

Imagine!

February
2015



I imagine you found yourself watching a film in which a group of, say North Koreans (just as an example) were, humorously, plotting to kill our Queen or our Prime Minister. Would you enjoy it?

Would you say that as free speech was of paramount importance, there should be nothing that could not be turned into a good piece of entertainment? Or imagine the film was about a plot to kill someone you loved - your child, your spouse, your parent; is that still all right - even if it is funny?

There seems to me to be a serious issue of double standards, of crass hypocrisy in our world. Has our world stooped so low as to permit, even to applaud, such standards of behaviour? Where is our love for our neighbour these days? Where is our respect, even for those with whom we seriously disagree? If our society is quite happy with such behaviour, how can we claim any moral superiority over such countries as (say) North Korea? To claim it is a big joke, and therefore it's okay - isn't that even more of an insult? No wonder the North Koreans are hopping mad. Don't misunderstand me, I am no supporter of such a regime, but such levels of total disrespect are no way to treat a nation whose culture we, fairly in my opinion, abhor.

What did Jesus say about our attitude to our enemy?

Lent begins this month; a time which calls us to focus more fully on our relationship with God. But it is also a time for repentance, and I for one will go into Lent deeply repenting that I belong to a generation that countenances such levels of disrespect for people with whom we do not see eye to eye.

Was it something about *Love your enemy?*

Stuart Veitch



Care Time



We remember all those who are unwell and those of our congregation who are no longer able to attend church. We pray for all those involved in the 'Preach with a View' weekend and that we may discern God's will for our church and the WEBS pastorate.

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

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 22nd February. Please submit articles by Friday 13th 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

- 1st 10.30 am New Directions with The Worship Team
8th 10.30 am Andrew Brown
15th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
22nd 10.30 am Richard Lewnsey

Services on February 1st, 8th and 15th will be in the Hall

Other Activities

- Mon 9th 8.00 pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Tue 10th 8.00 pm Churches Together AGM at St Theresa's
Mon 16th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
Sun 22nd 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 23rd 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 49 Recreation Ground
Circuit Finance Meeting in the Hall
Fri 27th 7.30 pm Social to meet prospective Minister (see p 4)
Sat 28th 3.30 pm Social to meet prospective Minister (see p 4)

RESURFACING OF CHAPEL HILL DURING FEBRUARY

Chapel Hill (between Lower Street and Sunnyside) is being resurfaced overnight on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd February. **Between the hours of 7.30 pm and 6 am on both nights access will be restricted** so please bear this in mind if you are coming to the church on those evenings. Hopefully the work will be completed by the morning of Wednesday 4th, but it may extend longer than the two days so be prepared!

Marion



Shalom 8 pm Monday 9th Feb at 7 Blythwood Gardens

Stuart Veitch will be leading a bible study entitled '*Honesty, boasting and exaggeration, not as black and white as one supposes.*' This promises to be a very interesting evening. All are welcome - please join us.

Marion

URC Vacancy Update

The Vacancy Committee of the WEBS Pastorate have invited a prospective minister for the half-time post to 'Preach with a View' over the weekend of 27th Feb – 1st March. Programme is as follows:

Fri 27th from 7.30 pm social at Stansted Free Church with bring and share supper, including question and answer session

Sat 28th from 3.30 pm social at Clavering Christian Centre with tea, including question and answer session

Sun 1st Two services led by the prospective minister:

10.30 am Communion Service at Saffron Walden URC

3.00 pm Service at Bishop's Stortford URC (style of service to be chosen by the prospective minister)

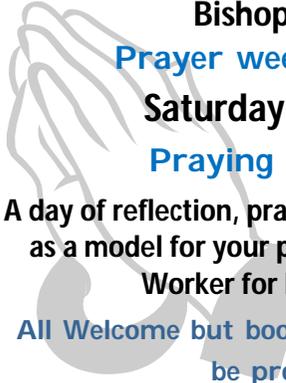
There will be no service at Stansted on that day.

You are welcome to attend either or both socials and services.

Wed 4th March

WEBS joint Church Meeting at Bishop's Stortford URC 7.45 pm to decide if a call should be issued. Anyone can attend but only Church Members may vote. Saffron Walden are likely to be arranging a coach; please let me know in good time if you would like to join them. If anyone needs a lift, or can offer lifts to any of these events, please speak to me. The prospective minister is providing a short résumé about themselves which will be available shortly before the weekend.

Betty



Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church Prayer weekend 31st January/1st February

Saturday 10 am – 3 pm *Coffee from 9.30am*

Praying with Jesus: The Lord's Prayer

A day of reflection, prayer and encouragement in using the Lord's Prayer as a model for your prayer life led by Revd Paul Wilson Development Worker for MET (Methodist Evangelicals Together)

All Welcome but booking is required as coffee and light lunch will be provided. Please tel Julie Finbow

A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & ASSISI

2nd - 9th May 2016 led by Rev'd Anne Brown

(Chair of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District)

Four nights in Rome and three in Assisi
combining worship and sightseeing

Monday 2nd May | LONDON TO ROME

Fly at 7.55 am from Luton Airport to Rome with Monarch Airlines

Tuesday | CLASSICAL ROME

Coliseum, Via Sacra, Roman Forum and Arch of Titus. After lunch walking tour past the baths of Trajan to the Pantheon

Wednesday | THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

Appian Way, Catacomb of Domitilla, church of Domine Quo Vadis, Basilica of St Paul Outside The Walls, Basilica of St John Lateran

Thursday | VATICAN CITY

Basilica of St Peter and the crypt, Sistine Chapel, Pont Sant' Angelo Methodist Church. Some free time to explore

Friday | ORVIETO

To Orvieto taking the funicular railway to the Gothic cathedral. After lunch to Assisi, visiting Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli

Saturday | ASSISI

Basilica of St Francis (Communion) to view the Giotto frescoes. Also visiting the Basilica of St Clare and St Francis' hermitage retreat

Sunday | A FREE DAY IN ASSISI

Monday 9th May | HOMEWARD BOUND

Depart Rome 12.25 pm arriving Luton 2 pm.

Cost: £1,345 sharing twin bedded room

Details have been sent to those with email accounts. Paper copies (with booking forms) are available in the church for those not on email.

Marion



Defibrillator Update

We have now established the Stansted Community First Responder Group. The plan is for the group members to go out with our responder pack which will include the defibrillator and oxygen. We will be able to respond to emergency calls, to be a first responder whilst waiting for the ambulance service response. As part of our training, each of us will go out with an ambulance crew, and we will have regular assessments. We cannot attend trauma calls, such as road accidents; however we can be called for anyone over the age of two. We are a small select group who meet monthly for training and support in the Free Church Hall, and we are always keen to encourage more people to join the group. At present we are still waiting for our pack and defibrillator to arrive, and then we will be able to go out on call. Once we have finalised the group financial arrangements, we will be able to purchase the fixed defibrillator, which will be sited at Crafton Green. Later we hope to run a training course for the public.

Fran Richards

Prayer Requests



Our Christian ethos underpins all we offer and we seek to be an inspirational and accountable organisation, providing supported housing, an emergency crash pad facility and one-to-one career and educational information, advice and guidance. Please pray for:

- 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 an excellent level of service throughout 2015. 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

Many thanks for your prayer support which is so valuable to us and a real source of encouragement. Robert Purcell tel 838068

For more information about East Herts YMCA please contact Stuart Veitch
email: stuart@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Churches Together in Stansted Lent Groups

This year we are joining St John's in their 6 week course entitled

The Commandments

Tuesdays 7.30pm at the Rectory (5 St John's Road) or in St John's Church depending on the size of the group. The Commandments are one of the foundations of the Christian faith. They teach us how we should aim to live as individuals and as a community. This course explores the ways in which Jesus interprets the Commandments for his disciples and expands their meaning.

17th February - Priorities

In this session we explore Jesus' summary of the law as the foundation for the way a disciple is called to live

24th February - Reverence

We explore the vital importance of reverence and worship for God, and the danger of making idols of what we love

3rd March - Rest

We continue to explore the theme of reverence in the third commandment, and the linked theme of rest and the Sabbath in the rhythm of our lives

10th March - Respect

We explore the theme of respect in the Christian life, focused on the honour shown within the family and respecting the sanctity of life

17th March - Righteousness

In this session we explore the commandments about adultery and theft and their implications for our daily lives

24th March - Responsibility

In the final session we explore the damage and dangers of dishonesty and covetousness

Please let Paul Wilkin know if you are coming

Email: stansted.lector@gmail.com

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. 1st Sunday - New Directions (Informal)

Pilots Children's Work

Monday (monthly - term time) 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18

Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Every Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm