

Imagine!

July
2011



I imagine if you will, or indeed can, a life where there are no conflicting demands on your time. A life where your hearts desires are met and there is no hurrying and scurrying; no clock that seems to race round at an ever increasing speed. How might we find that perfect life or even the perfect place to live that perfect life? I love gardening - well, vegetable growing anyway - so this poem from Mick Suter does it for me on the vegetable growing front. Imagine the perfect growing season:

*Rain every night, a good steady fall,
warm sun all day, and no wind at all.
Earth light and soft, easy to seed, no couch at all,
not even a weed.
All seeds germinate, the carrots no gaps, just simple thinning,
I was a happy chap.
Broad beans grew well, no sign of black fly,
runners went mad reaching for the sky.
Pigeons found other brassicas to munch,
sparrows did not want my peas for lunch.
No slugs seen, there was not a snail, across the ground,
no silvery trail.
Molluscs and birds left strawberries alone, red and ripe,
but firm they had grown.
With currents and gooseberries the bushes were bowed,
the size of rasps made me really proud.
Salad crops, in abundance grew,
parsnips and carrots were long straight and true.
Potatoes were large, the best I have seen, no scab or holes,
soil fell away clean.
Harvesting produce, the weather just right,
not one insect wanted to bite.*

... cont /

*Suddenly the sound of wind and of rain,
I had fallen asleep in the shed again!*

A Gardener's Dream. © Mick Suter 1998

Does that humorous poem mean that it is only in our dreams that life can be perfect?

Imagine your senses being awoken by the reality of Jesus before you. Imagine His outstretched hands taking yours and saying, 'Your sins are forgiven; welcome, let me shoulder your burdens.' Imagine how that would feel as all the stress and strain of your hectic life melts away and it is just you and Jesus.

Imagine Jesus leading you to places of quiet, places of joy, places of exquisite calm. When times are tough and time itself seems stretched almost to breaking point it is vital to allow Jesus to lead, to take the strain and enable you to be in that better place.

Life will not be perfect at the moment, but just imagine the difference in your life when you truly grip the Saviour's outstretched hands and trust him.

David Keeble

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What's on in July

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 3rd 10.30 am Don McGregor - New Directions
10th 10.30 am Rev David Keeble - Holy Communion
7.00 pm Café Worship at B Stortford Methodist
17th 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe
24th 10.30 am Gordon Doyle

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Sun 3rd 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 4th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
Thu 7th 8.00 pm Additional Circuit Meeting at S Walden
Mon 11th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
Shalom party at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Wed 20th 8.00 pm Churches Together Forum at Meeting House

STANSTED FREE CHURCH 5TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Sunday 11th September

On 1st September, we will be celebrating our 5th anniversary of being a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP). Our anniversary service on 11th September will be led by Rev David Simpson, who was our URC minister at the time when the LEP was formed..

The service will be at 3.30 pm followed by tea.

There will be no morning service on that day.

All welcome. Please book the date in your diary now!

Baptism Service



In May, we were delighted to welcome the Van de Noort family back for the baptism of their second son, Dylan. The service was taken by Rev David Mullins, our superintendent minister.



Photos by Judy Colliver

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

7 pm Sun 10th July

Café Worship

"Less stuff, more life?"



When is enough enough?
How can we live more simply?
Come and think about these
and many other questions
as we worship together.....

led by



This is a circuit event - please join us. All welcome

Mary Heuch - 90th Birthday on 10th July

Mary is a member of our Church, who after some years at Broome End Care Home has moved to a home in Kent near to one of her sons and his family. She seems very happy and settled. She would be very glad to hear from anyone at the church: The New Close, Conyngham Lane, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5JX.

Valerie Trundle



St. Albans Diocese

“People of the Spirit”

A Day for Spiritual Refreshment

Led by Rev'd Anne Brown

Chair of the Beds, Essex and Herts Methodist District

... with time for prayer, reading scripture and quiet ...

10.30 am - 3.30 pm Saturday 20th August

The Barn, St James Church, Thorley

Open to all

£7 per person

Tea and coffee provided, please bring a packed lunch.

To book, please send a cheque payable to St Albans DIS to:

Diocesan Quiet Day 2011

c/o St. Mary's Parish Office, Church Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1JB

(With an email address / contact phone number too, please.)

For further details telephone: The Rev'd Deborah Snowball: 01923 772627

Pilots

This term our Pilot Group have been working on the theme: '75 years of Pilots', as this year sees the 75 Anniversary of the formation of the Pilot organisation. On Thursday 14th July, as part of our celebrations we hope to take our group to join the Pilots at Steeple Bumpstead for an evening of fun and games.

Remaining Pilot evenings: Mondays 4th and 11th July at 6 pm.



Shalom

All Welcome - Meetings are 8 pm

11th July 7 Blythwood Gardens - Shalom Party

There are no meetings in August. We resume on 26th September.

We are very sad to record the recent death of Harry Goreing, one of our longstanding Shalom members. Harry was a generous and kind man, who, along with his wife Edna, was very committed to the Shalom Group, even though they lived in Bishop's Stortford. Harry and Edna also regularly attended our monthly Methodist fellowship meetings, which were discontinued after we became Stansted Free Church. We will all miss him very much. Edna has sent the following message:

Thank you all for your loving messages, for visits, flowers and all the prayers which have sustained me since Harry died. I actually enjoyed his Thanksgiving service because I was so buoyed up by the love which surrounded me at that time. Without your support I would have floundered. My family add their heartfelt thanks to mine.

Marion Dyer



Care Time



Please remember any of our church family who need our prayers, including Allen Morton, our URC minister, who is on long term sick leave, and his wife Daphne; Edna Goreing and family, following the death of Harry; Mary Heuch who will be 90 on 10th July; and those no longer able to attend church.

Betty

The next edition of *Imagine* will be available on Sunday 31st July. Please submit articles by Friday 22nd July to: 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

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

Children's Work

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

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