



Imagine the scene on 17th March at a football match, when Fabrice Muamba, a sportsman in peak physical condition, collapsed on the pitch. For two hours his heart had to be artificially aided, otherwise he would have been dead. Imagine how his team mates and particularly his family must have been feeling as the horrendous implications of what had happened to him began to unfold. Numbness, disbelief, horror, sick to the stomach; these and many more emotions would have been roaring around. Thankfully top class medical assistance and a brilliant specialist hospital were at hand and this young footballer is showing such signs of improvement that many point to it being a miracle.

Roll back in time some two thousand years and imagine how the disciples, and particularly Jesus' mother Mary felt as they saw Jesus breathe his last, nailed to a cross, with the thrust of a spear in his side to ensure that the barbarity of the cross had done its job. It must have seemed as if all hope had gone as Jesus' life ebbed away. There was no medical expertise in place to bring him back to life, Jesus had died; end of story.

Imagine how Mary Magdalene felt when she discovered the huge stone that covered Jesus' tomb rolled away. Imagine how Peter and the other disciples felt when Mary ran to tell them, and they in turn rushed to the burial site. The others can't believe Jesus is alive, but rather that someone has moved his body. Mary waits around and firstly angels and then the Lord Jesus himself speak to her; Jesus is alive. This was a true miracle, death defeated, a gift from God for you and me. Why?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

Hallelujah, Christ is risen.

David Keeble



The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 1st April and 6th May. If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call - don't forget that I have a wide range of Traidcraft goods suitable for presents. Catalogues are still available in the church foyer.

Fairtrade Fortnight Big Brew

Many thanks to all who supported my event which raised £67.85.

Brenda 815819

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Care Time



Please pray for the family of Harold Fisher, who died recently. Harold was our Methodist Minister for 13 years and is remembered with great affection. He was one of the founders of Shalom.

We also remember Doris Lambdon, mother-in-law of Alan Wheeler, undergoing chemotherapy; others in our wider church family who need our prayers; and those no longer able to attend church.

Please also remember the prayer slips which are available in the foyer for those to be remembered during our Sunday worship.

Unlocking the Growth

7.30pm Monday 16 April
B Stortford Methodist Church

led by Michael Harvey of **BackToChurchSunday**

Simple and effective ideas for increasing the number of people gathered to invitational services. It is specifically designed for church leaders and lay people who want to see their church grow. *Topics include:* The reasons Christians don't invite; hidden attitudes in our churches; how to overcome the wounds of the past; how welcome plays its part; what is church in 2012; the keys to adding to the church; 12 steps of kicking the habit of being an uninviting church (or how to double a congregation in a day)

What's on in April

Worship at Stansted Free Church

1st	10.30 am	Mike Render
6th	10.30 am	Rev'd David Keeble - Good Friday Service
8th	10.30 am	Rev'd David Keeble - Easter Communion
15th	10.30 am	Ken Mark
22nd	10.30 am	Rev'd David Mullins
29th	10.30 am	Gordon Doyle

Easter Sunday

We are using the Lenten Cross again. Each Sunday during Lent, symbols reminding us of the events leading up to the crucifixion are placed in front of the large wooden cross: a bag of coins, Matt 26 v 14 -16; a bowl of water and a towel, John 13 v 1 -14; bread and a chalice, Matt 26 v 26 - 29; a crown of thorns and a robe, Mark 15 v 16 -18; a staff, Mark 15 v 19 - 20; and a hammer and nails, John 19 v 17 - 24 & 28 - 30. After the service on Good Friday these items will be removed so that on Easter Sunday we can celebrate the resurrection by decorating the cross. If you can, please bring a few flowers to the service so that we can all join in to make the cross a thing of beauty.

Other Activities

Sun 1st	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
	7.00 pm	Café Worship - B Stortford Methodist Church
Mon 16th	7.30 pm	Unlocking the Growth B S Methodist Church
Sun 22nd	7.00 pm	Taizé Service - B Stortford Methodist Church
Sat 28th	10.30 am	Church meeting in the Hall
Mon 30th	8.00 pm	Churches Together Forum in the Hall

Other Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 5th April

- 8 pm Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church Tenebrae Service
- 7.30 pm Bishop's Stortford URC Church Tenebrae Service

Good Friday 2nd April

- Stansted Walk of Witness 4.00 pm from St Teresa's to St John's

Stansted Free Church
Methodist / URC
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 29th April. Please submit articles by Friday 20th April to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to:

23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP. Thank you.

Editors: Alan Wheeler and Mike & Marion Dyer

Copies of this and previous editions of Imagine can be found on our website www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk