

# Inspire

The Newsletter of The Free Church (United Reformed) St Ives

# Thoughts for the month ahead.

Christmas Greetings!

The season seems to have crept up on us this year! After a very mild October – suddenly, we have cold and frosty weather in November. Winter – and Christmas are



coming! We are grateful that we can meet again this year to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus.

What wonderful time of year! Although it is cold and the nights are drawing in, we can find warmth and light in our worship and fellowship with others.

After the limitations of the past couple of years it is great to be able to get together again. Do come and join us in song at our Readings and Carols by Candlelight on the 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6 pm.

On Sunday morning of 19<sup>th</sup> December have fun making your own Christingle to take home as a Christmas decoration to place on a windowsill. One of the pleasures of this time of year is the many traditions we have developed over the years. Have you put up your Christmas tree yet? Will you bake your own Christmas cake? It is a joy to have some friends over with some sausage rolls and mince pies and perhaps some mulled wine. And apparently, after some uncertainty, it sounds like we will be able to have fresh turkey for Christmas dinner – along with a nut roast for our vegetarian son!

It is right to celebrate God coming amongst us in a baby boy – the angels heralded his arrival with songs of praises. They proclaimed, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among all people.'

It has become a tradition for us at the Free Church to have an allage carol service on Christmas Eve. Invite family and friends to come and sing favourite carols and hear the familiar story of Jesus' birth. Although I recall the story every year at this time, I never grow tired of it. The joy and hope that Jesus' birth brings, over two thousand years ago and for us today! We know that God is with us, that God loves us, and that God can do marvellous and miraculous things - more than we could ever imagine!

Have a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Catherine & Peter xx





# December 2021

### Services this month

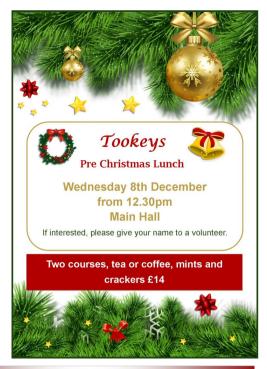
	THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES:
Sunday 5th	11:00 Holy Communion Collection of Festive Treats for Food Bank Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sunday 12th	<b>11:00 Morning Worship</b> Mrs Geraldine Swain
	<b>18:00 Candlelight Carol Service</b> Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sunday 19th	11:00 Morning Worship Christingle Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Friday 24th	<b>18:00 All-age Christmas Eve</b> <b>Worship</b> Revd Dr Catherine Ball
	FENSTANTON URC:
Sunday 5th	<b>09:30 Morning Worship</b> Mrs Geraldine Swain
Sunday 12th	<b>09:30 Holy Communion</b> Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sunday 19th	15:00 Praise Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Saturday 25th	<b>09:30 Christmas Day</b> Revd Dr Catherine Ball





### A hundred years young!

Jean Grabaskey celebrated a milestone birthday in November. Here she is with a card from everyone at the church and, well, a card from another familiar face!











Treats for St Ives Food Bank at our service on Sunday 5th December.

## **January Edition**

If you have anything that you would like us to include in the January edition of Inspire then please contact the church office or email it to inspire.sifc@gmail.com

Deadline to receive content for the January issue is 22nd December.

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