

WHAT'S ON

in

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

Thoughts from Pete...

After all the anticipation and excitement of Christmas, we now find ourselves in January. There can be a stark beauty in nature at this time of year, but I suspect that few would nominate this time of year as being a favourite. On the plus side, the nights are now beginning to shorten and the days to lengthen - if only by a couple of minutes with each passing day.



At Christmas, we hear of Jesus being described as the light of the world. Near the start of John's gospel we read, 'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.' Jason Swan Clarke, writing in Every Day with Jesus at the end of December, mentioned this verse and shared a few observations about this light.

- 1, Light doesn't simply illuminate - it inhabits.
- 2, The light of Christ doesn't remain distant - it steps into the dark, stands besides us and quietly says 'follow me'.
- 3, The true Light of heaven became human and moved into our neighbourhood. The maker became matter; the Creator dwells in creation. Every moment, every molecule, hums with his presence.
- 4, That same Light longs to be your compass this coming year. Not a glare that exposes your flaws, but a glow that guides your path. Not a spotlight of judgement, but a sunrise of mercy, turning even your failures into fields of grace. Christ doesn't simply show you the way - He is the way, lighting you from within.

Do you agree with Jason? Are these just nice words or do they resonate with you?

We are now in the season of Epiphany. A time when we are reminded that Jesus came to save all people. The circumstances of Jesus' birth had been a surprise but the realisation that he had been born for all, (and not just for those who had been waiting for his coming) was perhaps even more of a surprise. Pope Benedict XVI described Epiphany as being when the 'the light of Christ, which was contained in the Grotto of Bethlehem, reaches its full universal importance.'

Later in January, we celebrate the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. An opportunity for all Christian Churches to reaffirm that the differences between our different denominations (our histories, structures and practices) are insignificant compared with what unites us. That our differences shouldn't divide us but instead provide sufficient variety that there is a church where everyone can feel at home. Together we will continue to try to bring the light and warmth of Jesus' message to our town, villages and community. The Bridge Church in St Ives are kindly organising a special service at 7:30pm on Sunday 25th January, to which all are invited.

I hope that that 2026 will be a good year for all of us. May we each benefit from the light, warmth, comfort and reassurance of Jesus' love for us. In turn, find ourselves able to share this with others.

A Happy New Year to you from everyone at St Ives Free Church and Fenstanton United Reformed Church.



JAN

Services this month:

THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES

4th Jan	Rev Alison Davis
11th Jan	Dr Christine Macleod
18th Jan	Rev Barry Pate
25th Jan	Rev Alison Davis

FENSTANTON URC CHURCH

4th Jan	Rev Christine Davies
11th Jan	Rev Lythan Nevard
18th Jan	Joint Service with St Peter and St Paul's
25th Jan	Rev Christine Davies



What's on in JANUARY



Mon - Sat	10:00 - 10:15	Chapel Prayers
Mon - Sat (not Thurs)	09:45 - 14:00	Tooley's Café
Mondays	09:30 - 13:45	Tooley's Snack Bar
Sundays	11:00 - 12:00	Worship
Mon 12th	19:00 - 21:00	Indoor Bowls
	19:00 - 20:00	Chair Dancing with Sierra
Tue 13th	14:00 - 16:30	U3A Beginners Latin
	19:00 - 21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 14th	10:00 - 11:30	Hemingford Ladies' Choir
	14:00 - 16:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thu 15th	09:45 - 10:45	Sunny Steps
	19:00 - 20:00	Disco Moves
	20:00 - 21:00	Mamas Who Move
Fri 16th	10:00 - 12:00	U3A Local History
	19:30 - 21:00	Civic Society open meeting
Sat 17th	19:00	COSI Winter Concert
Mon 19th	19:00 - 21:00	Indoor Bowls
	19:00 - 20:00	Chair Dancing with Sierra

Tue 20th	10:00 - 12:00	Dementia Café
	14:00 - 16:30	U3A Beginners Latin
	19:00 - 21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 21st	11:00 - 13:00	U3A Current Affairs
	14:00 - 16:00	Senior Citizens
	19:00 - 21:00	HRAA Gardening Club
	19:00 - 20:00	Disco Moves!
	20:00 - 21:00	Pop Moves!
Thu 22nd	09:15 - 13:00	Shirley's Community Coffee Shop
	09:45 - 10:45	Sunny Steps
	10:00 - 11:00	U3A Beginners Italian
Sat 24th	11:00 - 16:00	Huntingdon Quaker Group Area Away Day
Mon 26th	19:00 - 21:00	Indoor Bowls
	19:00 - 20:00	Chair Dancing with Sierra
Tue 27th	14:00 - 16:30	U3A Beginners Latin
	19:00 - 21:00	St Ives Photographic Club
Wed 28th	14:00 - 16:00	Senior Citizens Club
	19:00 - 21:00	RSPB
	19:00 - 20:00	Disco Moves!
	20:00 - 21:00	Pop Moves!
Thu 29th	09:45 - 10:45	Sunny Steps
	14:30	St Ives Free Church Poetry Group
Fri 30th	13:00 - 14:00	COSI Lunchtime Concert
	09:00 - 16:00	Rug Seller
Sat 31st	09:00 - 16:00	Rug Seller

Contacts

For a fuller list of contact details, please visit the contacts page of our website

Church Office

Sarah Bateman 468535
office@stivesfreechurch.org

Open 9.15am - 1.15pm
Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri
and 9am - 12pm Thursdays

Room bookings should be made through the Church Office

Minster:

Rev Alison Davis 01480 763034
dav Alisonm7@gmail.com

Pastoral Network Co-ordinator
Freda Barnard 374212

Church Secretary
Christine Macleod
churchsec.sifc@gmail.com

Media Communications
and Website
Peter Davies 495835
media.sifc@gmail.com

Finance and Property Convenor
Esmond Edwards 07908 069161
Fenstanton Church Secretary
Geoffrey Hawkins 462001

Northern Lights

Chamber Orchestra of St Ives
WINTER CONCERT
Saturday January 17th 7pm

Sibelius - *Finlandia*
Sinding - *Rustle of Spring*
Halvorsen - *Entry March of the Boys*
Grieg - *Symphonic Dances, Op. 64*
Bruch - *Violin Concerto in G minor*,

Soloist Richard Roper

Conductor Chris Hiscock

Leader Karen Hubbard

Free Church St Ives

Tickets £10 Under 16s Free: www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives or on the door

visit
www.stivesfreechurch.org
for more information about
our church services, events
and activities.



WE'RE HIRING

PART-TIME
KITCHEN
ASSISTANT COOK

Part-time Kitchen Assistant Cook needed for busy kitchen in the Free Church.

REQUIREMENTS

- Initially for Fridays 8am - 3pm
- Starting at the end of March 2026
- Also availability needed for holiday and sickness cover and functions held at the church

PLEASE CONTACT PAT CLARKE OR EMAIL
office@stivesfreechurch.org

