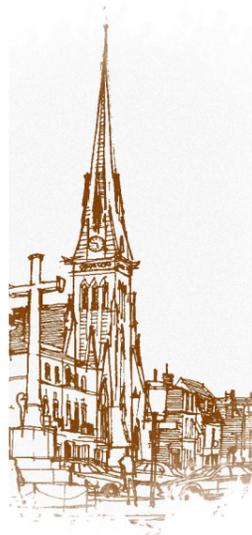


January 2016

Inspire



**THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE FREE CHURCH
(UNITED REFORMED)
SAINT IVES**

**View
from
the
Manse**



Happy New Year!
The New Year is a time for renewal of our lives. It is an opportunity for us to look back over the past year with thanksgiving and a sense of achievement at what we accomplished and to look forward to what God will do amongst us and through us in the coming year.

Some highlights of the past year were Ruth Wilson serving as our Living Ministries Student. She graduated in June and was ordained and inducted in September to churches in the Cambridge area. Like the previous year, I was Chaplain to the Mayor and so led the opening Civic Service and Civic Carol Service. As part of Churches Together in St Ives we set up Church in the Market Place to be a visible unified Christian presence in the town on Market Day. Our church raised funds for tragedy in Nepal and also for Syrian Refugees through Christian Aid. We went to the Synod Celebration Day in June – a joyful and informative day with fellow United Reformed Churches in East Anglia. Many of us had a wonderful time in Launde Abbey in June on our Church Weekend Away. Our main ministries of Just Sharing, our Fair Trade shop, Tookey's Café, and our Ecology Group continued to flourish.

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St Ives Worship
Fenstanton Worship

**Deadline for February
Inspire:
Sunday 17th January**

Inspire Editorial Team

January Editor
Mary Anthony 469530

Christine Curtis ☎350787
Val Bush ☎469189
Keith Cakebread ☎462726

Copy preferably by email please to
office@stivesfreechurch.org

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Lest we become too puffed up, we ought also to remember that there were some were sadnesses and disappointments, too, with the death of some of our members and some changes in people in different positions. We give thanks to Martin Ballard who stepped down after umpteen years on the Property Committee. We are deeply grateful to Alan Farrant who served as our Caretaker so diligently and wish him well in the future. But we can give thanks for God's ever present grace and mercy giving us strength and hope.

As your minister I would like to thank you all – I count it a privilege and joy to be serving amongst you, now in my eighth year with you. I never tire of coming to such a peaceful and attractive place for worship and get a buzz with all the activity each week day. This congregation has been faithful through difficult times and hardworking as it has persevered in Christian worship and service.

So what does God have in store for us in the New Year? We do not know what blessings and what challenges we will face, but we have confidence that God will lead us forward in his service. May we be renewed by God's continual forgiveness and mercy and, being restored by God anew, be ready to continue our pilgrimage as friends and followers of Jesus.

With love in Christ,
Catherine

Peterborough Eco-faith Network

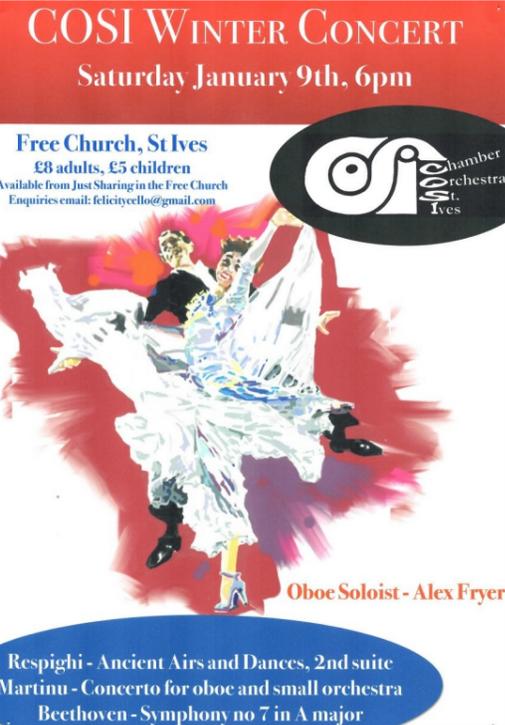
**Tuesday, 12 January 2016.
 7.45p.m. in the Becket Chapel
 Cathedral Green**

(Enter via Midgate and Wheel Yard)

**Dr. Peter Brotherton
 (Head of Biodiversity, Natural England;
 Bishop's Advisor on the Environment)**

**After Paris – the next phase in
 combating climate change.
 A presentation and discussion**

All welcome



COSI WINTER CONCERT
 Saturday January 9th, 6pm

Free Church, St Ives
 £8 adults, £5 children
 Available from Just Sharing in the Free Church
 Enquiries email: felicitycello@gmail.com

Free Chamber Orchestra
 St Ives

Oboe Soloist - Alex Fryer

Respighi - Ancient Airs and Dances, 2nd suite
 Martinu - Concerto for oboe and small orchestra
 Beethoven - Symphony no 7 in A major

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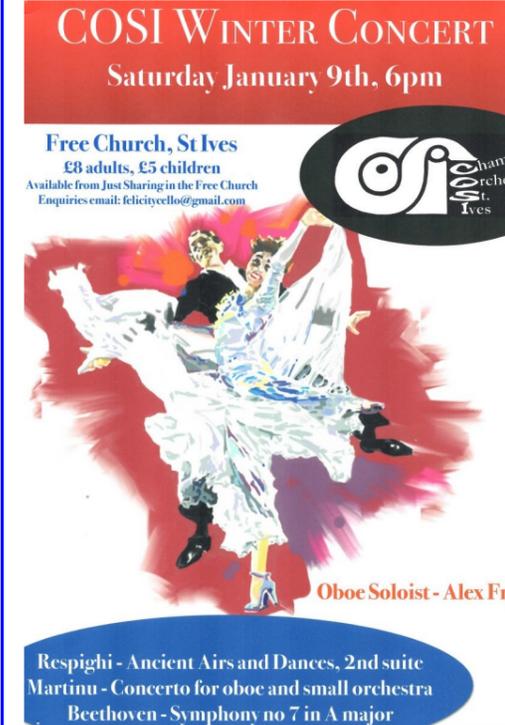
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A New Year Comes Round Again

A new year comes round again. A time of new beginnings - of looking forward, wondering what the year will bring.

During January and February I, along with all members of the Huntingdon Writer's Group, have been challenged to write 500 words on the theme, 'Don't Look Back'.

The Roman god Janus springs to mind – he who could look both forward and back at the same time.

I was reminded of this when, on Sunday December 6th, we attended the morning service at Basildon URC. where Derek had been invited to preach.

We were there to celebrate 24 years of dedicated service to the local church by its minister, Martin Kitchener - to acknowledge the time had come for him to retire – to express the congregation's feeling of loss - and yet, to wish him and his wife Gill, many happy years ahead.

Past, present and future.

The theme of the hymns, readings, prayers and sermon was based on a verse from Jeremiah, chapter 29. Verse 11 reads: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Words of great encouragement for the congregation, for Martin and Gill – and for each of us.

For the final hymn of the service Martin had chosen "Great is Thy Faithfulness", which demonstrates so perfectly the constancy of God – in His plan and purpose, not only on a cosmic scale, but at a personal level too.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

The wording might be from another age, but the sentiments expressed are timeless.

A God in whom there is no turning – the 'forever' God ; the creator God; the compassionate, loving, forgiving God – with ten thousand (at least!) blessings ready to bestow upon us.

Hazel



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A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made such a splash for our Toilet Twinning appeal.

Thanks to you we have raised a magnificent £630.00 which will pay for 10 toilets and the associated admin. We also know about 16 individuals and couples who have sponsored a toilet independently. So from this one appeal we have supported 26 new toilets all around the world. All this cash has come from the collections after our morning service, from Fenstanton URC and from boxes taken home and filled.

We shall become the proud owners of personalised certificates complete with colour photos of the loos and GPS coordinates so we can look up our twins on Google Maps. So keep a look out as they will all be hung in the hall for everyone to see.

Justine Kukundakute and her children in Uganda have already been given a gift – and it's a gift that keeps on giving.



A local Toilet Twinning partner in Kabale district taught Justine the skills she needed to build a simple loo for her family. They also taught her the importance of hygiene and hand washing. It has, quite literally, changed her life. The family's health has improved dramatically. Before they had a loo, the family suffered from intestinal worms and diarrhoea. Justine is now part of the local Community Development Team, who help others build their own latrines. So she can give the same life-changing gift to others. Children are healthier, and able to go to school; parents are well enough to work their land and grow enough food to feed their family. With better health, and more ability to earn a living, men and women discover the potential that lies within them to bring transformation.

So family by family, community by community, nation by nation, you are helping to flush away poverty.

Helen Ackroyd and Mary Cox - Free Church Eco-congregation Group



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Does nothing ever change.....?

A few nights before Christmas and I watch a report on the BBC News about people being turned out onto the streets by ruthless landlords who have not put proper rent agreements in place to protect their tenants and whose properties are not always safe or appropriate. Many of these people are innocent about the laws that should apply to tenancy and many are immigrants, often working in our care sector.



The other day I was turning out a box from the loft and found the paperwork relating to an “international” work camp I attended in 1968 during a summer vacation from university. The UN was to supply volunteers to work on a housing project in Notting Hill, a deprived area in those days in the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and made famous in those days by the notorious landlord, Peter Rachman. We were to sleep on the floor of a convent just off the Portobello Road and were to help with a housing project, collecting vital information about multi-occupancy, illegally subdivided properties and the type of heating, cooking and toilet facilities (or not!) that each family had access to. This information was to be used to try to improve legislation relating to unscrupulous landlords!

As very few people in the volunteer group spoke English many of them had a lovely free holiday in London: a few of us conducted all the interviews with tenants – quite an eye-opener for someone like me from a relatively affluent north London suburb! I also drew the short straw for ensuring everyone was fed on a shoestring budget – logic being that I admitted that my mother could cook! I remember making several phone calls to mum for ideas, all of course from a red phone kiosk, feeding in the pennies and trying to write down recipes at the same time!!!! I also became adept at bargaining for fruit and veg on the Portobello Rd Market!

How times have changed: the former squalid “homes”, because that is what they were, are now the multimillion pound homes of well-to-do Londoners. BUT – have things changed? Not really, different vulnerable people, in a different area of London, being exploited by different but equally ruthless landlords who think nothing of turning families onto the street at Christmas! Sometimes I wonder if there are any answers - but at least I feel I did try to do something – and sometimes that is all we can do.....try, try and try again!

Take a look this link: <http://www.thehill.co.uk/index.php/about-notting-hill/history-of-notting-hill>

Chris Curtis

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I am currently working on the annual return - the church’s statistics - for the URC and synod and will give you some of the more interesting figures next month!

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A very Happy New Year to everyone,

Barbara



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Wednesdays	10:00 - 11:30	Tots & Carers	Tuesdays	19:30	St Ives Photographic Club
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Sun 17th Jan	12:15	Church Meeting	Thursdays	09:30	Sunny Steps
Mon 18th Jan	00:00	Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Fridays	1800	Yoga Class
Wed 27th Jan	00:00	Holocaust Memorial Day	Tue 5th Jan	14:00	U3A Singing Group
Wed 27th Jan	19:45	Poetry Group	Wed 6th Jan	11:00	U3A Current Affairs
			Fri 8th Jan	11:00	COPE

The Chamber Orchestra of St Ives (COSI)



is delighted to welcome local musician, Alex Fryer, to perform an oboe concerto on Saturday January 9th, 2016.

A former Hinchingsbrooke school pupil from Ramsey Heights, Alex started learning the flute aged 9 then picked up the oboe when he was 14. After graduating with a first class honours degree in music from the University of Southampton, specialising in oboe performance, conducting and singing, he accepted a place to study a Masters in Performance at the Royal College of Music in London where he is now in his second year.

Alex has previously played with COSI and also in the band for St Ives Youth Theatre. More recently he has played principle oboe with the Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra and in multiple other projects including various contemporary music projects and chamber music recitals.

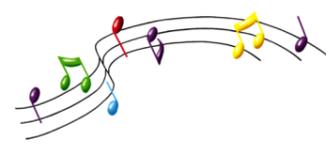
A theme of 'dance' was chosen to encourage a lively start to the New Year and the concert opens with Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances, suite no 2, which is based on lute dances composed in the early 1600s. This is followed by the Martinu oboe concerto, the rhythmical vitality of the last movement being reminiscent of a vivacious Czech Polka. The evening closes with Beethoven's symphony no 7 named the 'Apotheosis' of the dance by Wagner and the second movement well known as a backdrop to the film 'The King's Speech'.

The concert kicks off at 6pm on Saturday 9th January in the Free Church, St Ives. Tickets £8 adults and £5 children, available on the door or from Just Sharing in the Free Church. Email felicitycello@gmail.com with enquiries.

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Fri 22nd Jan	13:00	U3A French Class
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Contacts

Minister

Revd Dr. Catherine Ball 352058
Mobile: 07714 081930

Church Secretary

Barbara Duffett 395308

Associate Church Secretary

Andy Fleming 468055

Communications & Media Convenor

Peter Davies 495835

Webmaster

alan@stivesfreechurch.org

Finance Convenor

Peter German 352401

Freewill Offering Treasurer

David Duffett 395308

Property Convenor

Vacant

Tookey's

Convenor Val Bush 469189
Manager Pat Clarke 468886

Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Flower Convenor

Margaret Cakebread 462726

Eco Group Convenor

Mary Cox 300103

Chapel Prayer Coordinator

Gerry Swain 468053

Just Sharing Manager

Sue Billings 496570

Asst Manager

Rosemarie Smith
justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org

Church Office 468535

office@stivesfreechurch.org
Open 9am. - 1pm. Monday to Friday

**Room Bookings should be made
through the Church Office**

Free Church Worship



Chapel Prayers Daily at 10 am
Monday to Saturday

Sun 3rd Jan	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
Sun 10th Jan	11:00	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 17th Jan	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball
Sun 24th Jan	11:00	Carole Durose
Sun 31st Jan	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Cafe Style
Sun 7th Feb	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion

Fenstanton Worship

Sun 3 rd Jan	9:30	Revd Derek Newton
Sun 10 th Jan	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
Sun 17 th Jan	9:30	Maureen Kendall
Sun 24 th Jan	9:30	Revd Dr Catherine Ball with C of E
Sun 31 st Jan	9:30	Revd Roy Muttram
Sun 7 th Feb	9:30	Revd Derek Newton



Contacts

Minister

Revd Dr. Catherine Ball 352058
Mobile: 07714 081930

Church Secretary

Barbara Duffett 395308

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Communications & Media Convenor

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Property Convenor

Vacant

Tookey's

Convenor Val Bush 469189
Manager Pat Clarke 468886

Resident Musician

Brian Lodde 354647

Flower Convenor

Margaret Cakebread 462726

Eco Group Convenor

Mary Cox 300103

Chapel Prayer Coordinator

Gerry Swain 468053

Just Sharing Manager

Sue Billings 496570

Asst Manager

Rosemarie Smith
justsharing@stivesfreechurch.org

Church Office 468535

office@stivesfreechurch.org
Open 9am. - 1pm. Monday to Friday

**Room Bookings should be made
through the Church Office**

Free Church Worship



Chapel Prayers Daily at 10 am
Monday to Saturday

Sun 3rd Jan	11:00	Revd Dr Catherine Ball Holy Communion
Sun 10th Jan	11:00	Revd Derek Newton
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