

# Inspire

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

## Thoughts for the month ahead.



### View from the Manse

March is a month of hope with so many hints of spring – daffodil bulbs pop out and crocuses provide a splash of colour on the ground. The long cold nights have given away to brighter days and our spirits begin to stir. It is good to get out and enjoy the refreshing air and brightness. We seem to gain energy and the desire to get out and achieve things. It is a time for wonder, for growth and change.

This year March begins with Pancake Tuesday before we journey through Lent from Ash Wednesday till Easter mid-April. We will be holding a small Holy Communion Service on the morning of Ash Wednesday in the Porch Chapel, and everyone is welcome to join in – if too many come, we can always worship upstairs!

Lent is an excellent time for reflection and spiritual renewal. It is a time of taking stock, clearing up the garden ready for new growth, and perhaps tackling a bit of Spring cleaning in our homes and also our hearts! May we journey together in our weekly worship to remember Jesus' life and ministry and how he was ready to give of himself for others. He showed wisdom and wit and often used examples from the natural world to reveal spiritual truths. May his example help us to identify our priorities and responsibilities and give us renewed strength and faith as we seek to follow him.

# March 2022



## Services this month

	<b>THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES:</b>
Wednesday 2nd (Ash Wednesday)	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - 10am Holy Communion
Sunday 6th	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	Peter Ball
Sunday 20th	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sunday 27th	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Mothering Sunday

	<b>FENSTANTON URC:</b>
Sunday 6th	Robert Pope
Sunday 13th	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sunday 27th	Keith Cakebread - Mothering Sunday

The month ends on a joyous note with the celebration of Mothering Sunday. We will be having café style worship and look forward to welcoming in the Spring with younger families.

With peace, joy, and love,  
Catherine



[justsharing@stivesfreechurch.com](mailto:justsharing@stivesfreechurch.com)

## Just Sharing

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



01480 496570



## COME AND SHARE OUR LENT LUNCHESES!

For those of you prepared to take the plunge - or at least dip a spoon into a new era - we are once again attempting to hold our Lent Lunches

at  
56 Church Leys, FENSTANTON, PE289QD  
(opposite Parish Church car park and Hampton Close)

on  
FRIDAYS March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th  
and April 1st (yes-really!) and 8th 2022.  
Any time between 12 and 2.30 pm.

You are very welcome to join us for any or all the occasions.

The idea is to share a simple lunch of soup and bread, usually a choice of 3 or 4 soups to share the company of others, and to donate, roughly what you would have otherwise spent on a meal out, to charity.

This year we are dividing the proceeds between the chosen Parish Charity (Woburn to Sledmere) and the start of a fund to support our grand-daughter Bethany, a Sea Scout in St Ives, who has been selected to represent the UK at the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023, but needs to raise her own funds to get there!

For more information contact John or Penny on 01480 494572



## FENSTANTON URC FENSTANTON

KNITTERS AND NAT-  
TERS  
ARE UP AND RUNNING



EVERY TUESDAY



Saints Crafters  
Local Artists and Crafters

## ART & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Free Church Hall, Market Hill, St Ives

9.30am – 3.30pm

Buy original, handmade items direct from the maker...

**\*Free Admission\***

Textiles, greeting cards, jewellery, bead & button work,  
fused glass and much more...

**Tombola: Hunts Society for the Blind**

Contact: [saintscrafters@gmail.com](mailto:saintscrafters@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook

## Irene Comes Calling again...

### HIDDEN TREASURES

Take a time to stop and look

At Mother nature's world.

It may be just a little thing

A new leaf that's unfurled.

A tiny insect on the ground

You lift your foot to miss,

That crawls away to undergrowth

And safety of abyss.

Minutes, hours tick on by

We look, but we don't see,

We need to pause, and take a breath

It's good for you and me.

And when you really, really look

The wonder that you feel,

Energize, opens up your eyes,

To nature that's so real.

Hard though blow the winter winds

Rain beats down and the snow,

Still green shoots force their way through  
earth

God's blessings helps them grow.

All the while our world spins round

As troubles plague the mind,

But Mother Nature carries on

To this we're often blind.

Have a walk and take a minute

Rest and look and see,

You're not alone, God's hand's in yours,

To treasure and be.



### **COSI Winter Concert - Friday 10th February 2022**

After a long absence, what a joy it was to hear live orchestral music being played once again in the Centrum and especially by COSI, who have been making music in our building for nearly two decades. In fact the Centrum may be called their birthplace - they gave their inaugural concert here in 2004.

So many of COSI's performances over the years have been given in support of our building, particularly their series of wonderful concerts in support of the fundraising for the repair of our spire. For this latest Winter Concert, Conductor Chris Hiscock invited us to share in an 'open rehearsal' - which included Elgar's 'Wand of Youth Suite' and ended with a spirited performance of the 'Beethoven Fifth'. **Stewart**

### **From the Church Secretary - our Free Church staff**

When I was working full-time, nearly all my daytime visits to the church building were on Sunday mornings. I knew very little about the people who kept the church activities going seven days a week, particularly our paid staff. Even now, for more regular visitors to the building, some of the work of staff is behind the scenes and may not be visible. However, it is vital for the ongoing activities of the Free Church as we witness in St Ives.

We have twelve part-time staff in total, of whom three work in Just Sharing. Their roles tend to go well beyond this very brief summary! In no particular order...

Gail Wase works as our office administrator, which includes liaising with all users of our building. Mick Lovell is our caretaker, helping to keep our building well maintained. Sarah Clarke and Sarah Desborough are our cleaners, keeping our building spick and span. Helen Yates is our new Tookeys Manager, supported by staff Linda Blake, Sam Cooper and Janet Ivanovic (newly appointed). Sarah Bateman provides IT support particularly for Sunday worship slides and publicity, while also covering for Gail when she is on holiday. Sue Billings is Just Sharing Manager, supported by staff Rosemarie Smith and Tracey Hipson.

We are very lucky to have such committed and flexible staff, who have coped admirably with the on/off nature of our activities during the pandemic. Our paid staff are also supported by a number of wonderful volunteers, whose contribution is invaluable. We always need more volunteers!

In future editions, I hope to be able to say a bit more about a few staff members and what they do, if I can twist their arms to overcome their modesty!

David Duffett, Church Secretary



#### **URGENTLY NEEDED FLOWER ARRANGERS**

1. VASE OF FLOWERS OR PLANT IN BACK FOYER
2. STAND IN THE PORCH

Cost of flowers to be reimbursed by the Church Office

Thank you, Valerie Temple

#### **MONTHLY MEDITATIONS**

Hi folks,

Just a reminder that the meditation is once again on the second Tuesdays of each month. The date for this month will be on Tuesday 8 March.

The venue once again will be in the Fenstanton URC at 2.30pm.

Please let me know if you cannot come and would like a written copy emailed to you.

Thank you,

With every blessing,

John

## Earlier First Flowering Dates As The Earth Warms Up



Trees and shrubs blooming 14 days earlier.

Herbaceous plants 32 days earlier.

Seven years ago my family planted 300+ fruit trees - this area of Cambridgeshire used to be nothing but orchards.

I remember my grandfather dreading late frosts and hail over his precious orchards.



The headlines today, as at February 2nd, were that scientists are warning of mismatches with birds, insects and plants; our last year's apple crop was poor due to a late frost stinging the too early blossom.



The young trees are growing on very well.

But will they be able to adapt? **Charlotte Jordan**



### LITTER, LITTER EVERYWHERE!!

There is nowhere, it seems, without litter in our streets and countryside. A local team of groups have got together to form

### **St Ives against Rubbish - STAR -**

to organise litter picks together.

There is a Facebook page for further details so that individually and together we can get rid of so many blots in our environment together.

### ECO ACTION GROUP

#### CLIMATE CAFES



These are held on every third Saturday of every month.

**The Free Church,  
Market Hill, St Ives**

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st

June 18th

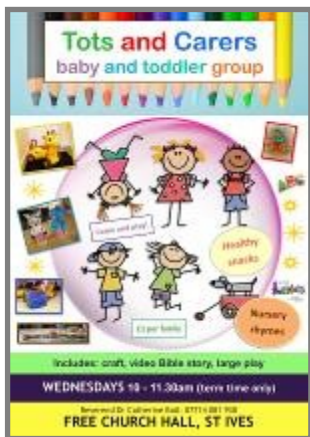
**10am - 12pm**

**There is no planet B**

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
WORSHIP**

*Wed 2nd March at  
10am*

**St Ives Free Church**  
*Revd Dr Catherine  
Ball*  
Holy Communion

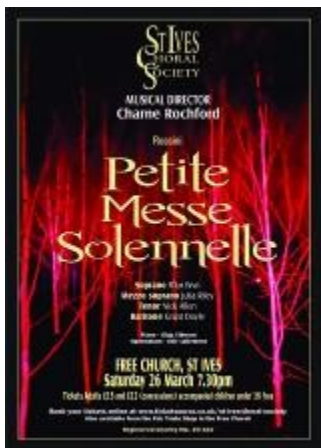


**Tots and Carers**  
baby and toddler group

Includes: craft, video Bible story, large play

**WEDNESDAYS 10 - 11:30am (term time only)**

Free Church Hall, St Ives



**ST IVES CHORAL SOCIETY**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
Charme Rochford

**Petite Messe Solennelle**

FREE CHURCH, ST IVES  
Saturday 26 March 7.30pm

**APRIL EDITION**  
If you have anything that you would like us to include in the April edition of Inspire then please email it to:-  
Office@stivesfreechurch.org  
**Deadline to receive content for the April issue is: 21st March.**



**What's on in  
MARCH**

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	09:30 - 13:30	Tookeys Snack Bar
	19:00 - 21:30	Indoor Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers
Sundays	11:00	Worship
Tue 1st	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 2nd	11:00	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 Prog)
	19:00	WI
Sat 5th	10:00-15:30	Saints Crafters
Mon 7th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Wed 9th	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:30	St Ives Youth Theatre production: Hacktivists
Thu 10th	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise Prog)
	19:30	St Ives Youth Theatre production: Hacktivists
Fri 11th	19:30	St Ives Youth Theatre production: Hacktivists
Sat 12th	19:30	St Ives Youth Theatre production: Hacktivists
Mon 14th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Tue 15th	10:00-12:00	Dementia Cafe
	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 16th	11:00	Current Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:30	HRAA Gardening Club



Thu 17th	09:15-14:00	Shirley's Coffee Shop in Tookeys Café
	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise Prog)
Fri 18th	10:00-12:00	U3A Local History
Sat 19th	10:00-12:00	Eco Action Group Climate Cafe
Mon 21st	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Tue 22nd	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 23rd	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 Prog)
Fri 25th	13:00	COSI Concert
Sat 26th	19:30	St Ives Choral Society Concert: Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle
Mon 28th	10:30-12:00	Bereavement and Friendship group (CRUSE)
Tue 29th	20:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 30th	14:00-16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:30	RSPB
Thu 31st	09:45-10:45	Sunny Steps
	12:00-14:00	Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise Prog)
	14:30	Poetry Club



Beautiful daffodils in the foyer

**CHURCH MEETING**  
Our next Church Meeting will be on 20th March after Worship.

**Contacts**

**Minister**  
Revd Dr Catherine Ball  
01480 352058

**Church Office**  
Gail Wase 468535  
[office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto: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

**Media and Comms Convener**  
Peter Davies 495835

**Webmaster**  
Alan Curtis  
[alan@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:alan@stivesfreechurch.org)

**Finance and Property Convener**  
Peter German 352401

**Freewill Offering Treasurer**  
Babs Moore 352627

**Safeguarding Lead**  
Christine Curtis 350787

**Resident Musician**  
Brian Lodde 354647

**Flower Convener**  
Valerie Temple 466204

**Chapel Prayer Coordinator**  
Joey Dyke 07787 370201

**Tookeys's Manager**  
Helen Yates 07921 46240

**Just Sharing Manager**  
Sue Billings 496570

**Assistant Manager**  
Rosemarie Smith  
[Justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:Justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org)

*March editors—Val Bush and Sarah Bateman.*

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