



**I** imagine having no imagination! Imagine taking seriously all the 'offers' that come to us through page and screen. I should now be enjoying the Caribbean holiday I won on the 'phone. I did not fall for that one or the dream of sun, sea and sand; but my imagination took me to a poor stooge in a dingy office, desperately trying to make a living flogging holidays on commission.

It's the odd use of words that really triggers my imaginings. The ad flashed across the T.V. screen for days, ending always 'Hurry - Ends Tuesday'. Why not 'Hurry - Ends Today' I thought, or best of all 'Hurry - Ends Sunday'?

I hurried to my dictionary to find 'hurry'. Ah! *Icelandic .. Danish ... Swedish ..* No wonder! I could see those Norsemen saying "Hu ... rrrrr!" as they hurried out to the next reindeer-roast; but (without my dictionary) I remember that the Romans had a word for it: '*Festina lente*' - '*Hasten slowly*' (it's warmer down South!) Now we're in mid-Lent, but our Lent comes from *German* for Spring. See how we are all tongue-tied. So let's at least make 'Hurry' end this Sunday and take time to be Christians Together; to move forward slowly (as the weather does) to Spring, and pray for Zechariah's 'Day-Spring from on High' to visit us again (Luke 1 v 78).

Day-Spring - how do you imagine that? Something to help you get up and face another heavy day? Have fun with words and with the prophet Hosea (ch14 v2) 'Take with you words and return to the Lord'.

Phyllis Harrison



# Care Time



Please remember in your prayers: Allen and Daphne Morton's daughter Elaine, following her operation for cancer; Phyllis Little; Valerie's brother Charles, with heart problems; Phyllis Harrison, recovering from a cataract operation; and all those who are not able to attend church.

Please also remember that the prayer slips are available for Sunday morning worship and if you are unable to be at church, please pass your requests to Marion Pretty or me and we will make sure the preacher for that Sunday knows.

Betty

[betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

## In this issue:

## Page

Care Time	2
Services and Events	3
My Australian Christmas Services	4 - 5
Ghanaian Methodist Choir comes to Harlow	6
Organ Recital	7
Contacts and regular events	Back cover

The next edition of **Imagine** will be available on Sunday 28th March. Please submit articles by Friday 19th March 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. 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 March

## Worship at Stansted Free Church

7th 10.30 am	New Directions - The Worship team
14th 10.30 am	Rev David Mullins - Holy Communion
21st 10.30 am	Rev Allen Morton
28th 10.30 am	Rev Stuart Veitch - MAF Service

**Morning worship is followed by coffee. All are welcome.**

## Other Activities

Tue 2nd	8.00 pm	Lent Group at St John's Church
Wed 3rd	10.30 am	Fairtrade Fortnight 'Big Brew' in the Foyer
Fri 5th	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at St Teresa's Church
Sun 7th	11.30 am	Fairtrade goods on sale after service
Mon 8th	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00 pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
Tue 9th	8.00 pm	Lent Group at St John's Church
Mon 15th	8.00 pm	Circuit Meeting in the Hall
Tue 16th	8.00 pm	Lent Group at St John's Church
Wed 17th	8.00 pm	Annual Parish Meeting in the Church
Mon 22nd	6.00 pm	Pilots in the Hall - MAF evening
	8.00 pm	Shalom 'At Home' 49 Recreation Ground
Tue 23rd	8.00 pm	Lent Group Agape in the Hall

### Pilot Evening with Mission Aviation Fellowship

6 - 8 pm Monday 22nd March in the Hall

with Kevin Crook

Manager for Volunteer MAF workers in the UK

*All welcome- please come & support your local Pilot Group!*

## My Australian Christmas Services

I was able to attend a church in Australia on four Sundays during my recent trip, accompanied by Katie my 4½ year old granddaughter, which was an added joy. Joanna had previously been to the Anglican Church at Leichhardt a district in Sydney near to where they are living. The church was built in the 1850's and looked so much like many of our English churches, with its stained glass windows, memorial stones and of course the dark wooden old-fashioned pews, that I felt immediately at home. The congregation, numbering around 60, spread themselves all over the church and included many small children as well as adults, and nobody cared if the children made a noise or wandered about.

Katie dressed herself for the first occasion in her pink fairy dress and sparkly tiara and everyone thought that was really nice! I had secretly been rather horrified - a stranger in the church coming in with a fairy - though she did manage to leave the wand in the car. We were greeted with open arms; loaded with bibles and service sheets and I gazed around me at the wonderful Christmas decorations which were all sparkly - no fresh flowers as they wouldn't last. The preacher, Darren Hindle, young and full of enthusiasm is fairly new there, returning to Sydney after living in Hong Kong and latterly Singapore, being originally from Canada. As he only looked about 30 years old I wondered how he had fitted all that in. The leader of the church, Osea Taito, was also fairly new to the church, coming from one of the Pacific Islands, and was large as the other was slight.

He welcomed the congregation that first Sunday by beaming around and saying 'G'day folks, welcome to our Service' and so I knew for sure I was in Australia; then we all sang 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. They have a very nice choir who did a choral item and the children went out the front (including Katie) to play instruments and sing a special song. She made me go with her that first time, so there I was crouched in front of a lot of strangers with a triangle singing 'Our God is a great big God'!!

Then they went off for their special programme run by the minister's wife who has three young boys, and I returned hastily to my seat!!

All the words for the hymns are up on the large screen so we didn't have hymn books and there was also a small collection of guitarists and a drummer who accompanied the organ - just like being in Stansted - well almost! The order of the service was very much like ours and during the general prayers it was quite a surprise to have Osea pray 'for our wonderful Queen Elizabeth and her family'. After each service we went to the hall where coffee and homemade biscuits and cakes were served and it was so good to talk to the members of the church; and of course to hear about their relatives or ancestors who lived here and of their trips to Europe which they love to tell you about. I think they all said how much they loved it and one said she would prefer to be in England than Australia despite the weather.

This picture was taken on Christmas Eve at the family Carol Service, when the church was absolutely packed. We also went to a



big open air service 'Carols under the Bridge' (yes, Sydney Bridge) where people took picnics and there was ice-cream and face painting for the children plus a jazz band to warm things up. We sang as the skies darkened

and the lights of the harbour came on and the little ferry boats passed by; it was a wonderful experience, and I feel very lucky to have been able to go and share this time with my family.

*Judy Colliver*

**St Andrew's Methodist Church, Harlow**  
**present the**



**St Paul's Church, Harlow**

**Saturday 27th March 7.00 pm**

**Tickets: Adult £10**

**Family £25 (2 adults + up to 4 children)**

**Tel 01279 422661**

*The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship meets once a month at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster and members come from all over the country.*

*The choir comprises members of the Fellowship who live in London.*

***Proceeds from this concert are for St Andrew's Building Fund***

**STANSTED FREE CHURCH**  
**ORGAN RECITAL**  
**Sat 10th April 7.30 pm**  
**Organist Brian Heald**  
(son-in-law of Phyllis Harrison)  
**with Claire Heald (Contralto)**

Programme includes Bach's Toccata in D minor and Widor's Toccata (5<sup>th</sup> Symphony), music by Albinoni and Vaughan-Williams, plus transcriptions of well known folk songs and music by Grieg, Gershwin and others.

Entry by ticket only (£5) from  
[catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)  
Proceeds to Methodist Homes

Brian has been organist at Wesley Methodist Church, Chester since 1976 and is accompanist for The Vale Royal Singers. He gives regular recitals on both piano and organ in Chester, accompanies Claire and performs in a duo with Chester cellist Lionel Clarke and with trumpeter John Bush.

Claire (née Harrison) has performed as a soloist in Chester and the surrounding area on many occasions, usually accompanied by Brian. Claire is a Methodist Minister in the Chester Circuit.

# **Stansted Free Church**

## **Methodist / URC**

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

### **Contacts**

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Brenda Veitch

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### **Sunday Service**

10.30 am      Morning Worship

New Directions - our bi-monthly service in a less formal style

### **Children's Work**

**Alternate Mondays** 6 pm Pilots for children aged 5 - 18 years.

Valerie Trundle Email: [pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)