

WHAT'S ON in JUNE

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

View from the Manse



June is the month for enjoying sunshine and warmth – hurrah! Summer is on the way finally! The St Ives Gardening Club is visiting Buckden Towers' Gardens on the 1st of the month and the Choral Society is having a concert on the 22nd and we celebrate Fathers' Day on the 16th.

This is my last month as minister of this pastorate until I retire (except for a wedding in July). I have been thinking back over the past 16 years since Peter and I came to St Ives. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your minister over this time. I have enjoyed leading worship both at the Free Church and Fenstanton. We have learned to use technology over that time and to hold café style worship services. I have enjoyed leading Eco services and Fairtrade services, all-age Christmas Eve services with Peter and leading my favourite services, celebrating Christ's birth: Readings and Carols by Candlelight at the Free Church and Christmas morning at Fenstanton. It has been a blessing sharing Maundy Thursday services with the Methodist Church, holding joint services such as World Day of Prayer, the Good Friday Walk of Witness and Pentecost with other churches through St Ives Churches Together, which I chaired for a term.

Other highlights of my time with you include becoming chaplain to the Town Mayor for two years and celebrating the 150th year anniversary of this church building when we had a wonderful flower exhibition of each decade up to the present. I am impressed by the congregation's concern for social justice issues and support for those in need in the community. It has been a pleasure to be part of the Ecology Group, the Fairtrade shop and becoming a Fairtrade town, supporting Christian Aid week and the Churches Together Food Bank. I enjoyed setting up and running the Tots and Carers group with wonderful volunteers for fourteen years. It has been a privilege to support five student ministers on Placements from Westminster College, a student with Council for World Mission and students training for lay ministry.

When asylum seekers were housed in the Dolphin Hotel over the bridge – it enriched our church mission to provide them with clothing and other needs, to provide English practice sessions, to help them with their applications to the Home Office and to welcome several of the men into our church life and fellowship. It has also been a privilege to share special times in people's lives – sharing both laughter and tears: visiting people who were unwell in hospital and at home, and older people in care homes, conducting baptisms and blessings of children and adults, weddings - including our own son, Chris.

We changed practices as the Free Church accepted same-sex marriages, leading me to conduct same-sex weddings for three couples. Even though church membership in general in society is declining we were pleased to welcome several new people into membership.

Services this month:

THE FREE CHURCH, ST IVES

2nd June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball - Holy Communion
9th June	Revd Christine Davies
16th June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
23rd June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
30th June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball

FENSTANTON URC CHURCH

2nd June	Revd Christine Davies
9th June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
16th June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
23rd June	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
30th June	Revd Christine Davies

I was sad to say good-bye to some members who moved away, and to lead many funerals of which 27 were church members who had also become friends. We have enjoyed meals together – chats with people in Tookey's café, Porch Chapel prayers, umpteen committees and planning meetings!!! quizzes, a Scottish ceilidh, and fund raising for special charities. Peter, too, has led services and joined in many social events of the fellowship.

You are a special church family, who have been through so much over the years but have remained faithful to God's call to be his people – showing divine love and mercy - a living foretaste of God's coming kingdom of love and peace. Thank you for the many special memories and the warmth of your fellowship and your friendship which I hope will continue in the years to come. We will miss being a part of this pastorate and the St Ives community. If you are ever near the Suffolk coast, do come to visit us!

With love and every blessing,

Catherine



What's on in

JUNE



- Mon - Sat 10:00 - 10:15 Chapel Prayers**
- Mon - Sat (not Thurs) 09:45 - 14:00 Tookeys Café**
- Mondays 09:30 - 13:45 Tookeys Snack Bar**
- Wed (term time only) 10:00 - 11:30 Tots & Carers group**
- Sundays 11:00 Worship**
- Sat 1st 09:30 - 15:30 Saints Crafters Craft Fair**
- Wed 5th 10:00 - 11:30 Hemingford Ladies Choir**
11:00 - 13:00 U3A Current Affairs
14:00 - 16:00 Senior Citizens Club
14:00 - 14:45 Move with Joules
18:45 - 19:45 Walkeoke with Bobbi
- Thu 6th 09:15 - 13:15 Shirley's Coffee Shop**
09:45 - 10:45 Sunny Steps
11:45 - 12:45 Disco Baby with Bobbi
12:30 - 13:30 Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
19:00 - 21:00 WI
- Wed 12th 10:00 - 11:30 Hemingford Ladies Choir**
14:00 - 16:00 Senior Citizens Club
14:00 - 14:45 Move with Joules
18:45 - 19:45 Walkeoke with Bobbi
20:00 - 21:00 Mamas Who Move NEW!
- Thu 13th 11:45 - 12:45 Disco Baby with Bobbi**

Contacts

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

Minister

Revd Dr Catherine Ball
01480 352058

Church Office

Sarah Bateman
468535

office@stivesfreechurch.org

Open 9am - 1pm

Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri
and 9 - 12pm Thursdays

Room bookings should be made through the Church Office

Church Secretary

Christine Macleod
churchsec.sifc@gmail.com

Associate Church Secretary

(and Media Communications and Website)

Peter Davies 495835

Finance and Property Convenor

Peter German 352401

Fenstanton Church Secretary

Geoffrey Hawkins 462001

- Tue 18th 10:00 - 12:00 Dementia Cafe**
- Wed 19th 10:00 - 11:30 Hemingford Ladies Choir**
11:00 - 13:00 U3A Current Affairs
14:00 - 14:45 Move with Joules
18:45 - 19:45 Walkeoke with Bobbi
19:30 - 21:30 HRAA Gardening Club
- Thu 20th 11:45 - 12:45 Disco Baby with Bobbi**
12:30 - 13:30 Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
- Sat 22nd 19:30 St Ives Choral Society Concert**
- Sun 23rd 15:00 - 16:00 Family Disco with Bobbi**
- Mon 24th 20:00 - 21:00 Zumba with Juliet**
- Wed 26th 10:00 - 11:30 Hemingford Ladies Choir**
14:00 - 16:00 Senior Citizens Club
14:00 - 14:45 Move with Joules
18:45 - 19:45 Walkeoke with Bobbi
- Thu 27th 09:45 - 10:45 Sunny Steps**
11:45 - 12:45 Disco Baby with Bobbi
12:00 - 14:00 Keep Fit FaME (Falls Management Exercise)
14:30 - 15:30 St Ives Free Church Poetry Group

The Chamber Orchestra of St Ives Saturday July 13th
7.30pm St Ives Free Church

SUMMER CONCERT

Merry Wives of Windsor Overture
Nicolai
The Noon Witch
Dvorak
Danse Macabre
Saint-Saens
Peer Gynt Suites 1 & 2
Greig

CONDUCTOR CHRIS HISCOCK
LEADER KAREN HUBBARD

TICKETS £10 | www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives
Or on the door | Under 16s Free | Drinks available in interval

**NO COSI
LUNCHTIME CONCERT
IN JUNE**