

Imagine!



Imagine
giving God
your heart!

Imagine God has contacted you and given you his job for a while so that he can have a holiday. That is the theme for the 2003 comedy 'Bruce Almighty' starring Morgan Freeman as God and Jim Carey as a TV reporter called Bruce Nolan. The first thing to say is that this film is not everyone's cup of tea, but there are some very thought provoking parts of the film about prayer or to be more precise the answering of prayer. Bruce Nolan gradually realises he has been given total control over everything and then all of a sudden he gets an immense noise deafening him and he asks God what it is all about. God tells him, "That is people praying." To cut a long story short Bruce decides to say "yes" to every prayer because that was the easiest thing to do; result utter world chaos.

My question, as we approach Christmas, "what prayers would you like answered?" Are they personal prayers about family or maybe health? Are they global prayers, perhaps no more earthquakes or floods? Do we pray complicated shopping lists of prayers or should we spend more time praising our awesome, wonderful, grace filled God? Just imagine, if you can, God praying right now. What would he be praying about? What might his shopping list be this Christmas? After all, his Son Jesus Christ came into this world as part of humanity, man, yet also God, and his destiny had been mapped out before the world began. (*John 1:1-5*) What would God have you and me do this Christmas; what would he be praying that each one of us would change in our lives, in our thinking?

There is a verse in the Carol, 'In the bleak mid-winter' that says this: *'What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man I would do my part. Yet what I can I give Him - give my heart.'*

Imagine what the world would be like if we all gave God our hearts.

David Keeble



Care Time



Please remember in your prayers the following members and friends of our church:

Jane Sell; Valerie Trundle, awaiting an operation; Gladys Dix, Sue Parker and family; Ivor Thomas, no longer able to attend church; and Mary Heuch as she settles in her new home.

Please also remember that the prayer slips are available for Sunday morning worship and if you are unable to be at church, please pass your requests to Marion Pretty or me and we will make sure the preacher for that Sunday knows.

Betty

info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 2nd January. Please submit articles by Friday 17th December 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 December

Worship at Stansted Free Church

5th	10.30 am	New Directions – Andrew Brown & Worship Leaders
12th	10.30 am	Rev Allen Morton - Communion & Gift Service please bring breakfast foods, toiletries, socks & gloves
	7.00 pm	Café Worship - Rev Stuart Veitch & Worship Leaders
19th	10.30 am	Gordon Doyle
25th	10.30 am	Rev Allen Morton- Christmas Family Worship
26th	10.30 am	No service

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

Thu 2nd	8.00 pm	Circuit Meeting at Bishop's Stortford
Wed 8th	7.30 pm	Saltmine 'Angels Delight' at B S Meth Church
Sun 12th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 13th	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom Party at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sat 18th	3.30 pm	Celebration of Christmas at St Mary's Church
Sun 19th	6.30 pm	Carol Service at Water Lane URC Carol Service at B Stortford Methodist Church
Wed 22nd	7.30 pm	Churches Together Carol Singing Meet at the Dog & Duck, Lower Street
Thu 23rd	7.30 pm	Churches Together Carol Singing Meet at the Rose & Crown, Bentfield Green

Gift Service 12th December

During our Gift Service on 12th December, there will be an opportunity to bring items for the Whitechapel Mission. As most of you will know, the mission provides thousands of breakfasts to homeless people each year, and also has the largest clothing store in London for the homeless. Breakfast cereals, tinned beans and tomatoes, tea, coffee, and toiletries are welcome, along with gloves, scarves and socks. If you are not able to be at the service, donations may be left in the vestry. Thank you.

Pilots

On Sunday 14th November some of our Pilots took part in the Parade to the Memorial Gardens. Helen Carter carried the Pilot Flag and presented it in St John's Church where the Service of Remembrance was held. Kayleigh Wiffin laid the Pilot Wreath of poppies on the War Memorial. It is good for our young people to have some idea of the reason why we remember those who did not return from the wars, and are still not returning due to the troubled times in which we live.



On 16th January, the Pilots are taking part in the Sunday morning service at our church, led by Rev Allen Morton. We are hoping that the service will include a commissioning for Lyndsey Barnes, our new Pilots leader. We need the support of Church Members and friends to encourage our Pilot Group and officers, so please join us if you can.

*Valerie Trundle, Captain 813433
pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk*



The next Traidcraft stall will be after the service on Sunday 12th December. 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 Christmas presents. Catalogues are still available in the church foyer

*Brenda 815819
fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk*

Phyllis Little

Thank you to everyone who was involved in my mother's special thanksgiving service on 29th September and who contributed to her request for donations to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital which amounted to £155. My sister Valerie and I and our families are very grateful for all the kind messages received at this time. Thank you. Phyllis is at peace now.

Alison Bartlett (née Little)

Mary Heuch

On visiting Mary recently we were surprised and sorry to hear that she will be leaving Broome End Care Home to be near to the family of one of her sons. The new care home is in Bridge, near Canterbury in Kent. Although she has been unable to attend church for some while, Mary is one of our Church Members and we will miss her greatly. However she will be close to her family who will now be able to visit her more frequently. She expects to move on December 6th and we wish her well.

Peter and Valerie

Saltmine Theatre Company - An Angel's Delight

Wednesday 8th December - 7.30 at B Stortford Methodist Church

Saltmine are a leading Christian Theatre Company who perform at events such as Spring Harvest. This play is suitable for anyone aged eight upwards, and would also be suitable for those who are not regular churchgoers. Tickets £7 (£5 concessions) from Steve Watson (816544) or Ruth Parker (07950 884403)



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED



Celebration of Christmas Songs and Readings

with contributions from
local schools & churches

3.30 pm Saturday 18th December

St Mary's Church

*Parking in Mountfitchet Maths & Computing College
opposite the church*

Retiring collection for
Churches' Conservation Trust
and

Uttlesford Support Group, Parkinson's UK

Please join us in this annual community event

Everyone welcome

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Rev Allen Morton

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Brenda Veitch

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Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship

Children's Work

Alternate Mondays 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.
Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk