

# Imagine!

January  
2011



**I** magine you are snuggled up to the fire with a lovely pile of holiday brochures. New Year seems to be the time for planning these things, at least that's what the TV ads are telling us to do. Will it be Edinburgh, or South Africa, Norfolk or the Med in 2011? Journeys can be exciting and memorable, exciting to anticipate, memorable to look back on.

I like the concept of the *journey of life*. The notion of rough and smooth waters, of tides that catch us unexpectedly, of winds that take us to unexpected places, all figure in our life journeys. Fate delivers these to us: the question is: how do we respond? In our covenant service our response is obedience and commitment. Good old John Wesley, he never was one for holding anything back!

Journeys are mostly about movement. We travel up the motorway; we take the train or bus. We move. Not that we should hurry about all the time. There is a good case for pressing the pause button: *what is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?* And holidays can be opportunities to do that too, as well as move and discover. We need to compensate ourselves for being in such a hurry all the time that we never see anything besides the few feet of road ahead. So 'move' certainly but 'pause' as well, take in your surroundings and enjoy seeing things more deeply.

Our spiritual journeys also need both movement and pause. Movement without pause can lead us to live very trivial lives. We have no time to reflect on all our experiences, to discover deeper issues and more revelation, perhaps even more peace. Pause without movement, however, can lead us to very stagnant lives, where nothing is allowed to change, where we hold on to all our ideas and principles and beliefs, because we suspect that any disturbance to them might wreck them completely.

May 2011 be for us all a well balanced year of busyness and time for reflection, with God at its heart.

Stuart Veitch



# Care Time



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

Jane Sell; Valerie Trundle, recovering from an operation; Gladys Dix, who has suffered another stroke and is back in Harlow Hospital; Sue Parker and family; Ivor Thomas, no longer able to attend church.

Please also remember that the prayer slips are available for Sunday morning worship and if you are unable to be at church, please pass your requests to Marion Pretty or me and we will make sure the preacher for that Sunday knows.

Betty

[info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

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

# What's on in January

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

2nd 10.30 am *Mike Dyer*

9th 10.30 am *Julie Finbow*

16th 10.30 am *Rev Allen Morton*

23rd 10.30 am *Rev John Buxton*

30th 10.30 am *Rev David Keeble - Covenant Service & Communion*

**Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.**

## Other Activities

Mon 10th 10.00 am *Church Oversight Group  
7 Blythwood Gardens*

Sat 15th 10.30 am *Church Meeting in the Hall*

Sun 16th 11.30 am *Fairtrade goods on sale after service*

Mon 24th 6.00 pm *Pilots in the Hall*

8.00 pm *Shalom At Home 7 Blythwood Gardens*

Sat 29th 6.30 pm *Mission Aviation Fellowship evening  
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church*

Sun 30th 7.00 pm *Café Worship  
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church*

## Church meeting Saturday 15th January 10.30 am

This is **your** opportunity to contribute to decisions made about the church. The last Church meeting was very poorly attended, so please join us if you can. Your views are important!

## Whitechapel Mission

A very big 'thank you' to all those who contributed to the large collection of breakfast cereals, tinned beans and tomatoes, tea, coffee, toiletries, gloves, scarves and socks brought to our Gift Service. Our Christmas day collection and other donations amounted to £64 which has also been sent to the Mission.

# Pilots



For our last session in December, the Pilots entertained themselves with various items prepared during the previous Pilot meeting. They all had a great time and really enjoyed themselves. Allen presented Scott Cohen with his Master Mariner badge, which is awarded for attending Pilots regularly for five years, and being kind, helpful and responsible during that time. Four other pilots: Abigail King, Helen Carter, Stephanie Cohen and Samantha Graves have also received this badge recently. Well done all!

During the year, Pilots have continued to support Mission Aviation fellowship (MAF). We recently received a letter from MAF:

“Please accept our sincere appreciation for your partnership this year; supporting us in prayer, giving financially and raising awareness of those in greatest need whom MAF exists to serve. As we look back over 2010, we see how your prayers and gifts have helped us reach isolated communities. Here are some examples:

When the devastating earthquake hit Haiti in January, MAF already had three aircraft in position. One flight took 900kg of food to La Gonave Island, which had run out completely.

We flew in support of over 50 organisations in Bangladesh, dispelling the uncertainties of difficult, dangerous and lengthy journeys across a country of which almost 4,000 square miles is covered by water.”

See opposite page for details of a MAF evening to be led by Michelle on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

Dates for this term, Mondays 6 - 7.30 pm:

January 24<sup>th</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. We are also hoping to hold a commissioning service for Lyndsey Barnes, our new Pilots leader, during a Sunday morning church service.

*Valerie Trundle, Captain 813433  
pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk*



**6.30 pm Saturday 29th January**

**Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church**

# **Hot Supper & Talk**

*Raising awareness and funds*

*for*

***Mission Aviation Fellowship***

*(District Women's Network Project 2010/11)*

***Speaker: Michelle King***

***Tickets from Brenda Veitch***

***Tel 815819***

*Registered Charity no 1064598*



## News from Janet & Brian Townsend

New Year Greetings to everyone from the West Midlands. We haven't forgotten you, we still miss all our friends in the church and village and speak about you frequently; but we are beginning to settle here and are looking forward to 2011, as at last after several false starts we have found a house - just round the corner from the one we are renting at the moment!! We are having some alterations (rewired, new heating, conservatory and a small extension) done before we move in, which we hope will be at the end of January. We can't wait to unpack the boxes and then we will really feel that we have moved. Our new address will be 4 Grantley Crescent, Kingswinford DY6 9EF.



We live within walking distance of this URC, St Andrews, Wall Heath, and we have been made to feel very welcome. Brian plays the organ most Sundays and Jayd and Jaz usually come and are beginning to take an active part in the church. The

average congregation is 40-50 but for the Christingle and the Carol Service, 200 people were packed in. The minister Revd Jean Spragg is shared with two other churches in the Smestow Group. Please don't forget if anyone is in the area please give us a call as we would love to see you. A happy and healthy New Year to all.

*Janet and Brian*

**An informal event thinking about Holy Week and Easter**  
18<sup>th</sup> Jan - Whittlesford URC or 25<sup>th</sup> Jan - Christ Church, Chelmsford  
7.00 - 9.30 pm Coffee and arrivals from 6.30 pm

Whether you plan or lead worship, arrange flowers, arrange seating, work with young people, or all or none of the above - you are invited to a time of informal discussion, workshop and Bible study, thinking about how our churches can share the Christian message of Holy week and Easter with our own communities.

## Biblefresh 2011

10 am - 4.30 pm Saturday 9th April  
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

The Biblefresh festival provides an opportunity to come and celebrate and engage with the Bible in a number of different ways. Throughout the day there will be worship, music, workshops, speakers and more. This looks to be a very exciting day. For more information and a booking form contact me or visit:  
[www.behdistrict.org.uk/biblefresh2011](http://www.behdistrict.org.uk/biblefresh2011)

*Marion Dyer*

## Mission Shaped Intro

8 - 9.30 pm Wednesdays 5th January to 9th February  
Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

New world, new church? Our world and our lives have changed radically in the last twenty years, but has the church adapted to this change? Do we need a changed church for a changing world? Are new forms of church really possible? If so, how can they be developed?

The circuit is running Mission Shaped Intro, exploring how we can re-shape our churches for the challenges of mission in our communities today; this is an important part of our mission strategy in the circuit. The course runs on six successive Wednesday evenings, and explores the 'why' of creating fresh expressions of church rather than the 'how'. It takes you on a journey looking at the ever-changing nature of our social communities and explores why the church needs to rethink its approach to those communities in meaningful and relevant ways. The 90-minute sessions are delivered through presentation, movie clips and stories with active group participation.

This looks to be a very exciting course, and we are also hoping to run it at Stansted later in the year, so that many people from our church will be able to attend. For more details please visit [www.freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedintro](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedintro) or contact David Keeble on 01799 522037.

# Stansted Free Church

## Methodist / URC

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Contacts

#### **Ministers**

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Rev Allen Morton

Email for both ministers: [minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### **Church Secretary**

Betty Francis

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Marion Pretty

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#### **Fairtrade**

Brenda Veitch

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### Sunday Service

10.30 am      Morning Worship

### Children's Work

**Alternate Mondays** 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.  
Valerie Trundle Tel 813433 Email: [pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)