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Open 9am - 1pm Monday to Friday

Room Bookings should be made
through the Church Office

 <https://facebook.com/StIvesFreeChurch>

Worship at St Ives

Chapel Prayers:
Daily at 10am Monday
to Saturday



Sun 5th Feb	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball and Sue Billings Just Sharing 25th Birthday Service Holy Communion
Sun 12th Feb	11:00	Dr Christine Macleod
Sun 12th Feb	18:00	Joint Service at Fenstanton
Sun 19th Feb	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 26th Feb	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Eco Service Café Style
Sun 26th Feb	10:45	Hospital Service at Hinchingsbrooke Faith Sharp
Wed 1st March	10:00	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Revd Dr Catherine Ball

Worship at Fenstanton

Sun 5th Feb	9:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 12th Feb	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 12th Feb	18:00	Joint Evening Service at Fenstanton
Sun 19th Feb	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 26th Feb	9:30	Revd Roy Muttram
Sun 5th March	9:30	Revd Derek Newton

February 2017

Inspire

View from the Manse



Although it is still cold outside, as I went into my garden today I saw buds on the roses and small green shoots of snowdrops and hyacinths that will soon be out. So, even though it is the middle of winter, there are hints of spring in the air.

Jesus came among us preaching and teaching about God's coming reign, saying that it is 'near' or 'at hand.' In our world today, it seems more than ever that it is those rulers with wealth and military might who have the greatest power and authority. Those countries that are aggressive and strong are the ones that are feared and deferred to by smaller, weaker nations. But our Scriptures say that Jesus, who came amongst us as Prince of Peace, is Lord of Lords and Kings above all Kings.

God's kingdom in Christ may seem hidden, as leaven is in bread, or small as in Jesus' parable of the mustard seed, but if we have eyes of faith to see we may observe green shoots of God's kingdom in our world in the acts of kindness and generosity of people. And we need to trust that God's kingdom will grow to bring new life. Therefore, even though the future seems uncertain we need not be afraid. We need to have faith and hope to work and serve God in our society so that we will be signs of God's coming kingdom, with the confidence that God's reign of love and justice will ultimately prevail.

One way we can work for justice and peace in our divided world is to continue to buy Fairtrade products, to support fairly traded goods from across



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**Deadline for March Inspire—
Sunday 12th February**

Inspire Editorial Team

February Editor
Christine Curtis ☎350787

Mary Anthony ☎469530
Val Bush ☎469189
Keith Cakebread ☎462726

Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org

the world, especially from less wealthy, developing countries. On the 5th February we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Just Sharing, our fair trade shop. It has grown and expanded from a small table top in a corner to become an attractive and well-run shop, a significant shop in our town. Let's rejoice in this achievement and support its ongoing success.

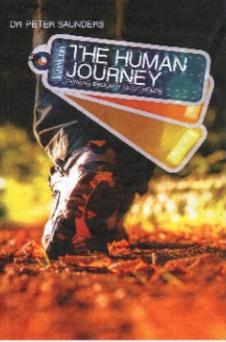
Another way that we can be signs of God's coming kingdom is to support our Ecology Group who will be putting on an eco-service on the 26th February on the theme of 'Footprints' with a soup lunch afterwards. We can show our respect and recognise our responsibility to care for our environment. We will be challenged to walk gently on this good earth by reusing and recycling and by reducing our carbon footprint.

May we be people of courage and optimism as we await the spring with expectancy and trust that God will lead and guide us forward through both difficult and prosperous times. And may we know God's presence with us always.

Love in Christ

Catherine

The Human Journey Study Group



Dr PETER SAUNDERS
THE HUMAN JOURNEY
A course to help you engage wisely and sensitively with current issues relating to health. An opportunity to encourage incorporation of healthcare expertise into pastoral life and ministry.

Dr Peter Saunders

Thursdays
7 - 9pm

Leader:
Dr Christine Macleod

2nd February	Marriage and sexuality: What is marriage for?
9th February	Physical Health: How should I live?
16th February	Mental health: Am I supposed to feel like this?
23rd February	End of life: How should life end?

Tookey's Coffee Shop, St Ives URC (Free Church)

An Update from our CWM Intern—Sandy Nunn

The past three and a half months have flown by! 111 days have passed as I write this since I began my time as the CWM Intern and I've had a productive three months, links have been made and relationships developed and formed. I don't want to just list off the things I've done and leave it at that; while that's informative it only says so much. Plus I wouldn't read just a list so I don't expect you to either!

I've been very lucky to have been in contact with one of the part time teachers at the secondary school not long after I started here. Pauline Zahner (who preaches occasionally at Fenstanton URC) has been super-helpful in introducing me to a few teachers who are either Christians or interested in Fairtrade and Eco issues, as well as the head of R.E. I've been along to the Christian Union every Tuesday of term time since then and have led a few sessions in the hope that I've been able to give them a good example of how to lead a brief 'God-talk' type of session, with some interactivity to keep everyone awake! I have noticed that the CU will be leaderless next academic year and I hope I can encourage them to think about that soon so they have someone to keep it going after I've moved on.

I've also been busy on Facebook and have made a 'St Ives Free Church' page and posted the café services as well as the Christmas services. It's gained quite a bit of attention given how new and unadvertised it is which is a good sign that people outside the Church are looking at what we're doing! It needs to be well maintained to look attractive of course but it's a very positive start! On the subject of Facebook I'm also doing the same for Churches Together in St Ives to have a platform for the churches in the town to shout about what we're doing altogether.

The Mission Planning group has been hard at work putting together a questionnaire for us to find out the profile of the Free Church and what we can do to make most use of the Church (building and people!) for St Ives. It is online at this point but we plan on dropping it out to the Yes Estate who have heard from us before!

The past 3 and a half months I've given a lot of attention to building on and creating relationships with several communities and I aim to continue to do so. 10 months in one place doing community work is a very short period of time and what I don't want to happen is for me to go in August and a large amount, of what I was a part of, fall apart and cease to be. I'm aiming to make joint ventures with various communities more tangible and start a few small but meaningful and sustainable 'projects'. In effect, I'm talking myself out of a job! These are some of the 'bigger' things I've been involved in but I'd be more than happy to talk about it all more, just ask!

Church Activities		
Mondays	19:00	Bowls Club
Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers
Thursdays	19:00	Study Group - The Human Journey
Tue 14th Feb	14:30	Meditation led by John Williams at Fenstanton
Fri 17th Feb	13:10 - 13:50	Lunchtime Concert - Clarinet & Piano
Wed 22nd Feb	19:45	Poetry Group
Sat 25th Feb	10:45	Fellowship Walk

Community Activities		
Mondays	10:00	CRUSE
Tuesdays	19:30	St Ives Photographic Club
Wednesdays	14:00	Senior Citizens Club
Thursdays	09:30	Sunny Steps
Thursdays	10:00	U3A Italian Class
Wed 1st Feb	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 2nd Feb	19:30	WI
Fri 10th Feb	10:00	COPE
Wed 15th Feb	19:30	St Ives Gardening Club
Fri 17th Feb	09:00	U3A Local History
Fri 17th Feb	19:30	St Ives Civic Society
Mon 20th Feb	10:00	CRUSE
Tue 21st Feb	10:00	Alzheimer's Support Drop In Cafe
Wed 22nd Feb	19:30	RSPB
Sat 25th Feb	09:00	Interprint Photo Competition
Mon 27th Feb	12:00	U3A French Class
Wed 1st Mar	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
Thu 2nd Mar	19:30	WI
Sat 4th Mar	09:30 - 16:00	Saints Crafters Fair
Sat 4th Mar	19:30	Concert - tbc

Fellowship Walks

**25th February starting at
The Green Man, Colne
at 10:45**

**Please speak to Hilary & Lawrence
or John & Mavis
if you wish to come along..**

**The following walk will be on
Saturday 25th March.**



SNIPPET

- **especially for cricket fans**

P.S.P.Handscomb currently playing cricket for Australia is the son of John Handscomb, a regular attender at The Free Church until approximately 1956 when he emigrated to Australia!



You may remember a visit last year from a speaker from Compassion UK. As a result of that visit a group from the Free Church got together to jointly sponsor a child in a developing country, to help that child escape from poverty.

As a group of members from the Free Church we wanted to share with you what has been happening since we first made that decision. We have got together socially a couple of times to see how we could make this work for us. We have now been given the name and details of the child we will be sponsoring. Her name is Shima Bhattacharjee, pictured right. She is aged 13, and lives just south of Chittagong in Bangladesh. As she speaks Bengali and we do not, our letters to and fro will all be translated by Compassion UK and it will take a few months for our letters to reach each other as she lives in such a remote place, and her letters are collected and delivered by someone from Compassion UK.



As a result of our sponsorship she will go to school, receive nutritious food and health and hygiene education as well as a uniform and shoes and other benefits. And her family will also receive support from the school.

If you would like to know more about Shima do get in touch with one of us through me, Mary Cox, tel. 300103.

From our Church Secretary



Are you ever short of things to pray about? The URC produces a variety of useful materials. For the last few years I have been using the URC diary. Each month, it helpfully sets out important and special days. In February, some of the important dates include the following: There is 'World Health Interfaith Harmony Week' beginning on Wednesday 1st February. World Cancer Day is on Saturday 4th February. Monday 6th February is the 'International day of zero tolerance to female genital mutilation'. On Monday 20th February, we have 'Together ethnic and minority URC World day of social justice'. And by 3rd March we have the Women's World Day of Prayer. I am grateful that the diary reminds me of these special days and challenges me to think about these issues about preventing harm and promoting good.

This month's Inspire also tells us about our new St Ives URC Facebook page. As you read and pray around these issues, when you have something useful to share why not let us know and we can post something in a timely manner on our new Facebook page.

I recently did a 2-week course on 'Improving health in resource poor settings' where I met people who were working internationally. The scale of inequalities in the world rather shocked me, and made me aware of the importance of praying into these real and difficult situations.

On a practical level, we can be grateful for the contribution from the 'Just Sharing' shop which has an international reach on reducing world poverty and creating jobs and opportunities for those less well off. It will be good to join with them as they celebrate their 25th anniversary with a special service on Sunday 5th February at morning worship followed by a thanksgiving meal.

I certainly will research these important days and think about how we pray into these situations in chapel prayers. I also plan to write for the East of England synod website in February. Another helpful aide is the 'URC prayer handbook 2017 – Feasts and Festivals'. This is produced annually and has weekly prayers linked to the lectionary. A copy can be found in our chapel when you go in there to pray. Also, everyone who leads chapel prayers has a copy, and I am sure they would be happy to share with you. So, there is plenty for us all to think about, to pray for and to action in February.

Christine Macleod

**Our Facebook page can be accessed through
<https://facebook.com/StIvesFreeChurch>**

**STOP PRESS Visit to Amey's Waterbeach Recycling Centre on Tuesday 21st March am.
Expressions of interest to Mary Cox (Church Eco Group) 01480300103**

Save Our Spire!

Update!

The team met on Wednesday 11th January and expressed gratitude for support for the cake stalls and the COSI concert. An

article appeared in the Hunts Post on 11th January to highlight the need for expensive spire repairs. The SOS tally, recorded on 12th January, was £2,340 including both proceeds from fundraising and welcome donations. Generous gifts were made for the tombola stall at the Table Top Sale on 28th January. It takes time to fill a 'Smarties' tube with 20 pence coins (total £12- and even more with gift aid). 88 tubes of Smarties have been taken by members.

The next events are

17 th February	Lunchtime Concert—Clarinet and piano Tickets £5 Tea and biscuits served
10 th March	Lunchtime Concert - Clarinet and String Quartet Tickets £5 Tea and biscuits served
18 th March	Poetry/ Entertainment and Supper evening with a meal kindly prepared by Pat Clarke and Linda Blake. For details contact jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk
Around Easter	Sponsored swim at Huntingdon Pool. If you enjoy swimming and are prepared to have a go, please let John Williams know at jlec.williams44@yahoo.co.uk
20 th May	Auction of Promises/ Talents/ Good Quality Items Please give this event some consideration as all have talents or skills to offer. Bargains may be available too, such as borrowing a tent for a week's holiday! Please contact Veronica or Sally.

The team is approaching people and organisations for assistance with funding. Articles in Inspire will update on progress with the structural work, with planned entertainment and activities and, God willing, with funds raised. Specific gifts can be made at the office, and please use a gift aid form if donated from taxed income. Nev Runham (nevrnham@btinternet.com) leads the group as a member of the church Finance and General Purposes Committee which is overseeing the remedial work.



COSI CONCERT 7th January

The Free Church would like to thank COSI (Chamber Orchestra St Ives) for raising the roof with wonderful music and helping to Save Our Spire.

Conducted by Chris Hiscock and Oliver Cope, an overture by Ludwig van Beethoven and symphonies by Franz Schubert ('Unfinished' – highly appropriate) and Franz Joseph Haydn were performed. The centrum and gallery were full and all tickets sold. It was super to see so many church members and their friends supporting the event.



The photo shows guest conductor, Oliver Cope, receiving applause

The spire's need for essential maintenance was briefly mentioned by Nev Runham of the SOS team which helped support the event. The programme contained a list of other concerts that COSI will perform for the Appeal during the year — see page 6. Free Church members and people from the town and surrounding villages who love the view of the spire are very grateful indeed for the support of these skilled musicians.

Sally

Dear Friends,

I hope by the time this is in print, I will be, more or less, back to normal.

I slipped on one step on 10th November, so this has been a very long and quite an interesting experience. So may I take this opportunity to thank a lot of people for their help and support with: shopping, washing and ironing, showers and cleaning. Also for all the drivers, down to the church, so that I have been able to be involved in most activities over the Christmas period, and to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, where many of the visits involved waiting patiently for things to happen. All the staff I met there were very kind and helpful and I received excellent treatment. Thanks also to those people who phoned or visited and for any other task, big or small. I had assured the Physio staff after the operation that I could look after myself as I had many friends who would support me, and, except for a small blip involving an infection right at the end of the time, I have managed extremely well.

..So thank you to everyone for all of your kindnesses and support.

Helen

How does it happen?

Your monthly edition of Inspire!

Every month a new edition of Inspire appears on the tables at The Free Church, freely available for the congregation and other visitors alike. It doesn't just happen by magic but takes a lot of work by the dedicated team who put it together.

Once a year the team of Mary Anthony, Val Bush, Chris Curtis and Keith Cakebread meet to draw up the schedule of publication dates and corresponding deadline dates; they also work out who will edit each edition. Then it's down to you to provide the articles and adverts to fill the pages. Catherine and the Church Secretary provide regular articles but we also welcome articles from anyone involved in the life and work of the church. Sometimes the editors turn into reporters and interview people about specific events or on-going events in our corporate life. Meanwhile Alan Curtis trawls the bookings diary for events to go into What's On—both church and community events. He also up-dates the website at the same time! Worship leaders are added too based on the preaching plan organised by Andy Fleming.

The deadline approaches and rarely do the editors have everything they need and often items need to be juggled at the last minute or "fillers" found for the odd spaces so that everything fits neatly into either eight or twelve pages. Next step is the proof reading: the almost ready copy goes to all the other editors plus Tracey Hipson who between them hopefully spot any errors, duplications and so on.....

Last step, to print the initial 120 copies, collating and stapling by hand, in order to have them ready for the publication date.

A lot is involved as you can see and we all enjoy our role in helping to communicate with the wider church community, but please remember our job is made so much easier if people offer us copy in good time! Your news and opinions matter, as do adverts of up-coming events. Please do share them by sending them to the Church Office and/or the editor for that month!

Thank you!

Free Church Poetry Group 2017

Next meetings:

Wednesday 25th January - theme "Water"

Wednesday 22nd February - theme Poet U.A .Fanthorpe

Wednesday 29th March - Open evening "Your Choice"

We start at 7:45 for coffee and an 8 o'clock start and aim to finish by 9:15pm.

Everyone is most welcome. No previous experience required.

Mary Cox and Lin Fleming