



Imagine it is lovely and warm outside, perhaps almost tropical; remember Rhinoceros did inhabit our land at one time, so it has been warmer!! Having said that, it is February so there is more likely to be snow about than sun.

Now imagine sitting in front of a blazing log fire, warm as toast and mesmerised by the dancing flames or the gentle red glow. Perhaps a childhood memory of bread on toasting forks comes to the fore or even chilblains from too much exposure to the heat?

Memories can be wonderful things, but not always. Some of our memories of the past can be painful, but as human beings we also have the propensity to not always remember things as they were; rose tinted spectacles come to mind. Remembering the past is important, not least because hopefully we can learn lessons from it; But the future is also very important. Imagine living life looking only to the past, as comfortable as that might seem to some, in a world that changes every moment of every day, as indeed do our lives. We must move forward keeping up with society; how it learns, how it ticks, how it lives, because if we don't then our future will be very dim indeed, not many dancing flames in that.

Here at Stansted Free Church, life will be different once the concept of a Ministry Team comes to fruition. We will be sharing ministry in a way that has not been the norm, and it will call on all of us to be ready to play our full part in the life of our church.

Imagine, if you can, what Jesus would say if he popped in to a COG meeting, our Church Meeting, a Sunday service or The Place? What would Jesus say about our priorities in life? As we seek new ministers for the new pastorate, it might just be helpful if we pray and think about our priorities as individuals and as a fellowship. Every blessing.

David Keeble

Prayer Requests from Bishop's Stortford YMCA

- ♦ East Herts YMCA to be a 'light in the darkness' so that we can encourage young people who may become overwhelmed by a lack of vision for the future
- ♦ God's guidance for our staff so that they can continue to provide a high level of service throughout 2014. Our aim is for young people to develop a greater sense of being valued and supported, as well as having a real sense of belonging
- ♦ Continued support from external organisations and individuals in the local community (financial and/or practical) for Residents' activities
- ♦ Beneficial role models to counter negative influences

Tel: 01279 260007 Email: robert.purcell@easthertsymca.com

Christmas Party Time at The Place on the Hill



A great time was had by adults and children alike at our December party, with special guest Father Christmas (alias Arthur Law).

The Place is open every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm in the church and the foyer. All ages welcome.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

2nd 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions

9th 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe

16th 10.30 am Mike Dyer

23rd 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion

Services will be held in the Hall during February

Other Activities

Fri 7th/14th/21st 6.15 pm Investigators in the Hall

Sun 9th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service

Mon 10th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall

8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens

Tue 18th 8.00 pm Churches Together AGM & Forum in the Hall

Mon 24th 8.00 pm Circuit Finance Meeting in the Hall

8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 62 St John's Road

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 24th Feb – 9th Mar

This year Fairtrade Fortnight is supporting a campaign to 'Make Bananas Fair'. 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 4th Mar Church Foyer

All are warmly invited ~ Come and browse!

Advance Notice - Other March Events

Saturday 1st March 10 am Church Meeting in the Hall

Tuesday 4th March 7 pm St Teresa's Parish Centre

Churches Together Pancake Evening to launch fundraising for a village defibrillator. Everyone welcome.

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

Contacts

Minister

Rev David Keeble

Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Secretary

Betty Francis

Email: info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Church Notices

Marion Pretty

Lettings

Mike & Marion Dyer

Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Newsletter Editors

Alan Wheeler Mike & Marion Dyer

Email: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Treasurers

Alan Wheeler Marion Dyer

Email: treasurer@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Fairtrade

Brenda Veitch

Email: fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Service

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

Pilots Children's Work

Monday (monthly) 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 and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk