

Imagine!

April
2015



This is our 100th edition!

I imagine you see a car in the hedge. In his poem 'Resurrection', R. S Thomas wrote: '

... a machine stranded
beside the way for lack
of petrol is covered with flowers.

What a wonderful juxtaposition in this image. On the one hand we can see the stranded vehicle; because there is no fuel left in the tank, it is unable to move. While looking at the forlorn and abandoned car, we can reflect on the human carelessness that failed to re-fuel it, and that has meant no-one has ever come back to reclaim it. Against this, we can see the covering of flowers that brings life and vitality to the scene. Has the hedgerow blossom tumbled out across the abandoned car or have the flowers in the verge sprung up all around – perhaps it is both? There is vitality and energy that counters the lifelessness of the vehicle that seems more fundamental, lasting.

We can picture Good Friday all too easily - a war, an atrocity, a starving child, a report of neglect, ugliness - death both literal and metaphorical. Our destructiveness and the sapping of hope are reflected in the world and on a cross. We cannot turn away from the cross without reflecting on our need for God's forgiveness and God's renewal of the human spirit, nor seeing the depth of love displayed. Another poet, e e cummings wrote (sic) :

i who died am alive again today,
... this is the birth
day of life and of love ...

Does the poet write of Easter or does he write of any day? Perhaps it is both. Through the risen Christ, we see God comes with an astonishing vitality again and again, like blossom tumbling over an abandoned car. May the true joy of Easter be yours once more!

How pleased we are that Caroline Vodden has responded to our call to be the half-time minister in WEBS. I look forward to welcoming her in the Summer to minister alongside me and with you.



Care Time



We remember all those who are unwell and those of our congregation who are no longer able to attend church.

We pray for Valerie, Peter, Arthur and the other Pilots Leaders following the decision to close our Stansted Pilots group.

We pray for those who visit The Place on The Hill and give thanks for the opportunity to tell them the Easter Story at our Easter Special event.

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 26th April. Please submit articles by Friday 17th April to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to: 23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP.

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

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Worship at Stansted Free Church

3rd	10.30 am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Good Friday Service
5th	11.00 am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Easter Day Communion (Note time)
12th	10.30 am	Rev'd Christine Fowler
19th	10.30 am	Janet Bottoms
26th	10.30 am	Don McGregor

Other Church Activities

Sat	11th	10.00 am	Church Meeting in the Hall
Sun	12th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Sun	12th	4.00 pm	Messy Church at B S Methodist
Tue	14th	7.30 pm	Parliamentary Candidates at St John's Church
Sun	26th	6.30 pm	Easter Offering Service at B S Methodist
Tue	28th	7.30 pm	Churches Together at Quaker Meeting House
Wed	29th	7.30 pm	WEBS Bible Study at Newport URC

EASTER SERVICES AND EVENTS

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Roy will be leading a Tenebrae Service (incl light supper) at 7.00 pm in Bishop's Stortford URC Hall. To assist with catering, please call Robert on 07425 160839 or email: office@waterlaneurc.org.uk
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church Tenebrae Service is at 8.00 pm

Good Friday 3rd April

Reflective Service 10.30 am led by Rev'd Stuart Veitch
Churches Together Walk of Witness at 4 pm from St Teresa's

Easter Day 5th April

Communion service 11 am led by Rev'd Roy Fowler - note time



STANSTED CHURCHES TOGETHER EVENTS

Tuesday 28th April 7.30 pm CTS Forum at the Quaker Meeting House with a visual presentation by a Christian Aid speaker

Saturday 9th May 10 am - 3.30 pm in St John's Church
Silent Prayer Day led by Magdalen Houlihan from St Clare Priory.
Contact Kathy West on 816293 or email: kewest@btinternet.com



Two Volunteer Positions

The Methodist Church

Strategy & Resources Committee of the Methodist Council

Are you a member of the Methodist Church seeking to use your skills, expertise and gifts in a new way? Do you have skills, proven ability and gifts in human resources, governance and/or strategic thinking and planning? Could you make a significant and passionate contribution to an important and hard working body in the Methodist Church? We are seeking two new members of the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) one to serve from 1st September 2015 and one from 1st September 2016, for up to four years. Expressions of interest are invited from lay and ordained Methodist members. New committee members will complement the skills and background of current and other new members of the SRC but proven ability in HR would be particularly welcome. Expressions of interest from women and from people from ethnic minorities are especially welcome as they are currently under represented on the Committee. All applications will be assessed on merit. Please only submit a completed Expression of Interest Form; cvs not required.

Closing date 9th April **Interviews** 29th April Methodist Church House

Further details and application pack from: Development & Personnel Office, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

E-mail: recruitment@methodistchurch.org.uk

www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/job-opportunities



WEBS Bible Studies led by Roy

Three Passionate Prophets

Wednesdays 7.30 - 9 pm (coffee at start)

Newport United Reformed Church

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|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 29 th April | Amos | A passion for justice |
| 27 th May | Hosea | A passion for faithfulness |
| 24 th June | Micah | A passion for true worship |

Come and see what the Bible says to us ~ All welcome

General Election 2015

Come and meet the Parliamentary Candidates
for the Saffron Walden Constituency

St John's Church

7.30 pm Tuesday 14th April

All Welcome



Organised by
Stansted Churches

The Leaves of the Tree

Circuit Easter Offering Service

6.30 pm Sunday 26th April

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

Prepared by Methodist Women in Britain, the service draws inspiration from the prophetic visions in the Old and New Testaments, of the Tree of Life producing leaves for healing. We hear stories from Partner Churches engaged in healing and healthcare and from countries around the world where the Church is involved in national and international reconciliation.



It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering, all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain.



The **Methodist Church**



All Welcome ~ Followed by Refreshments

WONDERING WHAT TO WATCH ON TV OVER EASTER ?



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Taking each of the gospels unedited and unabridged as its script, the Lumo Project offers four feature-length films that revolutionise the way we experience and understand the story of Jesus. Filmed in Morocco, using the very latest historical research to recreate authentic first century Palestine, and breaking from the stereotypical westernised Jesus, the Lumo Project is designed to promote biblical literacy for everyone, irrespective of faith.

St John's Gospel is the first of the four gospels to be produced and will be broadcast over Easter on **BBC2** :

Friday 3rd, Sunday 5th and Monday 6th April at 8 am on each day

It is also available on Netflix and is downloadable through iTunes. The other three gospels will be available over the next 18 months.

For a preview visit www.lumoproject.com

The Programme is produced by **Big Book Media**, whose objective is to bring the Bible stories to a new generation, and in a way that embraces modern viewing habits. They have also produced:

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PETER

Following the success of In the Footsteps of St. Paul, this is a two-part documentary that follows the journey of presenter, David Suchet as he travels to speak with leading archaeologists and experts in a bid to recreate the path of St Peter, charting the controversial and turbulent career of the man closest to Jesus.

This will also be broadcast over Easter, but on **BBC1**:

Friday 3rd, and Sunday 5th April at 9 am on each day

For more information visit www.bigbookmedia.com



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT BIG BREW

Thank you for supporting this event which raised £78.42

Brenda

Inviting Workshop



Growing Church by personal invitation

A Saturday morning workshop in which we learn and practise together how to invite others to join us in worship

The aim will be to build our confidence in expressing our enthusiasm about the church we love

Saturday 16th May

10 am – 12.15 pm (coffee from 9.30 am)

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

This event is for all churches in the Circuit

For more information contact

Stuart Veitch on 815819 email: stuart@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

WELCOME

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

Contacts

(All telephone numbers are 01279)

Minister

Revd Roy Fowler

Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Betty Francis

Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer

Email: treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship.

1st Sunday of each month - New Directions (Informal)

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

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk