

Imagine!



Jan
2015

Imagine if you could build a computer as tiny as a fleck of dust. That may not be possible yet but scientists are already investigating how transistors could be built at sub atomic level, switching on and off according to the quantum states of pairs of electrons, and showing us how dark matter holds clusters of galaxies together. Do you feel sometimes that science is moving ahead so fast that it is leaving many of us behind? It is also making us lazier. On the tube now you don't even need to top up an Oyster card to pass the barriers – you can swipe your debit card; if you are a high earner you need commuting time to be over as quickly as possible. My philosophy lecturer points out the irony of Bill Gates having an income per second so large that it isn't worth his while picking up a dropped \$100 bill as he walks into the office! Time is money isn't it? A newspaper article reported that busy executives won't even need to remove their debit cards from their wallets; a glove has a chip embedded in it so high earners won't lose precious time opening their wallets as they move through the tube system.

Science seems to make us cleverer and cleverer but is it making us any wiser? The latest headlines' subtext, whether a political standoff with Russia or another classroom massacre, seems to scream the message "We can't learn to live together!" We can land a machine on a comet but we can't manage our own lives. In the face of such inability let us turn humbly back to God and the simplicity of Micah's words "What does the Lord require? To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". The New Year marks one more year ticked off on the chronometer of our lives. Time may be money in terms of 'chronos'; but beyond the frenetic clock time of chronos, where the next deal has to be struck in precious seconds, there is the other Greek word for time – Kairos: God's timing and scheme of things, and Christmas has just reminded us what God has done at his appointed time.

Alan Wheeler

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 4th 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
11th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins
18th 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant & Communion
25th 10.30 am Faith Paulding

Services will be held in the hall during January & February

Other Activities

- Sun 18th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 19th 6.00 pm Pilots in the hall
Mon 26th 8.00 pm Shalom at Home - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Thu 29th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gardens

Internet Update

We now have unlimited broadband available for all users of the church and hall. The password is displayed in both kitchens. There is also a telephone in the vestry for emergency use only; the number is displayed near the telephone.

Mike

mike@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 18th January and 22nd February. If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call. Catalogues are in the church foyer.

Brenda 815819

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 25th January. Please submit articles by Friday 16th January 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

THE PLACE CHRISTMAS EVENT



Making the Christingle Candles



Presents!



Telling the Christingle Story



Joining in the Christmas Carols

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

Contacts

(All telephone numbers are 01279)

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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

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