

# Imagine!

Stansted Free Church



December  
2012

**I** magine what it would be like if we could only see in black and white, and what joys we would lose when it comes to Autumn; and so it set me thinking. For those of my generation I can remember the times of no 'telly'; and when we eventually got one it was black and white and often a fuzzy picture, which sometimes called for a lot of imagination to work out what was on the screen.

Christmas is a time for imagination. It is a time for children to try and imagine what they are going to get, and for adults to try and be imaginative about what they can get their family and loved ones.

Imagine, though, if you live in a black and white world where Christmas has no colour. The holly and the berries are just different shades of black; even Santa's red cloak and hat would be so different. Sadly, for more and more people, Christmas is a very black and white time. Jesus doesn't seem to get a look in, doesn't get a mention - and yet without the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we would not have Christmas. It is an old adage but take Christ out of Christmas and you are not left with a lot. The words of a song come to mind.

*Colours of day dawn into the mind,  
the sun has come up, the night is behind.  
Go down in the city, into the street,  
and let's give the message to the people we meet.  
So light up the fire and let the flame burn,  
open the door, let Jesus return.  
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,  
tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

© Sue McClellan, John Pac, Keith Rycroft 1974 Thank You Music

This Christmas, take the time to celebrate at Church and at home; have fun in both places. Let the beautiful colours and light of Jesus make this a very, very special time.

Every blessing.

David



# Care Time



We give thanks for *The Place on the Hill* which is proving to be a really valuable service to the community.

Please remember the Townsend family who shared worship with us recently, and are still coming to terms with the loss of Stuart, and any of our church family who need our prayers.

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 30th December. Please submit articles by Friday 21st December to: [news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)**

# What's on in December

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

2nd 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions  
9th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch (see below)  
16th 10.30 am Penny Flynn - Carols and Gift Service (see below)  
23rd 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion  
25th 10.30 am Mike Dyer - Christmas Day Family Worship  
30th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins

## Other Activities

Mon 3rd 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall  
Tue 4th 8.00 pm LWPT Party at 19B Chantry Rd, B Stortford  
Thu 6th 8.00 pm Circuit Meeting in the Hall (coffee in foyer first)  
Mon 10th 6.00 pm Pilots Party in the Hall  
8.00 pm Shalom Party - 7 Blythwood Gardens  
Sat 15th 11.15 am TASTE ...Christmas at the Day Centre (see p 4)  
Sun 16th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service  
Thu 13th/20th 7.15 pm Rehearsals for CTS Concert in St John's Church  
Fri 21st 7.30 pm CTS Carol Singing - meet Bentfield Gardens  
Sun 23rd 7.30 pm CTS Carol Singing - meet Walson Way

## Services & Church Meetings in December

### 9th December

There will be a special Church Meeting immediately after the service to agree the percentage needed before we issue a call to any prospective minister.

### 16th December

This is our annual Carol and Gift Service when there will be an opportunity to bring items for the Stansted Food Bank which is being set up by Churches Together in Stansted.. Please note that the required items are **not** the same as we have collected previously, and are as follows: breakfast cereal (not sugar coated); bags of pasta; pasta sauce; packets of savoury crackers; cartons of long life milk and long life juice; tinned: soup, tuna or other fish, tomatoes, baked beans, sweetcorn, potatoes, carrots, ham or other meat, fruit in juice. If you are not able to be at the service, donations may be left in the vestry. Thank you.



**Wednesdays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm**  
**Free Church, Chapel Hill**  
**All Welcome ~ No Charge**  
[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace)  
 facebook The Place on the Hill  
 twitter @placeonthehill

## The Church Banner

Since we re-hung, or should that be re-hanged, the banner in church, several people have said it would be nice to have another one to hang on the opposite side of the organ. I am quite happy to make one, if we can come up with a suitable design. I would like to suggest a competition. If people like to put forward their suggestions, with drawings, to me by 19<sup>th</sup> December we could put them on show on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec so that the congregation can choose the winning design. It may be necessary to simplify the winning design to facilitate making it in fabric.

As there are few in the congregation now who were with us when the original banner was made, it might be helpful if I explain the story behind it. We had an intern student, John Young, whose theme for his studies while he was with us was 'Walking together with Christ'. The sun represents Jesus being the Light of the World; the hands raised in prayer - our prayer life; the cross - the resurrection; and the dove - the Holy Spirit. They are all enclosed in a circle - our life, walking together with Christ.

*Betty*

## TASTE ... Christmas

A fun Christmas event for all ages with puppets, music, drama and more from 11.15 am until 12 noon on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at the Day Centre. It will take place shortly after the end of the Family Café on that day, but is an entirely separate event, organised and sponsored by Stansted Family Church with help from Stansted Free Church. Everyone is welcome! Come and kick-start your Christmas with something completely different!

*Ros Page*



# CAROL SINGING

in aid of  
**Spangles Children's Centre**

**ALL WELCOME**  
**MEET AT 7.30 EACH EVENING**

*Come & join the fun singing your  
favourite carols in Stansted*

*Collectors also needed each night*

Friday                      Meet at entrance to Bentfield Gardens.  
21 December              Finish at Spangles, Lower Street.

Sunday                      Meet at Walson Way (Church Road end).  
23 December              Park in Palmer Close (first left off Walson  
Way). Finish in Peachey Walk which has  
rear access from Palmer Close.

*Followed by seasonal refreshments at 9 pm*



Recorder & flute players welcome  
but please phone in advance

☎ 01279 814059





With Candlelight, Bells & Sweet Aromas  
come and join our

# Celebration of Christmas Songs and Readings

with contributions from villagers,  
local schools & churches

**3 pm Saturday 22nd December**  
**St John's Church**

*All are welcome to join the choir  
- come along and have some fun!*

*Choir Rehearsals 7.15 - 8 pm  
Thursdays 13th & 20th December  
in St John's Church*

Retiring collection

*Organised by Churches Together in Stansted*



give child domestic  
workers a voice

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

Morning worship

at 10.00 am led by Rev Stuart Veitch

**A hot Lunch** at 12.30 pm in the New Hall

**Presentation** at 2.00 pm by Helen Veitch

Children Unite is a registered charity and was set up to eliminate the international exploitation and abuse of child domestic workers which is largely invisible because it takes place in 'homes', behind closed doors. This isolation allows children to be abused and exploited without anyone knowing about it. Children Unite is working to raise awareness so that communities are aware that child domestic workers exist and so that governments will introduce measures that will better protect children in domestic work.

For further information please see: [www.childrenunite.org.uk](http://www.childrenunite.org.uk)

Helen (daughter of Stuart and Brenda)

is the Co-founder and Director of Children Unite.

**Lunch tickets available from December 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Adults £5 Family £12**

from Brenda Veitch and Sue Haworth

Arranged by the Circuit **Methodist Women in Britain** group

If you are attending your own morning worship you are welcome to join us for lunch (tickets required), or you can just come for the presentation

# *MESSIAH* workshop day

**Saturday 19 January 2013 10.00am for 10.30am - 4.30pm**

Barnardo's Church, Tanners Lane, Barkingside IG6 1QG

Conductor: Christine Gwynn    Accompanist: Tim Smith

[www.valentinesingers.org](http://www.valentinesingers.org)

**WHAT?** An opportunity for both singers and listeners to renew and deepen their acquaintance – or perhaps have the delight of a first meeting! - with Handel's most famous oratorio *Messiah*. There will be tips and coaching to hone our choral and vocal skills as we rehearse some of the wonderful choruses from this colourful and dramatic work. Valentine Singers will perform *Messiah* on Saturday 23 March; anyone interested in taking part will be given details.

**WHEN?** Doors open at 10am for coffee and registration. Workshop 10.30am - 4.30pm.

**WHO?** Anyone who enjoys choral singing or would like to sample the experience of singing with a large chorus is invited to join Valentine Singers for the day. Observers are also welcome. The day will be led by the choir's professional music staff, conductor Christine Gwynn and pianist Tim Smith. Young people of senior school age and over are welcome to join us; anyone younger than 18 must have written parental consent (see enrolment form).

## **PROVIDED (no charge)**

- ◆ music copies plus tea and coffee at the registration and at all breaks

## **BRING**

- ◆ food for lunch time (or there are plenty of local shops selling sandwiches etc)
- ◆ a bottle of water

**HOW MUCH?** £15. Special £10 rate for full-time students/school-children/benefit-holders (e.g. unemployment or disability benefits) and current members of Valentine Singers.

If you are interested, please see Marion Dyer for a booking form

## *Food for Thought ...*

Jesus began His ministry by being hungry,  
yet He is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty,  
yet He is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary, yet He is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute, yet He is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet He cast out demons.

Jesus wept, yet He wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver,  
yet He redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a Lamb to the slaughter,  
yet He is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

*Gregory of Nazianus, written in AD 381*