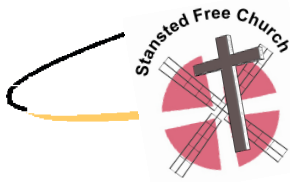


Imagine!



Imagine
nothing to eat
for a week

Imagine living in the aftermath of Haiti's earthquake. Television graphically portrayed mounds of rubble, once people's homes, replaced by makeshift shelters. People slept in the open, fearing after-shocks. Worst of all was seeing an injured child, breath rattling, likely to die in a few hours for want of sufficient medicines and transportation. Days elapsed and angry survivors felt abandoned by the rest of the world.

It is staggering that the seat of this earthquake is an ancient fault line. Two giant segments of the Earth's crust ground against each other, then, one over the other. Laws of geophysics are working, as they must, but with terrifying impact! More incredible are the naïve ideas about God always voiced after a natural disaster. For some there is no God; natural disasters are just that. However, human beings are by nature given to reflect on life and death happenings. Certain understandings of human development and personal growth hold that to be fully human is to live in an integrated way at five levels all at once - body, feeling, intellect, soul and spirit. Much harder is it to imagine not asking question! Better to ask, not, why has this happened, as if seeking to blame but, now that this has happened, what are we to do?

Haiti, its plight compounded by extreme poverty, has a history of bad governments and violence. Externally, unfair world trade rules work against democratic progress and economic independence. Yet, some Haitians can now imagine their nation rising anew from the ruins of the old. Isaiah imagined communities transformed: 'The sound of weeping, the cry of distress will be heard in her no more. They will not toil to no purpose or raise children for misfortune.' Isaiah 65: 19-23]. Let us imagine the prophetic vision made real in our time.

Allen Morton

Pilots

This term's theme is Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and we are holding a special evening at 6 pm on Monday 22nd March when Kevin Crook, manager for Volunteer MAF workers in the UK will be visiting us. The evening will be extended until 8 pm. Please join us.

There will also be a special service at 10.30 am on Sunday 28th March, led by Rev Stuart Veitch, which includes a presentation on MAF by Michelle King.

Our meetings are in the Hall on Mondays from 6 - 7.30 pm. Dates for this term: February 8th and 22nd, March 8th and 22nd.

Our Pilot Christingle service raised £47 for the Church of England Children's Society. Thank you to all those who supported us.



Care Time



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

Allen and Daphne Morton's daughter Elaine, recently diagnosed with cancer; Phyllis Little; Valerie's brother Charles, with heart problems; Jill Walker, recovering from chemotherapy; all those who are not able to attend church.

Please also remember that the prayer slips are available for Sunday morning worship.

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 28th February. Please submit articles by Friday 19th February 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 February

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 7th 10.30 am New Directions - The Worship team
14th 10.30 am Janet Bottoms
7.00 pm Café Worship - Rev David Mullins
21st 10.30 am Rev Allen Morton - Holy Communion
28th 10.30 am Rev Stuart Veitch

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Wed 3rd 7.30 pm Circuit Network Meeting in the Foyer
8.00 pm Circuit Finance Meeting in the Hall
Sun 7th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 8th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Mon 22nd 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom 'At Home' 6 Church Hill Corner
Wed 24th 8.00 pm Circuit Local Preachers' and Worship
Leaders' Meeting in the Hall

March

- Wed 3rd 10.30 am Fairtrade Fortnight Big Brew in the Foyer
Fri 5th 2.00 pm Women's World Day of Prayer
St Teresa's Church - Isobel Bradshaw

Café Worship returns to Stansted Free Church

7 pm Sunday 14th February led by Rev David Mullins

assisted by worship leaders from Stansted Free Church
and Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

A Café style Circuit Service with coffee during the service

Open to all - please join us!

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Brenda Veitch

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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