

Imagine!



Imagine a
good day

I imagine travelling in Dr. Who's Tardis; he gives you a choice of a free, return trip to some time in the future or past. I see myself being transported right back to the world's beginning, to witness the Big Bang that scientists theorise started everything. Imagine watching, in fast-forward motion, the world and everything taking shape, evolving, and changing over the ages. Imagine seeing for ourselves how it all began.

Genesis sets out to answer not so much how we got here but to whom it all belongs and what follows from that. Side by side in the opening chapters of Genesis, are both poetry and stories about the world as God's creation. Composers and final editors reflect on humanity's place in the world and God's place also. The world's beginnings are as much a spiritual matter as they are a scientific one.

The world the ancients imagined was rather like Terry Pratchett's Disc World - flat, gliding through space, and having an edge over which an ocean perpetually flows into a chasm far below. Four elephants, standing on the back of a giant turtle, the Great A-Tuin, propel Disc World through space. Of course, Pratchett's world is fantasy, non-scientific, and highly entertaining! In the Psalms, the Hebrews confessed: "The earth is the Lord's, the world and all that it contains." Imagine the world brought round right if such a confession of faith became the universal standard by which we measure, and inspiration for everything done in and with the environment, and with each other. Genesis is less about a world that once was than about the world as God intends, and, how we shall get there: walk humbly, treat the world respectfully. Chief Seattle said "What we do to the creation we do to ourselves."

Allen Morton



Care Time



Please remember in your prayers: Allen and Daphne Morton's daughter Elaine, undergoing chemotherapy; Phyllis Little back in hospital after a fall; Mary Heuch in Epping Hospital; Valerie's brother Charles, following his heart operation; Ivor Thomas and all those who are not able to attend church.

Betty

betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 29th August Please submit articles by Friday 20th August 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

What's on in August

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 1st 10.30 am New Directions with the Worship Team
8th 10.30 am Denis Walker
15th 10.30 am Rev Allen Morton - Communion
22nd 10.30 am Rev David Thompson
29th 10.30 am Rev Allen Morton

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Sun 22nd 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 23rd 10.00 am Church Oversight group
7 Blythwood Gardens



The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 22nd August, 19th September and 17th October.

If you would like any fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call. Catalogues are in the foyer.

Brenda

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

A message from Rev David Keeble, who is to become our Methodist Minister from 1st September

Along with my wife Fran, I moved into 4 Nightingale Mews, Saffron Walden on Friday 28th August 2009 in preparation for a 1st September start with the Circuit. We have a lovely home in a very nice town; we feel very blessed by the Lord for His provision for us. We were both born and bred in Felixstowe, where we lived, worked and worshipped until 2002 when I received my first call to ministry.



We have two children, Nicola 35 and Stuart 33. Nicola lives with her husband Scott in Daventry and they have been married just four months. Stuart works for the Suffolk Primary Care Trust in Ipswich where he is a Senior Information Analyst. He lives with his partner Ruth in Ipswich. I have led a varied work life, which has included grave-digging, factory work for 15 years, working at Felixstowe Docks for 11 years, self-employed fisherman and nursery man for 8 years.

In 1999 I began four years practical ministry training at Maidstone Road Baptist Church, Felixstowe and at the same time was involved in studying with the Open Theological College and Spurgeons College.

I was ordained in September 2002 and my first pastorate was in Stradbroke, a village in a rural area on the Suffolk/Norfolk border; I was the pastor of the Baptist Church for four years. My next call was to Benfleet Baptist Church, where I was pastor for three years and then a call to the Bishop's Stortford Methodist Circuit, which brings us up to date.

Fran and I are very grateful to God for bringing us to this beautiful part of Essex - we feel very privileged to be here. I am also very grateful to God for Fran who supports me so much and is part of the ministry that God is still shaping in our lives. We pray that we can serve the Lord and all of you at Stansted as we move forward together and we look forward to getting to know you and sharing our lives with you.

Every Blessing

David

Thank You

The change in pastoral oversight has been made to enable Rev David Mullins to have more time for his duties as Circuit Superintendent, and to 'balance up' the workload between the 'two Davids'. We are very grateful to David M for his caring ministry over the last three years. As Superintendent, he will still preach in our church from time to time, and we look forward to welcoming him on those occasions.

Baptism of Oscar Keefe 2nd May (Fran's first grandchild)



The baptism service was conducted by Rev Tim Richards, Oscar's grandfather

The proud parents and grandparents



Capture that moment!

Photos by
Alan Wheeler & Mike Dyer

Stansted 10K Fun Run & Walk 11 am Sunday 27th June



A very big thank you to all who helped make the event such a great success, despite it being the hottest day of the year to date (31 degrees!). We have raised nearly £5000 for our five charities.

Marion Dyer



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the £1500 collected in Christian Aid Week. At the special service in May we saw how Christian Aid has supported residents in the slums of Kenya to build toilet blocks, so that they no longer have to use the open sewers. As well as making a more pleasant environment there is also less chance of catching diseases. So next time you flush the toilet, remember that the money you gave in the Christian Aid envelope could be providing this very basic facility, which we take for granted.

Catherine Dean

A Good Day

When we pass in the street we say "good morning" or if we are Australian "G'day". How easily these words slip off the tongue. Do we really mean our acquaintance to have a good day, or are we just too unimaginative to say anything else? Is it merely a polite way of saying just "grunt"; and don't we want so much more than a good day anyway? We want to be fulfilled, normal, complete human beings with a sense of satisfaction at the end of the day. Yet for some people just to have a good day is a huge blessing. When a grand child has struggled to stay strong since the day he was born, the daily praying for a complete healing sometimes seems hopeless. Can God really do the impossible? It all seems so frustrating. And is it too much to ask? Yet healing still doesn't come. Then when we are exhausted with praying comes a quiet voice "Just pray that your loved one has a good day" and suddenly that is enough. A small piece of praying this, but one that we can achieve: "We pray that he just has a good day". Remember that grandfather next time you say "Good morning" to someone in the street!

William Frogley & Alan Wheeler

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

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Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship

New Directions - our bi-monthly service in a less formal style

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk