



Inspire

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



Services this month:

Thoughts for the month ahead.

View from the Manse...



Christmas Greetings to all!

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; I am here to bring you good news that will bring great joy to ALL THE PEOPLE: to you is born this day in Bethlehem, the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.' Luke 2.8

This year we are thinking about the universal nature of Christmas and learning how Christmas is celebrated around the world. The good news of Jesus' birth has been spread around the world and people of all different nations and cultures giving joy and peace to all. Each race and culture have their own traditions and styles of worship and celebration. The depictions of the nativity are reflected in different cultures and special music and food and costumes reflect their joy that God came amongst us to share human life and death to bring eternal life for all. Come and see our display of Nativity Sets from all around the world and join in our services of worship: a candlelight service of readings and carols on 4th December, making a Christingle on 18th December and Christmas Eve intergenerational service.

In these times of trouble and uncertainty we need to be reminded that this same Jesus who came as a baby in Bethlehem is now Lord over all the earth and will come again in great power to remove tyrants and inequality and bring justice, peace and restoration to our world.

It is a small world after all!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from Peter and myself,
Catherine

THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES	
4th Dec	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
4th Dec	Candlelit Readings and Carols Christmas Service at 6pm
11th Dec	Geraldine Swain
18th Dec	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Christingle Service
24th Dec	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Intergenerational Service at 6pm

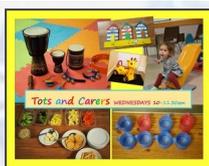
FENSTANTON URC	
4th Dec	Revd Christine Davies
11th Dec	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
18th Dec	Revd Christine Davies
18th Dec	Songs of Praise at 3pm
25th Dec	Revd Dr Catherine Ball

Reverend Roy Muttram, one of our 'retired' ministers, celebrates his 90th birthday at the beginning of January, and has decided to fully retire.



He is leading worship and celebrating Communion for the last time on 1st January. Roy has been a regular preacher for us for many years, and I would like to thank him on behalf of us all, for all that he has done for the Free Church.

Helen Ackroyd



Fabulous photo by Jackie Carpenter



...and from Fenstanton...



CHRISTMAS 2022

Happy Christmas twenty two,
Gloomy days and Christmas soon,
Economics upside down,
Politicians call the tune.

Ordinary people flummoxed,
Festive till bells ring the debts,
How'd you make the season jolly?
Fingers crossed or hedge your bets?

Must buy this without delay,
People rush from shop to shop,
Queues are long and tempers fray,
Red of face, they're fit to drop.

Can't make do must have the best,
Children tired, fret and fray,
Just one day put to the test,
Pay for it another day?

Food Banks everywhere are struggling,
Donate please, they try to cope,
Ask for help if you require it,
Don't despair, there's help and hope.

Jesus born that special day,
Humble beginnings was his start,
A family Christmas is what you make it,
Love and laughter at its heart.

cc. IRENE CARTER

Best wishes to everyone
Love Irene and Geoff Carter

FENSTANTON UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH

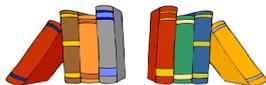
CHEQUER STREET



BOOKS & JIGSAWS **ON SALE**

SATURDAY 17th December and

21st January 2023



MEDITATION for DECEMBER
2022

And JANUARY 2023

With

JOHN WILLIAMS



All are welcome

Free Admission

Tuesday 13th December

Tuesday 10th January 2023

FENSTANTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 9th DEC 1.00pm - 4.00pm

SATURDAY 10th DEC 10.00am - 4pm

SUNDAY 11th DEC 11.00am - 4.00pm

DONATIONS AT THE DOOR FOR
ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE /CHURCH

Funeral Address by Revd Dr Catherine Ball, 2nd November 2022

Remembering Fran Lovell

Anne Frances Lovell was born in Northallerton, Yorkshire to Charles Clifford and Lucy Margaret Peake on 13th January 1960. Clifford was a Church of England vicar and Lucy was a domestic science teacher and vicar's wife.

Fran was the youngest of four children including Catherine, Tim and Maggie. Fran was born prematurely and had respiratory health issues from birth and learned to cope with them from a young child. She went to Leyburn County Primary and then Starbeck Primary in Harrogate. She was a bright student who passed her 11+ exams and went to Harrogate Grammar School and then college.



Upon leaving education age 18, she worked in the accounts office of a furniture department store. A couple of years later she went to work for the Ministry of Defence in Harrogate as Administrator in their supply depot and maintenance. In 1995 she was transferred to Wyton and she moved to St Ives. She was made redundant in 2004 and then worked for the Huntingdon County Council working in their office, providing Blue Badges for disabled parking. Her responsibilities later included Children Services safeguarding and child welfare. During this time, Fran took training courses in accountancy which she successfully completed.

Fran was a generous and kind person. She was very straightforward and honest, so sometimes could be considered as a blunt Yorkshire lass. Although she had limitations due to her health issues, she did as much as she was able. She enjoyed dancing and enjoyed life.

Fran met Scott in 2001. Their first date was at the Dolphin Hotel. They met on chapel bridge. They hit it off right away and he soon moved in with her. Fran continued to cope with respiratory illness and Scott became her carer.

Fran was a member of the Free Church and both she and Scott were members of the walking group which would meet to go for a walk following different routes to enjoy nature and would end up at a pub to have lunch together.

Fran enjoyed crafts and made cards with very fine curled paper forming flowers and patterns. She made birthday cards for children who were baptised at the church so that the church could continue to keep in touch with them as they grew older.

Fran also enjoyed leather work – Scott has a treasured wallet that she made for him. Fran enjoyed doing crosswords and together they watched sci-fi shows including Star Trek, Dr Who and detective and martial arts films. She enjoyed food but had allergies so would collect recipes she could follow. They shared the cooking, but Fran made the puddings. She enjoyed baking cakes and making jams and sauces. She would often experiment and made her own homemade artichoke vodka, plum and apple brandy.

Over the years her respiratory problems got worse, and she needed spells in hospital. She fought against her physical restrictions all her life but did at times become fed up with these limitations. She did have her faith which gave her strength, and she appreciated me praying with her when I visited.

She will be deeply missed by those who loved her, and they will treasure the memories that they have of her in their hearts forever. In our Scripture reading we read that God has prepared a place for us - in God's realm there are many houses and a place where she may be at home in God's loving presence. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.
AMEN.

From the Church Secretary

Advent is a time of preparation for the wonder of Christmas and beyond. For us that includes election of elders at the start of a new church year. Both Alan Curtis and Sally Runham have finished their terms of service and I am so grateful for all they have done to support me as Church Secretary. Alan will have given over 40 years of service as an Elder and I will particularly miss his wise counsel at challenging times. Sally has proved an excellent minute-taker in both Church and Elders' Meetings, and I'm delighted that she has agreed to stay on as a non-serving Elder as our Minutes Secretary. Many thanks also to Pete Davies and Nev Runham who have agreed to serve for a further 3 years as Elders.

At the end of November, we bid farewell to Helen Yates as manager and cook in our Tookeys café. We thank Helen for her many years of service and wish her all the best in her new job. We are currently seeking a new manager/cook to take us forward.

Another change for the new year is that sadly this will be the last edition of Inspire in its current form. As Val Bush says in her article, we sincerely thank all contributors. Particular thanks also to the editors – specifically Chris Curtis, Val Bush, Sarah Bateman and Mary Anthony - for producing such wonderful publications! It can't be easy chasing for articles, coping with sometimes last-minute submissions (guilty - sorry!), and then laying everything out so attractively. The whole Media & Comms team, ably led by Pete Davies and supported by Gail, have done an amazing job through the ups and downs of recent years. Their work is not yet done – there will be more new things to come as we seek the best ways to “keep in touch”.

In the coming weeks there will be a range of Christmas events and services to look forward to. Whether you are spending Christmas with family, friends, or quietly on your own, I wish you all an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.

God bless,

David



On Sunday 8th January, we are welcoming Revd. Lythan Nevard, the new Moderator of the Eastern Province, to lead worship. She started in our Province just a year ago and this is her first opportunity to come to St Ives. Please try to come to meet her on that day.

SPECIAL NOTICE

It is now the time to say farewell as the Inspire magazine has come to an end. It's been so many years since the beginning of this publication and it has been supported by several and varied editors putting together an interesting and informative, not forgetting humorous, issue each month.

Special measures were put in place during the Covid lockdown but this didn't phase us at all!

Meetings and events, “Letters from...” and services have played a strong part in the life of our Free Church and they will continue, but in differing forms - on screen, in Tookey's posters in and around the church building.

On behalf of the editors, past and present, heartfelt thanks go to all those who've contributed, advised and supported us during a time of great change and revision.

For further information, church office 01480 468535 or office@stivesfreechurch.org

CALL Cambridgeshire Alliance of Lifelong Learners

A Study Day in Hemingford Abbots

Religious Reformations in Huntingdonshire

Maybe not a title to draw you in, but it drew in a lot of people to the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, from all over Huntingdonshire.

Martin Luther may have nailed his theses to a church door in Germany around 500 years ago, but the Reformation is still vigorously debated and interpreted.

What was the experience of church-going in Huntingdonshire in Tudor times before and after the Reformations. What was it like to stand around in the church at Hemingford Abbots say– no sitting around for the likes of us then? And you could be, and were, fined for not going to church, as was Shakespeare's father. (His excuse was that he might be beaten up over his debts – not a regular occurrence now). Well you wouldn't understand the Latin being spoken or be able to see your vicar. But there were wall paintings to look at and neighbours to talk to. The Parish Church was the social hub of the village – “Booze in the Pews” is not a new idea, it would just have happened outside the church then. All the social/revenue raising events in the village were located there.

After the First Reformation that was all swept away. The monks at Ramsey Abbey were gone. Who was to look after the poor and needy now? All the old certainties around beliefs and rituals no longer held. If you think of Shakespeare's mother she lived under four different rulers with four different ideas about faith. Our speakers told us that at that time death was a part of everyday existence. The church had offered comfort through its rites of passage. Death wasn't final and suffering in purgatory could be diminished by prayer.

The second Reformation after the death of Elizabeth, developed into the Civil War which again made a new and profound difference to church and village life. Central and local government were in tatters, and this, as well as the general faith confusion, in part, led to the witch trials, of which there were many in Huntingdonshire – not only in Warboys.

Our own Oliver Cromwell was a church warden here in St Ives. So, although Non-conformists were around at this time, their impact was not great until after Charles Wesley died. (He of course was an Anglican all his life – he just wanted change in the church.) And that impact was initially in larger centres of population like St Ives and the industrial cities. And that woke up the Anglican church to the need for change. So you could say the third Reformation is still ongoing. (in my opinion.)

I could go on, so you can tell it was a most interesting day and it has reawakened my interest in the effects of the Reformations here.

Mary Cox

CALL is a 'not for profit' independent group promoting lifelong learning in Cambridgeshire



What's on in

DECEMBER



Mon - Sat	10:00 - 10:15	Chapel Prayers
Mon - Sat (<i>not Thu</i>)	10:00 - 15:00	Just Sharing shop
Mon - Sat (<i>not Thu</i>)	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
Thu 1st	09:15-13:30	Shirley's Coffee Shop in Tookeys Cafe
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (<i>Falls Management Exercise</i>)
	14:30-16:00	Migrant Welcome Group
Sat 3rd	10:00-15:30	Saints Crafters
	10:00-16:00	Nativity Sets from around the world
Sun 4th	12:30-15:00	Nativity Sets from around the world
	18:00	Candlelight Christmas Carol Service
Mon 5th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group
	10:30-12:00	Pilates Group
Tue 6th	10:00-12:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 7th	10:00-11:30	Tots and Carers
	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	11:00-13:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 8th	09:30-13:15	Diabetes Prevention Group
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (<i>Falls Management Exercise</i>)
	14:30-16:00	Migrant Welcome Group

Sun 11th	17:15 (18:00 start)	Rotary Christmas Cracker Concert
Mon 12th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group
Tue 13th	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 14th	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:30-22:00	Gardening Club
Thu 15th	10:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (<i>Falls Management Exercise</i>)
	14:30-16:00	Migrant Welcome Group
Fri 16th	10:00-12:00	U3A Local History
	10:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
Sat 17th	10:30-12:00	Climate Café: St Ives Eco Action
	18:30	Choral Society Christmas Concert
Mon 19th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship Group
	19:30	Tapestry Singers' Christmas Concert
Tue 20th	12:00-14:00	Diabetes Prevention Group
	19:00-21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 21st	10:00-11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	11:00-13:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:00	RSPB
Thu 22nd	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (<i>Falls Management Exercise</i>)
	14:30	St Ives Free Church Poetry Group
Sat 24th	18:00	All-age Christmas Eve Worship

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

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

December Editors:

Val Bush

and

Sarah Bateman

Join us at the Free Church for our special Christmas Services.

4th Dec 6pm Candlelight Service of readings and carols.

18th Dec 11am Christingle.

24th Dec 6pm All Age Christmas Eve Worship.



One of the lovely Christmas trees in the church, left



What a spectacular photo, left, taken by Andy Turner



One of the lovely Christmas trees in the church, left

COSSI WINTER CONCERT
7PM SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2025
THE FREE CHURCH ST IVES

MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO OP 64
SOLOIST - RICHARD ROPER

RUY BLAS OVERTURE - MENDELSSOHN
SYRINGA SINE ORA NO 15 - MENDELSSOHN
SYMPHONY NO 104 - HAYDN

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE
ADULTS £10 (UNDER 16s - FREE)