

Imagine!



June
2012

Imagine a church where bread making was a major concern and seen as part of 'being church'. Barbara Glassom, a Methodist Minister, had no idea what she was going to do as she was sent onto the streets of Liverpool to listen to the community within their own culture. She spent nearly a year immersing herself in the culture, listening to the people and their needs and the 'Bread Making Church' was born. Imagine a small Methodist Church in Polzeith, Cornwall that decided to completely change direction, change how it acted as church by reaching out to what had become its local community - surfers.

The Mission Shaped Intro Course we recently finished, and indeed the service we held on 13th May, called on us to use our imagination quite a lot, not least because some examples we saw of being church seemed a million miles away from our traditional views.

Archbishop Rowan Williams often uses the phrase 'a mixed economy' when he talks about church finding a way forward, a way to reach out to the community that exists around it. He talks about our established and traditional churches as having an important role to fulfil, but running alongside needs to be fresh expressions of being church, of reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus.

There is nothing new about this. Imagine you are one of the twelve disciples Jesus sent out into the community with the explicit instruction to "*preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick.*" Luke 9:1-6. Would you be excited, scared, feeling you just hadn't got enough tools in the chest to do this, not trained up enough yet? The disciples had not been with Jesus very long and they were not 'trained up' to carry out Jesus' instruction, but, and it is a huge BUT, Jesus gave them power and authority to go out in His name.

We have that power and authority from Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, and we can do whatever the Lord asks us to do if we open ourselves up to Him, listen, and then act.

May the Lord bless you as you move forward in His name.

David



Care Time



Please pray for the special Church meetings in June and July, that God might show us the way forward.

We remember those who need our love and support: Arthur Law, Cherry Lewis, Michelle King, Doris Lambdon, Tom & Emma; any of our wider church family who need our prayers; and those no longer able to attend church.

Betty

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The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 1st July. Please submit articles by Friday 22nd June 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

What's on in June

Worship at Stansted Free Church

- 3rd 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - New Directions
10th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Holy Communion
followed by special church meeting (see below)
17th 10.30 am Maureen Kendall
24th 10.30 am No Service - Fun Run

Other Activities

- Sat 2nd 10 am - 4.30 pm Jubilee Exhibition (see page 6)
Sun 3rd 2 - 5 pm Jubilee Exhibition
Mon 4th 10 am - 4.30 pm Jubilee Exhibition
Mon 11th 6 - 7.30 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Tue 12th 8.15 pm Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting in the hall
Wed 13th 10 - 11.30 am Way Forward Prayer Meeting - Foyer
Sat 23rd 11.30 am - 1 pm Way Forward Prayer Meeting - Foyer
Mon 25th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom at Home - White House, Ugley
Sat 30th 10 am - 12.30 pm Safeguarding Training in the Hall

Special Church Meetings

11.30 am Sunday 10th June (after morning worship)

To discuss our investment policy and immediate actions (paper has been circulated to members)

8 pm Tuesday 3rd July

To discuss some ideas arising from the **Mission Shaped Intro** course (see next page for more details). **All Welcome - please join us!**

A note from our minister

Special Church meeting 3rd July

Dear friends at Stansted Free Church

We are in exciting times for us as church, but they are also challenging times. We need to re-evaluate what we feel God is calling us to be involved in, here in Stansted. In June 2011 we held a special church meeting and began a journey, seeking a way forward under God's guidance. One of the things that was noted at this meeting was that if we didn't see an influx of people into our church within the next five years then a state of terminal decline might well have set in and would be very, very difficult to turn around.

Recently, we were part of a *Mission Shaped Intro* course in our church, which was held under the Churches Together in Stansted banner. Revd Paul Wilkin and I led the course, which offered challenging, but very helpful, insights into how some churches in our country have reached out to their communities; and this in turn has excited interest in some of you as to how we can best carry out mission in Stansted. We are also exploring how we can work more closely with our friends just up the hill at St John's.

We are holding an **open church meeting** at **8.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd July** in the church hall to discuss some of these ideas. In preparation there will be three 'Way Forward' Prayer Times. These will be in the foyer and the church and are on different days and at different times:

Way Forward Prayer Times:

Tuesday 29th May 7.30 – 9.00 pm

Wednesday 13th June 10.00 – 11.30 am

Saturday 23rd June 11.30 am – 1.00 pm

You will be able to come and go as you please. There will be prayer stations and shared liturgy as well as times of quiet. Refreshments will be available half way through each session. The prayer times will be about the community around us. How can we interact with them? What needs are there in the community that are not already being met? Where might God already be working so that we can join in? What mission might we be able to do with our partner churches in Stansted?

There are many questions that need answering, but we will get nowhere if we don't do our homework, and above all if we don't pray together about all of this. I have chosen different days and times in the hope that most of us will be able to make at least one prayer session. The open church meeting on 3rd July will be led by Revd Stuart Veitch as I am away on leave that week. If we look at the opportunities that might arise from our prayers and exploration of the Way Ahead, and add to this the possibility of a new minister joining the team before too long, I truly believe we are in an exciting phase of our church's life.

May the Lord bless each and every one of us as we move forward together in Jesus' name.

David

THE FREE CHURCHES IN STANSTED THROUGH THE YEARS

Exhibition of photographs and other memorabilia in the church and hall, depicting the life of Stansted Methodist and Stansted United Reformed (formerly Congregational) churches over the past 60 years

Jubilee Weekend

Saturday 2nd June 10 am - 4.30 pm

Sunday 3rd June 2 - 5 pm

Monday 4th June 10 am - 4.30 pm

Weddings

Baptisms

Pilots & Mission Aviation Fellowship

Anniversaries

Ecumenical Events

Children's activities

Other events

All welcome - entry free

Refreshments



10K country & road FUN RUN & WALK

www.stansted10k.org.uk

11 am Sunday 24th June 2012
Bentfield Green, Stansted CM24 8HX
(warm up routine, sports massage & chiropractor from 10.15 am)

All proceeds TO:

Macmillan Cancer Support – advice and support for those with cancer
Stanmore Aspire – support for people with spinal injuries
Water Aid – safe drinking water to the world's poorest people
Crossroads Care East Anglia – support services to carers in the home
Stansted Windmill - for new interpretation boards

Advance Entry Closing Dates: postal 15th June, on-line 21st June

Categories: Male/female Under 12, Under 16, 16+

Fees: Adult £11 (£13 on the day) Under 16 £5 (advance & on the day)

On-line advance entries - see link on our website

NEW this year CHIP TIMING

Individual entries on the day from 10.00 am to 10.45 am

There will be a limit of 550 runners

Warm Up Routines ~ Massage ~ Hot and Cold Refreshments ~ Raffle

Stansted 10K Fun Run
7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG
Tel: 01279 814059 Email: info@stansted10k.org.uk
PLUS visit us on www.stansted10k.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