



I magine being near the finishing line of the Boston Marathon on 16th April. Imagine being in that ill-fated Dhaka clothing factory block on 24th April. Imagine being in the eye of the tornado that swept through Moore City Oklahoma on 20th May. Imagine being witness to the horrific murder outside Woolwich Barracks on 22nd May. We have been stunned by seeing the television and newspaper reports; just imagine what it was like to actually be there.

Our memories of these and other traumatic events will probably fade. However, anybody who was there and survived will have those images haunting them for years to come. Some will have physical injuries to compound their mental damage. They will all have been through a life-changing experience. They witnessed how people died prematurely and in appalling circumstances.

Now imagine being in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. Jesus lost his life prematurely and in appalling circumstances. Those who witnessed his death and resurrection had life-changing experiences. Those who witnessed the work of God's Spirit on the day of Pentecost had their lives changed so dramatically that we still talk about them and about Jesus.

We cannot explain why innocent people die prematurely, but as Christians we believe that death is just a stage on the road to eternal life. Like Paul we can proclaim, 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' (1 Cor 15:55)

Mike Dyer



Care Time



Please pray for: Doris and George Lambdon, and George Wheeler, parents-in-law and uncle of Alan Wheeler; and Kath Hartnell as she settles into her new home at Stanley Wilson Lodge in Saffron Walden. We have received prayer requests from some of those who attend the Place on the Hill. We are remembering these requests during our Sunday worship. Please use the prayer slips which are available in the foyer.

Betty

Church Deacon Vacancy

We have six deacons who represent the church members, and are elected for an initial term of six years. At the Annual Church Meeting, one of the deacons steps down, and although he or she could be re-elected for a further six years, this is an opportunity to draw someone new into this very important role in our church life. The Church Oversight Group (or COG as it is affectionately known) comprises the six deacons, the joint treasurers, the secretary (who may or may not also be a deacon) and the ministers. We meet every two months to discuss any issues concerning the running of the church, finance, pastoral concerns, etc, and if appropriate, bring proposals to the Church Meeting. This year Mike will be stepping down and we would ask all church members to prayerfully consider whether they should take on this role. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please speak to one of the present deacons: Valerie, Catherine, Mike, Betty, Judy, and Marion (Pretty). Anyone wishing to be considered must be nominated by another church member. Please hand any nominations to Betty by the end of July.

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 30th June. Please submit articles by Friday 21st 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

- 2nd 10.30 am Ruth Parker - New Directions
9th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion
16th 10.30 am Andrew Brown
23rd 10.30 am Gordon Doyle
30th 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe

Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

- Sun 2nd 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Thu 6th 8.00 pm LPWT Meeting in the Hall
Mon 10th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gdns
Tue 11th 8.15 pm Churches Together Forum in the Hall
Mon 24th 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - 49 Recreation Ground
Sun 30th 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service

Our Minister

Rev'd David Keeble is attending a pre-retirement course from 4th-6th June, and is on holiday from 10th - 24th June. For pastoral concerns during these times please contact Betty on 813977, or if you need to talk to a minister, Rev'd David Mullins on 654775.

Choir for a Day Saturday 8th June B S Methodist Church 10.30 am - 5 pm followed by concert 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Music will include items by John Rutter, Gilbert & Sullivan, Gary Barlow & Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stainer and others.

The previous event was excellent!! Ten people from Stansted are singing in the choir. Tickets priced £6 for the evening concert are available from me.

Marion Dyer

Stansted Free Church

Methodist / URC

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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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 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk