession. We owed it to them to get it right. However often we had to ask them to repeat it, we had to get it right. It was all they had left that was truly theirs.....

That's a lesson I have never forgotten..... Thank you, M!

Chris Curtis



Services this month:

THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES	
2nd Oct	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - HC <i>Joint Service with Fenstanton URC 50th anniversary followed by lunch</i>
9th Oct	Revd Peter Ball
16th Oct	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
23rd Oct	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
30th Oct	Christine Macleod

FENSTANTON URC	
2nd Oct	Joint service with St Ives at St Ives Free Church
9th Oct	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - HC
16th Oct	tbc
23rd Oct	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
30th Oct	tbc

HOME AND SING
Vivaldi's Gloria
 with
St Ives Choral Society
 Rehearsal on the day only, culminating in a performance in the evening. No experience necessary - if you have always thought about joining a choir this would be a great time to try!
 Rehearsal starts 2pm
 Informal concert 5pm
 £10 Singers/Concert audience Free of charge
FREE CHURCH, ST IVES
 Sunday 2 October 2022

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
 30th September— Violin recital
 Franck and Handel sonatas
 28th October— COSI strings and friends
 Relaxed programme for half term
 25th November— Ermine Street Winds
 A French programme
 30th December— COSI strings and friends
 A seasonal programme

Saints Crafters
 Local Artists and Crafters
ART & CRAFT FAIR
 1st Saturday
 each month
 Free Church Hall, Market Hill, St Ives
 9.30am - 3.30pm
 Buy original, handmade items direct from the makers.
Free Admission
 Taxidermy, pottery, cards, jewellery, needle & button work, fused glass and much more...
 Tombola: Hunts Society for the Blind
 Contact: saints Crafters@gmail.com

Just Sharing
 The Fair Trade Shop
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
 10am - 3pm
 Saturday
 10am - 3.30pm
 01480 496570



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

Three of our Elders recently retired and two have written about their thoughts at this time.....

Funny how it all worked out!

It must have been 1984, when I bought a Sinclair ZX Spectrum. I enjoyed playing the games on it (Jet Set Willy etc.) but I also enjoyed writing some simple programmes with it. I was working as a Housing Officer in North Somerset at the time, and soon after, the council decided that it wanted to improve IT knowledge in each department. Knowing of my dabbling on the Spectrum, the Housing Department paid for me to go on a course with Oracle in Bristol to learn the basics of SQL and Oracle databases.

Over the next couple of years, alongside my proper job, I wrote some simple Oracle based applications, which we used in the department. When I then applied for a job with a council in South Lincolnshire, I'd not really expected to be successful – it was quite a step up in grade and responsibility and involved managing the Housing Department's Rents, Arrears, and Housing Benefit teams. Apparently, one of the main reasons I got the job was because of my IT experience. I wrote some more applications, which we used to help us with managing rent arrears and repairs invoices – again using Oracle. The council then decided to replace its main Housing management system and ended up choosing one written by Oracle. That was right up my street, with my knowledge of Oracle! I was given responsibility for leading the Implementation of that system.

After we completed the implementation, Oracle offered me a job as a business consultant. It offered more money for less responsibility and so I decided to take it. The downside was that the office was in Berkshire and we'd have to move down there. However, the company fortunately then came up with a novel idea of people being based from home. I was to be one of the first people to be offered this and could live anywhere within reasonable journey time into London...which is how we ended up moving to St Ives.



Oracle was a bit of a weird/dysfunctional company to work for back then, although after about 18 months, they decided that UK local government solutions were too niche for them. Our part of the business was sold off to one of the senior managers and became a small company starting with around 50 employees. The working environment there was much better and as that new company grew, it identified that it needed a new type of consultant with a particular set of skills – which just happened to be the set of skills I'd acquired over the previous few years. The demand for consultants with those skills has continued to grow and I've had the pleasure of leading/managing a team of such consultants over the past twenty something years. There have been several changes of ownership and a few years ago we were bought by NEC, a large Japanese company, who have been very good to work for. All the new business we have won since then has led to the team growing busier and bigger than ever. I'll miss it and all the lovely people I've worked with, but it is very nice to be able to retire now.

I wonder how different my whole working life might have been if I'd not decided to buy that Sinclair ZX Spectrum back in 1984!

Pete Davies

And Babs has decided to take a forward look.....

I retired at the end of July 2022 having spent almost all my career in B2B (Business to Business) sales in various high technology industries, not that that was what I thought I would be doing when I did my degree in physics graduating in 1983.

I have enjoyed the summer spending lots of time outside. My face, arms and legs are the brown colour I recall from growing up on a farm. I love being outside and have taken the opportunity to cycle, walk and play tennis during the day instead of trying to cram exercise into the evening. My physio, who sadly I know well, has warned me not to use retirement as a reason to do more high intensity sport but to take the time to enjoy what I do more and, if I wish, to increase the amount of swimming, cycling, and paddling I do. We have Canadian canoes, kayaks and more recently SUPs (Stand Up Paddleboards) so having more time to enjoy the rivers and lakes exercising and watching the wildlife is great, see Kingfisher photo I took while canoeing down the River Wye earlier this summer. I love my garden and picking fresh produce to eat but sadly this summer the watering was a chore at times and seemed to have little effect.



I retired after a friend of mine reminded me I said to them (original quote source unclear) some years ago, "no one goes to their deathbed wishing they had worked longer" and this, combined with an increasing number of friends suffering serious health challenges, and deaths of those younger than me (the sudden death of Shane Warne, the fantastic Australian cricketer earlier this year at 52, hit me hard) prompted me to look at retiring. I had started work expecting to retire at 60, had contributed to my pension all my working life and yet there was still a feeling of guilt at stopping.

Additionally, conversations with parents close to the end of their life, we lost my mother and both John's parents in the last six years, saying they wish they had done this and was another prompt.

Looking forward, I am hoping, assuming John and I are blest with good health, to be being able to take our time doing things. For example, we spent five days going to the Commonwealth Games and enjoying being in Birmingham and surrounding area, whereas if I had still been working it would have been a mad dash to watch events just on the days, we had tickets. We will also spend more time in Hereford where I grew up and we still have my late mother's house, and invest more time in our hobbies. I am getting keen on wildlife photography and taking courses and holidays to improve my skills, recognising I need a hobby that does not charging around a sports court. I also hope to volunteer, most likely in nature and wildlife for those charities I have supported for many years as well as at the church. I remember my mum saying, when I was in my 20s and she had retired, that compared to her, I was cash rich and time poor and she was the other way around, so she was happy to help me with baking, sewing and other practical help when she could. Going forward I will have the gift of more time to help rather than just dip my hand in my pocket for charity because I haven't had the time to support in more practical ways.

For the winter, when doing the things I love outside, are harder and more at the mercy of the weather, I have a list of jobs I have put off until I retire for years and am sure I can create a lot more space in an over-full house by doing masses of sorting out.

I am trying to take a few months off before committing to too much as I had been running at 100 miles an hour and getting very stressed in the last couple of years. I have never been any good at doing nothing, and I doubt that will change, but I am on a promise to John to try and enjoy life and give myself time to do so.

Babs Moore





Farewell Your Majesty and thank you.....

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Our Queen Elizabeth is dead
The United Kingdom mourns - we weep,
For Monarch faithful, steadfast true
Forever memories we'll keep.

Trained by her father long ago
He knew she'd reign one day,
Love and duty mixed with faith
This truly was her way.

Wife and mother to her family
Chiding sometimes when the need
Love entwined in thoughtfulness
Was there, oh yes indeed.

In War times she and her sister
Hands on they did their bit,
To help people in the thick of War
Trading Crown for Uniform kit.

She travelled many countries
She was loved by all she met,
Every race and creed and class who spoke
To the Queen would never forget.

Now God awaits at Heaven's Gates
His arms are open wide,
Serenity and peace she'll find
With Philip by her side.

cc. IRENE CARTER



When the Queen died I expected tributes and memories to come flooding in as they had with the late Duke but no, nothing. Perhaps, after almost two weeks of superb radio and TV coverage, there was simply nothing left to say...

Meet our User Groups—The RSPB.

The RSPB Huntingdonshire Local Group

We are a group of approximately seventy wildlife enthusiasts who meet together on the last Wednesday of every month to share our enthusiasm for the natural world; focusing primarily on a love for birds. From September to April we meet in the Centrum of the Free Church and invite a guest speaker to talk to us on a range of generally bird related topics. Talks range in content from the life of particular birds or bird 'families' to the biodiversity of particular habitats or the ever-present concerns around declining wildlife numbers and the work to rectify this through conservation.

We lie within the overarching umbrella of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and seek to promote their work, both locally and across the globe, raising funds in support of their work.

From May until August we move our Wednesday activities outside, away from the Free Church and make evening visits to local reserves to look for birds and creatures of every variety.

Our members range from those who have just discovered the joy of the outside world to those who over the years have gathered much experience and knowledge across all segments of the natural world and are eager to share it whether the meeting be inside or out.



We love to share our talks and walks with everyone. Why not come along and join us! Doors open at 7:15 and meetings start at 7:30pm - everyone is very welcome - non-members pay £4 per meeting (£1 for children).

Mervyn

28th September meeting – "Silent Spring Revisited– our debt to Rachel Carson with Connor Jameson

26th November meeting— "Pineapple Perils for Palearctic Migrants and African Woodland Birds" with Ann Scott.

rspbhuntslocalgroup@outlook.com

A note from the Reverend Roy Muttram

A hastily amended service to commemorate the Battle of Britain included a prayer of thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II and a prayer for King Charles III. There were no Air Cadets present by order of their headquarters but a number of former ATC colleagues (staff and former cadets attended in plain clothes). The consensus was that I managed to get the balance right.

It was humbling that these former colleagues wished to be present at what was my final "ceremonial" service.



Pilgrimage/Nature Walk to Holywell

The last few weeks have been a time of pilgrimage for many. Some going to London and Edinburgh to view the Queens resting places, and some to London for the Queen's funeral.

But here in St Ives that same weekend there was another pilgrimage on a different scale, but having an importance of its own.

This one involved a walk to Holywell and back, to visit the holy well there. Treading in the footsteps of pilgrims who had trod that path. We remembered the heritage that had been passed on to us, with the hope that we shall have a significant heritage to pass on to succeeding generations. We saw so many wild plants, wild apple trees, the hops growing along the path, the fish in the stream. And at the well we thought of all had who been there before us for so many reasons; for a blessing, for the well dressing that still happens every year, and for the children who have been baptised there.



We read prayers and poetry in the Parish Church, (which dates back to the 900s) and celebrated with a cup of tea.

The St Ives Eco-action Faith's Group who were the organisers of this special afternoon, hope to make this an annual event

We hope you may join us.

Mary Cox on behalf of the St Ives Eco Action Faith's Group



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION at Fenstanton:

The meditation session for next month will be on TUESDAY 11th October at 2:30 pm, 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.

(*For those of you who have not been before, the URC church is on the green in Chequer's Lane opposite Ron's greengrocer's shop.)

The Oberammergau Passion Play

The Passion Play, performed in the Bavarian village of Oberammergau in southern Germany is where drama, music, tradition and community come together to produce a wonderful presentation telling of the last week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem.

My daughter and I were privileged to see this year's production.

The play was first performed in the 1630s when the villagers tried to protect themselves from the bubonic plague or Black Death, which was rampant in most of Europe at that time. Guards were posted around the village to prevent people entering or leaving the community and spreading the plague. However, on the day of the Parish Fair, a day-labourer, Kasper Schule, sneaked in, bringing the deadly disease with him. As a result several of the villagers died. The people of Oberammergau asked for God's help. No more deaths occurred in the village. To thank God for saving them they vowed that they would perform a play every ten years telling of the suffering and death of our Lord. Since then they have maintained this promise each decade although the production scheduled for 2020 was postponed for 2 years because of the Covid pandemic.

The cast is made up of 1500 villagers out of a total population of 5500. Only those born in the village or those who have lived there for 20 years or more can take part. No eligible villager is denied a role. This year, for the first time, there were two Muslim actors. Male actors are required to start growing their hair and beards on Ash Wednesday of the previous year so it is common place to see men with long flowing locks and bearded faces cycling around the village or to be served in a shop by a High Priest or Roman soldier!

The play was originally staged in front of the Parish Church but later the venue moved to a meadow outside the village. Now a purpose built semi open-air theatre has been built and it is one of the largest open-air stages in the world though the audience is seated under cover and a retractable cover over the stage has been added. Although different Directors put their own stamp on the production the play's basic structure remains constant in each production.

In this year's depiction of the final days on earth of Jesus the crowd scenes are particularly striking. A huge number of the cast is on the stage as the audience is mesmerised by the sight of Jesus riding to Jerusalem on the donkey with excited children and adults waving palm branches. Later angry Scribes and Pharisees object violently in raucous German voices to Jesus' teaching. Jesus smashes an urn in the Temple and overturns tables and releases doves which fly out of the theatre through the open topped stage. Midst the hurly-burly of people, goats, camels, chickens and sheep, Jesus denounces the use of the Temple as a market place. We see the fickleness of the crowds as they change their attitudes of praise and adulation of Jesus to one of hate and anger and the bewilderment of the disciples as their leader is led away, tried and crucified. One feels to be part of the action in this dramatic production.

Cont'd on next page....



Marjorie with Nicodemus

The Oberammergau Passion Play Continued...



The play is punctuated by "tableaux vivants" or "living tableaux" which link stories of the Old Testament with the events of Jesus' life. These scenes are extremely effective and the audience is amazed at how the actors are able to freeze their poses for these scenes. A large choir introduces each tableau with wonderful music and singing.

The time taken for Jesus to wash the disciples feet gives drama and meaning to the scene. Later, after Judas realises his error in betraying Jesus his on-stage suicide is dramatic and evokes compassion.

The portrayal of the crucifixion is powerful and extremely realistic and dramatic as Jesus stumbles with the weight of the cross. Jesus and the two robbers are nailed to the huge crosses and taunted by the mocking crowd. The large audience was stunned into absolute silence and was absorbed by the reality portrayed by the scene.

In the resurrection scene Mary visits the tomb and realises that the tomb is empty. She proclaims,

"I know that my Saviour lives! He is with us every day until the end of the world!....Hallelujah! He is risen!"

If you haven't seen the Oberammergau Passion Play do put it on your bucket list. It is a profoundly powerful and moving experience and deepens one's understanding of the agony suffered by Christ and of his acceptance of his death.

The next production will be in 2030 though tickets will go on sale in 2028.

Do try to be there to experience this wonderful Passion Play.

Marjorie Carrier

St Ives Harvest gifts for the Foodbank.



A very happy occasion.....



On 6th September a small group of friends and relatives met at church to celebrate the wedding of Scott Lovell and Frances Peake. It was a truly happy occasion.

The simple ceremony was

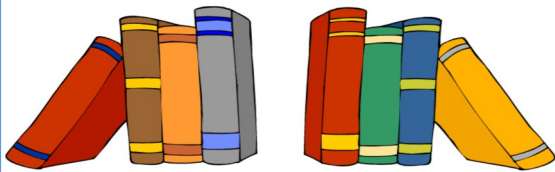
followed by a short reception in

the Centrum, prepared by Tookey's staff, and the toast made with English sparkling wine produced near Fran's sister's home in Hampshire.



FENSTANTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
CHEQUER STREET
BOOK & JIGSAWS

ON SALE



SATURDAY
15th October

9-30 AM- 12- NOON

A DISPLAY OF
OLD PHOTOGRAPHS
OF
FENSTANTON

WILL BE HELD ON

FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER
1-00PM- 6-00PM

SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER
10-00AM -4-00PM

**FENSTANTON UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
CHEQUER STREET
PHOTOS FROM 1900-2022**

DON'T FOR GET YOUR GLASSES!



Saturday 8th October 1pm – 4pm

St Ives Methodist Church Hall

Bring your broken items for our experienced
repairers to mend for free!

Yes, repairs can be fun *AND* reduce waste and landfill!

Learn from our friendly repairers at work and gain new mending skills
Enjoy drinks and home-made cake

We Welcome:

- Bicycles
- Sewing repairs
- Jewellery
- Ceramics
- Bits'n'bobs
- Electrical items
- Computers & mobile phones
- Small household appliances

Repairs are free but we welcome donations [CASH please]

Book your tricky items in at stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com for assessment
and to be sure of a slot or just bring it in on the day.



August Bank Holiday Snack Bar

The snack bar was very busy and everyone worked extremely hard. We took over £600 and we were only selling bacon and egg rolls and the usual toasties and cakes, no main meals. It was non-stop all day and I would like to thank all volunteers for their hard work.

The snack bar brings in much needed funds for the Free Church and it would be sad if we were unable to run it in the future because of lack of volunteers.

Many thanks again for your continued support, Mavis.

Country Musings from Char for October..

CLEANSE ME WITH HYSSOP AND I WILL BE CLEAN, WSH ME THEN I WILL BE WHITER THAN SNOW.....from Psalm 51

What was your greatest garden success of 2022?

Do let us know... without doubt mine has been hyssop.

It started flowering in early July and is still a joy. The muntjac have ignored it and the goldfinches, bees, butterflies and hummingbird hawk moths and so on have loved it.

Hyssop has a lovely fresh scent which opens up your airways and makes a refreshing tea.



It's a member of the mint family but not as invasive and has no runners.

Obviously, it's drought resistant, grow it from seed close to the

kitchen window and enjoy not only a pretty plant but all its wonderful visitors.

Other lovers of 2022 were the hardy ice daisy and Helichrysums.



Sister Louise in Spain didn't take the bee photo but wanted to share it with us. It certainly made me smile.

As ever, Charlotte.





What's on in

OCTOBER



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
Sat 1st	09:30-15:30	Saints Crafters
	09:30-12:30	Diabetes Prevention Group
Sat 2nd	14:00	St Ives Choral Society Come & Sing
Mon 3rd	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Tue 4th	12:00-14:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 5th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	11:00-13:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 6th	09:15-14:00	Shirley's Coffee Shop in Tookeys
	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
Sat 8th	19:00	Scout Quiz Night
Mon 10th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Tue 11th	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 12th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir

Wed 12th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 13th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
Sat 15th	10:30-12:00	Climate Café: St Ives Eco Action
Mon 17th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Tue 18th	10:00-12:00	Dementia Cafe
	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 19th	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 20th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
Fri 21st	10:00-12:00	U3A Local History
Mon 24th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)
Tue 25th	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 26th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:00	RSPB
Thu 27th	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 28th	13:00	COSI Concert:
Sat 29th	09:30-12:30	Diabetes Prevention Group
Mon 31st	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group (CRUSE)

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October Editors:

Chris Curtis

and

Sarah Bateman

November's edition of *Inspire*

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

please email it to:

office@stivesfreechurch.org

**Deadline to receive
content is 21/10**

**NEXT CHURCH MEETING:
Sunday 16th October**

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