

Imagine!

February
2013



Imagine a world revolving around love and everyone loving their neighbour; what an incredible world it would be. Seeing the headlines of some of the Christmas Soaps with doom and gloom, murder and mayhem at the centre, it was easy to lose sight of the fact that Christmas was supposed to be a time of love, joy and goodwill to all humanity.

We are now in February and it is a month that is headlined with two 'L's: Love and Lent. Valentine's Day is a romantic reminder of a bygone age of chivalry and love. It is suggested that birds and animals begin the task of seeking out a mate, and of course we have the opportunity to show our loved ones how much we really do love them and shower them with romantic cards and gifts - well that's what I've been told!! Imagine what the world would be like if we could all live out this quote from Mother Theresa:

"I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love."

Jesus said the greatest commandment was this: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind Love your neighbour as yourself." Matt 22:37-39. Imagine the world if only it lived that way.

The second 'L' is Lent. The season of Lent helps us to prepare ourselves for Easter, and the recognition that the greatest love gift given to humanity is Jesus; his death and resurrection enabling us to fully access the love of God the Father through the Son.

Imagine the quality of life for all of us if these words of Mother Theresa were the norm:

"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."

With a smile and a 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 those of our church family who need our prayers, including Mary Phillips and Pat Lingwood. Please continue to use the prayer slips on a Sunday morning or let me know if you would like us to remember someone.

Betty 813977

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Welcome to
The **PLACE**
ON THE HILL

Wednesdays 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Free Church, Chapel Hill
All Welcome ~ No Charge
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

 The Place on the Hill
 @placeonthehill

The next edition of *Imagine* will be available on Sunday 24th February. Please submit articles by Friday 15th February 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 February

Worship at Stansted Free Church

3rd 10.30 am Don McGregor - New Directions
10th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins
17th 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe
24th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion

Services will probably be held in the Hall during February

Other Activities

Mon 4th 6.00 pm *Pilots in the Hall*
Sun 10th 11.30 am *Fairtrade goods on sale after service*
Mon 11th 8.00 pm *Churches Together AGM - St John's Church*
Mon 18th 9.30 am *Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gardens*
Tue 19th 8.00 pm *Lent Group - St John's Church*
Mon 25th 6.00 pm *Pilots in the Hall*
8.00 pm *Circuit Finance Meeting in the Hall*
8.00 pm *Shalom At Home - 62 St John's Road*
Tue 26th 8.00 pm *Lent Group - St John's Church*
Thu 28th 8.00 pm *LWPT Meeting in the Hall*

Advance Notice - March Events

Friday 1st March

Women's World Day of Prayer Service 2 pm in the Quaker Meeting House (see page 6)

Tuesday 5th March

Big Brew Coffee Morning and Fairtrade Stalls in the Foyer and the Church 10.30 am - 12.30 pm (see page 7)

Tuesdays 5th, 12th, 19th March

Lent Groups 8 pm in St John's Church (see page 6)

Saturday 9th March

Church Meeting 10 am in the Hall

Christmas Day 2012

This is the photograph I took on Christmas Day. The group includes four of my grandchildren: Katie and Hamish, children of Joanna from Australia, who were both christened in our Church when home on holiday; and Thomas and Jasmine (Victoria's children) who were christened in Letchworth where they live. Joanna and Victoria were christened at Stansted Methodist Church in 1966 and 1969.



The other three children are Fran's grandchildren: Ava, Oscar and Annabel. Ava and Oscar were christened in Stansted Free Church. The names mentioned above are on the Cradle Rolls in the church.

It was so lovely having them all there that day and we particularly enjoyed the sketch!

Judy Colliver

Churches Together in Stansted Food Bank

Having given one box to Spangles for onward distribution to a needy family, our food bank needs replenishing. The items we require are as follows:

Breakfast cereal (not sugar coated)

Bags of pasta

Jars or tins of pasta sauce

Packets of savoury crackers

Cartons of long life milk and long life juice

Tinned soup, tuna and other fish, ham and other meat

Tinned baked beans, sweetcorn, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots

Tinned fruit in juice

Items should not be near their 'sell by' date. Donations may be left in the vestry on a Sunday or Wednesday morning. Thank you.

Alan Dean 813579 & Fran Richards 812748

Coordinators for our Church



Marion Dyer
Stansted Free Church
7 Blythwood Gardens
STANSTED
Essex
CM24 8HG

8 January 2013

Dear Stansted Free Church,

Sophie and Laurentine live in Bayandi Palogo Village, Burkina Faso. They faced the daily struggle of life without access to clean water and a safe place to go to the toilet. When their village gained a clean water source for the first time, life for their families changed dramatically.

Thank you for doing something amazing and for making this a reality for communities like Sophie and Laurentine's.

Your generous donation of £150.00 will go a long way towards funding life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene projects across the countries we work in. Please pass on our thanks to all of those who have so generously supported our work.

Your support has helped communities like Sophie and Laurentine's, where WaterAid has worked with a local partner organisation to install a latrine system and upgrade the water supply. Sophie told us: "Since the project here we have had lots of changes. We feel better because our dignity is preserved. We are protected from disease. Without safe water the children were often ill which stopped them going to school. Now I can hope that my children will grow up in good health. That they will grow up and do well at school and get a job." Your gift will soon be on its way, bringing a better quality of life for families and communities like this.

On behalf of everyone here at WaterAid and the communities that you have supported, thanks again for all your support.

Very best wishes,

Charlotte Flew

Charlotte Flew
Community Fundraising Officer
020 7793 4563

P.S. To find out more about our work and how your support is changing lives invite one of our free speakers to come and talk to your group visit www.wateraid.org/speakers



LENT GROUPS

Life Attitudes ~ Exploring the Beatitudes
A course by Robert Warren and Sue Mayfield

Meet on Tuesdays 8 - 9 pm in St John's Church:

19th Feb	Living well	Introduction
26th Feb	Living openly	Matthew 5.3-4
5th Mar	Living purposefully	Matthew 5.5-6
12th Mar	Living lovingly	Matthew 5.7-8
19th Mar	Living differently	Matthew 5.9-10

All welcome. You do not have to attend every week. Come when you can!



give child domestic workers a voice

Fortunately the snow did not stop our meal and presentation about Children Unite from going ahead, albeit with fewer numbers than planned. Forty

people shared a meal at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church on Sunday 20th January after attending the morning worship, led by Stuart and Helen Veitch, which included the plight of child domestic workers. After lunch, Helen explained the work of Children Unite and showed a video filmed by child domestic workers. She also displayed and explained some of their artwork.

Because several people from Stansted were unable to attend due to the adverse weather conditions, we are arranging for Helen to come to Stansted later in the year. Thank you to those who supported us anyway. We have raised £400.

Brenda Veitch



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(International and Interdenominational)

I was a stranger and you welcomed me

Prepared by the women of France



2 pm Friday 1st March Quaker Meeting House

Everyone Welcome

Pilots

February dates Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm: 4th & 25th (half term is 18th)

Happy birthday to Kelly Banks on February 22nd.

We now have a new flagpole! Arthur's son Edward has fixed our flag on to a new pole and secured our brass anchor to the top. Alex, Arthur's daughter, has helped by surfing the net for poles and prices etc. One Sunday morning Arthur arrived at Church complete with our new acquisition and placed it where it now sits proudly in the corner near the piano! Quite a family affair and we thank them very much for all their help and interest.

Our theme for February is surprise, surprise Flags! Arthur will be telling the children the meaning behind the Pilot Flag, and William will be introducing the Pilots to the many faces of our own Union Jack. Hopefully lots of art work will follow!

Just to let you know that Lyndsey (Barnes), Neil and baby Isobelle have moved to Newport and hope to come and visit us at the Place on the Hill sometime in the near future. Address etc to follow.

Valerie Trundle 813433

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 25th Feb – 10th Mar

This year Fairtrade Fortnight is supporting smallholder farmers to grow more and provide enough food for their families and communities. We will be holding our usual event as below:



BIG BREW

FAIRTRADE COFFEE/TEA & SALE OF FAIRTRADE GOODS
including food, cards, jewellery & gifts

10.30 am - 12.30 pm Tuesday 5th March

Stansted Free Church Foyer

All are warmly invited ~ Come and browse!

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

Contacts

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Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Service

10.30 am Morning Worship. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

Pilots Children's Work

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

Valerie Trundle Tel 81 3433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Every Wednesday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk