



Imagine being Matthias. He was the disciple brought in to replace Judas Iscariot. He must have felt both excited and daunted at the prospect of working with the other twelve. There were just two candidates for the role and we can imagine the tension as they waited for the announcement. We may be surprised that the final selection was made by simply casting lots, but we are told that this was preceded by a prayer asking for God's guidance. If we are honest we would probably admit that many of our decisions are made on a 'wing and a prayer'. Indeed we often 'wing it' without the prayer. Imagine how different things would be if we always prayed before making difficult decisions.

If prayer really changes things, it is surely reasonable to expect God to influence the outcome of a lottery. However, before you rush off to the corner shop, be warned that God's answers to our prayers may be contrary to our aspirations. Imagine a child praying to have a Big Mac delivered every day! When we pray, we are really asking for God to take control of a situation. That doesn't mean that we have no further involvement, but it does mean we are putting our trust in God's judgment.

Once Matthias had been selected, he joined the other disciples in the upper room where they waited for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Imagine what their prayers were like then. Yes, Jesus had given them some clues, but they still did not know what form the Comforter would take. Imagine their surprise then on the Day of Pentecost. Imagine the awesome wind, the fire and everyone speaking at once in strange tongues. This was far better than any win on the lottery! May God continue to answer our prayers in spectacular ways.

Mike Dyer



Wednesdays & Fridays
9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Free Church, Chapel Hill
Everyone Welcome ~ No Charge
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk/theplace

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URC Minister Vacancy Update

We are very pleased to report that following his recent visit to us, Rev'd Roy Fowler will be joining the West Essex and Bishop's Stortford Pastorate as the full-time URC minister. Roy's induction will be on Saturday 18th October. We very much look forward to Roy and his wife Christine' joining us.

Betty



Shalom

8 pm Monday 9th June at 7 Blythwood Gdns

Rev'd David Keeble will be talking about 'My Journey; from fisherman to fisher of men'. This promises to be a very interesting evening, and will be the last time David leads a session for us, as he retires at the end of July. All are welcome - please join us.

Marion

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 29th June. Please submit articles by Friday 20th June to: news@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk. Alternatively, please pass to one of the editors, or send to: 23A Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP.
 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

1st 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions
8th 10.30 am Stuart Veitch - Communion
15th 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
22nd 10.30 am Nicola Grieves - Pilots Service
29th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble

Services are followed by coffee. All are welcome.

Other Activities

Fridays 6.15 pm Investigators in the Hall
Thu 5th 8.00 pm Local Preachers & Worship Leaders in the Hall
Mon 9th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00 pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Mon 16th 9.30 am Church Oversight Group - 7 Blythwood Gdns
Sun 22nd 11.30 am Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 23rd 8.00 pm Shalom At Home - White House, Ugley Grn



The next **Traidcraft** stalls will be after the service on Sundays 22nd June and 20th July. If you would like any Fairtrade goods at other times, just give me a call. Catalogues are available in the church foyer.

Brenda 815819

fairtrade@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Advance Notice of July Events

Saturday 5th July 10 am - noon

Church Meeting in the Hall. Please come and share in the discussions. All are welcome, but only church members can vote.

Sunday Worship 6th July 10.30

This will be the last Sunday that Rev'd Keeble is with us. The service will be followed by lunch. Everyone is welcome, but for catering purposes, please let me know if you are coming to the lunch.

Betty 813977

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Methodist / URC
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Brenda Veitch

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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 81 3433 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