

Imagine!



April
2014

I imagine you are Mary, mother of Jesus, on Good Friday night; but you will never know it by that name, and would never, ever call it 'Good Friday'. There has been terrible news that week; Jesus dicing with the crowds and the authorities, almost, it seems, goading them on to do their worst, and you knew what their worst could be. Friends kept telling him "Back off, back off", but your son seemed to be courting disaster, and would not be diverted. You fling your arms around him to stop this madness, but gently and firmly he pushes you away and presses on.

Then you hear about the arrest in the middle of the night; the court appearance before the high priest; then before Pilate; the whipping and the sentence; and the little procession of convicts up the hill. You dash up the hill yourself, yet not wanting to get there, to find your son nailed to a cross. Your son, the child you bore, the child you and Joseph took to the temple, and, oh, those awful words of that ancient man Simeon. Your son, who you and Joseph brought up. No more a child, he became a man, and now a dreadfully executed man, just because the authorities didn't like what he was teaching. What a waste, what a sickening end. What shame on all the family. What danger you are all now in. Then he sees you and commends you to the care of John.

His body now lies in your lap - this can't be happening; your world has come to an end. You can't imagine anything coming from all this - but Mary, we can! Something immensely good. Far, far beyond your imagining, and believe it or not, we will be celebrating all this.

Strange thing, this Kingdom of God!

Stuart Veitch



Pilots

Our Pilot Company is growing by leaps and bounds and we now have 17 children on our books, which is very encouraging as we only meet



once a month, and lots of thought, prayer and hard work goes into what we do. In March, we had an enjoyable evening, playing games, listening to a Bible story and then acting it out, and learning a new song written for us by Michelle. Sanj told the children a story of soldiers in battle in Roman times. They prepared some

food that might have been eaten in Roman times by the soldiers! A good time was had by all, but nobody wanted to eat the food!!

Valerie and the Pilot Team

URC Minister Vacancy Update

The Vacancy Committee met with a candidate for the full time post within the West Essex and Bishop's Stortford (WEBS) pastorate, of which we are part, and unanimously invited him to 'preach with a view' on the weekend of 2nd - 4th May. The programme is as follows:

Fri 2nd Social with the minister and his wife at Clavering Christian Centre (former URC) 7 pm with question time at 8 pm

Sat 3rd Social with the minister at Stansted Free Church 7 pm with question time at 8 pm

Sun 4th Two services led by the minister
10.30 am Communion Service at Bishop's Stortford URC
3.30 pm Service at Saffron Walden URC

You are welcome to attend either or both socials and services.

Wed 7th

WEBS joint Church Meeting at Bishop's Stortford URC 8 pm with refreshments from 7.30 pm. Anyone can attend but only Church Members may vote. If you need transport to any of these events please let me know; likewise if you can offer a lift. Thank you.

Betty Francis
Tel: 813977

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Worship at Stansted Free Church

6th 10.30 am Don McGregor - New Directions

13th 10.30 am John Banks

18th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Good Friday Reflective Service

20th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion

27th 10.30 am Faith Paulding

Other Activities

Tue 1 & 8th 2.00 pm Lent Focus Group in the Foyer

Fri 4th & 25th 6.15 pm Investigators in the Hall

Sat 12th 12.30 pm Lent Hunger Lunch in the Hall

Sun 13th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service

Thu 17th 7.30 pm Tenebrae Service at B Stortford URC (in Hall)

8.00 pm Tenebrae Service at B Stortford Meth Church

Fri 18th 4.15 pm Walk of Witness from St Teresa's Church

Mon 28th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall



HUNGER LUNCH

Delicious Home-made Soup with a Roll

12.30 - 2 pm Sat 12th April in the Church Hall

No need to book but it would be helpful to know you are coming.
Please tel Betty 813977 Email: betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

In aid of the Stansted Churches' Lent Appeal for Defibrillator Fund



LENT FOCUS TALKS in the Church Foyer led by Stansted Family Church

Tuesdays 2 - 3 pm followed by refreshments. Bibles will be provided or bring your own. Everyone welcome to one or both sessions.

1st April The Bible Big Picture

Explore the significance of what we celebrate at Easter, as it relates to the Bible's overall message and the big picture story of the whole Bible

8th April Five Ways to really Engage with the Bible

Explore ways to engage with the Bible that can help us to grow in our understanding of what we read, and to mature in our faith

Contact Ros Page tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.co

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Brenda Veitch

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Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

Pilots Children's Work

Monday (monthly) 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Place on the Hill Drop-In (All Welcome)

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm **(Not Good Friday)**

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk