

Imagine!



July
2014

I magine waking up tomorrow morning and finding yourself in paradise; what might that look like for you? Paradise will mean different things to different people and of course there isn't a right or wrong answer to the question, "What is paradise?" If you live in a part of the world where obtaining water is a fifteen mile round trip every day, carrying containers and having to fill them up from a filthy pool, then paradise might be having a water tap where you live. Imagine how *you* would feel if you didn't have clean water literally "on tap".

Paradise for someone living in the most war-ravaged parts of Syria might be a place where bombs, bullets, starvation and violence were not a daily occurrence. Imagine waking up each day (if indeed you could get to sleep) not knowing whether you or your family were going to be maimed or killed by one or other of the warring factions.

Of course, for some of us paradise might be a place where we could play golf all day, eat as much chocolate as we like or perhaps watch Premier League football whenever and however we want. For an avid vegetable gardener like me, perhaps paradise might be a place where snails, slugs and greenfly just couldn't make it on to my allotment. To the organisers of the Tour De France, paradise might be all the potholes filled on this side of the channel before the race begins.

Imagine paradise by looking in the Bible at the book of Revelation, where we read this: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.....Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people....He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." *Rev 21. NIV*

A perfect world; paradise indeed.

Every blessing, David

PILOTS

www.facebook.com/pages/Stansted-Pilots

At our last session, the group rehearsed the songs and rhythmic moves for the service on 22nd June - a report with pictures will be in next month's Imagine.



In the art and craft session, Arthur showed the children how to use stamps for completing a collage.

They also learnt about brush and strokes through demonstration.

As part of our eco-activities for the summer, William enthused the children to learn about leverage by using equipment consisting of three rollers and a lever. They were very excited to learn about raising weight by means of the lever and how to quickly place the rollers underneath it. Moving a weight around the room without lifting it seemed magical when they learnt the science behind it. "Our very bright group of Pilots soon worked out the problem presented to them and in record time! What a great bunch of children we have", said Valerie, seeing the enthusiasm for a hands-on experience. "We will be setting more challenging tasks in the autumn term!"



Our last session before the summer break is on 14th July 6 - 7.30 pm. Children aged five and above are welcome to join Pilots. We meet one Monday a month. Please contact Valerie on 813433 for details.

Sanjukta Ghosh

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Worship at Stansted Free Church

6th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion
13th 10.30 am Rev'd Charles Martin
20th 10.30 am Denis Walker
27th 10.30 am Rev'd Jenny Martin

Other Activities

Fri 4th & 11th 6.15 pm Investigators in the Hall
Tue 1st 7.30 pm Churches Together Forum at St John's
Sat 5th 10.00 am Church Meeting in the Hall
Sun 6th 12.00 pm Bring & Share Lunch in the Hall
Sun 13th 11.00 am Fun Run Bentfield Green
Mon 14th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom Party - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Sun 27th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service

Farewell to David Keeble

At the end of July we say a very fond farewell to our Methodist minister Rev'd David Keeble and his wife Fran, who will be moving to Felixstowe to begin their well-earned retirement. We have been very much blessed by David's ministry with us over the past four years, and we will all miss him and Fran. David's last Sunday with us is 6th July. The service will be followed by a bring and share lunch. Everyone is welcome, but for catering purposes, please let me know if you are coming to the lunch.

Betty

All aboard for the Bluebell Railway & Sheffield Park Gardens Sat 6th Sept depart Stansted 8.45 am return approx 9.30 pm

Arranged by Water Lane URC but Stansted Free Church and Saffron Walden URC are also invited. Cost £30 (incl coach travel and evening meal). Afternoon at leisure with choices as follows (group rates are not being offered, in order to give flexibility):

Sheffield Park (National Trust) £9.00 (NT and RHS Members free)

Ride on **Bluebell Railway** £16.50 or access to station platforms, engine sheds etc only (ie not travelling) £3.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our new pastorate to share fellowship, have fun (and eat of course). For more information please contact me.

Marion

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 813433 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