

**A pioneering new project to use sport to reach out to adults, children, families, and young people who have had little or no previous connection with church.**

The idea is to mix the gospel message with opportunities to watch and engage in sporting events in an informal cafe environment that is readily adapted to screen prominent / regular sporting events. It is recognised that there are many sports fixtures on a Sunday morning that prevents families and people coming to traditional church.

The following activities are at the core of the development of this project:

* “Fan Zone” Events - Screening live sporting events in a non-licensed sports cafe environment which may also include children & young people. These will provide a mix of sporting entertainment and gospel message including testimony
* Have a go events that people / families can sign up for and have a go at sports that otherwise they may not get the chance to participate in e.g archery, climbing, tennis
* Family worship and discovery events not on a Sunday morning
* Building community through social media, fan zone events
* Youth work nights that show live sports in a café environment
* Injury time zone / physio room for sharing about health / healing
* “Squad Training” Nights – an opportunity to explore faith / Bible Study
* Special one off seeker events including times of testimony and worship

**Background Information about St Ives Methodist Church:**

SIMC is a church near Cambridge (sorry if you were thinking of beaches in Cornwall!) that has a rapidly growing children and family’s ministry under our lay children’s and family’s worker - that has seen 10 new families join us over the last 12 months, some coming also from no previous church backgrounds. This is an exciting time for the church, with a worshipping congregation of between 60-90 people. The church has just finished a major refurbishment which has also seen every room with a large smart TV, fast internet access and a great sense that this is the beginning of something new.

Renewal of worship is under way and we aim to build on the innovative online ministry and community outreach over the last 12 months. The church aims to be a place of radical hospitality – with many community user groups using the church premises and takes pride in its friendly welcome of people of all ages and abilities – having close links with local disability groups.