



**I**magine - I love the name of this new magazine. To imagine is to vision in one's mind a spectrum of possibilities. Architects, designers, engineers, writers (and readers) all need imagination. So, I hope, preachers!

To imagine is to have in one's mind reality before it comes into being. Of course we have to be careful - imagination is good, but much harm takes place when people attempt to bring into being reality from fantasy.

*What makes Christian imagination?*

The Holy Spirit. Through God's Spirit we are both given the dreams to dream, but also the means to bring them into reality.

Try to imagine the perfect church! Try to do this right now.

Now - what does God require to make the perfect church?

If there is a difference - there shouldn't be!

Imagine Stansted Free Church 5 years time - 10 years time.

What do you see? Now it must not be just your imagination, but your thoughts and dreams guided by the Holy Spirit. When God breathes, His creativity becomes reality; and He wishes us to be a part of this special mission - here in Stansted.

*"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.*

*Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth" Joel 2:28-30*

Keith Page



# Church Family



We are delighted to announce the engagement of Ros Page (daughter of our minister, Keith) and Matt Wright. They are both studying at Cliff College so will not be tying the knot quite yet! We send them our love and very best wishes.

We ask you to remember our church family in your prayers, particularly Dora, Ivor and Mary Heuch. We now have an increasing number of worshippers who need a lift to church. **Please can you help?** We are hoping that if enough people offer, then you will only be called upon once a month or less. Please let Betty know as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Thank you to those who supported the Christian Aid Coffee morning which raised nearly £100. Full report next month.

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 1st July. Please submit articles by FRIDAY 22nd June (note change of day). If you have email access, then we would prefer your articles to be sent 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. If you have any queries, please telephone us. 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 June

## Sunday Worship at Stansted Free Church

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 am 2.30 pm	All Age Worship Pamela Cressey
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Geoff Grundy
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Rev John Buxton Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Rev Keith Page

***Morning worship is followed by coffee except the first Sunday in the month, when tea is usually served following the afternoon service.***

***Please join us!***

## Other Activities

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.30 pm	Outreach tea in the Foyer
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm 8.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens - Julian of Norwich
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	80th Birthday celebrations of the Women's Fellowship at Bishop's Stortford Church
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Church meeting in the hall (see next page)
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 pm	Retrak (see below) at Bishop's Stortford
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm 6.30 pm 8.00 pm	Monday Club – Marion Johnson Pilots in the Hall Shalom in the hall - Richard and Shirley

### **Retrak (formerly Tigers Club)**

On Sunday June 17th, Dave Mann and Karen Brown will be coming to Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church to talk about Retrak's work with street children in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

The talk begins at 4.30 pm, followed by tea and cakes and an evening service at 6.30 pm. We need to give numbers, so if you are interested in going please let Marion know.

## From the Secretary

Can this really be the June copy of *Imagine*? Where has the year gone? On 14th June we have the Church Meeting at 8pm in the hall. Church Meetings are open to all but only members may vote. This is your opportunity to have a say in what happens in the church. Important decisions are made and it is vital that as many people as possible take part in these decisions.

The Vacancy Committee has been working hard on your behalf. The Pastorate Profile has been completed and sent to Janet Tollington, our Interim Moderator, together with copies of the URC accounts and photos of the exterior and interior of the church, the Children's Activity Day 2004 (showing the rainbow in the church), and the shoebox packing in 2006. Water Lane have also sent their profile, and Janet will prepare a cover sheet detailing how the joint pastorate works and the other official bits and pieces. The finished document will go to the Pastoral Oversight Committee at the end of May so that a vacancy can be declared at the District Council Meeting on June 25th.

After that the joint pastorate of Stansted Free Church and Bishops Stortford URC will be added to the list of vacant churches that is sent to all URC Ministers with their pay slips each month. If a minister is thinking of making a move and is interested in our vacancy he or she then asks their Moderator for a copy of our profile; if they like what they see they will inform the Moderator. This is when the Vacancy Committee will be given a copy of their Profile and the committee will decide if they should meet this person.

So now we just wait, and pray that the right person will be sent to us.

As you are aware Keith will be moving on in August, and he is going to be beside the sea in the Leigh area. His last service with us will be on July 15th at 10.30am, followed by a church lunch for him and his wife Fran. So please put the date in your diary, and let me have your name by Sunday 8th July if you wish to book for lunch.

We are currently updating the list of members and adherents. This is very useful for people to have, and it is only distributed to people who attend the church. If you do not wish your address and/or telephone number to be included, please let me know before the Church Meeting on 14th June.

Betty

# Music 4 Mission

A musical feast which raised £365 for Methodist Overseas Missions



## Social Events

The Church Oversight Group think that it would be good to have some social events to help us to get to know one another better.

*Do you think this is a good idea?*

*What time and day is best?*

*What sort of event would you come to?*

We need your help to get this started, so please do let one of the deacons know what you think. Thank you!

## Competition



Submit your caption for the picture on the left, taken during the recent asbestos removal work, to the editors by 22nd June (see page 2).

The funniest ones will be printed next month.

## Pilots

### WALKABOUT!

On 7th May the Pilots went on a walk around the village. A Quiz en route had been organized by the "Voyagers" our oldest group of children, with the help of Rachel and Michelle. The walk and quiz proved to be very popular despite having to dodge the frequent showers and the group arrived safely back at the Lecture Hall at seven o'clock, where Cherry had some refreshments awaiting them. It was good to see Cherry back with us again and we wish her continued improvement in her health.

At the previous meeting the Pilots had, with the help of Arthur and his world map, plotted the voyage of John and Mary Williams, discussing the needs of the missionaries for such a long and arduous journey. You will be able to see the work that the Pilots have done (and are doing) both in the front porch of the Church and in the Lecture Hall. Stansted Pilot Group is now on the St. Mary's Primary School Web Site and the Head and her Staff are being very supportive of our organisation.

*Remaining dates and activities for this term:*

June 4th: Follow up activities, reflecting our walk around Stansted

June 18th: Activities around our theme with Stuart & Brenda Veitch

July 2nd: Collating and displaying art work on the theme.

July 16th: Barbecue at Stuart and Brenda's & games on the green

*Valerie Trundle 813433*



Think for a moment how you imagined the apartheid problem in South Africa would be resolved back in say 1980! Does the word 'bloodbath' spring to mind? Isn't it a miracle that a peaceful solution was achieved? (However 50,000 people died during transition but at least not millions!) In the days of apartheid Stuart and Brenda Veitch were active in the campaign to shame the South African government into reform. Because the memories of the injustices of those days were still uncomfortable, South Africa was not top of their list when it came to seeking a holiday destination. However, it was difficult to refuse when a trip to coincide with their wedding anniversary was offered as a gift by their daughter and son-in-law.

Stuart and Brenda kindly presented us with an evening of slides, music and vivid narrative at Shalom recently. They are a slick act, and maintain the listener's interest by subtly interacting with each other in a very professional way. It was a most enjoyable evening, with stunning photographs of Table Mountain, the Cape garden area and safari wild life; a noisy urban scene of Johannesburg, violent as ever in parts; Mandela's first home and Tutu's house - the only place in the world where two Noble Peace Prize winners once lived in the same street; and the Apartheid Museum, where families who were unceremoniously kicked out of the notorious Capetown District 6, pored over the huge map of the area and identified their former homes.

Stuart reminded us that South Africa is still fragile. They need our prayers for the next step in their journey.

Alan Wheeler



Bishop's Stortford's *Young Singers* took part in the Methodist Circuit Easter Offering Service.

This was the first circuit service to be held in our church, and it was lovely to see the church so full.



# **Stansted Free Church**

## **Methodist / URC**

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

### **Minister**

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### **Pilots**

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## **Sunday Services**

### **1st Sunday in each month**

10.30 am      New Directions in Worship  
                    *An informal, participative service for all ages*  
2.30 pm      Afternoon Worship  
                    *followed by outreach tea*

### **All other Sundays**

10.30 am      Morning Worship

## **Children's Work**

### **Alternate Mondays**

6 pm              Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.